

Economy Inn
5500 Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37419

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Had someone told me what happened to my business here in Chattanooga and in the United States of America, I would've said "no way"; this is not North Korea.

Nonetheless, I have been banned from my property, my business has been shut down and I was personally treated like a criminal and threatened with arrest by police if I went on my property for no reason whatsoever—all on the day that I was first given notice of any alleged problems.

On the same day, the police cleaned out our safe and took all the money from the cash register refusing to even let us into our office and lobby to get any records. Guests were forcibly removed and my business stands empty.

The police spoke to reporters, but refused to talk with us. Someone-not us- provided reporters with documentation we did not get. It would appear that they are more interested in publicity as opposed to advising taxpayers and citizens of alleged charges and rights.

Please understand the media had information fed to them by the police, but the police refused to give us the same courtesy.

No one was given the court order at the time that over 50+ people from the "authorities" descended on Economy Inn. One of the officers told us personally: "You have no rights."

Again, we have had absolutely no notice from anyone regarding any alleged problems and we have always welcomed and worked with the police department when asked to do so. In fact, our lobby restroom is often used by patrolling policeman as a convenience stop.

Our lobby office is open from 9 AM to 6 PM and that information is clearly posted on the lobby door. We also have two men who reside on the premises who are employees that maintain the premises.

To say that no management or maintenance personnel could be found on the premises means that the person looking for the same was not looking very hard. Not even a District Attorney can be found in his or her office after hours or if you were to stand on Cherry Street and seek information from the District Attorney.

The one thing I want the taxpayers of Chattanooga to know is that the "authorities" could have saved them thousands of dollars if anyone had communicated the alleged problems to us in advance and we would have set the record straight or taken reasonable and appropriate corrective measures at that time. Now it will take a hearing in front of Judge Greenholtz to set the record straight and get my business back open.

Feb 16 18, 15:30

The folks at Economy Inn are the poorest and most vulnerable of our population. Among our guests are families and veterans. They are the ones who are being displaced and who are unable to find low income housing. We work to keep people from being homeless. Apparently, the "authorities" do not. Eleventh Street and other resources has just become more populated and burdened.

Here is who we are: One of our guests in particular, who suffered a stroke, has lived here for free for the past year. We also have allowed the guests to undertake certain odd jobs at Economy Inn to supplement the guest's income and to allow the guest to retain a measure of dignity. Now, that guest is homeless with 80 other people.

We will now appear as Ordered on Monday, Feb. 19 at 11:00 am to present our side of the story to Judge Greenholtz and to combat the allegations of the authorities.