

and each had a specific type of building concern. VCV and KBH focused on supportive housing; Spuyten Duyvil on abandoned construction sites; 3820 Oxford Avenues (aka Tulfan Terrace) the 14-story underfunded skeleton apartment building and 3192 Cambridge Avenue. One site dates back seven years.

3. Commissioner Introduction:

Commissioner Fariello informed the committee that he is a Registered Architect and a resident of Queens, New York. He has been the deputy commissioner in the Department of Buildings (DOB) Brooklyn office and has been with DOB for over seven years.

Mr. Fariello is a recent appointee to the Commissioner post (17 weeks on the job) and is learning the borough. He met with former Bronx DOB Commissioner, Mr. Marshall Kaminer and discussed some of the hot issues in the northwest section of the Bronx. Two properties that were discussed were 3820 Oxford Avenue (aka Tulfan Terrace) and the history of 3882 Cannon Place - now the sight of an "alleged" supportive home. The other properties were the abandoned construction sites at 3190 and 3198 Cambridge Avenue.

4. Questions and Answers Segment:

Below is a report of the commissioner's responses to the varying questions:

- Regarding supportive homes (3882 Cannon Place issue), the Commissioner explained how they decreased the homeless numbers and made housing available for the underserved, such as the mental and physically challenged, abused single parents, rehabilitation (physical, drug and alcohol) persons and provided a safe environment to live. All supportive homes have assisted living staff that are certified in professional skills required by the residents who occupy them.
- A question was raised regarding "a supportive home benefiting the community?"

The commissioner explained that all supportive homes do not have to be residential; out patient care could be established through the supportive home programs to provide medical, dental and physical therapy needs and can be provided in a residential zoned neighborhood.

- How was the developer able to build supportive housing without a sponsor? Mr. Fariello responded that it is not possible. The developer is required to participate in the program and build in conjunction with the supportive housing applicant. The commissioner promised he would personally review the application at 3882 Cannon Place.
- Mr. Fariello was briefed on the history of 3820 Oxford Avenue (Tulfan Terrace) by past DOB Commissioner Kaminer. In the few weeks as Bronx Commissioner, Mr. Fariello had issued an emergency declaration regarding the property by having the site cleaned up and removing two exposed lift cranes that were attached to the 14-story structure. This property has material and equipment that was left unattended and not maintained. Another declaration that was issued but not well received is to replace the plywood structured security fence with a chain link fence. The commissioner said his decision to move in this direction was to deter graffiti and expose the activity going on at these sites.

- Due to the mixed reactions from some members and residents, a discussion on the fencing will be an item on the February 23rd agenda.
- The properties of 3190 and 3198 Cambridge Avenue flank Mrs. Olsen and her neighbors. Mrs. Olsen has fought for over seven years to have DOB secure the sites. The property borders Ewen Park (city owned) where the neighborhood kids hang out and use the site as an unsupervised playground. The graffiti and vandalism that adorns Mrs. Olsen's house is very disrespectful to this WWII veteran. Her complaints fall on deaf ears and her many letters end up in everyone's circular file. Mrs. Olsen told the commissioner that the original developer's son fell to his death at the (3190) project and after the young man's death, it was sold to Metzler, who now holds the deed. The two properties do not have the proper signage or permits posted on their decaying security fences. Mr. Fariello told the Olsen's that he was not familiar with this property and he would look into its history.

5. Summing Up the Commissioner

The Chair thanked Mr. Fariello for staying the entire length of the meeting and answering the many questions. Noting the commissioner's knowledge and commenting that if Mr. Fariello performs his responsibilities as Bronx DOB Commissioner as well as he did with the committee meeting tonight, the Bronx DOB will be in capable hands!

6. New Business

Mr. J. Hauben from the Amalgamated presented an issue regarding their apartment building that was locked into fixed heating oil prices. They were looking for help through the community board to help release them from a heating fuel contract. They wanted CB8 to draft a letter in support of their cause. The Chair stated this is clearly a private business contract and needs to be addressed by the party's attorneys and not by this advisory board. The committee suggested they write a letter to CB8 and it can then be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

6. Adjourn Meeting

Next committee meeting will be on February 23, 2009.

Submitted by,

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Chairman
Housing Committee