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The NYCHA JOURNAL

MAPping Neighborhood Safety

LAST SUMMER Mayor de Blasio launched the Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Safety, an initiative designed to reduce violence in NYCHA developments. The Mayor's staff has met with more than 300 NYCHA residents throughout the City to learn firsthand about their needs and concerns and hear their suggestions about improving community safety. The next step will be to incorporate residents' input into a plan of action scheduled to start in early 2015. For more information, call **646.576.3525** or email **MAP@cityhall.nyc.gov**.

MAP by the Numbers

As of 12/15/14:

- \$800,000 City dollars allocated for pilot
- 15 NYCHA developments targeted
- 6 months of listening sessions
- 300 NYCHA residents participated
- 26,914 linear feet of sidewalk sheds removed from NYCHA developments
- 184 light towers replaced
- 42 CCTV projects including hundreds of cameras completed as of 12/9/14
- 10 new DV staff added

ACCORDING TO the National Double Dutch League, the sport has its origins in ancient Phoenicia, Egypt and China. Dutch settlers brought the sport to New York where singing songs and rhymes while jumping became a favorite past time for generations. In 1973, David A. Walker, then an NYPD Community Affairs Detective, and his partner, Detective Ulysses Williams, transformed the game into a competitive team sport. In 1974, 600 NYC middle schoolers participated in the first Double Dutch tournament. Now nearly 100,000 girls and boys, representing schools and community centers from around the world, compete at the national and international events. Walker's innovative blend of hip hop music, acrobatics and jump rope, known as "Fusion," is used as the international competitive style.



Diamond Smith-Cyrus, age 15 and a resident of Van Dyke Houses, Everly Jones, age 20, and Diamond Garcia, age 14 and a resident of Howard Houses, practice a fusion fusion Double Dutch freestyle high kick. In competition, this tricky move is worth 8 points.

Jumping for Joy

These Brooklyn-based Double Dutch jumpers are world-class champions.

THE **JAZZY JUMPERS**, a Double Dutch team that practices at the Van Dyke Community Center, participated in the International Double Dutch Holiday Classic at the Apollo Theater on December 7. The fifth graders won first place in doubles and third place in singles, while the high school students placed fourth in doubles and fourth and fifth in singles.

At the Holiday Classic, teams were judged on technical difficulty, execution and accuracy, artistic presentation, and the percentage of routines performed within-or-through the moving ropes. Competition was stiff: the high school jumpers competed against not only other high school teams, but also college teams, teams of young adults, and all-male teams.

For the *Jazzy Jumpers*, Double Dutch is more than an opportunity to gather awards—it can literally be a life-saver.

"READY YOUR ROPES... KEEP THE

PACE... PUSH IT!" That's Coach Toni Veal's rallying cry at every practice. She took over the team after her coach, Sandy Fortune, passed away three years ago. "Double Dutch saved my life... it gave me another family. Coach was my go-to person, and I want to do that for these kids," she explains. "I would rather have them here with me than out in the streets; that's why our practice sessions are so extensive."

Her strategy appears to be working. "Double Dutch keeps me out of trouble, like drama at school. It helps me keep track in school too," says Aniyah Davis, a 15-year-old Van Dyke resident who started Double Dutch at age 10. "Sometimes I come to practice upset, but then I leave wanting to come back the next day."

Everly Jones, 20, is majoring in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College. A member of the *Jazzy Jumpers* for more than a decade, she is now the Assistant



Practice isn't just hard work: Jazzy Jumper Ajanayah Denise, age 11 and a resident of Van Dyke House, loves afterschool training sessions.

Coach. "Double Dutch gave me an identity. I made friends and it made me get out of my shell. It made me talk more too. I learned I was funny. It gave me a place to be myself without any restrictions."

Jameke Spenser, also 15 and the only boy on the team, started when he was 12: "Being the only boy has been hard because people think it is not right. You wouldn't hear of a boy being on the team. But my (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Making Mott Haven

A Choice Neighborhood

WHEN THE FEDERAL government sought an NYC neighborhood to be the focus of a new kind of community-wide redevelopment effort, they knew the challenges in Mott Haven would be great. The idea was to take on the Bronx neighborhood's myriad issues—high crime rates, high rates of chronic disease, limited job opportunities—with an infusion of dollars and thoughtful planning. The department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gave Mott Haven its "Choice Neighborhood" designation in 2012 and awarded a \$300,000 grant to NYCHA to develop a new vision of the Bronx neighborhood through an initiative called "Make Mott Haven."

NYCHA chose Local Initiatives Support Corp (LISC) which has relationships with community developments groups in the Bronx and nationwide, to get the community revitalization effort into gear. The area has a concentration of public housing and active community organizations. "All of us have a common goal and we are willing to work together. Through Making Mott Haven we have gotten to know each other as neighbors," said Giselle Gavin, President of Betances Tenant Association.

NYCHA also re-established the Resident Association at Betances Houses; created new partnerships with more than 30 local organizations and held 45 visioning sessions; and convened nearly 100 resident meetings. This was a way to learn first-hand residents' current views of their community and vision of its future. The two-year planning effort also included a series of community events, from clean-up day and coffee hours to roundtable discussions with youth groups,



The South Bronx Kids, a local dance troupe based in the Mott Haven neighborhood, performed Carnival-inspired choreography for Betances Community Center guests.

which were held to target residents and seek their input. Three community visioning sessions with residents targeted the issues residents feel are most important.

The final plan highlights goals to improve access to resources and quality of life improvements, particularly in the areas of public safety, housing, health, culture, workforce development, and education. The goals include physically connecting Mott Haven residents to this community by extending the Randall's Island connector through a bike path from Randall's Island to St. Mary's Park and by redesigning the streetscape for greenway from HUB to St. Mary's Park.

“

All of us have a common goal and we are willing to work together. Through Making Mott Haven we have gotten to know each other as neighbors.

