



Chairman's Message

This has been a year of big change for NYCHA. Since the release of *Plan NYCHA: A Roadmap for Preservation* in January, all of us at the Authority have directed unbelievable energy and focus toward the goal of preserving public housing in New York City. We have worked steadily to change the way we do business while remaining completely committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing. Recently, we took some important steps on the path to becoming a stronger organization.

One critical step was our work with the Boston Consulting Group to identify cost savings and recommended improvements in how we do business. These efforts, many of which are underway, will create efficiencies in NYCHA's central office to increase staff and resources at the developments to better serve residents. You can read about these key initiatives in the article below on this page.

Central to fulfilling Plan NYCHA's strategic and operational priorities is ensuring we have strong senior leadership. To that end, I am excited to welcome Cecil House as NYCHA's new General Manager. Mr. House's record of leading large, complex organizations and diverse operations expertise make him uniquely qualified to guide NYCHA's talented management team. Drawing on his substantial supply chain, strategic management and customer service knowledge – and his experience in guiding organizations through change – I am confident that Mr. House will manage NYCHA successfully through this transformation period. His vision and leadership will be critical as we work with partners to improve the delivery of services that you expect and deserve. You can read more about Mr. House on page 2.

We also recently appointed a Chief Financial Officer, Andreas Spitzer. He will oversee all of NYCHA's financial planning activities. Mr. Spitzer played an indispensable role in the successful execution of the Federalization transaction; the release of Plan NYCHA; and the development of a financial plan to reduce the Authority's operating deficit. His dynamic leadership and commitment to NYCHA's mission as acting CFO made him an obvious choice to carry on this work full time.

Board Members Emily Youssouf, Margarita López and Victor Gonzalez remain fully engaged in working with me to provide sound governance and leadership dur-



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (right) welcomes Cecil House as NYCHA's new General Manager on August 23, 2012.

ing this dynamic period of change. They continue to work extraordinarily hard on your behalf, and their devotion to NYCHA residents is unmatched.

I hope that these changes, along with other important actions we have taken and continue to take in addressing maintenance and repairs; safety and security; and building improvements; demonstrates our unwavering commitment to you. There clearly are challenges facing the preservation of public housing in New York City, but with strong and able leadership in place, we are poised for success as we enthusiastically move forward.

John B. Rhea
John B. Rhea

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NYCHA Releases Consultant Report, Starts Applying Key Findings and Recommendations

Recommendations by Boston Consulting Group will improve services, generate savings, increase funding

By Eric Deutsch

Redirect resources from the central office and support functions to developments. Speed up maintenance and repairs. And better manage inventory and purchasing. Those are just some of the recommendations from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on how NYCHA can improve the way it does business. In the face of continuing funding cuts, NYCHA worked with the consulting firm – which has considerable experience with government and private entities, including public housing authorities – to help find ways to better serve residents by transforming the way the Authority operates.

BCG identified more than 100 short- and long-term recommendations that potentially will generate up to \$70 million per year in expense savings, as well as revenue opportunities of approximately \$55 million per year. Ultimately, this will be reinvested in frontline resources to benefit residents directly at the developments,

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A main focus of the recommendations NYCHA received in the report from Boston Consulting Group is to find ways to divert resources from its central office to the developments where they can more directly benefit residents, such as improved maintenance and repair service.

NYCHA Board Meetings

Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2012 are as follows:

September 12	November 7
September 27 (Thursday)	November 21
October 10	December 5
October 24	December 19

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **(212) 306-6088** no later than five business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call **(212) 306-6088**.

Check out NYCHA's Facebook page!

Got a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA's Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA's Facebook page is on the right.

Step 1: Download a QR code scanner application from your phone's marketplace (many of these "apps" are free to download). **Step 2:** Point your phone's camera at the QR image.



Cecil House Named NYCHA's new General Manager

By Heidi Morales

As discussed in the Chairman's Message on page 1, Cecil House recently joined NYCHA as its General Manager. Mr. House joins NYCHA from Southern California Edison (SCE), one of the largest electric utilities in the United States where he served as Senior Vice President for the Operations Support Business Unit and as the company's Chief Procurement Officer. A number of areas that Mr. House successfully oversaw at SCE – and which figure prominently in NYCHA's operations – include security and facilities; emergency preparedness; employee health and safety; and inventory. Before his time at SCE, Mr. House was Vice President of Customer Operations at Public Service Electric & Gas Company

(PSE&G), New Jersey's largest electric and gas utility, where he significantly improved the performance of the Customer Operations division.

