

I am a property owner in the Village of Varna, and a resident of the area for 23 years.

I have also been a member of area emergency services for over 20 years.

I am a clergyman, with a congregation spread throughout Tompkins County.

Over the years I have had as parishioners clients of INHS managed properties. Additionally, I have tracked from the emergency services inner circle the focal points of crime in locations INHS manages.

Now I read on their website the "shrug" that properties aren't being maintained:

In 2018, renovations were complete on the 98 units. A consequence of maintaining low rents and keeping the Portfolio affordable is that there is often not enough money to do the repairs that are needed. Over the years, as the Scattered Site portfolio has grown and the structures have aged, the buildings have become difficult to manage. In many cases only the most pressing maintenance needs are addressed while the more critical large capital expenditures like roofs, siding and energy efficiency upgrades delayed. (<https://www.ithacanhs.org/ica>)


It would seem INHS needs to step aside from this project and prove it's integrity by managing what it has.

I am a fan of affordable housing. However, too much "affordable housing" is really just warehousing derelict and criminal elements. And management having no spine to control or evict, or even enforce leases. (I have too many personal stories around this to include here....)

I do not object to affordable housing going in at 5 & 9 Freese Road (please replace the bridge, first!) However, I DO have deep concerns as to whether INHS can maintain the property and manage the clientele.

I would encourage the Town Board of Dryden to look for a better partner who will enforce code, evict criminal behavior AND association, have the bandwidth to provide services and attentiveness, and who has a stake in our village.

Thank you.
Steven Felker

 7-25-24