”

Giselle Gavin, President of Betances Tenant Association

On November 5, 2014 the Mott Haven Choice Neighborhood Development Plan was presented publicly at a celebration at Betances Community Center. The Final Plan Exhibit brought together a room filled with more than 150 attendees, including local residents and members of community-based organizations. Along with refreshments, participants enjoyed a Caribbean carnival-inspired dance performance, and an exhibit presenting architectural models and drawings of the final plan of an initiative that could transform the Mott Haven neighborhood.

Mia Bell, resident at Morrisiana Air Rights and activist with Community Voices Heard, hopes to advocate through Making Mott Haven for access to housing resources for youths who age out of the foster care system.

"We worked hard to be here" added Mona Dreher, a member of Mitchel Houses Tenant Association. "The Make Mott Haven initiative was needed to reach out to the community, so I hope it changes the neighborhood and people."

Now that the plan is complete, NYCHA has submitted it to HUD for a \$30 million federal redevelopment grant. Stay tuned for updates!

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

NEXTGENERATION NYCHA



NYCHA IS THE City's largest provider of affordable housing and the largest public housing authority in the nation, serving over 400,000 families in more than 178,000 apartments citywide. Another 235,000 people receive rental assistance through our Section 8 program. As an economic engine, we generate more than \$6 billion in economic output and sustain 30,000 jobs annually in the State.

But I believe strongly that NYCHA is far more than a collection of buildings or a particular development. We are the 635,000 people who live in our buildings, every individual who uses one of our 400-plus community centers that are a focal point in almost every neighborhood in the City. We are NYC.

Since I was appointed as NYCHA Chair in March, I have visited dozens of NYCHA developments to talk with residents and staff. We are doing this not just to sustain public housing in New York City, but to make it better—not just to paint over the problems, but to create a new operating model: NextGeneration NYCHA.

Your input is helping us envision how NYCHA can best serve the coming generations. That means coming up with new strategies for making NYCHA a more efficient housing manager and more financially stable, and for rehabilitating and making better use of our properties. The ultimate goal of this comprehensive plan we're calling "NextGeneration NYCHA" is to create safe, clean, and connected

communities involving all of our 334 developments.

NextGeneration NYCHA needs you. We kicked off the initiative by meeting with hundreds of residents at Ingersoll, Mill Brook, and Van Dyke Houses. During three "visioning" workshops at each development, residents spoke up, describing ideas for how their community can reach its full potential. Of six critical concerns that must be addressed, residents said that safety and security and affordable housing are the top two. Participants identified end goals for these issues and ways to achieve them. We drafted vision plans based on residents' feedback that we presented at a round of follow-up meetings. These insights and ideas will inform and help shape a plan for NextGeneration NYCHA to be published this spring.

Of course, it takes an entire community to bring big ideas to life. All of our partners, including other City agencies, community-based organizations, and elected officials, must come together to help us realize this long-term vision of NextGeneration NYCHA. Residents have perhaps the most important role—you know best what works, and what doesn't, in your communities. So please keep your voices heard.

Best wishes to you and your family for a joyous holiday season,

Shola Olatoye

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

The NYCHA JOURNAL

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Introducing OPMOM

AS PART OF NYCHA'S ONGOING EFFORTS to be fiscally responsible and provide greater customer service, the Authority will pilot a new approach to managing NYCHA developments in January.

"Our change-oriented Optimal Property Management Operating Model (OPMOM) is designed to empower local decision-making," said Cecil House, General Manager, NYCHA. "OPMOM incorporates new decision-making protocols, work methods, financial management practices, resident engagement and quality management standards. This approach maximizes resources, enhances service, and enables Property Managers to create a dynamic team at OPMOM developments that will drive change for NYCHA's future."

By focusing more decision-making locally, NYCHA expects to see more efficiency and innovation with decisions tailored for the specific conditions at each development. Under OPMOM, Property Managers will build their own budgets and purchase materials and services from central office and vendors on an as-needed basis, leaving more resources available for front-line operations. In

collaboration with residents and staff, Property Managers will also identify additional budget priorities, boosting customer satisfaction. Employees in the OPMOM pilot developments will receive enhanced training and support to provide better service to residents.

Regional Asset Managers will provide administrative, management and technical support to Property Managers, sharing best practices based on the needs and resources in their specific geographical areas. The Director of Asset Management, who provides strategic direction to the Regional Managers, is responsible for implementing, evaluating and developing tools to continually enhance this decentralized management model. Reporting to the General Manager, the Director of Asset Management will ensure adherence to NYCHA's standard operating procedures, quality standards and performance goals, while at the same time encouraging innovation and process improvements that benefit residents.

OPMOM will launch in 18 developments in January and eventually be implemented throughout the five boroughs.

NO HEAT OR HOT WATER?

GET HELP FASTER with NYCHA's new automated customer concern system. Call the Customer Contact Center at **718.707.7771** and follow the prompts to leave an automated response about your heat and hot water issues. Your message will automatically start a work order. Please be prepared to provide your birth date and the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

- Never use the oven or stove to heat your apartment.
- Turn off all space heaters when you leave a room or go to sleep.
- Space heaters should always be placed at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire.
- Always plug a space heater directly into an outlet. Don't use an extension cord.
- If the space heater has a frayed cord, don't use it.
- Keep children away space heaters or other hot surfaces that can cause burns.

Take It Slow!

THANKS TO MAYOR de Blasio's Vision Zero Safety Plan, the new speed limit on all New York City streets is *now 25mph*. Studies show that pedestrians hit by vehicles traveling at 25mph are half as likely to die as those hit by cars and trucks going 30mph. The risk of serious injury from car crashes is also reduced at the lower speeds.



Spin City—NYCHA Bike Share Discount

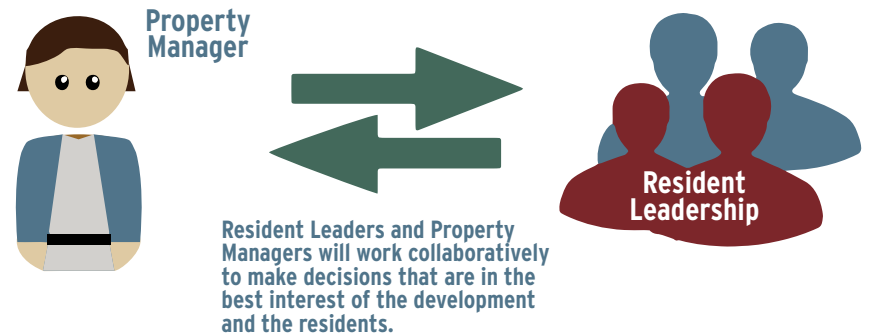
DID YOU KNOW NYCHA residents over age 16 are eligible for a \$60 annual membership in the City's bike sharing program—\$89 less than most New Yorkers pay. Visit www.citibikenyc.com; to sign up you'll need your NYCHA Account Number and a credit or debit card.

A New Pilot Program to Enhance Customer Service



Goals

1. Collaboration with residents



2. Improve customer service



3. New ways to work

Property Manager responsible for:

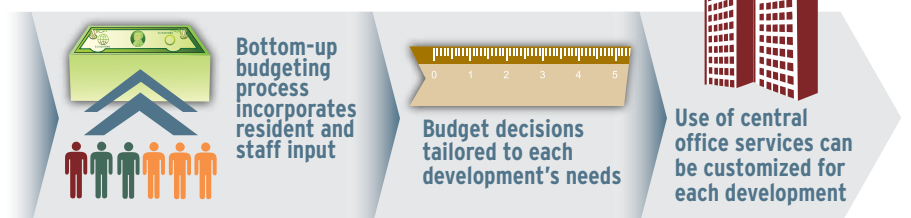
- Development operations
- Flexible decision making processes
- Establishing staffing levels using the new budget

Who will report to the Property Manager?

- All location staff
- Skilled trades for the development



4. Better financial management



18 Participating developments

Bronx

- Melrose
- Mitchel
- Mill Brook
- Mott Haven
- Patterson

Brooklyn

- Brownsville
- Howard
- Langston Hughes
- Seth Low
- Tilden
- Unity Plaza
- Van Dyke
- Woodson

Manhattan

- East River
- Jefferson
- Lincoln
- Wagner
- Wilson/White/Metro North

*Sites selected upon proximity to each other to work as clusters.

Timeline

- Launches **January 1, 2015**
- Best practices from pilot: **Implemented immediately**
- Full implementation: **3-5 years**



More Help for Victims of Domestic Violence



Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, announced an \$800,000 initiative to add new programs and staff to domestic violence services for NYCHA residents.

THE STATISTICS ARE GRIM: Forty percent of major felony crimes in NYCHA developments involve domestic violence (DV). During the first half of 2014, residents reported an average of 90 domestic violence incidents each day, leading to about 13 arrests daily. While NYCHA residents comprise five percent of the City's population, 14 percent of the City's domestic violence major felonies occur at public housing developments. Nationally, 40 percent of domestic violence victimization goes unreported.

"Crises like this must be tackled by everyone, using all means, such as data, education, prevention and the plain old passion of a rallying cry," said NYCHA Chair, Shola Olatoye, as she opened NYCHA's October 2014 Domestic Violence Conference on October 18 at Hostos Community College in the Bronx.

At the conference, attended by more than 600 NYCHA residents from all five boroughs, Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office To Combat Domestic Violence, announced an \$800,000 initiative to combat domestic violence in public housing developments. The funds will pay for a 10-member Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) who will conduct extensive grassroots outreach throughout the 15 developments and surrounding communities: Castle Hill, Patterson, Tompkins, Van Dyke, Bushwick, Polo Grounds, St. Nicholas, Wagner, Queensbridge, Stapleton, Brownsville, Ingersoll, Red Hook, Boulevard, and Butler Houses.

The DVRT includes community liaisons who will focus on outreach, early interventions, and education at subway stations, parks, playgrounds, and busy intersections. The team's DV specialists will provide crisis intervention, advocacy, and supportive services to DV survivors at Family Justice Centers. Clients identified as at high risk of escalating abuse or homicide will work with the team's High Risk Coordinator, who collaborates directly with DV professionals and other community partners to create individualized safety plans for the client. The Healthy

Relationship Training Academy is another partner in this effort, offering interactive workshops on dating violence and cyber abuse for young adults, parents, and service providers.

“
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”

NYCHA Chair, **Shola Olatoye**

Nora Reissig, Director of Family Services Department at NYCHA, explains "We have 334 developments, and 180,000 households, so there are a lot of resources needed to do the ground work. With the DVRT initiative, 15 developments will have staff to link them to resources."

To further help support DV survivors and their families, NYCHA has provided extensive in-house DV training to employees. Approximately 550 employees attended 11 domestic violence awareness training sessions in September and October, learning how to recognize domestic violence and understand domestic violence policies, programs, and resources.

Additionally, NYCHA is moving forward with greater transparency and accountability, and has created a page on our website dedicated to making data on DV in NYCHA developments more readily available and understandable. **For more information, please google "NYCHA Applying for Public Housing Priority Codes Needs Based Preference."**

NYCHA has revised its policies to continue to provide real-world solutions to the problem of domestic violence. Documentation of a single domestic violence incident may now be provided for a much-expanded list of crimes (the list has grown from 21 to 84) to show that a person has been a victim of domestic violence. In addition, documentation of only one hospital admission is now required to demonstrate that a person has been a victim of domestic violence; previously two hospital admissions had been required. Individuals who have been screened by the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) and have been in HRA domestic violence shelters for at least 45 days will also qualify for the domestic violence admissions preference.

NYCHA has also made the request and approval process easier for emergency housing by easing the documentation

requirements. Now, applicants or transfers may submit certain kinds of medical documents, NYPD detective or Parole Officer letters, or Court Dispute Referral Center letters to replace the Police Report or Order of Protection, if they are unable to obtain the criminal justice documents.

A resident who believes that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, and wishes to request an Emergency Transfer, may do so by going to the development Management Office. Residents who are fearful to do this, or who prefer to, may also initiate an Emergency Transfer by going to Safe Horizon. To find the nearest Safe Horizon location, the resident should call the Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-621-HOPE**.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycha/html/residents/residents-adv-where-to-go.shtml>

Family Justice Centers

Family Justice Centers offer a wide range of services to NYCHA residents including: case management, risk assessment, safety planning, family law, immigration law, counseling for adults and children, and economic empowerment services such as assistance with public benefits, budgeting, employment readiness and financial safety.

NYC Family Justice Center Bronx

198 East 161st Street, Bronx, NY 10451
Subway: 4, B or D to 161st Street-Yankee Stadium
Bus: BX1, BX6 and BX13

NYC Family Justice Center Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Subway: A, C, F, or R to Jay Street or the 2, 3, 4 or 5 to Borough Hall
Bus: B25, B26, B38, B51, B54, B57, B61, B65, B67 and B75



NYC Family Justice Center Manhattan

80 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013
Subway: 4, 5, or 6 to Brooklyn Bridge—City Hall, J or Z to Chambers Street, N or R to City Hall, 1, 2, 3, A or C to Chambers Street
Bus: M5, M9, M22 and M103

NYC Family Justice Center Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11415
Subway: E or F to Kew Gardens/Union Turnpike
Bus: Q10, Q37, Q46 and Q60



Domestic violence impacts every member of a family, according to John Stark, former Knicks player and featured speaker at NYCHA's Domestic Violence Conference.

Domestic Violence Is a Man's Issue Too

Former Knicks star John Stark, one of NYCHA's surprise guests at the October 18 Domestic Violence conference, surprised even himself when he spontaneously admitted on stage that he nearly became a batterer during

an extremely heated argument with his wife.

"I grabbed her and I was about ready to hit her and something just said 'do not do that, do not go down that path,'" he confessed. "I had grown up in a household of domestic violence, my mother being abused by men. At that moment, with my wife, I assessed my life. Do you want your kids to see you as an abusive individual, or do you want your kids to see you as a loving individual? I chose to have my kids see me as a loving individual."

Through his own personal experience with domestic violence, Stark illuminated the long-lasting impact domestic violence has on children who are "witnesses." Stark explained to the audience that men have an important role in ending the cycle of abuse by modeling healthy examples of manhood for other men.

“Debunk the Myth”

WE THE PEOPLE: *The Citizens of NYCHA in Pictures + Words*, currently on display at the Brooklyn Historical Society, seeks to examine and debunk the stereotypes of people in public housing. Journalist Rico Washington and photographer Shino Yanagawa have profiled more than 60 NYCHA residents in interviews and photographs that prove residents of public housing are singular, thoughtful, diverse, and accomplished.

NYCHA: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE NYCHA THE FOCUS OF ‘WE THE PEOPLE’?

RICO: Watching the Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Hon. Sonia Sotomayor was a little off-putting—those questions and press coverage seemed to focus on her socioeconomic background. People were dumbfounded that someone from public housing could ascend to the highest bench in the land. With our project, we aim to debunk the myths widely held about public housing in New York City and beyond.

NYCHA: HOW DOES THIS EXHIBIT DIFFER FROM YOUR PAST PROJECTS?

RICO: It’s personal to me, being that I grew up in public housing in the Washington, DC area. Shino also lived for a period of time in NYCHA. We know that the stereotypes people have about public housing residents are unfairly applied to individuals who weren’t necessarily perpetuating them. Their only perceivable transgression is their address.



NYCHA: SHINO YANAGAWA’S PHOTOGRAPHS REALLY CONVEY A SENSE OF AUTHENTICITY ABOUT NYCHA RESIDENTS. WHAT IMPRESSED YOU MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH HER?

RICO: I was quite taken with the way she was able to capture the essence of the people we interviewed with such precision and humanity. Her images are so warm and affecting. I couldn’t have asked for a better collaborative partner.

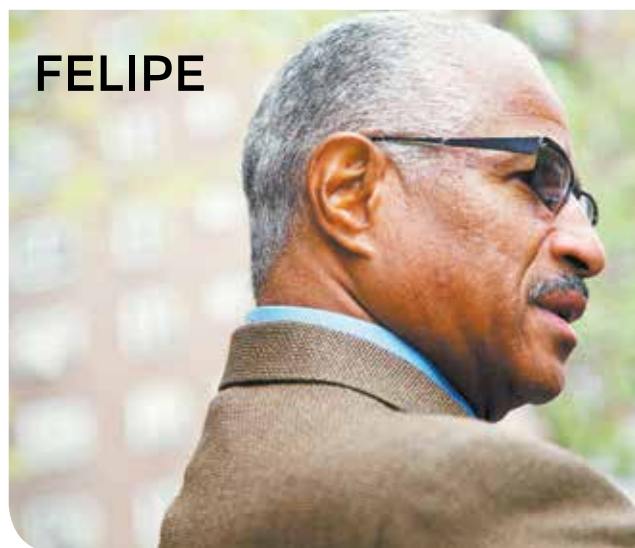
NYCHA: WHAT DOES NYCHA REPRESENT TO YOU?

RICO: A stepping stone for bigger aspirations, a second chance for so many people who have felt discarded or given up on. To that end, we’ve added another project to our Debunk the Myth initiative: we are partnering with NYCHA to empower residents to debunk the myths themselves through a series of workshops focused on developing critical thinking skills, media literacy, artistic literacy, and sustainable artistic practice.

NYCHA: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PRESS COVERAGE THAT ‘WE THE PEOPLE’ HAS RECEIVED?