"I think there are some expectations that our residents have for us to improve, that our community leaders have for us to improve and so we've got to step up to those challenges. I think that my experience in the past has positioned me well to help with that," Mr. House said.

The son of a coal miner and nurse's aide, Mr. House grew up in Virginia, and previously spent 12 years in New York City. He is a board member of the Institute for Supply Management and the National Utility Diversity Council and a former board member of the Urban League of Los Angeles and La Casa de Don Pedro, a community development and affordable housing provider in



Newark, New Jersey.

"I believe that NYCHA is a rich and valuable resource for our communities, and I hope that the residents appreciate it as such. On the flip side, I think that we have a commitment to residents to make sure that we provide safe, secure and comfortable housing for them now and in the future. So we want to make sure that we maintain and continue that mission," Mr. House said.

Be sure to check the October issue of the *Journal* for an interview with Mr. House about his first weeks at NYCHA.

NYCHA Proceeds to Install Security Cameras

Closed Circuit Television part of Layered Access Control Security System

As part of NYCHA's comprehensive plan to make public housing developments safer, it is on track to roll out wide-ranging security enhancements that include Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance cameras at 85 developments by the end of 2013. NYCHA's Safety and Security Task Force, which includes resident leaders and representatives of the New York City Police Department, recommended Layered Access Control as the

best approach to improve safety. It includes modern intercoms, wireless key fobs, technologically advanced cameras and vandalism-resistant doors as a supplement to CCTV cameras.

Since 1997, when the CCTV program began, NYCHA has installed nearly 7,000 cameras in more than 500 buildings at 105 developments. More than half of the cameras have been installed since 2003, benefitting more than 87,000 residents. NYCHA has \$42 million available that it is prepar-

ing to spend after taking time to develop the comprehensive security plan, working with residents on exactly where cameras should be placed.

"Ensuring that our communities remain safe is a collective responsibility. NYCHA employees, elected officials, advocates, residents and the NYPD all play a vital role in making neighborhoods safer," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

A complete list of the 85 developments is on page 10.

NYCHA Sponsored Event Takes 509 Guns off Streets

On August 18, NYCHA continued its efforts to maintain safety in its communities by helping to remove hundreds of guns from City streets. Along with State Senator Malcolm Smith and WPIX Channel 11, NYCHA sponsored a gun buy-back program at the Baptist Church in Queens, where individuals surrendered 509 total firearms to the New York City Police Department without fear of arrest. The event was strictly "no questions asked," meaning that as long as the gun was operable and not issued to law enforcement, it was eligible to be turned in. Each returned weapon was rewarded with a bank card; in total, the event led to \$85,000 worth of bank cards being distributed. Dozens of makes and models of firearms were retrieved by police, including 245 revolvers, 168 pistols, five sawed-off shotguns and two assault weapons.



A new security camera being installed at Amsterdam Houses in Manhattan.



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Resident's Voices Editor's note: For this issue, *Residents' Voices* has been moved to page 5.

NYCHA Capital Projects Benefit Residents

Authority Acting to Address Continuing Funding Decreases

Through a combination of federal stimulus and capital funds, NYCHA has expended and obligated more than \$1 billion in capital funding since 2009 on replacing roofs and elevators, repairing brickwork and upgrading heating systems. Recent incomplete published reports have claimed that NYCHA has not been spending its capital funds.

Through the exemplary efforts of NYCHA's Capital Projects Division, as reported on in the *May Journal*, NYCHA fully spent the stimulus funds to perform major rehabilitation work from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as of February 2012 – ahead of schedule. "For capital funding, HUD provides public housing authorities two years to obligate 90 percent of these monies," said Adam Glantz, Public Affairs Officer with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). "To date, NYCHA has never missed an obligation due date, and, as such, has never asked for an extension."

NYCHA performed rehabilitation work at 218 developments, to the benefit of more than 140,000 families. This included replacing roofs in 205 buildings and fixing brickwork and masonry in 244 buildings. In addition, more than 730 NYCHA residents got jobs completing ARRA-funded work at NYCHA developments.

