

AFFIDAVIT OF OBSERVATION AND LIFE SAFETY CONCERN

Date: April 18, 2026

Location: Veterans Home, Chelsea, Massachusetts

I, Iain Melchizedek, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

1. I am a resident of the Veterans Home located in Chelsea, Massachusetts, which is a state-operated facility under Democratic Party governance.
2. The facility houses elderly residents, many over the age of 60, including individuals with medical and mobility vulnerabilities requiring heightened life safety protections.
3. On April 18, 2026, at approximately 7:00 a.m., I observed an alarm panel actively emitting a continuous audible beeping sound.
4. The panel display indicated a “trouble” condition, which signifies a fault or impairment in a fire alarm or life safety system.
5. The alarm condition persisted continuously for approximately one hour and thirty minutes, until at least 8:32 a.m.
6. During this time, residential services staff conducted routine rounds in the immediate vicinity of the alarm panel.
7. Despite the clearly audible alarm condition, no action was taken by staff to investigate, acknowledge, silence, or report the condition.
8. The alarm was plainly observable and audible to anyone conducting rounds for safety purposes.
9. I personally reported the condition to staff.
10. Residents do not have a direct or accessible means to notify public safety personnel and must rely on residential staff to relay safety concerns.
11. The failure of staff to identify and respond to an active alarm condition during routine rounds raises a fundamental question regarding the purpose and execution of those rounds.
12. If rounds are conducted by residential services employees as part of safety protocol, the failure to act on an active life safety system impairment indicates a breakdown in that function.
13. If rounds are not being conducted by residential services employees for safety purposes, then the purpose of those rounds is unclear and warrants review, particularly in light of the lack of transparency regarding what these rounds are intended to address.
14. From the standpoint of a private citizen residing within a state-operated facility under Democratic Party governance, “compliance” means adherence to applicable laws, regulations, and life safety standards, including but not limited to 527 CMR 1.00, NFPA 72, and NFPA 101. Any form of compliance not grounded in these standards does not constitute lawful safety compliance, regardless of any contrary belief or interpretation.

15. Based on my direct observations, there is a disconnect between lawful safety compliance and how “compliance” is practiced within the facility, as evidenced by the lack of response to an active alarm condition.

16. I have personally been told by a staff member that they would follow directives from a supervisor even if those directives were unlawful or in conflict with rules or regulations. This statement is included as part of my direct experience.

17. An unaddressed “trouble” signal for an extended period may indicate an impaired system, which directly impacts the facility’s ability to respond to emergencies.

18. In a state-operated facility under Democratic Party governance, and housing elderly veterans, failure to respond to such conditions raises concerns regarding adherence to established safety obligations and operational accountability.

19. I further note that a written notice was distributed to residents (undated) announcing demolition work on campus, stating that work is expected to begin no earlier than Tuesday, April 21, 2026, and continue for approximately six to ten weeks. The notice identifies Construction Coordinator Patrick Kenney as the point of contact and outlines anticipated impacts including increased noise, truck traffic, construction activity, and restricted access areas.

20. In light of this notice and the upcoming demolition activity, the existence of an unaddressed alarm or trouble condition raises additional concern regarding overall safety coordination, communication, access control, and the facility’s ability to maintain lawful safety compliance during a period of increased operational risk.

21. This affidavit is based on my direct observations and knowledge as a resident and is intended to document conditions that raise serious concerns regarding safety practices, monitoring, compliance, transparency, and preparedness within the facility.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Iain Melchizedek

Dated: April 18, 2026



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

The next chapter of the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea redevelopment is here. In the coming weeks, the vacant Quigley building at 100 Summit Avenue will be demolished as part of the continued modernization and transformation of the Veterans Home at Chelsea campus. This important phase represents the natural progression of the redevelopment project, moving us closer to the final vision for the campus at the Chelsea Veterans Home.

Once this work is completed, the area will be redeveloped into a new staff and visitor parking lot, along with a welcoming green space and park for the veteran residents, visitors, and neighbors to enjoy. We are excited to take this next step toward creating a safer, more accessible, and more community-friendly campus.

Demolition work is expected to begin no earlier than Tuesday, April 21, and continue for approximately six to ten weeks, with construction activities taking place weekdays from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm. During this time, you may notice increased noise, truck traffic, and construction activity in the area. Every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience and complete the work as safely and efficiently as possible.

To ensure safety and prohibit unauthorized travel through active construction zones, access to the rear of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) near the loading dock and behind Saint Michael's Chapel will be temporarily restricted. Services at Saint Michaels Chapel will be uninterrupted throughout construction.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this exciting and transformative time for the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea. Folks are welcome to reach out with any questions or concerns to Construction Coordinator Patrick Kenney at patrick.kenney@mass.gov or call the main line at 617-884-5660.

Thank you,
MA Veterans Home at Chelsea