RICO: It feels great that the media is starting to take notice, but we know this is just the beginning. The positive attention serves as confirmation that our instincts were right and that we were on the right path all along. There are so many phenomenal people living in NYCHA communities all across the five boroughs but their stories often go untold. Because of this, NYCHA is sometimes perceived as a collection of communities that yield nothing of value or merit. We aim to change that perception.

‘We the People’ will run through March 11th, 2015. The Brooklyn Historical Society is located at 128 Pierrepont Street, and is open Wednesday-Sunday, from 12pm-5pm.



FELIPE



DR. TONY MEDINA



EPHRAIM

Three of the more than 60 portraits of NYCHA residents that photojournalist Shino Yanagawa, Rico Washington’s project partner, has taken for “We The People.” Visit the Brooklyn Historical Society to see more!

100 Days of Progress: Brownsville

IT’S NO SECRET that Mayor de Blasio’s core mission is to improve housing in New York City. One of the ways he plans to do that is through a program called “100 Days of Progress,” a planning process that pairs NYCHA, community organizations, non-profits, developers and local, State and Federal partners to identify projects in one community that can be completed in the next several months.

Brownsville was chosen as the first “100 Days of Progress” neighborhood, and already signs of visible improvement are everywhere. Work has started on the new Imagination Playground in Betsy Head Park. Once

completed, this park will include elevated play decks and spaces filled with both sand and water. A seasonal pop-up fruit and vegetable market, new bike lanes, and more prekindergarten slots are also signs of real progress.

According to Vicki Been, Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development, “We’re not just building housing, we’re building neighborhoods.” “100 Days of Progress” is designed to preserve distinctive characteristics that make each neighborhood a great place to live while improving the quality of life for residents.

Delicious!

There are some terrific local eateries in Brownsville. Check these out the next time you’re looking to treat yourself:

EDNA’S SOUL FOOD

Cheap prices, huge portions, and a friendly staff make this take-out spot a staple for Brownsville. Whether it’s the juicy fried whiting and shrimp, or the BBQ chicken with cheese and bacon mashed potatoes with collard greens, this food is just as good as Grandma’s.

2258 Atlantic Ave, between Pleasant Pl & Eastern Pkwy

CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE

For country-style cooking on a budget, Carolina Country Store has everything you need. Come here for the best thick-cut slab bacon, sage sweet & hot sausages, and real North Carolina BBQ sauce in town.

2001 Atlantic Ave, between Howard Ave & Saratoga Ave

TROPICAL COFFEE SHOP

This cozy coffee shop provides sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of busy city life. Customer favorites include: stew chicken with rice and beans, \$5 burritos, and an assortment of authentic Dominican breakfast specials.

584 Rockaway Ave, between Avenue A & Blake Ave

NOTICE OF HUD INSPECTIONS

THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING and Urban Development (HUD) will be conducting a physical inspection of NYCHA developments within the next few weeks. The system that HUD developed for these inspections is called the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). As part of this process, a certain number of residents' apartments will be inspected.



Residents can assist by reviewing the following items:

ELECTRICITY

- Your circuit breaker or fuse panel should not have any missing breakers or fuses (you should not see any of the wiring or parts inside the breaker or fuse panel). Do not block access to the panel.
- All light switches and outlets should operate properly and have cover plates over them. Light fixtures should be functional.
- In apartments with Call for Aid units, switches and pull cords should operate properly with pull cord hanging down to the floor and no furniture blocking access to the cord.
- Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) outlets should test properly when pushing the Test button.
- Leaks near electrical devices (e.g. light fixtures, fuse panels or breaker panels) should be reported.

SMOKE DETECTORS/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Detectors should be installed and function properly.
- There should not be empty brackets with missing detectors.

STOVE/OVEN

- Check each burner. Each burner should light individually by turning the knob.
- The oven should work and have no missing knobs.
- Range hoods should be clean and functional.

REFRIGERATOR

- The refrigerator door should close all the way. Door gaskets should not be cracked or broken.
- Lights should work.

DOORS

- Bathroom, bedroom and closet doors should close and latch properly.
- Apartment entrance and bedroom doors should not have a double-keyed cylinder or padlock.
- Door knobs and latches should be in good working order.
- Doors should be free of holes or damage.

WINDOWS

- Windows should work properly, staying up when opened and latching when closed.
- Window glass should not be cracked or broken.

FAUCETS

- Faucets and their parts should not leak when either on or off.
- You should have rubber stoppers for the sinks and tub.

TOILETS

- Toilets should function properly and have no apparent leaks.

MILDEW AND MOLD

- Mildew and mold conditions in any area of an apartment should be reported.

EXTERMINATOR

- You should not have any type of infestation condition.

MAILBOXES

- Mailbox doors must lock with a key.

If any of the above items are not in good order, please contact the Customer Contact Center at **718.707.7771** to schedule an appointment to have those items repaired. If you already have scheduled an appointment for these repairs, it is not necessary to call the Customer Contact Center again.

Resident-Owned Items:

- Resident-owned items are also inspected during the physical inspection of the apartments and should be checked and corrected as necessary.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Resident-owned extinguishers must have a valid annual inspection tag.

DOUBLE-KEYED CYLINDERS

- Resident-installed double-keyed cylinders and/or padlocks must be removed.

AIR CONDITIONERS AND FANS

- Resident-owned air conditioners must be in working order.
- Fans must have protective covers.

