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VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

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If there is **ANYONE BUT PITTMAN**, who is glad that City Management is finally informing East Point residents with a meaningful PLAN to help them get the financial Utility & Rental Assistance from the Rescue Plan, then SHARE this information! On August 22, 2021, on my Facebook page, I posted the following in reference to a post by FINANCE.YAHOO.COM concerning a caption “NOTICE TO VACATE”. Landlords needed to get paid and this is what I posted.

Americans can go to the moon and back, but we cannot seem to figure out a sensible way to pay landlords for back rent for tenants who qualify. Well, I am not a genius, however I have spent my entire adult life dealing with the public. So, I am going to add my two cents to how we should resolve this problem especially for small local governments like East Point, GA.

First, obtain contact business information for every Apartment; Condo; and homeowner renters in the City. Use every media means that is available. Contact them and let them know that on a certain date, time, and place that Representatives from the City will be there to go receive their paperwork that contains the name(s); addresses and contact information; monthly rental amount; number of missed payments and the total amount owed from delinquent tenants. Request five days to contact and verify their information.

Have the legal Department to draw up a contract that each owner must sign that states that all the information provided by them is true and that knowingly providing misleading or false information will lead to lawsuits requesting damages up to five times the amount paid for each fraudulent claim. If they do not sign the binding Agreement, then show them the door.

Hire enough qualified people to call and set up home visitation to verify the tenant and address, who will be asked to sign a prepared Agreement stating whom the rent is paid to; the number of months they are behind; the monthly rent; and the total amount owed. Use a cellphone to take a picture or a copy of legally acceptable identification. The Agreement should also include that any false information given will result in their claim being placed at the bottom of the list and they could be charged with lying and attempting to steal money from the government if they cannot prove their case later. The legal Department should know how to word the Agreements to get truthful information and the consequences for lying. Once the City has matched qualifying tenants and landlords, a check in the full amount, plus a 3 to 5 percent bonus if funds will permit, will be given to the landlords. The ones that do not match will have to wait until after the payouts have been made to seek further assistance. What are your best suggestions?

That was my suggestion. The other Attachment contains what the City is proposing to do. This information should have been placed in the City's Utility Newsletter that goes to all residents. However, with your help we can get the word out. Please HELP.