

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 15, 2020

A statement from Caritas Communities:

Caritas Communities is a nonprofit homelessness prevention organization that provides Single Room Housing for 1,000 individuals annually throughout Greater Boston. The Bedford Veterans Quarters is a Caritas Communities residential facility leased from the VA in one portion of one building on the VA campus in Bedford, and provides single room occupancy housing to formerly homeless veterans. It is not a hospital or rehabilitation center but an independent-living residence. Residents are free to come and go as they please and have no obligation to inform the staff of their whereabouts. They regularly go to work, grocery shopping, visiting family and other normal activities. They also frequently participate in programs and use facilities available to them on the VA campus.

Caritas Communities provides on-site staffing to refer and help residents connect to counselling, medical treatment, employment and other services at the VA. Caritas Communities is committed to the health and safety of our residents and follows strict protocols when a resident is discovered missing.

On May 13, 2020, at about 1 p.m., Caritas notified VA officials in Bedford of a missing BVQ resident. Caritas notified the Bedford Police of the missing person later that afternoon. On the morning of May 14, a Caritas employee visited the VA Police office on campus and reported the person missing. Caritas had been working with the VA and the Bedford Police to ascertain the whereabouts of this resident. On Friday, June 12, the body of the 62-year-old missing man was found in an emergency-exit stairwell outside the space leased by Caritas. It is one of several stairwells that are outside the leased premises of Caritas Communities and are solely controlled by the VA. A statement released today by the VA that the resident was found “on the Bedford VA campus in an area leased and operated by a private company” is inaccurate.

Caritas Communities is cooperating fully with the investigation. The name of the man has not been released by authorities. Caritas Communities is deeply saddened and offers our condolences to the family and friends of the Veteran.

ABOUT CARITAS COMMUNITIES

Caritas Communities works to prevent homelessness by providing very low-

income individuals with permanent housing, support, a sense of community and expanded opportunities. For more than 35 years, Caritas has helped fill the need for safe, secure housing in Greater Boston. Caritas has 33 buildings in 17 Greater Boston communities, housing more than 1,000 individuals annually. Caritas provides on-site support services, emergency rental assistance, veterans-specific housing and services, and on-site property management. Caritas enables working people on minimum wage, veterans experiencing post-service challenges, and low-income elderly and disabled citizens to live in a clean, safe home that they can afford. To learn more, please go to www.caritascommunities.org.

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