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Joseph Kemp: The Voice of Youth on Public Safety

NYCHA'S NEWLY FORMED Public Safety Advisory Committee, which brings together residents and management with the NYPD and other community partners to make communities safer, held its first meeting in June. At the table was 21-year-old Joseph Kemp, appointed to the committee after a citywide search for a NYCHA resident to represent public housing tenants. A resident of Queensbridge Houses since the age of 6, this aspiring attorney is passionate about making NYCHA communities safer for everyone.

"I joined the Public Safety Advisory Committee because I see the issues that occur in my neighborhood, and I want to be able to make an impact in correcting them," Mr. Kemp explains. "I want to make our communities safer, for both residents and visitors. Every community has its issues, problems that can be fixed, and with this opportunity, I can help solve some of those problems."

He seeks to bring a young person's perspective to the committee's work, believing that "Education for youth is a key way to promote public safety. Our insight is imperative to the success (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Playing with PALs

A new court at Frederick Samuel Houses will see plenty of action this summer

T WAS CLOSE, but the Kids beat the Cops. On June 7, youth from the Frederick E. Samuel Community Center's basketball team beat NYPD officers 62-52 at the first basketball game held in the center's newly renovated gymnasium. Earlier, City officials and community members cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the doors to the center's new gym, which now features a new scoreboard and refinished floors. The gym was renovated with money from drug trafficking proceeds seized during criminal prosecutions – including cases that happened near Frederick Samuel Houses - by New York City's Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

"It is a pleasure to use the proceeds of drug

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



"Seeds of Greatness" is written across the newly refurbished floors of the Frederick Samuel Community Center's renovated gymnasium. Kids from the community center's basketball team played against NYPD officers in the first of many basketball games to be played on the court.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

BE SMART ABOUT FUN THIS SUMMER

AT NYCHA, SAFETY is a top priority, for the families who call our developments home; for the employees who work hard to provide and maintain safe, clean housing; and for the many New York City communities to which NYCHA belongs. Our NextGeneration NYCHA vision for the future holds safety as one of the keys to strengthening and preserving public housing in New York City.

We're creating safer communities right now in a number of ways, from installing security cameras and exterior lighting at developments across the City to launching a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) that includes NYCHA residents, staff, the NYPD, and other members of the community. Read on page 1 a profile of Joseph Kemp, a 21-year-old Queensbridge Houses resident who was recently appointed to PSAC and will contribute the vitally important youth perspective on how to create safer neighborhoods.

We can't do the work to make NYCHA safer without help from our partners. In this issue, you'll learn about a town hall in the Bronx with the Mayor that brought together local elected officials, City agency leaders, and residents to discuss how we can tackle this crucial topic in collaboration.

Safety is about more than reducing crime—it's a mindset and a practice we need to weave into our everyday lives. We've provided some basic safety tips, on fire safety, elevators, and beating the heat, among others (pages 13–16). But



this issue isn't just about safety - it's summertime, and that means lots of free fun in the City. We've got a listing of all the free outdoor pools and beaches that you can enjoy in all five boroughs (page 13). And you can find out which community center nearest you has extended hours this summer until 11 pm every day of the week!—for young people to get engaged in something positive, in a safe, supervised environment (page 15).

We also want to bring you some exciting stories from NYCHA happenings around the City. One of our earlier "I am NextGeneration NYCHA" stars, NASA scientist Dr. Aprille Ericsson, inspired about 50 young NYCHA residents with her life story and tips for success at a special event (page 6). Twenty-two historic buildings in Harlem, part of the Randolph Houses development, are now home to 147 families, thanks to a \$96 million total renovation (page 4). Through NYCHA's

Skills Development Academy, girls ages 6 to 14 are getting their basketball game on, with a little help from some WNBA superstars (page 6).

From all of us at NYCHA, best wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy summer season.

Shola Olatove Chair and CEO

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NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

YCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 am in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor after 3 pm on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 pm on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 212.306.6088 no later than five business days prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates and times, please call 212.306.6088.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 27, 2016 September 28, 2016 October 26, 2016

November 23, 2016 **December 21, 2016**

* Note: There will be no board meeting in August. The November and December board meetings are scheduled for the second-to-last Wednesday.

The Mayor Talks Safety

Symposium in the South Bronx Covers Repairs, Jobs, and More

NYCHA RESIDENTS. resident leaders, and members of the South Bronx community at large spoke with Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYCHA Chair Shola Olatove, NYCHA Vice President for Public Safety Gerald Nelson, and other City leaders about their most pressing issues at a town hall meeting in May at Morris Houses' community center. City Council Member Vanessa Gibson hosted the event and served as its emcee. The main focus of the evening was public safety, but the conversation ranged from jobs and educational opportunities for youth to maintenance and repairs at NYCHA.

