



5.5.2015

To: Sanjena Sathian - OZY Media | Deputy Editor - 678-571-1072 | @sanjenasathian
From: L. A. "Tony" Kovach, managing member, LifeStyle Factory Homes, LLC.
Subject: "Trailer Park Nation" (sic) on [OZY.com](http://www.ozy.com) at the link below.

<http://www.ozy.com/true-story/trailer-park-nation-the-great-eviction/40029>

1) Errors start with the headline. A trailer is a towable RV, or something that hauls cargo you pull behind a truck. It is an insult to those living in a manufactured home. I spent two weeks on the road, interviewing on video dozens of MH home owners and residents. Among the things expressed to me, quoting "I am not trailer trash." The "T word" is as offensive to them as the N word being used by an Anglo on a black female or male.

2) Your story perpetuates stereotypes. I've owned and lived in conventional housing as well as modern MH, and one genuine pre-HUD Code mobile home. I've worked in this industry, starting in 1981. So odds are I know more than your editors/writer. Let's shatter some stereotypes.

Here one of the videos from that trip, dozens more are in the pipeline.

<http://manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/tyson-blattner-purdue-university-grad-student-on-manufactured-home-living-inside-mh-video-interview/>

A model:

<http://manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/take-another-manufactured-home-tour-inside-mh-road-show-model-video/>

None of the Manufactured Home (MH) Communities (MHCs) I lived in had dirt roads. Clearly there are some, but the same is true for conventional housing.

3) Proper terminology.

There are mobile homes that date back to mostly the early 70s (pre-HUD Code), or from the 1960s. Those can legitimately be called a mobile home. But by law, any such home built to the Federal Manufactured Housing and Safety Standards (aka HUD Code for MH) that went into effect on June 15, 1976 is a manufactured home. This is a legal distinction, based on a solid construction standard. which the Feds and many state laws underscore.

How good is the standard?

See what the retired federal program director said on this video:

<http://manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/take-another-manufactured-home-tour-inside-mh-road-show-model-video/>

We have a video that will be published, perhaps by Thursday, by a real estate veteran who's husband is a custom builder. She has sold hundreds of MHs. She asserts their quality and durability, as well as appeal - based on her nearly 2 decades experience in housing.

Don't think you'd tell Matthew McConaughey or Minnie Driver they live in a trailer, would you? Since many of the manufactured homes in their land lease community go for 7 figures. Working people, middle class and millionaires all deserve their dignity in their choice of homes.

As a publisher, you have a public trust to educate and enlighten, not to denigrate or disparage.

4) Some MHCs indeed do get sold and shut down, when developers come along. The same is true for apartments, commercial construction or conventional housing.

5) Many (if not most) states have funds set up for MH Community closures. There are more legal safeguards than your article indicates. Furthermore, most MHCs are owned by 'mom and pop' operators, rather than big investors. Family owned communities routinely care for their residents and treat them well, as do most of the larger operators. There are not many heartless types I've met over the years in MHCs.

6) NFPA says Modern MH is safer against a fire than conventional housing. They are NOT fire traps. See download highlights of report and the PDF download at this link.

<http://manufacturedhomelivingnews.com/mobile-and-manufactured-homes-nfpa-report-highlights-fire-facts-and-myths/>

There is more, but that is plenty to get you started. If you want to authorize my in depth reply OpEd/ article for publication, I'll be happy to give you far more.

Follow up is encouraged. Feel free to call or email, thank you.

Tony

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