MIRRORS

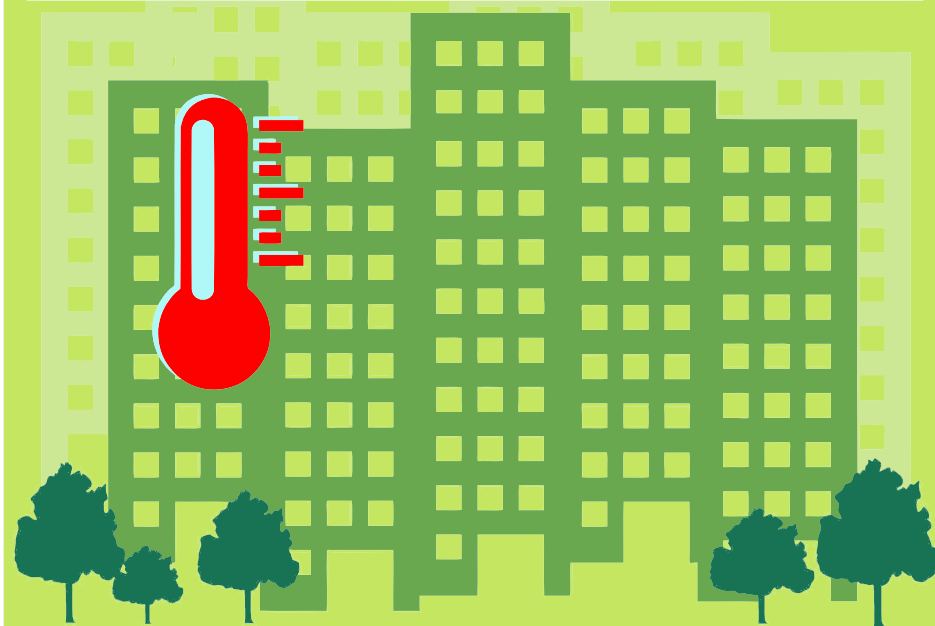
- Broken mirrors should be removed and/or replaced.

NYCHA thanks you in advance for your continued cooperation.

TAKING THE HEAT

We're teaming up with Con Edison to expand energy-saving systems

The new **WIRELESS ENERGY MODULE** ensures that temperature is regulated at the same comfortable level in all of Castle Hill's **239** apartments in the pilot program

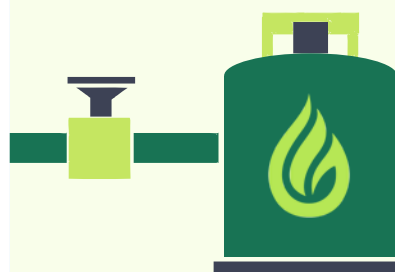
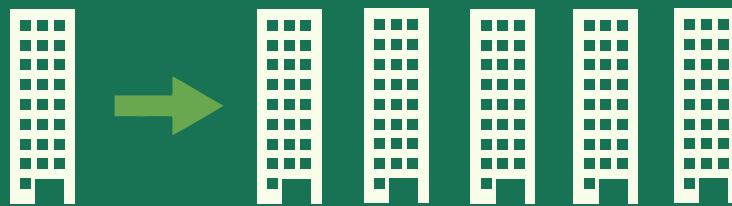


Pilot program resulted in:

20%+ reduction of heating costs at Castle Hill






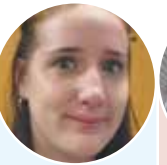
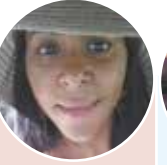






We're expanding this program to **5** developments by the end of 2014



34 000 000 cubic feet of natural gas will be saved in year one

Head of the Class

MEET THE RECIPIENTS of NYCHA-CUNY 2014 Resident Scholarships. Scholarships are available to NYCHA residents enrolled in CUNY colleges with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. For information on all NYCHA scholarship programs, please visit NYCHA's website. Interested in what these scholars have to say? Visit NYCHA's Youtube Channel.

											
Name	Shani Coleman	Maleeha Johan	Kara Ng	Alixandra Petersen	Alismari Read	Angy Rivera	Radia Rmaidi	Jasmin Robinson	Zaida Sanchez Griffin	Evelisse Viamonte	Feng Zhao
Residence	Gravesend Houses	Ingersoll Houses	Ingersoll Houses	Todt Hill Houses	Polo Grounds Houses	Pomonok Houses	Tilden Houses	Rangel Houses	Castle Hill Houses	Gravesend Houses	Taft Rehab Houses
College	Baruch College	Hunter College	City College	College of Staten Island	City College	John Jay College	John Jay College	Borough of Manhattan Community College	Bronx Community College	Hunter College	Brooklyn College
Career Goal	Corporate Communications	School Psychologist	Chemistry PhD	English PhD	Chemical Engineering	Criminal Justice	Minority Adolescents Mentor	Certified Public Accountant	Human Services Professional	Pediatric Oncologist	Registered Dietician
Fun Fact	Writes poetry and paints murals	Can speak conversational Japanese and Korean	Conducts research in a professional lab	Favorite author is James Patterson	Member of the Chemical Engineering honor society	Loves sunflowers and horror movies	Spent last summer on a study abroad program in the Dominican Republic	3.8 GPA!	Loves to travel with her grandkids	Loves Bollywood movies	Volunteers at a WIC nutritional center

The Sweet Smell of Success

CLINTON SHABAZZ, AKA THE HARLEM PIE MAN, and his wife, Aliya, received a scholarship from The Food Business Pathways Program, a collaboration between NYCHA REES, Hot Bread Kitchen and the NYC Business Solutions Center, to cover the start-up costs of their own business. "The incubator program lasts two years, which gives you enough time to get started and set up your own business," Mr. Shabazz explains. "They also help with things like becoming incorporated, getting licenses, and setting up liability insurance. They give you legitimacy." The Shabazzes currently sell their baked goods as street vendors and are working on getting a location in a health food store. For more information, visit www.theharlempieman.com. For a taste of what's soon to be in stores, try Clinton's peach cobbler recipe yourself!



THE HARLEM PIE MAN'S PEACH COBBLER

FILLING INGREDIENTS

Two pounds sliced peaches
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon allspice
1 cup brown sugar
1 stick butter

CRUST INGREDIENTS

2 cups unbleached flour
1 and 1/2 stick butter
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons sugar
1/4 cup ice water

DIRECTIONS

Heat peaches, butter, cinnamon, allspice, brown sugar. Mix well until butter is melted, then set the mixture aside.

Mix crust ingredients together, slowly adding water until the dough sticks together. Roll out dough into 2-inch squares.

