



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: info@moms4housing.org

ADVISORY: Moms 4 Housing Responds to Letter from Wedgewood Inc. & Press Conference

Oakland, Calif., -- On November 18th, a group of mothers without shelter reclaimed possession of a vacant, investor-owned property in West Oakland. On December 3rd they received an eviction notice from Wedgewood Inc., one of the country's biggest "fix & flip" corporations that has profited significantly from the housing crisis.

On December 16th, Moms4Housing filed a "third party claim of right to possession". The claim delayed the eviction for 15 days and a hearing date is now tentatively scheduled for December 30, 2019. Westwood Inc. has ignored multiple requests to negotiate with Moms4Housing and has refused to speak with the members of this organized collective of mothers who have offered to purchase the Magnolia St. home.

Today, on Monday, December 23rd, [Moms4Housing](#) and [ACCE](#) received a letter from Public Relations firm Singer Associates, Inc. on behalf of James Washington, the founder of [Shelter 37](#). Shelter 37 is a non-profit that claims to "improve the overall well being of children and young adults whose lives have been affected or disrupted by crime, violence, or abandonment and as a result, are more at-risk of turning to gangs, crime, drugs, or becoming withdrawn, antisocial, or socially inept." In the letter attached below, Shelter 37 and Wedgewood Inc. offer to pay for the removal of the mothers' belongings and demands the families leave the premises. As stated in the letter, once the mothers return to the streets and are forced to survive the winter months without shelter, Wedgewood will proceed with their plans to flip the property for above market rates and split the proceeds with the non-profit for which Wedgewood CEO Greg Geiser is a board member.

Moms4Housing condemns Greg Geiser's woefully manipulative use of Shelter 37. "I will not allow my organization to be pit against another Black-led nonprofit so that a corporation with revenue streams of over [\\$500 million](#) can skirt public accountability for their role in gentrification and displacement." says Carroll Fife, Director of ACCE Oakland. "If Greg Geiser were truly committed as a board member to Shelter 37's mission, he would support the efforts of Moms4Housing to purchase the home, thereby ensuring that their children are protected from the potential long term challenges caused by [youth homelessness](#)."

In response, Moms4Housing is calling on all community supporters and members of the media to come to 2928 Magnolia St. on December 24th for a press conference where local elected

officials will speak to potential resolutions of this David and Goliath saga. The mothers will speak to Wedgewood Inc.'s inauthentic and insidious attempt to bribe a third party and force families onto the streets this holiday season.

WHAT: Christmas Eve Press Conference

WHERE: 2928 Magnolia St, Oakland

WHEN: Tuesday, December 24th, beginning at 10 a.m.

WHO: Moms for Housing, Oakland Council President Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland Councilmember Nikki Fortunado Bas, statements from elected officials labor allies and community supporters

WHY: Because there are four vacant homes in Oakland for every person without a home.

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