

# A tribute to Sidney G Trenor

Daily News Tuesday March 8 2007

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WHAT happens to a person who is in the last stages of cancer and is expected to move out of his flat?

Mr. Sidney George Trenor received a notice to vacate in August 2006 from his Windsor Street dwelling that he occupied for 16 years. He took his case to the Rental Housing Tribunal where a mediation agreement “settled” the complaint.

The Tribunal’s statistics will show that another complaint was resolved but for Mrs. Trenor, the landlord’s triumph was the final straw. Sidney subsequently requested an extension to his notice so that he could remain in the flat.

An eviction for the landlord may mean a new tenant at a higher rental and security deposit; for a tenant, it may be a life and death decision.

Sidney did not ask for an outpouring of love but needed some time to handle the last stages of his cancer and was willing to make a huge financial sacrifice.

He was willing to pay an increase of up to R1200.00 over and above the monthly electricity and

water charges. He wanted to enjoy the remaining days of his life watching the sun rise over the ocean with his wife beside him, sharing the moments of togetherness.

The landlord would not budge but Sidney kept to the mediation agreement and moved out with his wife in December 27, 2006. He passed away in February 8, 2007.

In a commoditified world, life is reduced to market forces of pure economics. Sidney’s death is a reminder that our contracted lives on earth should inherently evoke our humanity to treat people with love and dignity, irrespective of their beliefs, ethnicity, health, gender and status.

We pay tribute to Sidney and pray for strength for his beloved wife: “Now love cannot be called into question. Forgiveness is the only hope I hold. And love- love will be my strongest weapon. I do believe that I am not alone.”

Permission was granted by Mrs. Trenor to use Sidney’s name.

Sayed Iqbal Mohamed: Chairperson,  
Organisation of Civic Rights; Member of the  
KwaZulu Natal Rental Housing Tribunal  
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