"We are very pleased we



Part of NYCHA's capital repairs include fixing bricks and roofs.

consistently are able to meet our mandated deadlines, especially because it means we are getting things done that benefit residents in a timely manner," said Raymond Ribeiro, the Executive Vice-President for Capital Projects. "Some of the items residents often talk about are elevators and water leaks. We spent more than \$70 million in stimulus funds to rehabilitate elevators, and more than \$235 million in roof and brick projects to keep rain from entering our buildings."

Despite the strides NYCHA has made in maintaining its buildings, NYCHA needs more funding than the federal government provides to make necessary repairs. More than 70 percent of NYCHA buildings are more than 40 years old. Major upgrades are needed regularly to ensure that heating, plumbing and other systems continue

to function properly.

NYCHA needs \$6 billion for its existing capital repair needs. However, since 2001, NYCHA has experienced a combined loss of \$900 million in funding from the federal government for capital improvements. In 2002, NYCHA received \$429 million for capital work; in 2012, it received only \$270 million.

To address the continuing funding decrease, NYCHA is prioritizing its capital needs, improving capital operations and pursuing creative funding solutions as part of Plan NYCHA. With HUD approval, NYCHA will borrow funds in the private market by employing HUD's Capital Fund Financing Program and issuing a bond. This bond will be used to address areas such as brickwork and roof work, where disrepair can cause leaks or unsafe conditions in residents' homes.

Reshaping Baruch Houses: NYCHA's First Composting Program

By Ryan Dicovitsky

A year ago, younger residents of the Baruch Houses had never seen a fresh tomato, let alone a garden, according to Resident Green Committee member Sonia Peña. Now, the green revolution is flourishing at Baruch thanks to NYCHA's first ever composting program. With the support of NYCHA leadership and a dedicated group of residents, the program has led to a surge in local food production and reduction of waste at the Manhattan development.

At Baruch, children can be seen happily watering plants and stirring compost. Five garden beds filled with compost sport a variety of fresh produce such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, herbs and beans. Instead of leaving their food scraps in garbage bags outside, residents are encouraged to drop their left-over food waste in three enclosed composting bins donated by the Queens Botanical Garden. "This is the beginning, and we already have five beds. A lot of people like the vegetables and we want to really share. Can you imagine? We could grow so much food," Ms. Peña said.

Composting, in general, is easy to undertake: save your food scraps, drop them in a closed bin and wait as the material breaks down through natural processes – and some assistance from earthworms. After a few months, you are left with nutrient-rich soil to use for any purpose, including gardening. A community can divert 50 to 70 percent of its waste with minimal investment; the program at Baruch cost only \$1,600 to establish, and requires minimal additional funding to continue operating from year to year.

Ms. Peña believes that composting is the future of food production and green living. Despite a little bit of work to get the program off the ground, it pays off for the community. "It takes a little time, but it's like a part of my donation to the Mother Earth, a donation for the people, for the kids that really should matter to us," she said.



Sonia Peña shovels compost into the composting bin at Baruch Houses in Manhattan. (Photo by Fernando Montejó)

Jefferson Houses Family Grows Their Own Salad

By Ryan Dicovitsky

This is the latest in a series of *Journal* profiles of NYCHA's resident gardeners as part of the 50th year of the Authority's Gardening and Greening Program.

For Abdus Salam and his wife Zaheira, the 12 years they have spent growing vegetables at the Thomas Jefferson Houses are about more than just gardening – their efforts are dedicated toward making their community and neighbors at the Manhattan

development happy.

Every day from April through October, the Salams, their family and neighbors can be found working on a uniquely-built vegetable garden and harvesting assorted produce, such as beans, squash, spinach, peppers and tomatoes. "Sometimes, I eat them myself," Mr. Salam said. "But mostly I give them to my family and the community."

The Salams created their garden from scratch. To help it grow, Mr. Salam built a wire trellis, which allows food to be



grown off of the ground. Despite its purpose for gardening, Mr. Salam said there is a more practical use of the enclosure. "It keeps animals and pigeons away," he explained, referring to the city dwellers seeking to derail

– or eat – the entire effort.

The Salams' dedication – they spend about an hour a day tending to the garden – pays off in the way their vegetables taste. "They taste different, but they taste better," Mr. Salam said.

The superior taste of the produce and the Salams' hard work have not gone unnoticed by other Jefferson Houses residents.

Jafrul Hussein, a neighbor who helps Mr. Salam on occasion, was so impressed that he began working on his own garden this year. "It's nice, so now others want to copy," he said. Like the Salams, Mr. Hussein pointed out that the community appreciates the gardens and the food that they produce. "They get very happy," he said.

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The full list can be viewed at on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of March 28 through May 2, 2012.

Prohibited as of March 28, 2012

Donald Cheatham Armstrong Houses, 360 Lexington Avenue, Apt. 2E, Brooklyn
Richard Harrell Armstrong Houses, 366 Clifton Place, Apt. 4C, Brooklyn
Shawn Lindsey RIIS II Houses, 118 Avenue D, Apt. 3I, Manhattan

Prohibited as of April 4, 2012

Luz De Jesus Clinton Houses, 1505 Park Avenue, Apt. 11F, Manhattan
Jules Desselle Armstrong Houses, 366 Clifton Place, Apt. 3C, Brooklyn
Stephen Jemison Tompkins Houses, 65 Tompkins Avenue, Apt. 1F, Brooklyn
Kenardo Thomas Parkside Houses, 2959 White Plains Road, Apt. 3A, Bronx

Prohibited as of April 11, 2012

Saquan Brown Adams Houses, 680 Tinton Avenue, Apt. 5C, Bronx
Lawrence Meriweather Astoria Houses, 3-10 Astoria Boulevard, Apt. 4C, Queens
Lameek Mills Bronx River Houses, 1595 East 174th Street, Apt. 9B, Bronx
Alexander Vila Red Hook East Houses, 754 Henry Street, Apt. 5A, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of April 18, 2012

Marceline Anderson Morris Houses, 1309 Washington Avenue, Apt. 9H, Bronx
Melvin Davis Nostrand Houses 2323 Batchelder Street, Apt. 5B, Brooklyn
Giovanni Diaz a/k/a Jovanni Diaz St. Mary's Park Houses, 525 Jackson Avenue, Apt. 1K, Bronx
Vanessa Garret Wyckoff Gardens Houses, 130 Third Avenue, Apt. 4H, Brooklyn
Jeffrey Pierre-Louis Lafayette Gardens Houses, 433 Lafayette Avenue, Apt. 7F, Brooklyn
Lateef Thompson Rutgers Houses, 65-75 Pike Street, Apt. 19A, Manhattan
Anthony Watt Monroe Houses, 1785 Story Avenue, Apt. 5E, Bronx

Prohibited as of May 2, 2012

Harry Bristow Fulton Houses, 419 West 19th Street, Apt. 2D, Manhattan
Vance Ferbee Woodside Houses, 31-25 49th Street, Apt. 1C, Queens
Luis Figueroa Bronx River Houses, 1057 Boynton Avenue, Apt. 4L, Bronx
Quandell Hendricks Lafayette Gardens Houses, 345 Classon Avenue, Apt. 7G, Brooklyn
Jamal Holman Fulton Houses, 419 West 19th Street, Apt. 2D, Manhattan
Trayvon Kilpatrick St. Mary's Park Houses, 674 East 149th Street, Apt. 19J, Bronx
Alex Mass Monroe Houses, 872 Rosedale Avenue, Apt. 4B, Bronx
Lacey Maxwell Brownsville Houses, 619 Rockaway Avenue, Apt. 1A, Brooklyn
Marvin Patterson Bailey Avenue-West 193rd Houses, 2663 Heath Avenue, Apt. 10F, Bronx
Michael Williams Polo Grounds Houses, 2932 Eight Avenue, Apt. 12C, Manhattan

◀ continued from page 1

NYCHA Releases Consultant Report, Starts Applying Key Findings and Recommendations

and to reduce NYCHA's operating deficit. NYCHA already has begun implementing several of the most critical cost-saving and revenue-producing initiatives, and now is in the process of reviewing the full set of recommendations internally and with key stakeholders including residents, labor leaders and elected officials to prioritize the most critical changes.

"Over the years we have had substantial reductions in employees that are at the property level, and we needed to find ways to reengineer how we do business in the central office and our support functions in order to move those savings into operations," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

To improve services for residents, NYCHA plans to look at different ways for property management to run the developments, applying the best practices used at other public housing authorities and in the private sector. For example, modernizing the public housing application processes will reduce wait times by 40 percent. And one significant recommendation already underway involves NYCHA gaining efficiencies in its procurement practices and contracts, and greater control over its inventory in the field.

"As an organization, we have committed to the recommendations in the BCG report. Those recommendations

have real milestones and real financial benefits that NYCHA is committed to delivering on," said Chairman Rhea.

Another key recommendation is to reform NYCHA's board structure so it can focus on long-term strategy and oversight rather than day-to-day management. The City will introduce legislation at the State level that will propose a new board structure that will incorporate best practices used by other public housing authorities and New York public benefit corporations.

Many actions currently underway will reinforce key elements of Plan NYCHA, especially the items that are main concerns – improving safety and security; fast tracking maintenance and repairs; and building improvements.

NYCHA, together with residents and the New York City Police Department (NYPD), have developed a comprehensive security strategy which builds on the nearly 7,000 cameras across NYCHA communities. Pending finalization of plans with elected officials that have allocated sufficient funding, NYCHA will complete installation of security upgrades at the 85 developments that have funds allocated to them by the end of 2013 (see page 2 for more details).

NYCHA and NYPD also are rolling out a series of security enhancement pilot programs

to further drive down crime in NYCHA communities. This includes increasing NYPD patrol presence (including additional vertical patrols) in 12 high crime-risk properties; creating a new "Impact Zone" that encompasses two developments – Soundview and Castle Hill in the Bronx; and expanding Operation CLEARs (Community-Law Enforcement Approach to Restoring Security) – a community/NYPD/NYCHA partnership to fight crime that already delivered results through a pilot program at seven NYCHA developments.

NYCHA is committed to improving maintenance and repair service levels. The Authority will work with organized labor to ensure that work rules enable the most efficient repair schedule; set targets to reduce the amount of open work orders and the average completion time for maintenance and skilled trade work orders; fill vacancies for skilled trade workers; and target the developments with the most outstanding maintenance and repair work, which is handled by the Work Order Task Force.

Because of shortfalls in federal capital funding, NYCHA has unmet capital needs of almost \$6 billion. NYCHA has met every deadline required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obligate and expend the capital funding it does receive (see page 3 for more details). However, recognizing that there always is room for improvement, the Authority will focus on ways to speed up the process. In addition, NYCHA is pursuing a bond issuance which will generate proceeds of at least \$500 million to invest in developments; is exploring opportunities with HUD to reduce energy consumption through major energy efficient investments; and will accelerate efforts to develop its underutilized land.

These efforts show that, unlike in other cities where public housing was demolished, New York City is committed to preserving public housing.



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Residents' Voices



May 3, 2012

(via mail)

Do you have any information how to obtain furniture for someone who recently moved in to a New York City Housing Authority studio?

Amaury Negron, Mitchel Houses

NYCHA response:

NYCHA's Family Services Department has a Furniture Distribution Program, which works in this way:

- An authorized resident who is in need of furniture first should call the Family Services office in the borough where they live
- A referral will be generated within NYCHA's Family Services Department (FSD)
- An FSD service coordinator will be assigned to schedule a Home Visit with the resident
- During the Home Visit, an assessment of the resident's needs will be conducted
- The resident (with written consent) may be referred to outside resources in the community that provide furniture
- Depending upon the resident's situation and urgency of need, FSD also may be able to directly receive items of furniture that have been donated to NYCHA
- Telephone numbers for NYCHA's Family Services Department in each borough are:

Bronx (718) 409-8699

Brooklyn (718) 498-3243

Manhattan (212) 334-2506

Queens (718) 206-3286

Staten Island (718) 816-1521

June 25, 2012

(via e-mail)

"Our Daughters"

A reflection of ourselves as time passes on, Our Daughters

A time for renewal reminding us of how special we are, Our Daughters

Sweet as angels as they grow and learn, Our Daughters

Making us proud fulfilling their own dreams, Our Daughters

Becoming women before our very eyes, they are now mothers, Our Daughters

They can be many things

It all starts with us, Their Mothers

Renee A. Braxton, Bay View Houses

June 11, 2012

(via mail)

We have had good Caretakers for this building over the years that I've been here, but there is a tremendous difference between good and excellent! Several weeks ago I opened my front door and as I looked down I thought the floor was wet, only to find that it was cleaned and polished with such professionalism it only looked wet from its truly professional shine just like the floors at Trump Tower or any five-star hotel! On my way out yesterday who did I see cleaning, the very Caretaker who did my floor, Julian Roberts. I found him pleased to know in 32 years at Rangel Houses I've never seen such a professional job done!

Gerald Flemings, Rangel Houses

SENIOR NEWS



Save Money – Get "Extra Help" with Prescription Drugs

If you are enrolled in Medicare and your annual income is less than \$16,755 (for a single person) or \$22,695 (for a couple), then you may qualify for extra help in paying for prescription drugs. You could save nearly \$4,000 a year! Call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** and ask for information about "Extra Help" or get the application which is available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

Proper Disposal of Hypodermic Needles, Syringes and Lancets

Many residents use needles, syringes and lancets at home to care for their health. Tossing these items into the trash, down the drain or onto the grounds exposes NYCHA workers, residents and pets to possible serious injury and illness. More than two dozen NYCHA Caretakers are stuck every year by hypodermic needles discarded in the general trash or on the grounds. The medical treatment for these injuries can be a long and stressful experience. NYCHA asks residents to be considerate and responsible and help it protect staff and their neighbors by disposing of medical waste properly.

Use a Sharps Container

- Inexpensive sharps containers are available at most pharmacies.
- Place used sharps into the container as soon as possible and seal the lid. Keep the container in a safe place away from children and pets.
- Some residents place their used sharps in an empty laundry detergent container or bleach bottle. This is acceptable as long as these containers are labeled and have a cap.
- Do not throw any sharps container into a trash chute. The compactor will break them open, exposing workers to needles when they remove trash from the building.
- When a sharps container is nearly full, it can be brought to a Management Office for safe disposal. All hospitals and nursing homes in New York also accept sharp containers for disposal. Some drug stores and health clinics have kiosks to dispose of medical waste. A list of neighborhood kiosks can be obtained by calling **1-800-541-2347**.

Don't dispose of your sharps:

- Into compactor chutes
- In the toilet or sink drain
- On the grounds

Residents with questions can contact their Management Office.

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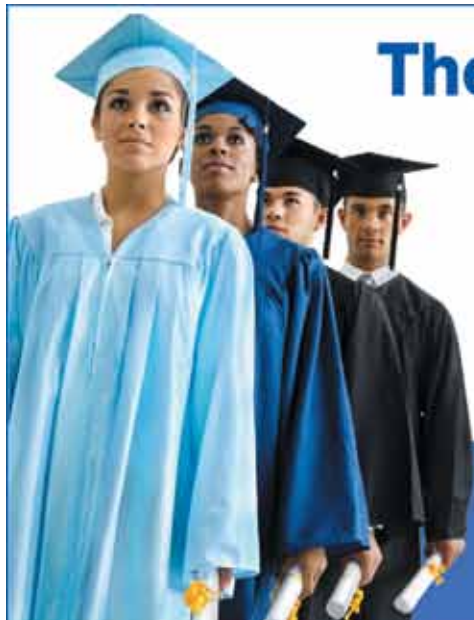
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Elected Officials: "It's Time for New York City to Get Behind Public Housing"

Residents Join City and State Representatives at Rally to Support NYCHA

By Eric Deutsch, with Ryan Dicovitsky

New York City Council Members, State Representatives and residents banded together on August 14 to publicly support NYCHA's efforts to preserve and improve public housing. The rally was held as a response to recent negative published reports about NYCHA.

"I am a product of public housing," said Rosie Mendez, the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Public Housing, who lived at Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn for 23 years. "While there have been problems at NYCHA, they've been making lots of progress and that progress wasn't being reported. I see a light at the end of the tunnel and we need to have the residents see that light. You don't help the residents by blasting the leadership."

Reports have claimed that NYCHA has hundreds of millions of dollars available that it is not spending. However, the Authority spends its Capital funds – used for building repairs such as roofs and elevators – as quickly as the process allows for, and has met every deadline for using the funds. "The money coming in does flow slowly, but it is a process that has to be followed," said Bronx

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo. "I have worked very hard with resident leaders and NYCHA to find where the money can best be used."

Many people spoke about the sense of partnership they feel with NYCHA. Nancy Ortiz, the Resident Association President at Vladeck Houses in Manhattan, said it was teamwork that helped lead to all 54 buildings in her development receiving security cameras and layered access control. "We've had constant communication and worked together to ensure we have a security plan that is good not just for residents, but the entire community," Ms. Ortiz said.

Elected officials have allocated \$42 million to install security cameras and/or layered access control at certain developments, with installation work scheduled to begin in 2012. Queens Council Member Ruben Wills, who grew up in South Jamaica Houses, said there is too much of a focus on buildings that do not have security cameras. "We get a lot of attention for the negative acts that happen in our developments," he said. "But no one ever talks about that if it weren't for the cameras we have, we wouldn't catch the people who commit crimes."

Media reports have attempted to portray members of NYCHA as out of touch with the residents they serve. But residents and elected officials spoke about how often they are in contact with NYCHA leadership and what that means to them. This includes Mary McGee, the Resident Association President at Soundview Houses in the Bronx, who said she has been a frequent and vocal critic of NYCHA. "We had an area that always flooded in front of our development; it had been there for more than 18 years. They came and fixed it," she said. "(NYCHA Chairman) John Rhea is not just talking; he's listening and doing something."

Other residents held signs that had messages such as "Public Housing – Our Collective Responsibility" and "We Need Public Housing – Support NYCHA and its Residents Now."

The elected officials and residents emphasized that they will continue to fight for more funding for NYCHA, and called on others to do the same. "A big issue is changing the mindset of residents," said Aixa Torres, the Resident Association President at Smith Houses in Manhattan. "We live on billion-dollar property and we need to start acting like it. Let's show who we are."



Mary McGee, Resident Association President at Soundview Houses, speaks at a rally to support NYCHA at City Hall on August 14, 2012. Behind her stand, from left to right, New York City Council Members Inez Dickens, Letitia James, Maria del Carmen Arroyo and Rosie Mendez.

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*January 2012 VNSNY CHOICE membership data



NYCHA Celebrates Summer 2012

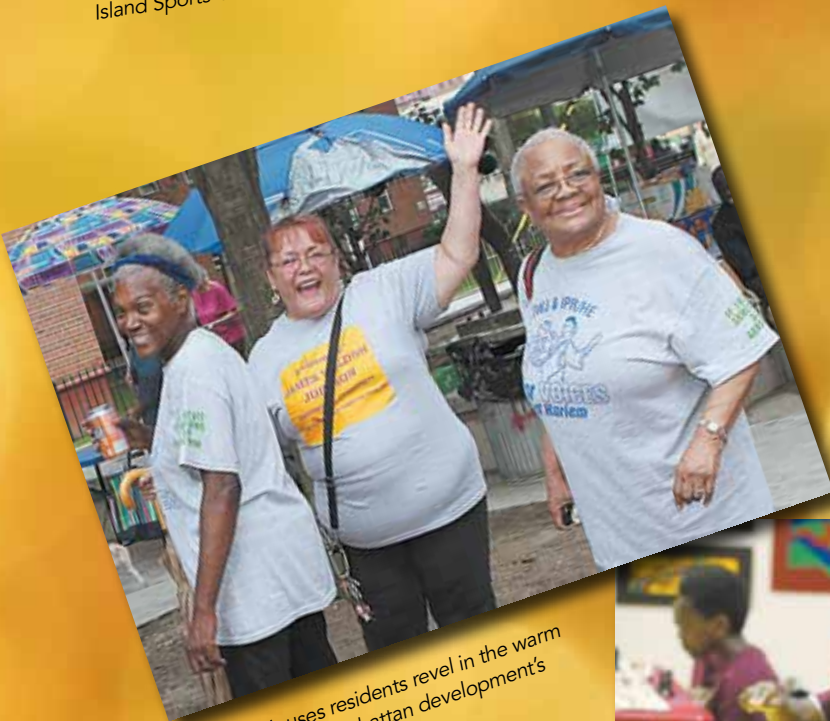


A NYCHA youth gets serious air during a jump rope race at the Queens/Staten Island Sports Challenge at Baisley Pond Park on August 7.



NYCHA residents dance through the heat at Amsterdam Addition's Family Day in Manhattan on July 28.

To see more photos from these events, point your smartphone's camera here.



Johnson Houses residents revel in the warm weather at the Manhattan development's Family Day on July 28.



NYCHA families – and NYPD Housing Bureau Chief Joanne Jaffe – meet a miniature version of McGruff the Crime Dog during National Night Out Against Crime at Monroe Houses in the Bronx on August 7.



NYCHA youth ponder their next move at the 10th annual NYCHA Citywide Chess Tournament at Rutgers Community Center in Manhattan on June 13. Hope Gardens Community Center (Brooklyn) came in first place and was crowned the 2012 Citywide Chess Champion. Hammel Community Center (Queens) came in second and Mariner's Harbor Community Center (Staten Island) came in third. (Photo by Lloyd Carter)



Nothing beats cooling down with a cold glass of juice on a hot summer day, which is just what these NYCHA youth do at the annual NYCHA Kids Walk at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island on August 15.



A young Amsterdam Addition resident drives to the hoop – a.k.a his father – at the Manhattan development's Family Day on July 28.

Security Camera Installation

As described on page 4 in this issue, 85 developments will have Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance cameras installed by the end of 2013. The list is below. As more funds become available, NYCHA will pursue security upgrades at other developments.

Bronx	Pink	Smith
Bailey Ave.	Sheepshead	Taft
Edenwald	Surfside Gardens	Two Bridges
Fort Independence	Taylor-Wythe	UPACA (Site 6)
Jackson	Tilden	Vladeck
Marble Hill	Whitman	Vladeck II
Middletown Plaza	Williams Plaza	Washington
Mitchel	Wyckoff Gardens	Wilson
Moore	Manhattan	Queens
Mott Haven	45 Allen St.	Beach 41st St./
Murphy	830 Amsterdam Ave.	Channel Dr.
Patterson	Baruch	Bland
Brooklyn	Baruch Addition	Carlton Manor
303 Vernon Ave.	Campos Plaza I	Conlon Lihfe Towers
572 Warren St.	Campos Plaza II	Hammel
Atlantic Terminal	Carver	Latimer Gardens
Belmont-Sutter	De Hostos	Ocean Bay Apartments/
Borinquen Plaza	Douglass I	Edgemere
Brownsville	Douglass II	Pomonok
Coney Island I	Dyckman	Queensbridge
(Sites 4 and 5)	Elliott/Fulton	Redfern
Coney Island I (Site 8)	Hernandez	Woodside
Farragut	Holmes	Staten Island
Fiorentino Plaza	Isaacs	Mariners Harbor
Glenwood	Johnson	
Gowanus	King Towers	
Haber	LaGuardia	
Hope Gardens	Lehman Village	
Hylan	Lower East Side I Infill	
Independence	Lexington	
Ingersoll	Meltzer Tower	
Nostrand	Polo Grounds	
Ocean Hill	Rutgers	
O'Dwyer Gardens	Seward Park Extension	

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

“Miss Susie:” 113 Years Old and Going Strong

Does anyone remember what happened at the Summer Olympics in London – not this year, but in 1908? Susannah Mushatte Jones, a resident at Vandalia Houses in Brooklyn, just might. Family and friends gathered at the Vandalia Senior Center to celebrate her 113th birthday on July 12. She holds the distinction of being the current oldest living person in New York State.

Louise George, a niece of Ms. Jones, revealed one surprising secret to Ms. Jones’ long life - breakfast. “She eats bacon, eggs and grits every day,” Ms. George said, before happily adding, “Her blood pressure is good.”



NYCHA “Achievers” Merge Personal Growth with Professional Experience

By Ryan Dicovitsky

For nearly 40 NYCHA college students, the stereotype of being an intern who fetches coffee and runs errands was far from reality this summer. As members of the NYCHA Achievers Internship program, the students were assigned to a specific NYCHA office or an outside employer full-time where they learned about a given career field.

Peter Chen, a senior in finance at Baruch College and a resident of the Jacob Riis Houses in Manhattan, believed the program’s group sessions particularly are helpful. “It’s given me experience in public speaking; I feel like I’ve gotten a little more confident in presenting myself,” he said.

Achievers were given tasks that corresponded with their academic courses of study. Mr. Chen worked with the Business Solution Technology department to help improve NYCHA’s budgeting and payroll software. He called the Achievers program “a great opportunity to hone one’s skills and gain experience in the real world,” and believes it has prepared him to work in the financial field.

Martha Lino, a resident of the Mill Brook Houses and a junior at Vassar College, is an aspiring Ph.D. in sociology who spent the summer in the Department of Communications after working last summer in the Law Department. “I really loved the people I was working with, and I believe that I experienced so much personal growth since last year because of the program and meeting people who are in similar situations as I am right now – a college student, living in NYCHA projects,” she said. “It was just really inspiring.”



Peter Chen, front, with NYCHA’s Pat Iannone, lives at Jacob Riis Houses in Manhattan and is a senior at Baruch College.



Martha Lino, left, with NYCHA’s Nichele Mullins-Golden, lives at Mill Brook Houses in the Bronx and is a junior at Vassar College.