

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson:

Thank you for visiting the Liberty Square housing project last April to commemorate the beginning of the redevelopment of the second-oldest public housing complex in the United States.

Liberty City and Overtown are home to some of the most resilient individuals I know, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Senate. However, these communities are unfortunately also home to violence, gangs, and profound loss. On March 31, 2018, a dispute between two adult siblings became violent and led to the fatal shooting of a four-year old toddler playing in her front yard.

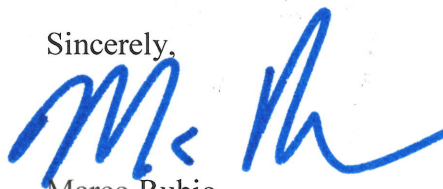
This tragedy is symptomatic of the violence that has wracked this community for far too long. I believe we can make a real difference in this community by ensuring safe and sanitary housing during the redevelopment process.

As you know, Liberty Square and the rest of Miami-Dade's public housing are beginning the first phases of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, which will convert them into mixed-income and project-based properties and make them eligible to apply for Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs). However, this process will take a significant amount of time – time that families living in insecure places simply do not have, especially if they have young children.

I request that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) work with the Miami- Dade Public Housing Authority on the TPV program and, should tenants of this community request, quickly review and approve eligible applications. Allowing those families who wish to move to other locations could save lives and help families escape poverty.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to ensure the safety of these families.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator