

Too many people may force evictions

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Management designed, but that it also is in keeping with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidelines.

"HUD has some guidelines but they leave discretion to the management," said Boatright. "It's our guidelines to have the one-child-per-bedroom rule because of the size of the bedrooms at Goler. In some apartments, you can have two or three people in the same bedroom, but those bedrooms are just too small."

According to Morse, after you get a "bed and a thin sheet of toilet paper in the room," that's all it can accommodate.

While all of the tenants at Goler won't be forced to leave the complex, many others will have to move from the two- or three-bedroom units they presently occupy into larger apartments.

The complex's management decided to make the changes in an effort to house only one family in each apartment, Boatright said.

In her family's case, Mrs. Jones has four children and three of those have children of their own. According to management's guidelines, that means

four families live in one apartment.

"Sometimes families have to split up," said Boatright. "That's what has happened and that's why some of the overcrowding has occurred. But in the case where there are very large families, their best bet is to find a house."

Alderman Virginia Newell, whose ward contains the Goler Apartments, said that, while she realizes the plight some residents face, she also realizes that the complex's management must make changes to improve the problem-plagued apartments.

"If their rules are to keep the place top-notch and first class, I believe we have to work with those young people with those babies," said Newell. "I can't argue with the management with the kinds of problems we have had over there. But I will try to work with those young ladies to see if we can get some help."

"I've gone to bat many times to get help for those apartments and I believe this (the one-family-per-unit guideline) is help. We have to have just single families in those units."

Leases for most of the families will expire on

either Nov. 30 or Dec. 31, but if the families look for housing and can't find it, Boatright said, they may be given extensions on a case-by-case basis.

"That's what scares me," said Mosley. "Where are we gonna go? I've been looking but I can't find nothing."

Many of the Goler residents said they are trying to find housing where they can receive rent assistance as they do at Goler, but public housing in the city, they said, is limited.

Dave Thompkins, executive director of the city's housing authority, said his office has similar guidelines concerning overcrowding but that they aren't as strict as the one-bedroom-per-person rule enforced by First Columbia Management.

"Families outgrow units all the time," said Thompkins. "But we try to relocate them to another larger or, in some cases, smaller unit. We have public housing up to five bedrooms."

Similarly, HUD's guidelines, said Florene Mitchell, chief of the loan management branch at the HUD regional office in Greensboro, are not as

strict as the ones imposed at Goler.

"It's not that black and white," said Mitchell. "It depends on the age and sex of the children. There are some factors that go into making a decision."

But Mitchell added that, when families become too large for the apartment and no other units are available, they have to move.

"If the family grew to the point where the unit was overcrowded and that was the largest size unit we had, they would have to move because we don't allow overcrowding," she said. "That makes ghettos."

Goler manager Morse said it's "unfortunate" that the units had existed in their overcrowded state for as long as they have. But the main goal now, said Morse, is to get the units back into good condition.

"We are not trying to get at anybody," Morse said. "But we are trying to get it back the way it's supposed to be and get it back in the right physical condition."

Only three black papers show at Edmisten meeting

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invitations, Pitt received a letter from him in August signed "Rufus" in which the candidate declined to participate in the press conference.

"In all the calling back and forth, there were some miscommunications," said Lynch. "He (Edmisten) had no problems in meeting with anyone. It has never been his intent to overlook the black press."

But *Chronicle* Publisher Ernie Pitt said Edmisten's attempt to set up his own meeting without consulting the NCBPA was an insult to the black press.

"As I said before, we tried to set up a news event, and he tried to circumvent our efforts by holding his own meeting," said Pitt.

Pitt said he didn't think three editors out of the state's 11 black newspapers were representative of the black press.

"The meeting meant nothing," he said. "Black voters should be cognizant of the snubbing of the black press by Edmisten."

Edmisten's staff scheduled the meeting in Raleigh last Friday at the N.C. State Faculty Club.

Lynch said Edmisten discussed a variety of topics with the editors, ranging from economics to measures to increase the amount of advertising in black newspapers.

"I think the meeting was a success because it was very positive and upbeat," said Lynch.

"If only one person had shown, it would have been a success because we had an open and honest dialogue."

But Grover Bailey, editor of *The Carolinian* in Raleigh, said he wasn't impressed.

"There were very few questions," said Bailey. "The conference was very impromptu and appeared to be a forum for Edmisten to apologize to the black press."

Bailey said that one Edmisten campaign aide wasn't aware that the candidate was meeting with black editors.

He also said that he himself wasn't aware of the protest by other members of the NCBPA.

Vivian Edmonds, publisher of *The Carolina Times* in Durham, said the group protested the meeting because of Edmisten's

refusal to appear before the NCBPA.

"We didn't think it was wise or meaningful to attend this conference, which seemed to be just something thrown together at the last minute to allay any negative feelings among members of the black press," she said.

John Kilimanjaro, publisher of the *Carolina Peacemaker*, said the NCBPA had been snubbed by Edmisten.

"Some candidates think they can ignore and treat us (the black press) as an afterthought," he said.

"After they deal with the ma-

ior press, they feel they can come to us and pick up a few scraps."

Bernard Robinson, managing editor of the *Iredell County News*, said the meeting was a political maneuver by Edmisten to get black votes.

"Personally, I think Edmisten felt he had the black vote locked up, and therefore didn't need the black press," said Robinson concerning why Edmisten refused the original invitation to meet with the NCBPA.

"But, with the latest polls indicating the gubernatorial race is close, Edmisten felt he needed the black press to get his name out in

the black community."

But Bill Johnson, publisher of *The Charlotte Post*, said he didn't attend the meeting because it conflicted with his schedule.

"The only reason we didn't go was because we didn't get the call until Wednesday," said Johnson. "I didn't have enough time to prepare or send someone."

Still, Johnson said he believes any sort of communication between Edmisten and the black press was better than none at all.

Lynch agreed, noting that, if Edmisten wins, there will be other meetings with the black press.



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