Lay out some in bottom of the pan. Then mix the rest in with the peaches. Bake in 10-inch round cake pan at 350 degrees until crust is golden brown. Sprinkle with sugar.

REES JANUARY 2015 PROGRAMS

NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) provides employment training and skills-building programs.

Monday, January 5 and 12, 2014

Green City Force

REES Brooklyn Central Office
787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd floor
Brooklyn, NY 11238
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Contact:

Dayanna Torres, 718.218.1538

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

REES Off-Site Information Session

Sotomayor Community Center
1000 Rosedale Ave, Bronx, NY 10472
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Contact:

Dayanna Torres,
718.218.1538

REES also holds information sessions every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Brooklyn Central Office at 787 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn. To receive services, you must be a NYCHA or Section 8 resident. Be sure to bring a photo ID and your resume. For more information, visit opportunitynycha.org.

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Support Groups • Empowerment

GED not required • New class starting soon!

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Sandy Recovery Year Two

NYCHA Progress to Date

- Emergency mobile boilers installed in 15 developments immediately after the storm have been replaced with fuel-efficient natural gas mobile boilers. These boilers will save more than \$22 million over the next two years until they are replaced by permanent boiler systems.
- Work continues to identify and complete repairs in development lobbies, basements, grounds, and community centers.
- 15,000 work tickets were completed during the past two years for mold remediation and other storm damage to apartments at 24 developments in Coney Island, Red Hook, the Rockaways and lower Manhattan.
- Repairs are in progress at 58 of 308 damaged first floor apartments.
- Safety surfaces have been replaced at 97 playgrounds.
- The design for Lower East Side Rehab 5 is complete.
- Designs are in the final stages for permanent repairs at 16 developments; and design work on another 28 developments has been started.



Fuel-efficient natural gas mobile boilers will save \$22 million in energy costs over the next few years.



On October 29, 2014 NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye, General Manager Cecil House, and NYCHA staff partnered with residents and community members at Carey Houses in Coney Island to repair and paint the basketball court and surrounding benches, install basketball nets, and plant more than 1,000 bulbs.



NYCHA resident Jeremy Trotman appeared with Mayor de Blasio at the Sandy Resource Opportunity and Recovery Fair.

Successful Survivor

Mayor Bill de Blasio gave a shout-out to Ocean Bay Houses resident Jeremy Trotman at the Sandy Resource Opportunity and Recovery Fair in the Rockaways on October 15. Mr. Trotman has worked full-time for nearly a year restoring houses with Friends of Far Rockaway—an opportunity he learned about at a NYCHA Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) event—and the Mayor pointed to him as an example of the successful workforce development programs created to address Sandy damage.

The \$1.1 million Rockaways Economic Advancement Initiative will continue to connect residents to high-quality, full-time employment opportunities through events such as the October job fair. More than 50 agencies, non-profit organizations and contractors provided information about over 200 specific career opportunities plus job training, union apprenticeships, and workshops on resume writing and job interview skills. For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.opportunitynycha.org.

Emergency Response: Red Hook Leads the Way

More than 70 residents of Red Hook Houses completed a 10-week emergency response leadership training

program this fall. The Local Leadership Program was developed after Superstorm Sandy by the Red Hook Initiative, a community based organization that partners with NYCHA to enhance community services and that currently employs more than 90 NYCHA residents.

The training included CPR/First Aid certification, outreach and organizing, volunteer management and coordination, and coordinating with government agencies, among many other topics. The NYC Office of Emergency Management, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Health, and other agencies provided specialized training.

"The training helped me to realize that I could be a lot more active in the community," said 35-year Red Hook Housing resident Bonita Felix. "For the next emergency, I know what agencies to contact and how to search for residents if we had to evacuate." When Ms. Felix was asked to assist at the Sandy Recovery Opportunity and Resource Fair, she was glad to attend: "When the training ended, the important message was to stay in the group and continue to work in the community."



Internal repairs have been made at 24 developments in Coney Island, Red Hook, the Rockaways and Manhattan.

CITY HARVEST MOBILE MARKETS

THE NEWEST CITY Harvest farmer's market, opened in October in Mariners' Harbor, will distribute up to 16,000 pounds of fresh produce to 200 Staten Island NYCHA households twice a month. The eight Mobile Markets City Harvest holds across the city—all held on NYCHA properties—are part of their Healthy Neighborhoods initiative, which works to relieve food insecurity, build knowledge about healthy dietary choices, and increase access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. Mobile Markets distribute 3.5 million pounds of produce each year.

To take part in a Mobile Market, you have to pre-register on-site during a Mobile Market Day. Be sure to bring two forms of ID to prove where you live, as only residents in developments in the neighborhoods are eligible. Here's the schedule of the Mobile Markets across the city, including the list of eligible NYCHA developments.

BRONX—MELROSE
Classic (Melrose) Center
286 East 156th St. The 2nd Saturday and 4th Wednesday of every month.
Developments: Andrew Jackson, Melrose, Morrisania Air Rights

BRONX—ST. MARY'S
St. Mary's Community Center
595 Trinity Ave. Parking lot on Cauldwell Ave. The 2nd Saturday and 4th Tuesday of every month.
Developments: Adams, Bronchester, Moore, St. Mary's

BROOKLYN—BED-STUY
Parking lot on Myrtle Ave. between Tompkins & Throop Ave. The 1st Sat. and 3rd Wed. of every month.
Developments: Marcy, Sumner, Tompkins

MANHATTAN—WASHINGTON HEIGHTS/INWOOD
Dyckman Houses
Sidewalk off Dyckman Street, between Nagle Ave. and 10th Ave. The 2nd Wed. and 4th Saturday of every month.
Development: Dyckman

QUEENS—ASTORIA
Astoria Houses
Basketball courts off Astoria Boulevard at 7-1 Astoria Boulevard. The 1st Sat. and 3rd Thurs. of every month.
Development: Astoria

QUEENS—QUEENSBIDGE
Jacob Riis Settlement House 10-25 41st Ave. The 2nd Tues. and 4th Sat. of every month.
Developments: Queensbridge, Ravenswood

STATEN ISLAND—MARINERS HARBOR
Mariners Harbor Community Center
Basketball court in front of 22 Roxbury St. The 1st Wed. and 3rd Sat. of every month.
Developments: Arlington Terrace, Mariner's Harbor

STATEN ISLAND—STAPLETON
Stapleton Houses tennis court Behind 75 Hill St. The 1st Tues. and 3rd Sat. of every month.
Development: Stapleton





GCF graduate Miguel Rodriguez joined Executive Director Lisbeth Shepherd to accept GCF's 2014 Advocate Award from Environmental Advocates of New York.

