

**NYCHA CHAIR JOHN B. RHEA
BROOKLYN SOUTH PRESIDENT'S AWARDS DINNER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011 – 6:00 – 10:00 PM
GARGIULO'S RESTAURANT, 2911 WEST 15TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11224**

- **Good evening, everyone. And thank you for that gracious introduction.**
- **It's so great to be with you this evening as we celebrate the true spirit of community and the true meaning of NYCHA.**
- **The New York City Housing Authority is much more than apartments or community centers or playgrounds. NYCHA is people.**
- **Our residents are the Authority's greatest strength and our most tremendous asset. We are committed, now more than ever, to making sure that service to NYCHA families is at the heart of all we do.**
- **Tonight, we re-affirm that commitment.**
- **I, Vice Chairman Andrews, Commissioner López and the nearly 12,000 men and women who serve the Authority could not do our jobs without your support.**
- **Time and again, at each of the 19 developments that make up Brooklyn South and across the City, you have stood up, been counted and put service to your community and to your fellow residents first.**

- On behalf of all of NYCHA—thank you, and congratulations on your honor this evening.
- I want to thank tonight’s organizer as well as one of our honorees, Ms. Rosia Wyche, for her distinguished record of service. For more than thirty years, Ms. Wyche has called NYCHA “home,” and for much of that time she has answered the call of service faithfully and with grace.
- As singing legend and fellow native North Carolinian Roberta Flack once said, “Remember to always walk in the light. And if you feel like you’re not walking in it, go find it. Love the light.” Well, Ms. Wyche not only walks in the light, but she carries that light with her wherever she goes.
- As you come to the end of your career as District COP Chair, we hope you will also carry the deep admiration and gratitude which we all feel.
- You have carried the voices of the residents of Coney Island Houses and Brooklyn South with you and been their advocate, as well as a champion for public housing. And you have done so with honor, with conviction and, always, with *style*. Ms. Wyche—thank you.
- Ladies and gentlemen, long after tonight’s celebration has ended, let us remember the spirit of this evening:

- That community requires us all; that service in the name of community is not only noble but that it is also the building block for strong neighborhoods, strong families and strong futures; and that, if we work together, all things are possible.
- Again, congratulations; and thank you for all that you do.