

From: Justin Hanney [mailto:Justin.Hanney@melbourne.vic.gov.au]
Sent: Saturday, 11 July, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Macdonald, Nick <Nick.Macdonald@auspost.com.au>; Holgate, Christine <Christine.Holgate@auspost.com.au>; § 47 E(c)
Cc: Linda Weatherson <Linda.Weatherson@melbourne.vic.gov.au>; Kim Wood <Kim.Wood@melbourne.vic.gov.au>; Alison Leighton <Alison.Leighton@melbourne.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Parcels delivered to 76 Canning Street, North Melbourne

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Christine, § 47 and Nick,

Please find attached a formal complaint that was lodged with The Australian Federal Police yesterday. At present the City of Melbourne have the responsibility for delivering food and essential goods to the tenants in covid apartment lock down at North Melbourne public housing estate.

I understand that Australia Post delivered numerous packages on Thursday. These were signed for a City of Melbourne employee. The mail delivery person from Australia Post said "here is mail from Pauline Hanson" he then took a photo of our employee. Our staff member alerted the seniors DHHS employee who are the responsible authority (owner) of the buildings. That person identified that one of the addresses had no tenant and opened that package to look at the product, I assume on the basis that DHHS was the Householder in that instance.

As CEO of the authority (City of Melbourne) given responsibility for coordination of the food and goods to North Melbourne Public tenants during the Covid lockdown, I assume the contents of the box opened by DHHS is the same as that contained in the other identical boxes. This being the case I believe what is contained in these boxes could cause offence to a number of the recipients and potentially cause discontent.

I notified Australia Post last night that I have referred the matter to the federal police.

As is stated in the letter sent to the Federal Police yesterday, the view was taken by the City of Melbourne that the material contained in the packages was offensive and as a consequence breached Section 471.12 of the Federal Criminal Code. Our role was to protect and look after the residents in what was unprecedented health and community crisis. We believed the delivery of the packages could be seen as aiding in the commission of what was believed to be a crime. Being placed in such a position and given the circumstances, I formed the view that the only option was to refer the matter to the Federal police to investigate.

Before you respond further I would like you to reflect on the ramifications of delivering such an offensive product to North Melbourne public housing residents. These residents are already under enormous pressure, being surrounded by family and neighbours some who have the corona virus and who are under unprecedented severe lock down conditions as a result of Corona Virus. Should these packages be delivered, I believe they will cause great offence and conflict to a group of very vulnerable people that are already feeling disenfranchised and are in a highly emotionally charged and volatile state and environment.

Regards,

Justin Hanney | Chief Executive Officer