

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts:

Don Lund: (319)-626-6402

Jesse Case: jcase@iowalabor.com, (319)-361-3212

Mazahir Salih: mazahir@cwjiowa.org, (319)-594-7593 or (517)-282-5188

**MOBILE HOME COURT RESIDENTS FORM GOLFVIEW RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION,
DEMAND MEETING WITH HAVENPARK**

RESIDENTS WON'T BACK DOWN FROM THREAT OF HAVENPARK'S HEARTLESS RENT INCREASE

(North Liberty, Iowa) – “When you are alone you feel helpless,” said Golfview resident Don Lund, 65. “But together we have hope.”

Lund and over a hundred of his neighbors gathered Friday evening at the North Liberty Library to discuss how to deal with the letter they got two weeks ago from new Golfview Mobile Home Park owners Havenpark, who promised to increase lot rent about 60 percent starting June 1st.

“I don't have any money, any resources,” said Lund, who was born without lower legs or arms below the elbows, and has lived on his own for over 20 years in Golfview, in a mobile home he recently paid off and planned to live in for years to come. “I'm just a guy on social security who can be a part of a group and fight back, and this is what I'm gonna do.”

The crowd in the room heard from several organizers, including Center for Worker Justice community organizer Mazahir Salih and from Jesse Case, chief officer of Teamsters Local 238 and president of TeamCAN, a non-profit social justice arm of the local Teamsters organization. Salih and Case discussed the advantages of standing together to have a voice and an ability to make demands as a group for reasonable treatment by their new landlords.

During the meeting, several clearly angry, upset, and scared residents said the rent increase would force them out, often having to leave behind the mobile homes they owned, or for which they were still paying the mortgage.

At the end of the meeting, the room voted unanimously by voice to form the Golfview Residents Association (GRA). Nearly a hundred people signed up to formally join the association, with several people taking blank forms home for friends, neighbors, and spouses who were working and could not attend the meeting.

“We are a community that loves and cares about one another and we won't stop until we're able to help everyone,” said Golfview resident Brittany Clowers, 27. “Just because low income people

live here does not mean we are 'less than.' We are teachers and veterans that live here that have served our communities, town, and country, and deserve to be able to have a home we can afford."

"We have helped other communities like Golfview, and we are here to help you organize and have a voice," Salih told the North Liberty residents.

"Nobody can guarantee what will happen, but we know that if we do nothing the rent is going up 60% on June first and that's going to mean lots of North Liberty residents will be out of their homes," said Case. "And what for? So somebody sitting in Utah can make a bigger profit by squeezing Iowa workers and families. This is a moral issue and TeamCAN and the Teamsters are ready fight alongside the Golfview Residents Association against Havenpark."

Case said they have already demanded a meeting with Havenpark, but haven't yet gotten a response. He added that now the GRA is officially formed, it will continue to organize and prepare for this fight.

After the meeting, several of the members of the newly formed Golfview Residents Association posed for a group photo, and took up the chant, "When we fight, we win!"

Lund, who celebrated his 65th birthday by attending the meeting, said he found his spirits lifted by the response of his community.

"I've been a Hawkeye fan all my life," said Lund. "And so I'm used to pulling for the underdog. Now I am the underdog."