

April 8, 2003

Kiltie Bedford  
Director, Holland House  
351 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036

**Re: Holland House Tenant Association**

Dear Ms. Bedford:

It has been over a year since the tenants at Holland House organized to elect representatives of a Tenant Association. As you know, tenants have come to numerous Community Board meetings over time to raise issues concerning their residency in Holland House. Members of this Board and representatives of local elected officials have participated in efforts to resolve these issues and hoped that creation of the Tenants Association would prove a positive step in that direction. We are very disappointed to learn that significant concerns evidently continue.

The most frequent recent complaint has been the reluctance of Holland House staff to meet with elected representatives of the tenants as such. Tenants indicate that, on those occasions when a meeting has been proposed, Holland House management has been reluctant to allow housing advocates from Housing Conservation Coordinators or West Side SRO Law Project to participate in such a meeting.

This Board often seeks to negotiate and resolve disputes between tenants and building management. The formation of a working and elected Tenant Association has always been a strategy to focus tenants and to achieve a dialogue on building issues. If disputes grow to become legal issues, this Board will no longer have a role.

We urge you to schedule a face to face meeting with the elected Tenant representatives and their advocates. Naturally, if the tenants were to have an advisor present, you could do so also. The meeting could be held in the presence of a staff person from one of the locally elected officials. Alternatively, the Midtown Community Court has indicated they could serve in a mediating role.

We hope that you would give due consideration to this letter and would appreciate a response regarding your decision or actions within the next two weeks.

Sincerely,



Simone Sardin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Janice McGuire  
Chair  
Housing, Health & Human Services Committee

This letter was passed at Manhattan Community Board No. 4's April 2, 2003 full board meeting.

cc: Local Elected Officials  
HPD, DOHMH, DHS

Ed Geffner, Exec. Dir., Project Renewal  
Board of Directors, Project Renewal