

LYNN HURTAK District 3 At-Large

Yesterday residents of the Silver Oaks apartment complex invited me into their homes to show me firsthand the disturbing conditions in which they are forced to live. I saw — and smelled — the black mold, rodent droppings, and rampant disrepair, a solution for which residents have been begging for months.

Affordable housing has for too long been synonymous with unsafe housing. I am dedicated to defending the right of every Tampa resident to have access to safe housing, and thank Florida's state Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Nikki Fried, for her time spent talking with Silver Oaks residents about this catastrophe.

Clinical research has shown human exposure to molds, mycotoxins, and water-damaged buildings can have significant adverse effects to the nervous systems of both children and adults. I pledge to Silver Oaks residents to work with every available regulatory agency, including Mayor Castor, city staff, and Commissioner Fried's office, to ensure their homes are safe living spaces.

I have also spoken to Tampa Fire Chief Barbara Tripp with regard to resident concerns that exits to the property appear to have been bolted shut, a major safety concern, and Chief Tripp informed me the fire marshal staff will examine it today.

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Thank you,

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