Mayor de Blasio reiterated that NYCHA is a top priority for his administration, which is why he ended the decades-old practice of the Authority paying the City for police services. He said that the long-term strategic plan NextGeneration NYCHA will rejuvenate the Authority and bring in more money for day-to-day repairs as

well as major improvements such as roof replacements. He noted that employment is at record highs and crime overall is down to record lows in New York City, but stressed that there's always more to be done to make communities safer. "Our job is to address the issues, neighborhood by neighborhood," he explained. "When we focus our resources, it makes a difference."

At Butler Houses, which is part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), a collaborative effort to reduce crime at 15 NYCHA developments through a range of measures, crime has dropped by 40 percent. Abraham Jones, Executive Director of Claremont Neighborhood Centers, which operates the Morris Community Center, praised MAP for extending evening hours at centers like his, keeping hundreds of youths engaged in positive activities and off the streets. The Mayor announced that some NYCHA community centers, including those at MAP sites, will be



Mayor de Blasio, Chair Olatoye, and other City leaders discuss public safety and other important matters with members of the South Bronx community.

open until 11 pm every night from July 5 through August 26. [See page 15 for a listing of all the community centers with extended hours this summer.]

Chair Olatoye reported that NYCHA is focused on "increasing and improving standards and basic quality of life" for residents, including connecting them to more employment opportunities. Over 2,200 residents were placed in permanent jobs

last year by NYCHA and its partners. The Mayor announced details about an exciting initiative that will also connect people to opportunity: the Bronx's first LinkNYC kiosk is opening around Grand Concourse and East 184th Street. These kiosks will replace thousands of pay phones across the City, providing free public Wi-Fi, device charging, and tablets for internet browsing.

The Importance of Language Access

Kavita Pawria-Sanchez, Assistant Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

ROM ALMOST EVERY continent, people journey around the world to make a new home in New York City. In fact, 60 percent of New Yorkers are either immigrants or children of immigrants. Nearly half speak a language other than English at home. For the 400,000 New Yorkers living and raising families in NYCHA developments, this diversity of languages and cultures contributes to the vibrancy of their communities. This complexity can also present challenges for residents and NYCHA staff alike—from completing forms to requesting maintenance help, from understanding changes in policies to communicating in an emergency.

Reflecting the de Blasio Administration's commitment to a just and equitable City, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) works to ensure that all immigrant New Yorkers are part of the City. This includes ensuring that language is not a barrier to City information and services for the two million New Yorkers – nearly a quarter of the City—who are not very proficient in English.

Last year, Mayor de Blasio and Chair Shola Olatoye launched NextGenera-



Kavita Pawria-Sanchez, Assistant Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

tion NYCHA, a tremendous campaign to preserve and protect public housing through physical infrastructure improvements and streamlined operations. As part of this effort, NYCHA has expanded the languages served by the Customer Contact Center and is training caretakers and maintenance staff to use interpretation services. These are significant steps toward improved language access processes and resident engagement.

Just like solid roofs and good lighting, supportive language services can make residents feel safer and more connected. Clear communications generate greater resident satisfaction and make staff more effective in their work.

To support further progress across the City, MOIA and 311 introduced a tool to promote improved language access services and delivery. All City agencies, offices, and customer service centers should be able to provide free interpretation to assist customers who do not speak English or who are more comfortable speaking another language. If a non-English speaker did not receive the services they need in the language they speak, they can call 311 and say "language access" to file a complaint. Interpretation is available on 311.

We look forward to NYCHA's continuing efforts to create better housing and an improved quality of life for all of its residents through these language access initiatives.

SAVE TIME: Pay Rent Online

PAYING YOUR RENT on time is important, because that money goes toward supporting maintenance and operations at NYCHA developments. With NYCHA's eRent program, paying your rent has never been easier. eRent enables you to receive and pay your rent bill electronically at no charge. You'll get a notification each month that your rent statement is available. Then you can review and pay your eBill through your computer, smart phone, or other mobile device. eRent is quick, convenient, and secure, and it provides benefits like:

- Assurance that your rent payment was received by the due date
- Convenience of splitting your rent payment into multiple payments
- Access to your bill and the ability to pay 24/7 from anywhere
- Ability to search and view older bills Save your stamps – sign up for eRent today by visiting on.nyc.gov/payrent!

