August 12, 2020

To the stakeholders of My Red Light,

I wanted to write my own separate letter from the other renters not because I want to go against them, but because I don't want [redacted] or anyone from the raad van toezicht to use me. In the last renters meeting we had with [redacted]. I did go against the other renters and expressed my discomfort with [redacted]. I later called [redacted] explaining it more clearly, that even though [redacted] has kept MRL alive and made us feel safe and listened to, [redacted] However, if [redacted] is allowed to come back to the board, I do believe he will do everything in his power to make us feel safe again in this office and that he would never direct any violence towards us renters. He has only shown us sex workers with respect and consideration since he started working at My Red Light and even before when he was only our neighbor. I would therefore like to ask that you bring [redacted] back to the board, as this team feels like the only hope us renters have. We believe in them and we know they will do their best on our behalf. It is imperative that they both come back, as the work is too much for one person. [redacted] also knows this business better than anyone else and can restore MRL. She has our trust and respect because she has gone out of her way for the sex workers at MRL time and time again. It is only right that she sit in the board once more and be properly recognized and paid for all the work she does to take care of us.

This past year has been horrible for this company. [redacted] the gemeente wants to close the windows, Corona happened, and now this. All of this is stressful. While some things, like what the mayor thinks or the pandemic, are beyond our control, bringing [redacted] back is under yours. Please bring peace and normalcy back to this brothel. My colleagues and I truly enjoy working here, we don't want to switch offices, especially since others are already full at night. [redacted] but I'd much rather have [redacted] come back than be left with [redacted] and the RVT. Unlike the individuals in the board and RVT, [redacted] actually cares about us more than his reputation or financial situation. With [redacted] gone, we will leave this office as soon as possible because we simply do not feel safe around or trust [redacted] and all the individuals in the RVT, including [redacted]

[redacted] does not care about us. It is painfully obvious. She has not even bothered to take a shift in the office here, which every other board member did. [redacted] lied to my face the last time I saw her. She said the RVT acted immediately to remove [redacted] from the office [redacted] but this is a lie. It took them three days to tell [redacted] not to come back to the office. And when I met [redacted] she told me she has no experience with sex workers. When I asked what makes her qualified then, she said she used to work with vulnerable people—insulting and idiotic to assume she knows anything about us or overseeing this business then. While [redacted] has worked with sex workers before, I believe his position in the RVT of MRL compromises [redacted] Overall, none of these people know anything about running a window brothel, let alone understand us sex workers. Not a single member of the RVT has ever taken the time to properly get to know us or how window brothels operate. The sense I get from every single one of these individuals is that they think they are better than sex workers, and they look down on us as if we are helpless children who need parenting. This image of us could not be farther from the truth, and I find it disgusting that a company like My Red Light, which was originally established to be a brothel by and for sex workers, is being run by an RVT that acts so disdainfully and patronizingly towards us. By not listening to us and not taking us seriously, they also keep stigma in place. I already helped write a letter with my colleagues earlier this year to ask the RVT to step down and nothing happened. Please do right by us sex workers, replace the entire RVT with new people (including sex workers!), and hire [redacted] back on the board.

Sincerely,

[redacted]