

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 28, 2009
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Thomas Durham
Daniel Padernacht
Sergio Marquez
Howard E. Kamiel
Kevin F. Johns
Andrew Sandler
Lynn Schwarz
Jerry B. Warman
Ed Yaker

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
Amalgamated Houses
Amalgamated Houses
rep. Councilman Koppell
F.I.P.N.A
Amalgamated Houses
Amalgamated

1. Introductions

- A. Introduced new committee attendees.
- B. November 2009 meeting Minutes Approved

2. Chairs report:

- A. Reminded everyone the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will be conducting operation HOPE (Homeless Population Estimate) on January 25, 2010. DHS is still looking to fill its need for 3,000 volunteers. All can register online at www.dhs.nyc.gov/hope.
- B. Libraries and Culture Affairs Chairman, Mr. Robert Abbott brought an article from the Times/Yahoo News regarding the rat problem in the neighborhoods of Kingsbridge, Marble Hill and Riverdale. The Chairman asked all in attendance to forward any information on the issues in the article to the CB8 office.
- C. CB8 Vice Chairman, Mr. Brad Trebach informed the Housing Committee about a New York Sunday Post article reporting on a Queens County resident who filed a 311 complaint about a false "illegal conversion". Illegal conversions is one of the agenda items at the January 25th Housing Committee meeting and will be discussed in greater detail.

3. Agenda

- A. Informational meeting with Amalgamated Board of Directors.
 - a. An educational meeting on how this complex housing operates in its unique partnership with New York State Housing (DHCR).

- b. The Amalgamated elected officials brought information regarding the budget set up, number of structures, apartments and the developments population. We learned that regardless of apartment size, each resident has only one share and that the apartments could only be sold back to the Amalgamated Co-op.
- c. Amalgamated Co-op is meeting its criteria as affordable housing. This is the only issue that the Housing Committee and CB8 is mandated to discuss.
- d. Residents of the Amalgamated Co-op with grievances have three avenues they can use;
 - 1. Work within the internal governmental structure of the Amalgamated Co-op, via lease, house rules, etc.
 - 2. The Department Housing Community Renewal (DHCR)Grievances division
 - 3. Outreach to NY state elected officials

B. Preliminary discussion on January's Illegal Conversion Housing Meeting.

- a. The chairman asked committee members if other agencies other than the Department of Buildings, Housing Preservation Development and the Fire Department should take part in the multi-agencies meeting. This meeting is to provide a resolution, so that city agencies have the tools, (the law) to obtain access warrant easier when illegal conversions are positively known.
- b. The committee goals are not to add to the homeless population, but to help eliminate the self made fire trap that endangers citizens and fire fighters.

The next schedules committee meeting date is January 25, 2010.

Submitted by,

Thomas C. Durham
Chairman
Housing Committee Meeting