GETTING YOUR NAME ON THE LEASE

Everything You Need to Know About NYCHA Succession Rights

Succession rights

When the head of household (the person who signed the lease) in a NYCHA apartment dies or moves, authorized occupants who have been living in the apartment have the right, under certain conditions, to start a new tenancy.

What is an authorized occupant?

An authorized occupant is someone who is part of the household with NYCHA's approval. Authorized occupants are included in the family composition (and their income is considered for rent purposes during the annual recertification process).

A person can become an authorized occupant of a NYCHA apartment by:

- Being part of the public housing application when the applicant receives an apartment and starts a tenancy.
- Family growth (the person is born to, adopted by, or becomes the legal ward of an authorized household member).
- Permanent permission (based on a request from the tenant, a person to whom NYCHA grants permanent permission).

Who has succession rights?

Only authorized occupants who have resided in the apartment can be considered for succession rights. The authorized occupant must meet the following requirements before NYCHA can approve succession:

- Continuously (on all affidavits of income) resided in the NYCHA apartment before the head of household moved or died. Household members added through permanent permission must have resided in the apartment for at least one year prior in order to be considered.
- 2. Have legal capacity to sign a lease.
- 3. Pass a criminal background check.
- 4. Certify income for rent purposes.
- 5. Agree to relocate to a proper-size apartment, if necessary, based on the new family composition.

When times got tough and we couldn't afford healthy food, SNAP HELPED. - KARIMA, GRAPHIC DESIGNER Brooklyn (a) WATCH OUR STORY AT FOOdHelp.nyc Now it's easier to apply online at FoodHelp.nyc Need help applying for food help or public health insurance, or having trouble making rent? Call 929.221.0050 to reach an Outreach Specialist, available on-site at several NYCHA developments in all five boroughs. Call 311 for more information Call 311 for more information Call 311 for more information

History in the Re-making Renovations Complete for Landmark Development

A \$96 MILLION

gut rehab of 22 previously vacant buildings at Randolph Houses has resulted in 147 newly renovated public housing units and 20 units of affordable housing in Harlem. The public hous-

ing units are now home to former Randolph Houses residents, and the affordable units were filled through the NYC Housing Connect lottery system. The renovations, which met both historic preservation and "green" building standards, also produced 3,000 square feet of community space that includes a library, computer rooms, a laundry, and landscaped outdoor space for residents' use.



To restore these buildings, which were built in the 1890s and acquired by NYCHA in the 1970s, NYCHA partnered with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the NYC Department of Housing Preserva-

tion and Development, the NYC Housing Development Corporation, Trinity Financial, West Harlem Group Assistance, Enterprise Community Investment, JP Morgan Community Capital, and TD Bank.

Up next: These partners will renovate the remainder of Randolph Houses' five-story, tenement-style buildings – the 14 buildings on the other side of West 114th Street.







Apartments, common areas, and facades at Randolph Houses in Harlem were renovated beautifully. The original patterns in the facade were restored and preserved.

Talking About Art at Queensbridge Houses

URING THE GREAT Depression, the federal Works Progress Administration put millions of unemployed people to work constructing buildings and roads, as well as creating public works of art.

Recently, Queensbridge's Resident Association Vice President and resident of more than 40 years Stephanie Chauncey, Aaron Schraeter, a community coordinator in NYCHA's Resident Engagement Department, and Mary Elizabeth Rusz, an architect in NYCHA's Office of Design, got together to talk about one of these works of public art: a mural in the community center at Queensbridge Houses.

Stephanie: "This mural is the first thing you see when you walk into the center. The center has always been our foundation, our place for fun, education, art programs, and socializing. A lot of profoundly positive things have come out of here."

Aaron: "I'm a big fan of the mural's artist, Philip Guston. This mural was created through a government-funded program. The whole idea was to put artists to work as skilled laborers. In making the mural, the artist got the kids involved [letting them watch as he painted it], and he really made a spectacle of it."

Mary: "NYCHA's Office of Design has been studying the historic significance of NYCHA buildings, open



Philip Guston's mural, "Work and Play," was completed at Queensbridge Houses' community center in 1940. In the black and white photo to the right, children watch the artist at work.

spaces, and the artwork in our buildings. Queensbridge Houses' octagon-shaped 'town center' is a unique place – and this community center is like its cornerstone, with the mural being the 'center of the center.' These WPA artworks were meant to inspire residents."

