

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28TH, 2011 AT THE PROMENADE APARTMENTS 150 WEST 225TH STREET

PRESENT

Thomas Durham
Anthony Creaney
Colleen Hanley
Sergio Marquez
Georgia Santiago
Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
Tony Edwards
Marjorie Bash
I. Camacho
Fior Cordero
Victor Diaz
Alvin Grant
Carol Hendricks
Donna James
Kathleen James
Dolores Jeffries
Sallie Peebles
Alexis Robinson
Yvonne Rogers
Pedro Seneion
Perfirio Seneion
Roberta Varga

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
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rep. Councilman Y. Rodriguez

A. Introductions

1. Meeting started at 7:45 PM.
2. Minutes of January 31, 2011 were approved
3. Introduced guest speakers, Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez

B. Agenda

1. Follow up meeting to Councilman Rodriguez's November 2010 Town Hall Meeting.
2. Councilman Rodriguez addressed the residents of the Marble Hill and the CB8 Housing Committee, stating how housing is very important and very personal to him. The Councilman said not so long ago, he remembers difficult times trying to raise a young family in a building where the heat and hot water made rare appearances. He knows what it means to live with dignity and in a secure place we call home. Councilman Rodriguez stated that he distributed all of his funding across his district equally. He thanked the efforts of his liaison's Mr. Tony Edwards, R Y Managements' Mr. Durante, Mr. Azar and CB8.
3. Special thanks went out to the Housing Committee for holding their meeting at the Promenade Apartments.
4. Housing Committee Chairman Thomas C. Durham, also thanked the residents of the Promenade Apartments and R Y Management for having the Housing Committee. The Chairman new this room existed but for over the past two years,

this space (the community room) was in a state of disrepair. The availability of this space is one of many of the improvement that shows that this building is moving in the right direction.

5. The Chairman then proceeded to educate the residents of Marble Hill about the function of the Community Boards and the mission of the Housing Committee.
6. The Chairman discussed the former items of concerns in which the many city agencies were to address or assist in resolving.
 - a. Beg bugs, an item brought up in the town hall meeting was discussed briefly on the city policy to deal with them. The Dept. of Health (DOH) supplies charts, procedures and contact information (thanks Steven Froot, Health, Hospital & Social Services Chairman for supplying the Housing Committee with this information.) Hard copies of all information discussed were left with the Promenade Apartments' Resident Association's executive officers.
 - b. Public safety issues from the conditions of the sidewalks, missing garage doors and elevators previously discussed in November, are now fixed or nearing completion. (Due to this year's winter, a lot of this work could not be performed or was delayed. One of the longest and largest safety concerns and jobs were the structural conditions of the many terraces. The Dept. of Buildings (DOB) informed the Housing Committee that this work was completed but we had learned that the contractors had left some support equipment remaining on a few decks making them unusable. R Y Management will have the contractor return and remove these items. The Chairman briefly spoke about the litter that accumulates behind the building on MTA property. The Chairman suggested that the only way to address this problem is to investigate where the main source of this debris stems from, commuters, residents of the Promenade or students from the bordering high school John F. Kennedy.
 - c. Highlight discussion centered on former NYC Comptroller William F. Thompson Jr., 2004 comprehensive study of the state of the Mitchell-Lama Housing Program, (MLHP) (thanks, District Manager Nicole Stent for supplying the Housing Committee with this report). The comptroller's report in the year 2004 is titled, "Affordable No More". It is seven years later and still dealing with these issues in a worsened economical climate.
 - d. The Chairman urged that every Mitchell-Lama resident own and read this report (until a more recent study is available). This report explains how the city (HPD), state (DHCR) and federal (HUD) program differ, also co-op vs. rental programs. The report contains maps showing the locations of each building in all five boroughs.
 - e. The Chairman introduced Councilman Rodriguez's CB8 liaison Mr. Maurice (Tony) Edwards who was instrumental in keeping all agencies and companies in the communication loop and he spoke briefly to the public gallery.
 - e. R Y Management's Mr. Daniel Durante addressed the meeting on the state of the Promenade, MLHP in great detail. This committee and board can not thank Mr. Durante enough, (who is R Y Management's district manager) after the difficulty we experienced with the organization's previous managers. The Chairman policed the questions

taken by Mr. Durante, keeping the focus on the community issues and not one's in house complaints that needed to be addressed in a private forum (meeting) with the management company.

- f. The Chairman then opened the floor in which questions and answers were asked by committee members and the public, educating all on available programs, conditions and services that will help the residents of the Promenade Apartments and Marble Hill's quality of life to continue moving in a positive direction.

7. New Business

CB8 board member Ms. Georgia Santiago, a resident of The Marble Hill Houses, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), brought up issues of security cameras at this housing complex. Ms. Santiago said the residents were told that security cameras would be installed in latter 2010. The security cameras have not been installed and Ms. Santiago stated that a few incidents occurred and if cameras were installed, these could have been avoided. The committee will follow up and find out the status of these security cameras.

3. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

1. Next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2011 at the Board Office.
2. Topic: Meeting with Housing Committee associated city agencies to discuss their priority budget process so that the Housing Committee can improve in its own priority budget targeting procedures.

Submitted by,

Thomas C. Durham
Chairman
Housing Committee