

From: [Jessica Seet](#)
To: "[MND qsm 1 \(MND\)](#)"; "[MND Lawrence WONG \(MND\)](#)"
Cc: "[Phebe BAY \(MND\)](#)"
Subject: RE: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum [mnd080917-104]
Date: Friday, 29 September, 2017 10:27:00 AM
Importance: High

Dear Ai Ying,

I don't have the list of names of those who attended the meeting.

Were you present at the meeting & privy to what was discussed?

All 3 points are inaccurate:

1. Minister Wong agreed to allow me to house my cats in my office unit up front. It is not leased to the Cat Museum.
2. The letter to my landlord, makes NO clarification on the "illegal conversion". Since the meeting, I have informed Minister of our efforts to make the necessary applications & URA's ambiguous categorization of shop house & the current layout of #03-01 which does not serve as a separate property. One lock that leads to all 3 units.
3. Minister has offered his assistance with the plans after June 2018 and we have requested it to be in the civic district to continue our place as a tourist attraction. We are currently listed in guide books around the world.

Would appreciate it if Minister is kept in the loop on our progress here, if you are to be the point of contact.

Thank you.

Regards,
Jessica

Jessica Seet
Founder/Voice & Speech Coach
"President of [Singapore Voice Day](#) - [World Voice Day](#) on 16 April"
<http://www.singaporevoiceday.org/> , <http://world-voice-day.org/>

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From: MND qsm 1 (MND) [mailto:MND_qsm_1@mnd.gov.sg]
Sent: Thursday, 28 September, 2017 6:58 PM
To: jessica@artofvoice.com
Subject: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum [mnd080917-104]
Importance: High

Message Classification: Restricted

Dear Ms Seet,

We refer to your email to Minister Lawrence Wong of 27 September 2017.

We thank you for your explanations during the meeting and in the email. These points were also in your earlier submissions to MND during the appeal process.

At the same time, URA had put forward its reasons for issuing the Enforcement Notice, which included evidence on how the #03-01 unit was not used for residential purposes, and how visitors were asked to make payment at a reception counter on the 2nd storey first, before they were allowed to enter unit #03-01.

MND had carefully considered representations from both sides before deciding that the Enforcement Notice by URA would be upheld.

Notwithstanding the above, we understand that your lease for unit #03-01 will be expiring at the end of the month. That being the case, the Enforcement Notice would have no practical effect.

Also as mentioned in our earlier correspondence, we are prepared to help you to continue with your work, including the three points that you mentioned in your email.

First, in relation to housing your Supurrstar cats at Level 2, URA will be contacting you on the renewal of the Temporary Permission for the Cat Museum on the second floor and your request to house your cats there.

Second, we have written to your landlord to clarify that the Enforcement Notice by URA should not be linked with any decision on tenancy at the premises. However, as we also stated earlier, this remains a private matter between you and your landlord, and the decision on your lease is ultimately the landlord's prerogative.

Third, we note that you are in the midst of exploring options for the Cat Museum after June 2018. If necessary, MND can help to surface possible locations for you to continue with your work.

We appreciate your work in taking care of stray cats and finding them suitable homes. If you require further assistance, please contact us and we will offer our support wherever possible.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Pay Ai Ying (Ms)
For Quality Service Manager
Ministry of National Development

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From: Jessica Seet [<mailto:jessica@artofvoice.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 September, 2017 3:21 PM
To: MND Lawrence WONG (MND) <Lawrence_WONG@mnd.gov.sg>
Cc: MND HQ (MND) <MND_HQ@mnd.gov.sg>; pr@thecatmuseum.com.sg; Shanmugam K (MLAW) <shan@mlaw.gov.sg>; Desmond LEE (MSF) <desmondlee@msf.gov.sg>
Subject: RE: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum
Importance: High

Dear Minister Wong,

Thank you for visiting my home & The Cat Museum on Fri 15 Sep.

I was glad to be able to clarify with you face to face on the 3 key areas of concern.

Firstly, that I did steps to apply for all necessary licences. My landlord was allowed to lease me a residential property as a commercial property (with gst) & then I was denied a change of use licence when I applied for one from URA for #03-01. As it turned out to be a residence, I again enquired but was told, no licences were required for a foster.

Secondly, NO fees were ever collected on upper floors as indicated in the Enforcement Notice. A few new volunteers may have asked if visitors had a ticket but no fees were collected. As I said in our meeting, you could interview tens of thousands of Singaporeans. It has NEVER happened.

