

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28TH, 2011 AT THE BOARD OFFICE 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

Attendees: T. Durham, CB8; Colleen Hanley, CB8; G. Santiago, CB8; T. Creaney, CB8; S. Balicer, CB8; S. Marquez, CB8; T. Edwards, Liaison for Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez; A. Sandler, Liaison for Councilman Oliver Koppell

Guest Speaker: Katie Bukofzer - Director Bronx/Manhattan Borough Office Division of Neighborhood Preservation.

Meeting began at 7:30pm

Public Safety report for Marble Hill: 8 new police dispatched to Marble Hill area. Deputy Inspector Del Pozo has requested a joint meeting with Housing and Public Safety Committees for Marble Hill residents. Tom spoke to Simon Marquette, of NYCHA, about security cameras. The resident Associate President is working on this project as well. Only one building is getting the camera in Marble Hill so far. The 50th Precinct is doing more vertical patrols with additional officers. They are currently concentrating on the buildings with most trouble.

Tony Edwards from Councilman Rodriguez office spoke to Georgia Santiago about flyers that were circulated in the buildings regarding recycling and the proper disposal of refuse. The flyers were burned. Georgia is very concerned about the lack of consideration given to the current living conditions in Marble Hill.

Colleen Hanley suggested working with the Youth Committee on a "Love Where You Live" clean-up campaign with neighborhood Youth. The more involved children are with their communities, the more inclined they are to take better care of the property and grounds.

Guest Speaker: HPD Director Katie Bukofzer.

Her office is located at 1932 Arthur Avenue. She is the liaison for Housing Issues. They get a lot of heat and hot water issues.

Tom seldom gets a response from HPD. If we are utilizing the services that HPD is providing, we need responses. For instance, DHS provides housing for people in protective custody. We need everyone at the same table to get things done. If we, the Housing Committee, can add a voice to something that HPD needs, the more support everyone will get.

Heat complaints: HPD does not have enough people to tend to every heat complaint. Inspectors have to go out and inspect, thermometer in hand, each building with a complaint. This is not as easy as it sounds. It requires a lot of time and effort to get into the buildings and into the boiler rooms. Proactive

Preservation Inspectors are being pulled out of routine jobs to do heat inspections. These inspections are time consuming and labor intensive. Gathering man/woman power to get the job done is extremely difficult. Code enforcement is a core function of HPD.

There is no current body count for staff. Manhattan/Bronx are terribly understaffed. The ProActive Preservation program is for buildings like Millbank. Those buildings were falling apart. No heat no hot water. The Commission had to do an emergency declaration so that people could survive.

Sometimes HPD and Department of Buildings overlap, like with egress issues. Masonry cracks are normally a DOB issue, but if HPD sees a masonry crack they will include it into a report.

There is now a new law, new registration cycles. HPD will come and inspect apartments.

Budget priorities for HPD? Ask Ruben Wolf or Barbara Flynn. They work for OEMS.

SORP – Small Owner Repair Projects: This is a new loan project. \$10,000 per unit. It's a forgivable loan program.

Another program: NY State Energy and Research and Development Authority. Get energy smart. This is intended to reduce the carbon footprint. The goal is to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. New HPD Website: www.nycgreenhouse.org. The website has imbedded in it the links to all the different programs that effect NYC. The multi-family program is just back online.

Crash courses are offered to landlords on HPD compliance. You have to articulate your needs.

The HPD presentation was informative and we will be in contact with Ms. Bukofzer going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Minutes Prepared by Colleen R. Hanley