

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 23RD, 2011 AT THE BOARD OFFICE 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm

Attendees: Tom Durham, CB8 Housing Committee Chair; Georgia Santiago, Philip Friedman, C8; Tony Creaney, CB8; Colleen Hanley, CB8; Julie Reyes, CB8; CB8; Marie H. Waldron NYCHA, Assistant Manager Ft. Independence Houses; Wendy Anderson, NYCHA Assistant Manager Marble Hill Houses; Paulette Shomo, T.A. President, Marble Hill Houses; Rodney Armande, Deputy Director, NYCHA; Andrew Sandler, Councilman Koppell's office; Tony Edwards, Councilman Rodriguez Office; Arielle Hirsch; Armando Crescendo

NYCHA ISSUES

Marble Hill

Security Cameras: There was supposed to be a pilot program for security cameras. Ms. Shomo stated Marble Hill was supposed to receive cameras two years ago. The inspectors came out and inspected one building and were determining which buildings would have cameras based upon the criminal element/activity. According to Mrs. Shomo, surveying one building is just as good as surveying all five/six. The inspections and pilot program were supposed to be completed under the Councilmember at the time

(Martinez). Tony Edwards of Councilman Rodriguez office stated Councilman Rodriguez plans on revisiting the subject with Councilman Cabrera and Councilman Koppell in late June. Tom Durham asked if anyone received any RFP's from contractors for this program considering that the money had already been allocated by Councilman Martinez office. Tony Edwards and Mrs. Shomo stated no.

Councilman Koppell has one building in Marble Hill that was not scheduled for security cameras because no funds were allocated for that building from Councilman Koppell's budget as far as Adam Sandler knows.

Intergovernmental Affairs department of NYCHA would have more information in regards to the entity that was actually in receipt of funding from Councilman Martinez office for the security camera pilot program. Tom Durham has the contact information for the NYCHA Intergovernmental Affairs rep and will contact the individual. Tom also wanted to reiterate that the CB8 Housing Committee is available to all Housing Developments and residents of Community Board 8 and that all are welcome to monthly CB8 Housing Committee meetings wherever they take place.

Georgia Santiago of CB8 mentioned a November 2010 article in the Riverdale Press which stated there were "insufficient funds" for security cameras for Marble Hill despite the fact that Councilman Martinez allocated funding for the cameras. Georgia Santiago distinctly remembered fliers being distributed by NYCHA regarding the implementation of the camera program. Tom Durham of CB8 mentioned that he reached out to the manager of

Marble Hill – Mr. Moffet - in regards to the funds for the security camera pilot program and the whereabouts of those funds. Mr. Moffet's response stated Tom should speak to the President of the Tenants Association of Marble Hill, Mrs. Shomo. Tom interjected that he should not have to speak to a volunteer member of Marble Hill to locate public funds.

Maintenance: There are currently 5 workers who are designated to do specific maintenance repairs (plumbing, electric, etc). There are approximately 13 porters. Previously the residents of Marble Hill would call the management office, now residents must call a central location for specialized work. You can wait up to a year for a plasterer. If you have a leak, a maintenance worker can take three or four days to take care of this, but then there will be a hole in the wall for months. Problems are prioritized.

Parking: Another issue is loss control of parking at Marble Hill. Residents are complaining that illegal cars are being parked in those spaces. This has been an ongoing complaint from residents of Marble Hill. The Housing Authority just resurrected a pilot in NYC, they are looking to expand it into Bronx locations. Enforcement of parking falls to the NYPD.

Fort Independence

Maintenance: There are two maintenance workers on staff for repairs. There are eight or less caretakers/porters. They could use more help. The general feeling from the residents is that the place is not being kept up as well as it could be or should be.

Security: Bailey Houses currently has no tenant patrol. This is on their wish list.

Andrew Sandler wanted to mention that NYCHA developments are exempt from the Operation Clean Halls program. Tom Durham mentioned vertical patrolling: riding elevators up to the roof and going down the staircases. All developments need more police patrolling. Security and quality of life issues are prevalent in the issues presented to CB8. Mrs. Shomo mentioned the Marble Hill Tenants Association meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Meetings are not mentioned in Marble Hill newsletters.

NEXT BIG ISSUE:

New City Law regarding heating fuel is a subject that must be addressed. In 2030 no. 4 oil will be illegal.

Con Ed's Policy: If the main is 100 feet within the property line of the gas main, Con Ed will install the first 100 feet of pipe for free. Anything past 100 feet is going to be the responsibility of the homeowner. There is only one gas pipe per address.

We may need to get a forum together to discuss this issue in September. Those hardest hit will be renters. Councilman Koppell is having a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday May 26, 2011 @SAR Academy to discuss all issues in the Community. Tom Durham will draft a resolution in support of keeping seniors in their communities when ordered by NYCHA to move to smaller apartments.

Meeting ended at 9:15pm

Respectively submitted by Colleen R. Hanley