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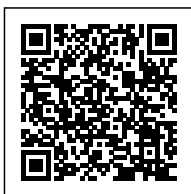
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## MERCED COUNCIL CONFRONTS POOR CONDITIONS AT BROOKDALE APARTMENTS



By [Francisco Ramirez](#)

March 31, 2025 | Merced, CA

MERCED — The Merced City Council is taking a closer look at the deteriorating living conditions at Brookdale Garden Apartments, following public complaints and a recent inspection that revealed serious health and safety concerns.

During the council's **March 18 meeting**, **Councilmember Shane Smith** (District 4) reported visiting the property in response to resident outreach and described the conditions as deeply troubling. Among the issues observed were **black mold, no hot water, cockroach infestations**, and **poor property maintenance**.

***“What I saw wasn’t acceptable,” Smith said during council comments. “People are living in very unsafe conditions, and I don’t think it’s fair to anyone.”***

Smith [confirmed](#) that **Code Enforcement** had been notified and is investigating the violations. While remediation efforts have reportedly begun, Smith said the situation may

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warrant further council action if progress stalls or if residents continue to live in hazardous conditions.

Several councilmembers expressed support for stronger tenant protections and emphasized the [city's responsibility to ensure safe](#) housing across all neighborhoods.

***“When people come to us asking for help, they deserve to know we’re taking action,”  
 one councilmember added.***

Brookdale Garden Apartments has been the subject of mounting complaints over the past year, with residents citing ongoing neglect and slow responses from management. City staff noted that inspections are underway and that the situation is being monitored.

Councilmember Smith pledged to stay engaged with residents and revisit the matter at a future meeting if necessary.

**Do you believe the city should take more aggressive steps to hold landlords accountable for unsafe housing conditions?**