



## **Apartment tenants complain about rats, roaches: 'One of the worst places for humans to live'**

By Joe Bruno | October 3, 2018

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Hundreds of tenants at Lake Arbor Apartments in west Charlotte said there are many unsafe and disgusting conditions at the complex.

On Tuesday night, residents asked Mecklenburg County leaders for help because, they said, the owner is not addressing the issues.

“This is what's coming out of the Lake Arbor area,” community leader Blanche Penn told commissioners at the meeting on Tuesday.

Penn was holding a bag of fake rats.

“This is one of the worst places for humans to live at (that) I have ever seen in my life,” resident Jeffrey White said.

The group gave county commissioners photos of rats and roaches they said were found at the complex.

They also said mold and water damage are common sights.

“My shoes, bed frames, couch and kitchen are all covered in mold,” resident Aianna Fleming said.

The complex off Tuckaseegee Road is run by Broad Management. The management company did not return Channel 9's request for comment. Rent for the complex typically runs from \$700 to \$1000 per month, according to online listings.

“The time for justice, the time for freedom, the time for equality is now,” Penn said.

County Manager Dena Diorio said all 296 units have been inspected by the city and 56 are now in compliance. The rest still have problems.

The county is limited in what it can do because of the Legislature. Commissioner Matthew Ridenhour said it is worth exploring if more oversight of apartment units should be added to the county’s legislative agenda.

Diorio said the city has been meeting with the property owner and his attorneys to develop a corrective action plan.

Residents have been left out of the discussion about the deplorable conditions.

Commissioners want residents to be included.

“I am very sorry you are living like this. You deserve better,” Democratic Commissioner At Large Pat Cotham said.

The mail center at Lake Arbor is damaged so residents have to go to a post office to retrieve their mail.

The owner's corrective action plan is supposed to be presented to the city next Tuesday.