Finally, with regards to residential usage, URA requires me to sleep on 3rd floor (to show residential use) when the bedrooms are on 5th floor. As clarified in our discussion #05-01 (2 bedrooms), #04-01 (Hall & Kitchen) & #03-01 (hall with 2 bathrooms - NO kitchen). URA's assertion that it is a separate property, does NOT make my fostering of cats in my home, an

ILLEGAL CONVERSION into a shelter. I am forced to give up this unit, as I cannot sleep in 2 places at the same time. MND has indicated to the press that the orphan cats & kittens losing their home had nothing to do with MND. However, my foster cats no longer having a temporary home is in fact a direct result of URA's requirement, which I am unable to fulfil.

You agreed that moving forward:

- a. my Supurrstar cats living in my Art of Voice office was not going to be a problem.
- b. MND would send a letter to my landlord to clarify that I was not doing anything unlawful/illegal.
- c. After June 2018, MND would look at state land or other alternatives that would help us ensure that The Cat Museum as a tourist attraction & educational / experiential learning centre would live on.

At the meeting, I also asked for an olive branch to help clear my name so that the hundreds of volunteers & myself could continue our educational efforts towards building Singapore as a more Compassionate Nation & to Better the lives of our fellow citizens. While I understand that you are personally in a difficult position, our work with many other partners including MSF (in the areas of Youth at Risk & Probation Teenagers) is facing difficulties moving forward as people fear negative ramifications from associating with me. My reputation & family have been affected by MND's accusations of "Illegal conversion" & this has further resulted in difficulties, both in renting an office to continue my professional speech coaching services & even to find a home.

None of these have been addressed in the letters I received recently. I don't really understand why the letters continue to paint the picture that I have violated government regulations, after my detailed explanation.

As pointed out during the meeting, many of URA's Strategic Planning efforts are subject to interpretation & there was no intention on my part to cross the line. Is it possible for MND to take the high road & clarify that having done further investigation, that the issue was not "illegal conversion"?

The public has been continually asking about the outcome of the meeting and I really hope to be able to share something positive.

I await your response before commenting to the public, our volunteers & partners. Thank you.

Regards,
Jessica

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From: MND Lawrence WONG (MND) [mailto:Lawrence_WONG@mnd.gov.sg]

Sent: Monday, 11 September, 2017 12:14 PM

To: Jessica Seet

Cc: MND HQ (MND); pr@thecatmuseum.com.sg

Subject: RE: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum

Message Classification: *Restricted*

Thanks for this Jessica. I will drop by at 530 pm on Fri evening.
Look forward to seeing you then.

Best regards

Lawrence Wong

From: Jessica Seet [<mailto:jessica@artofvoice.com>]

Sent: Saturday, 9 September, 2017 9:32 AM

To: MND Lawrence WONG (MND) <Lawrence_WONG@mnd.gov.sg>

Cc: MND HQ (MND) <MND_HQ@mnd.gov.sg>; pr@thecatmuseum.com.sg

Subject: RE: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum

Dear Minister Wong,

My sincere apologies, I have forgotten that I have a coaching engagement that day & will need to honour my commitment.

The Cat Museum is only open 3 hours on Thu & Fri 4 to 7pm; or Sat/Sun 1 to 7pm. Please let me know what suits you best.

Again, sincere apologies.

Regards,
Jessica

Jessica Seet

Founder/Voice & Speech Coach

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From: MND Lawrence WONG (MND) [mailto:Lawrence_WONG@mnd.gov.sg]
Sent: Friday, 8 September, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Jessica Seet
Cc: MND HQ (MND); pr@thecatmuseum.com.sg
Subject: RE: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum

Message Classification: *Restricted*

Thanks for the note Jessica and the invite.

I will be happy to drop by next week. We have Parliament sessions on Mon and Tues, so the earliest possible timing is Wed morning say around 11 am. Will that work for you?

Best regards
Lawrence Wong

From: Jessica Seet [<mailto:jessica@artofvoice.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2017 11:14 AM
To: MND Lawrence WONG (MND) <Lawrence_WONG@mnd.gov.sg>
Cc: MND HQ (MND) <MND_HQ@mnd.gov.sg>; pr@thecatmuseum.com.sg
Subject: Lion City Kitty - The Cat Museum

Dear Minister Wong,

Thank you for your Facebook message to me.

I would like to invite you down to The Cat Museum if your schedule permits, to meet the amazing volunteers, from retirees to youths, from expats to Singaporean Professionals, who keep this place alive as space of learning & sharing.

Do let me know if you are able to. Thank you.

Regards,
Jessica

Jessica Seet

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