

Biography of Victor A. Gonzalez

Victor A. Gonzalez is the first public housing resident to be named a member of the Board of the New York City Housing Authority.

Mr. Gonzalez, who has lived in NYCHA's public housing for 50 years, currently resides in the Rabbi Stephen Wise Towers on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He is a tireless public housing resident leader and advocate, and has served as president of the Wise Towers Residents Association since 2003 and as alternative member of NYCHA's Resident Advisory Board. He serves on the Goddard Riverside Community Center Board, which supports the daycare center at Wise Towers and was recently honored for his work there; the Community Board 7 in Manhattan, where he chairs the Housing Committee and helped organize a roundtable conversation with federal, state and local representatives to voice the concerns of public housing residents; the Neighborhood Advisory Board for the City's Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD); and is a member of the NYC Residents' Alliance.

Mr. Gonzalez also has done extensive work with advocacy groups, organizing workshop meetings for tenants and supporting activities that impact not only his development, Wise Towers, but also the community around him. He is involved with the Lincoln Center Collaborative and supports residents with Tenant Participation Activity funding by sponsoring 10 children to attend the summer day camp at De Hostos Community Center. The residents of Wise Towers awarded him a plaque in 2011 during the annual Family Day celebration for the dedication and effort he has put into his community for more than a decade.

Born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, Mr. Gonzalez received his Bachelor's degree from Mercy College and served for five years in the U.S. Air Force, honorably discharged after reaching the rank of Sergeant of Security Police. Following his military service, he spent 33 years working for the United Parcel Service, retiring as international Team Leader in Customer Service in 2005.

Mr. Gonzalez' appointment, effective July 20, 2011, follows passage of a law by the State legislature in 2010 allowing for a resident to serve on the Board. As resident board member, Mr. Gonzalez will serve part-time.

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