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Housing Authority reports threats made against its workers

By JOEL LANDAU
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MILLVILLE -- The Millville Housing Authority said Wednesday two people have been arrested for making terroristic threats against the authority's staff for enforcing its "zero tolerance" policy at Holly Berry Court.

Authority staff have been the victim of a physical assault and several incidents of threats made against them for trying to enforce the agency's leases, MHA Executive Director Paul Dice said.

The authority last January adopted a "zero tolerance" policy for residents and has brought about 25 eviction cases to municipal court, he said.

The authority has had problems not with the tenants, but with friends and family of residents who are living in or frequenting homes at the Holly Berry Lane complex, Dice said. The authority has contacted police when those incidents occur, he said.

One employee was physically assaulted Dec. 12 and the suspect is still at large, Dice said. Other incidents of terroristic threats were reported in December and mid-August at the complex and at the city's Municipal Court facility following eviction proceedings, he said.

City police arrested two people involved in making the threats recently, but Dice declined to provide their names, noting the arrests have not been reported yet in The Daily Journal's Police Beat. A police report on the arrests has not been released.

Dice said he came forward with the news Wednesday to protect employees and thwart further physical and verbal attacks against the staff.

"If you are committing illegal activity on the property, we will take action," he said. "We want to create an environment where people can raise their children and enjoy a peaceful and happy life."