Stephanie: "Many of us grew up here, developed friendships here. This is where our parents allowed us to come and play, because it was always supervised, for roller skating, parties, talent shows."

Aaron: "The title of the mural is 'Work and Play.' Each portion describes one aspect of work and play. Until the last panel, it's a mixture of how play becomes work and work becomes play. Art has always been part of NYCHA; we've identified more than 20 murals and sculptures city-



wide, as part of an inventory of NYCHA's artworks."

Stephanie: "This mural is more than just paint on a wall – it's about a community growing and a community's stories. It's been here so long [since 1940], so it's really a part of our development and our history. It's for generations to come, which is why it's important to get the history out to them. My grandchildren are now coming in and admiring it. When you grow up



with something, it becomes a part of you. You want to nurture it and preserve it. It's something we can call our own. Each individual takes something different from it. Now that I know the history behind it, I have a whole different way of looking at it."

Residents, help catalogue NYCHA's original artwork – Tweet photos of any you've found with the hashtag #NYCHArt.

When Smaller Is Better: Right-sizing Initiative Benefits Families Who Need to Downsize

"CHANGE IS GOOD. Sometimes you gotta step outside that box," said Shaquana Buckner-Tribble. In Ms. Buckner-Tribble's case, that "box" was an apartment that was too big for her family once a few of her children moved out, so she took advantage of NYCHA's right-sizing pilot program, an initiative that transitions families to appropriatesize apartments so that more New Yorkers can benefit from public housing.

"I had a bigger apartment and I needed a smaller one," she said. "I had four bedrooms. I was there for 16 years, raising five kids there. Now it's just my son and daughter and me in a two-bedroom. This opportunity came up and I jumped on it."

Residents in apartments with two or more rooms than required for their family who are already approved for a right-sizing transfer are eligible for this pilot program, which provides fully paid moving services. The first 400 fami-

lies who relocate will receive a \$5,000 incentive and have their security deposit upgrade and other rental fees waived (residents on public assistance will obtain a new security deposit voucher from the Human Resources Administration). The \$5,000 incentive will not count as income and will not result in higher rent. Participants select the borough, rather than the development, of their choice.

In May, Ms. Buckner-Tribble and her two children moved from Tilden Houses to Brownsville Houses, both in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn; she loves their new place. "It's nice. And the people here are nice. I'm still in the process of getting things together. With the incentive, I was able to buy a lot of things, like living room, kitchen, and bedroom sets," she said.

Ms. Buckner-Tribble encourages fellow NYCHA residents with more bedrooms than they need to participate in



Shaquana Buckner-Tribble, at home in her new apartment at Brownsville Houses, is happy with her choice to "right-size."

this beneficial program. "It's a new start somewhere different," she said.

Eligible residents can sign up at

https://selfserve.nycha.info/eservice_enu or visit their Property Management Office for assistance or more information.

Shooting for the Moon

An Evening with Aprille Ericsson

S APRILLE ERICSSON explained it to a room full of young NYCHA residents, she didn't plan to be an aerospace engineer, not because she didn't have the smarts, but because she didn't think she looked like one. "When I was growing up, I didn't know what I wanted to do. I thought aerospace was cool, but I liked a lot of things. I had a teacher who encouraged me to be an engineer because I had "the knack" for it. But most of the engineers I thought of looked kind of geeky, not like me. I just want you to know that scientists come in all flavors and colors."

Dr. Ericsson, currently an aerospace engineer at NASA working on a Mars landing project, grew up in Brooklyn's Roosevelt Houses. On April 1, she met with about 50 teens living in NYCHA developments to share her life story plus some tips for personal and professional success.

From a discussion on the achievements of ancient Egyptians to the vast cultural offerings available to kids growing up in New York City, Dr. Ericsson spoke about the influences that helped chart her path to an exciting and accomplished career, which includes work on large space structures like the International Space Station. She recalled that watching the first moon landing in 1969 on a small black-and-white TV at school, plus TV shows like The Jetsons and Star Trek, made her believe that "it wasn't a case of would we go to Mars. It was when we would go to Mars."

Some of the African American and

female scientists who have inspired her include Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, a nuclear physicist; Dr. Sheila Widnall, her advisor at MIT and the first female Secretary of the Air Force; Dr. Sylvester James Gates Jr., a theoretical physicist; and Dr. Wesley Harris, an aeronautics and astronautics professor at MIT.

"I like to talk about my predecessors, because I would not have had the opportunities I've had if I wasn't able to stand on their shoulders and look back at their contributions. You have to understand your past so you can look forward at the future," she explained. "My family is equally important. They helped get me to where I am, making sure I went to school and did my homework."

