

APARTMENTS

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Despite this reassurance, Gray learned from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority in late March that 11 of the 44 apartments will receive project-based vouchers — subsidies to assist individuals living in those particular units to pay the monthly rent.

Reportedly, wordage of the application submitted to the MSHDA “evolved” in the planning process to compete for low-income housing tax credits and historic tax credits. In fact, the project

was approved on the sixth application to the MSHDA.

“We knew with the fifth application to MSHDA that the project would include what is called ‘permanent supportive housing,’” Gray said. “These units are made available to those in our community that may have need for services and assistance.”

“We did not know that these 11 units would be supported by vouchers,” he added.

According to Gray, Jobson himself indicated that his description of the development should have included greater detail.

“It is obviously disappointing to learn this change

to the application was not disclosed,” Gray said. “With the change to the nature of rents with 11 of the apartments, our legal counsel is reviewing the ordinance to confirm that it will provide for the appropriate payment for services.”

Gray was referring to a local incentive to support the project that permits a payment in lieu of taxes.

If amendments are necessary, they will be recommended at the May 18 council meeting.

Gray further indicated that the city will be working with the Community Action Agency, who will maintain office hours on site, to screen eligible

tenants for the permanent supportive housing units, as well as provide for tenant service needs.

Jobson will attend the May 18 council meeting to address the outcome of the investigation and answer any questions council or residents may have of him.

“The city is committed to being engaged in the operation of this property to assure that it will contribute positively to our community,” Gray said. “It is important to remember that this project still represents an important and significant rehabilitation of this historic building in our downtown.”