



Alexandrea Ravenelle &lt;aravenelle@gmail.com&gt;

## History and documentation of 6B smells and formal request for repair

Alexandrea Ravenelle &lt;aravenelle@gmail.com&gt;

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To: cissy stamm &lt;cis[REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;, Joe Braun &lt;[REDACTED]sphere.com&gt;, Amy Seek [REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;, Karen Strauss [REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;, Theo [REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;, Rob Frankel &lt;[REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;

Bcc: Sam Duncan &lt;[REDACTED]@gmail.com&gt;

Hi everyone,

I want to make sure you are all aware of what has been going on with the smells from 6B, how this problem has lasted from 2018 to the current day, and how this has not been addressed.

Below you will find a summary and my formal request for repair and Board action. I would urge you to see the attached documentation to see the extent of what my family and I have been subjected to over the past 7 years.

### Conclusion and Request for Repair

30. Since 2018, there has been a persistent problem with smells coming from 6B into 6A. These have included food smells and construction smells. That these smells are coming from 6B is beyond dispute at this point. The evidence for this is that the smells coming into my apartment match the smells of whatever is going on with 6B. When there is cooking in 6B, we get food smells. When there is no cooking in 6B, such as when the owner/tenant's mother moved to 6F and was doing the cooking there, there were no food smells in 6B. When there was construction in 6B, we got construction smells, such as chemicals like paint and acetone. There is a breeze/air movement between 6B and 6A at the baseboards, which has led, among other things, to visible plaster dust appearing in 6A, adjacent to the party wall with 6B, during the construction work in 6B. The grease staining that has begun to appear on that party wall is further indication that there is a transfer of smells and other chemicals from 6B to 6A. And the likely cause of this, the removal of the venting in 6B, explains why all these things are happening. In addition, concerns have been noticed about unusual airflow between the A and B lines in the building, indicating that this is a structural problem.

31. Since 2018, there has been recognition by multiple people in the building that the problem with the smells coming from 6B into 6A is real and significant. Walter has personally confirmed the existence and potency of the smells on multiple occasions. Multiple board members have personally confirmed the existence and potency of the smells.

32. No action has been taken to repair the problem since 2018.

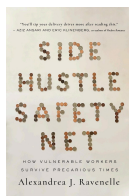
33. Instead, the onus has been placed on my husband and I -- and on my children, who have had to suffer through this -- to undertake extreme personal measures to deal with this, such as opening the windows all day during sub-freezing temperatures and running air purifiers at enormous expense. We have been exposed to unknown chemicals, which we fear may have health consequences in the future. We have been forced to endure food smells that are overpowering and long-lasting to a degree that they threaten our basic right to a habitable apartment. And, the stress of having to deal with this problem for seven years has placed enormous personal strain on my husband and me.

34. Our complaints about the smells have been dismissed, often aggressively so, and we have been demanded to provide a level of proof for our concerns that the building does not require of anyone else. The co-op routinely receives complaints of odors or other problems in the units. Once it confirms the complaint, it takes action, even where that means directing the occupant of the

apartment that is the source of the smell to cease the offending activity, even if that activity is otherwise unremarkable, such as in the mothballs example discussed above (point 23). When the solution to the problem requires construction work, such as when flooring damage occurs, the co-op has arranged for that work to be done.

35. No further steps are required to confirm the problem here. It has been confirmed by everyone who needs to confirm it. We now expect a solution to be applied.

36. It is our view, and the view of others, that the solution is to have a vent installed in 6B and/or to otherwise address the pressure differential between 6B and 6A that causes the airflow between the units, including but not limited to sealing the wall between the apartments and repairing the grease damage to my wall. If the co-op is of the view that the measures are inadequate, please explain the basis for that view, hire an appropriate engineer, architect, or other professional and provide their recommended solution within four weeks of today (Feb. 28, 2025). Otherwise, we expect the co-op to take action to resolve our well-verified concerns, as it routinely does for all others in the building. Specifically, we request that the Board consider our complaint no later than the next-scheduled meeting – with earlier being preferable -- and determine the repairs that will be made. (As I am a Board member, I will not participate in either the discussion of this complaint or the vote on the repairs to be made, and will be out of the room/Zoom during that discussion and vote.)



Alexandrea J. Ravenelle  
Assistant Professor, UNC -- Chapel Hill  
Faculty Fellow, Center for Urban and Regional Studies  
[www.alexandreajravenelle.com](http://www.alexandreajravenelle.com)  
[aravenelle@gmail.com](mailto:aravenelle@gmail.com)

*Side Hustle Safety Net: How Vulnerable Workers Survive Precarious Times*, University of California Press (2023)

*Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy*, University of California Press (2019)

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 Documentation of ongoing smells from 6B 2018 to 2025 Feb 28 2025.pdf  
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