

To: All East residents and families

Subject: East Residence Hall – Housing Stability Update

Dear East Residence Hall Students and Families,

We know many of you are feeling frustrated and exhausted, particularly those who have had to move between temporary hotel placements while awaiting clearer long-term housing plans. We understand how disruptive that instability has been, and we want to provide context about why this has occurred and what comes next.

Relocating hundreds of residential students on short notice is extraordinarily complex. Even with emergency planning protocols in place, we are dependent on real-time occupancy and availability across alternative housing locations. Hotels, partner campuses, and temporary sites operate on fluctuating capacity, and as construction timelines shift, so too do our housing needs. Inspections and safety approvals required remediation timelines to be extended, and therefore, the temporary placements also had to be extended. That is where we have encountered occupancy constraints, particularly with hotel partners.

We are doing our best to communicate in advance, but managing multiple housing solutions with varying availability dates has been a significant logistical undertaking.

From the outset, our first priority was to secure stable, long-term housing for students whose rooms sustained the most significant damage. We were able to identify and execute a strong solution with Emerson College, where more than one hundred students have transitioned into semester-long housing.

Our expectation had been that, while we finalized those placements, East Residence Hall residential spaces would reopen for the majority of residents whose rooms were not directly impacted. However, building inspections and required safety testing have taken longer than anticipated. That extension is what has resulted in some students experiencing multiple temporary hotel placements.

Our next priority has been to secure an additional long-term housing solution to supplement Emerson College. We have now identified another location, and Capstone On-Campus Management (COCM) is currently working through final contract details. While this is not yet a confirmed plan, based on what we know today, we are hopeful that by the end of next week we will:

- Begin phased re-occupancy of the East Residential Hall for the Orange and Yellow corridors, and floors 11 & 12 of the Blue corridors, pending final inspection approvals; and
- Finalize another longer-term housing partner to provide stable, consolidated housing for remaining displaced students.

We understand that “hope” is not the same as confirmation. We will provide definitive details as soon as contracts are executed and inspections are complete. Our priority remains safety, stability, and minimizing further disruption.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through what has been a complex and evolving situation. We will continue to provide updates as progress is confirmed.

Additional information and a list of previous communications can be found at <https://www.umb.edu/reshallsupport/>

Commented [MM1]: The blue folks near the elevator and 11 and 12 didn't get the comm today, so they might feel we forgot about them. Not sure if we want to get that granular here. Just noting that.