"How many people here know what they want to do?" she asked the audience. Many hands went up. "So you guys are working toward your dreams?" "YES!" was the response, loud and clear. "That's what I want to hear," Dr. Ericsson replied, with a huge smile on her face.

"You have to be excited about what you do, because if you're passionate about it, it doesn't seem so much like work." Dr. Ericsson's personal motto is "Shoot for the moon and even if you miss, you will still be among the stars."

Her parting words of advice: "Remember that learning doesn't just start with school—you're going to be learning constantly. The world is changing constantly and you have to learn to stay abreast of it. And grow your brain everyday—feed it with good stuff."



NASA scientist Aprille Ericsson (center) posing with new friends after an evening illuminating them with stories of her childhood and career path.

HOW TO COURT SUCCESS

ARTICIPANTS OF NYCHA'S Skills Development Academy, which helps girls ages 6 to 14 hone their basketball skills, got a unique opportunity to look up to some legends – literally.

At a one-day basketball clinic in May hosted by the WNBA and Jr. NBA at Brooklyn's Williamsburg Community Center, 150 girls played hoops under the expert guidance of 12 instructors, including WNBA President Lisa Borders and former WNBA stars Teresa Edwards and Sue Wicks.

"These women," WNBA President Borders said, referring to WNBA legends Edwards and Wicks, "cut a path for those of you who want to play professional basketball when you grow up. Before these women played in the WNBA, we didn't have a professional league for women. It's important to remember that you have a path to follow and folks to look up to."

"There are a lot of valuable lessons that we learn in sports, like teamwork," said four-time Olympic Gold medalwinner Edwards. "Basketball also builds self-esteem in young women." Sue Wicks, who played with New York Liberty, added, "Finding something you love – whatever it is – is where you learn important life lessons. When you strive, even when you fail, that's when you learn how to succeed."

NYCHA's Sports Manager Curtis Williams started the Skills Development Academy earlier this year to provide a "free, positive platform" for girls across the City. "It's more than just basketball," he said. "We want the girls to have outstanding role models. It's easy to tell a kid,



Girls practice their shots after getting pointers from WNBA superstars.

'You can do this, you can do that,' but the girls can speak to individuals here who can actually tell them how to get where they want to go. The majority of our coaches played in NYCHA leagues when they were younger. We're seeing three generations of basketball players who have come through NYCHA's programs."

Mechell Minor, an 8-year-old resident of De Hostos Towers in the Bronx, said that the Skills Development Academy "has taught me how to cooperate with different teammates." Her grandmother, Ramona, also praised the program, saying "The energy level, the teamwork, all the families and kids coming together is remarkable. Our kids are focused more in school and learning to stick together – not only on the court but in the classroom as well."

New Tools for Easier Bail Payments

NEW YORK CITY has made it easier for defendants to post bail by providing ATMs at all of the City's criminal courthouses so that defendants can withdraw funds for bail payment at any hour of the day.

Approximately 17,000 individuals each year are able to make bail after they are booked into Rikers Island jails, with 77 percent making bail within one week of being detained. This suggests that these defendants may be able to afford bail, but that inefficiencies in the bail payment process could be leading to delays that result in unnecessary time behind bars.

"For an individual who can afford to post bail, there is no reason why he or she should sit in jail for two days simply because of obstacles to paying bail," said Elizabeth Glazer, director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. "Access to ATMs and comprehensive information about how to pay bail can mean the difference between posting bail at arraignment and going home, or being sent to Rikers."

In addition, the City published a comprehensive guide that explains how to send bail money to inmates and obtain a bail refund; the guide is available online here: **www.bail-lab.nyc/bail-faqs**. The City is also exploring the option of allowing defendants to pay bail with a credit or debit card. These resources were developed as part of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice's Bail Lab initiative, which seeks to improve the City's money bail system.

Better Health in Harlem With a Neighbor's Help



In April, residents of Clinton Houses, Johnson Houses, Taft Houses, King Towers, and Lehman Village celebrated the strides they'd made to manage chronic health issues like asthma, diabetes, and hypertension. Through the Harlem Health Advocacy Partners (HHAP) program, they received free support from their peers – neighbors who've been trained as community health workers and health advocates to provide one-on-one health coaching, referrals to local health services, and assistance accessing low-cost health insurance and understanding medical bills. Residents of the above developments can call 646-672-2331 to learn more about the program, which is led by the City's Health Department and involves partners like the Community Service Society, the NYU-CUNY Prevention Research Center, and NYCHA.

