

Commissioners,

Last week, News Channel 9 posted a story about two teenage girls whose mother recently passed away. The story was shopped to the media by the City of Chattanooga because the girls and their mother were allegedly former residents of the Budgetel. In the story, another former Budgetel resident, (redacted), commented on the sadness of the situation and the future placement of the teenage girls.

This struck me as worrisome because I knew that one of the registered sex offenders who was residing at the Budgetel was (redacted). See attached image from TBI. Mr. (redacted) has been convicted of Aggravated Child Molestation. Sure enough, it was the same person. News Channel 9 quickly edited the story to take Mr. (redacted)'s comments out— as it's clearly not appropriate to have a child molesters commenting on the "safe" placement of teenage girls.

Next I wondered if Mr. (redacted) is one of the individuals that the Homeless Coalition, and potentially the County and City, are footing the bill for at the Super 8 in Lookout Valley. It has been confirmed that Mr. (redacted) is in fact a former Budgetel resident who is living at the Super 8 and receiving free room and board from the Homeless Coalition. He is living with his partner, (redacted). As we know, young children are also living at the Super 8 in Lookout Valley.

This led me to wonder how many of the other individuals currently being "sponsored" by the Homeless Coalition (many of them in Lookout Valley) have documented criminal histories in our County.

Attached you will find a list of 115 names that were sent to me by Joda Thongnopnua, the City Mayor's Chief of Staff. These names represent the individuals whose hotel stays are being paid for by the Homeless Coalition, and now, potentially the County and City. You will also see that out to the right of the names, there is a number that reflects how many other adults are staying in the same room and how many children are staying in the same room.

My office has redacted names of many of the residents. This is for two reasons: 1. To protect the children who are staying in motels with their parents, and 2. We have redacted the names of individuals who do not have Hamilton County criminal histories.

You will see that many names are highlighted in pink. These names represent the individuals with documented criminal histories in *Hamilton County alone*. Again, when you see a pink line that has a redacted name, that is because we want to protect the children who unfortunately did not get to choose their parents.

The green lines represent individuals that we cannot say for certain have criminal histories because there are multiple individuals in the criminal justice database with the same name. Because we have no other identifying information, we cannot be sure. Those names are redacted since we cannot be sure.

Many of the individuals highlighted in pink have *lengthy* histories and many are felons. Some currently have charges pending in our criminal court system. As for the dozens of adults that are living in the rooms with the documented individual, we cannot search for their criminal histories because we do not know their names. I do not think it's a stretch to assume that many of them, as well, have Hamilton County criminal histories.

I am not asking you to act based on this information, I simply think it's important for you, and taxpayers, to see. **I also wish that we would focus our resources on the children and placing them in permanent housing, rather than housing criminal offenders.**

Commissioner Graham, maybe you can at least ask the Homeless Coalition to stop paying for a room in Lookout Valley for the convicted child molester.

Coty Wamp