SOLAR EMPOWERED

MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, age 21 and a resident of Wald Houses, is a native of the Lower East Side where he grew up in an extended Dominican family and attended Marta Valle High School. After graduation he enrolled in a computer science program but found he couldn't successfully manage working 30 hours a week to help support his family while also attending college full time. He spent several months unemployed, then enrolled in Henry Street Settlement's Employment Coordination Program where he learned about Green City Force (GCF).

GCF provides young people ages 18-24 with training, education, and leadership opportunities in preparation for careers in the energy economy. As one of 26 graduates of the latest Clean Energy Corps class, Miguel was able to turn his education into an internship which then transformed into a job as a Solar PV Installer with OnForce Solar. Now he's not only working full time, but gathering new skills such as commercial panel

installation and electrical work.

Thanks to GCF, Miguel has some high powered career goals. "I've been thinking about sticking with solar power, starting my own business, and going to developing countries, the ones that need electricity," he reports. "I've also been thinking about agriculture and maybe fitting the two together, like with clean roofs."

On November 6, GCF received an advocacy award from Environmental Advocates of New York. Miguel was invited to join GCF Executive Director Lisbeth Shepherd on stage to accept the award and make remarks. "Green City Force gave me college-level academic preparation and hands-on experience in building a professional work ethic," he said. "My life has gone from being a waste of potential into a game changer for today's environmental issues. I'm a provider for my family—that makes my mother proud."

For more information about Green City Force, go to www.greencityforce.org.

GO GREEN!

IF YOU'RE 18-24 years old and have a high school diploma or GED, you can enroll in a six-month or eleven-month green job training position. Call **718.289.8100** to attend an Information Session, held every other Monday at 10:00am through January 2015 at NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES), 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd floor, Brooklyn.

GREEN CITY FORCE BENEFITS:

- Job training through hands on experience
- Receive a semi-monthly stipend
- National certifications
- \$2,775 or \$5,550 towards college education
- Monthly Metrocard
- Active alumni network
- Support for job/college placement

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YOU'LL NOTICE CHANGES, not just in The Journal's design, but also in the kinds of stories we publish. These changes reflect our new mission to inform, inspire and engage. We want to include information about you and for you and news you can use. Think: new community based initiatives, employment training programs, recipes, health tips, cultural news, and most of all stories about NYCHA residents and your neighborhoods. Do you have a story idea or some photos from local events you'd like to share? Please send your comments and story ideas to journal@nycha.nyc.gov. We want to hear from you!

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

PLAYING IT SAFE



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES

ACCORDING TO JAMES SECRETO, NYPD Housing Bureau Chief, crime can increase dramatically during gift-giving times—the winter holidays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, graduations. People may carry more cash and packages and that can present more opportunities for criminals looking for an easy score.

Here are crime prevention tips from Chief Secreto that can help you stay safe and protect your valuables. Trust your instincts: if something does not look or feel right, it probably isn't. Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately.

SHOPPING

- Carry only the amount of cash you need and only the credit cards that you plan to use. Keep track of all cards and keep receipts to compare to your monthly statement.
- Never leave your purse, wallet, or checkbook unattended. Carry your purse close to your body, but do not wrap the strap around your body.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
- If your checkbook, wallet, or credit cards are stolen, notify your bank and credit card companies immediately.
- Make a plan with small children in case you are separated. Select a central meeting place. Teach them to ask store security guards if they need help.
- If shopping at night, park in a well-lighted area. Have keys ready before getting to your car.

ATMS

- Choose an ATM inside a bank, mall, or well-lighted location.
- Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

AT HOME

- Be wary of strangers coming to the door asking for charitable donations. They may be taking advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts and unsolicited utility workers.
- Don't advertise that you have big ticket items in your home. Remove address labels from packages before throwing out boxes.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm. Do not leave packages visible inside your vehicle; if possible lock them in the trunk.

GAS STATIONS

- Pick stations that are well-lit and have video surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Always remove your keys and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for a moment.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you.



The World Class Double Dutch Champion Jazzy Jumpers practice every afternoon at the Van Dyke Community Center.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) confidence has boosted up!"

Eugene Fortune stepped in after his wife died to help support her beloved Jazzy Jumpers. He takes care of uniforms, fundraising, registering the team for competitions, and providing transportation to events. "Every month they to go a different borough for a competi-

tion," he says. "They really want to win, and I enjoy seeing them win. That was my wife's dream."

Coach Veal has already set her sights on next year's Holiday Classic. "Moving forward I would like to push their speed up because that's what the competition is all about," she explains. "The Apollo Classic is very hard to win but we're persistent."



Esperazna Rodriguez
Douglass Houses—Citywide winner. *Spring*



Jenny Lee
Pomonok Houses—Citywide winner. *Women in Field*



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Marion Sutherland
Manhattanville Houses—Citywide winner.
Howard's Locks



Nelly Chilingirov
St. Nicholas Houses—Citywide winner.
Jazz in Blue



Jay Ford
Rangel Houses—Citywide winner.
Study for "Birdie"



Kon Chan
Wagner Houses—Citywide winner.
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<http://nypdcivilianjobs.com/schoolcrossingguard/>

and provide your information and you will be contacted by an NYPD representative.



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