FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE    February 28, 2024

STATEMENT FROM UCHC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TED PHILLIPS

“While it’s deeply troubling that these individuals are alleged to have misused our company emails and computers, the charges confirm that the integrity of UCHC’s programs are not being called into question. We take this matter very seriously. The individuals identified in the complaint have been suspended, we are cooperating fully with the investigation, and we are also conducting an internal review. Meanwhile, the United Community Housing Coalition will continue its unwavering advocacy work for Detroiters as it has done for the last 50 years.”

##
FAQ

What is going on?
Two individuals who work for UCHC are the subject of a federal investigation and one has been criminally charged. While our organization’s computers and emails were involved, the charging document confirms that the integrity of our organization’s programs have not been called into question.

Are they still working for UCHC?
The individuals have been suspended.

How did you not know that this was going on?
This is a federal investigation. From what we’ve learned, these employees were acting outside the scope of their employment. We’re cooperating fully with the investigation. We take this matter very seriously and our own internal review is ongoing.

I was working with these staffers. Who is going to help me now?
Any work that was being provided by these individuals has been reassigned. There will be no interruption in services. If we’re not able to provide you with counsel, we will make a referral.

I am facing eviction and now I’m worried that I won’t be able to get the help I need. Will someone be with me when I go to court?
We will continue to help those facing eviction as well as provide legal representation. If we are not able to provide you with counsel, we will make a referral.

What actions are being taken following this incident?
We are doing an internal review and are updating our processes.

Are any grant opportunities being impacted by this investigation?
Our funders have all been notified. We will continue to do the housing advocacy work that we’ve done for Detroiter for the last 50 years. We will take and answer questions from our staff, our donors, and other stakeholders.