

**Testimony from NYCHA's Executive Vice President for Resident Services,
Partnerships, and Initiatives Ukah Busgith
Older Adult Centers at NYCHA Facilities
Committee on Public Housing with the Committee on Aging
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – 1 p.m.
250 Broadway Committee Room, 16th Floor**

Chairs Chris Banks and Crystal Hudson, members of the Committee on Public Housing and Committee on Aging, other distinguished members of the City Council, NYCHA residents, community advocates, and members of the public: good afternoon. I am Ukah Busgith, NYCHA's Executive Vice President for Resident Services, Partnerships, and Initiatives, and I am pleased to be joined by Dylan Baker-Rice, Deputy Chief Asset and Capital Management Officer, as well as my colleagues from NYC Aging. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Authority's efforts to support older adults as they age with grace and dignity in their homes at NYCHA.

Older adults are an integral part of the NYCHA community. Every day, we strive to support older adults in our communities through connections to beneficial programs, services, and other resources from a range of quality providers.

We believe strongly in the power of partnerships to serve populations like older adults. Our collaboration with NYC Aging is one fundamental example, as they operate a variety of programs for older adults right at our developments. And we are an active participant in the City's Cabinet for Older New Yorkers, which brings together over two dozen City agencies to help address the needs of aging adults. One especially helpful initiative that resulted from our participation in the Cabinet is a program where liaisons from the NYPD connect with NYCHA seniors to provide assistance and raise awareness on issues like domestic violence.

The HUD-funded Elderly Safe-At-Home program is another key initiative. Through the program, NYCHA staff offer on-site assistance at several NYCHA developments, supporting older adults as they age in place safely and independently through home visits and connections to services, workshops on crime prevention and other topics, and "floor captains" (residents who volunteer to support their neighbors).

These are just a few examples of the initiatives that are serving NYCHA seniors. I am proud of our efforts to support older adults in the community, and I am happy to answer any of your

questions on this topic. I also want to thank members of the Council for your support – partnership is key to our success, and we are eager to continue our very impactful collaborations with you and other stakeholders. Thank you.