



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARDS 3, 7, 11

NYCHA's Draft FY 2014 Annual Plan Public Hearing Wednesday, July 24, 2013

My name is Gigi Li, chair of Manhattan's Community Board 3, and I am here to testify on the draft NYCHA annual plan and the proposed Infill Plan for Manhattan Community Boards 3, 7, and 11. Our three boards have formally adopted resolutions opposing the current Infill Plan based on the lack of public process.

Manhattan Community Boards 3, 7 and 11 have sent numerous letters to you and our elected officials in opposition to the current Infill proposal and the manner in which it has been pursued – yet these letters and those from Tenants Associations expressing opposition to the infill plan have not been acknowledged and concerns have not been addressed. You can see that we are among the many here today fighting to preserve NYC public housing.

We know that the weight of unmet capital and operating budget needs, and the consequences of further inaction would be disastrous for residents and buildings, and we agree that new revenue sources must be pursued.

But this is not the way to bring it about. You said in Plan NYCHA: A Roadmap for Preservation (Dec 2011) that the preservation of NYC's public housing "will succeed only through partnerships and new strategies."

We ask that you slow down! Hold off on the release of the RFPs, share the draft language of the RFP and allow tenant associations, community boards and elected officials the opportunity to comment before the RFP is released. Take the time to build those partnerships with all stakeholders.

Consider supporting the NYCHA Real Property Public Review Act, recently introduced in the NY State Senate and Assembly, so that any disposition of land or buildings by NYCHA would be subject to the same substantive and comprehensive public review as any other proposed development impacting the city.

A transparent, dynamic public process can build support and a better project for residents, NYCHA coffers and the city overall.

We again urge you to delay any infill RFP and to allow for civil and respectful dialogue on a host of legitimate issues of community concerns.