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These treatments will take place between June and September of 2016. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category – "Caution" Summit B.t.i. Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category – "Caution" Altosid XR, EPA Reg. No. 2724-421, Toxicity Category – "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are; NYC Housing Authority:

Debbie Wolf, Associate Staff Analyst, 718.707.5709 available from 9 am – 5 pm
Denise Torres, Technical Resource Advisor, 718.707.8032 available from 8 am – 4 pm
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, Bureau of Pesticide Management –
718.482.4994

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network - 1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center

1-800.222.1222

REES Events

Call the REES Hotline at **718-289-8100** or visit opportunitynycha.org if you are interested in these events or any other REES program.

Green City Force Info Session

Green City Force is recruiting for sixmonth positions that help you grow while serving your community. Applicants must be NYCHA residents, 18-24 years old, and have a high school diploma or GED. The program provides:

- Job training/hands-on experience
- Bi-monthly stipend of \$500
- National certifications
- \$2,865 or \$5,730 toward college education
- Monthly MetroCard
- Active alumni network
- Job/college placement support

Every Wednesday at 11am

REES Central Office 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

Resident Business Development Orientation

Get connected to free and low-cost resources to start or grow your business!

Wednesdays, July 13 or August 10 at 6pm

REES Central Office 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

TechPortal Info Session

NYCHA residents ages 18-24 may be eligible for these job prep programs. There's an entrance exam to qualify, but even if you don't pass, other options are available.

 Per Scholas' training program for entry-level information technology jobs, which offers CompTIA A+ and Network+ certification

- TechBridge's prep course for IT support positions, which helps participants gain the necessary math and English skills
- Bronx Youth Center's Advance In Retail training, EMT bridge program, pre-high school equivalency (HSE) and HSE classes, or Young Adult Internship Program

Tuesdays, July 19, August 2, August 16, or August 30 at 1pm

REES Central Office 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

Family Self-Sufficiency Enrollment Session

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program allows NYCHA Section 8 voucher holders to save money when their rent goes up as a result of income increasing. When an FSS program participant gets a rent increase, NYCHA will save the difference between the old rent amount and new rent amount in a savings account for them.

Fridays, July 22, July 29, August 19, or August 26 at 8am REES Central Office

787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

REES Info Session

Learn about a variety of free job training opportunities and adult education, financial empowerment, and business development services!

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am

REES Central Office 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

JOSEPH KEMP: THE VOICE OF YOUTH ON PUBLIC SAFETY of the committee. With it, we can do some great things collectively."

This fall, Mr. Kemp enters his senior year at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where he's pursuing a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He is the recipient of two academic scholarships: the NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship and the Queensbridge Scholarship. When he's not busy working hard to maintain his dean's list status, he

serves on John Jay College's Judicial Board, supervising student government elections and presiding over matters of student misconduct. He's the treasurer of a student political club and is an intern with the New York City Urban Debate League, training volunteer judges and serving as a back-up judge. He also works part-time as a lead concierge at a college dorm and volunteers with the New York Cares organization.

ZIKA PREVENTION

Zika is not spreading in New York City, but local mosquitoes can spread other diseases, like West Nile virus. New Yorkers can help stop the spread of mosquito-borne viruses by following these steps:

- Apply insect repellents and wear long sleeves or pants in the evening during mosquito season (June through September).
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors.
- Empty standing water from containers such as flower pots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths. A very small body of water can be the breeding ground for hundreds of mosquito eggs.
- Make sure backyard pools are properly maintained and chlorinated.
- Report standing water to 311.

REPORTED CASES OF ZIKA IN NEW YORK CITY (AS OF 6/1/16): 122

- 18 of the 122 cases were pregnant at the time of diagnosis;
- All cases contracted Zika while visiting other countries; and
- All patients have recovered.

Adapted from the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Zika page: www.nyc.gov/health/zika.

BASIC FACTS

People usually get Zika through a mosquito bite—but not a bite from any mosquito. See "Affected Areas" below.

- Most people (80%) who get infected with Zika do not get sick. For those who do get sick, the sickness is usually mild. Most people recover on their own.
- However, Zika causes birth defects.
- It is rare but possible for Zika to spread from one person to another through sexual contact and blood. Zika is not spread from person to person by casual contact.
- There is no Zika vaccine. There is no treatment for Zika, but medicine can help relieve the symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Most people have mild symptoms and do not need to go to a hospital. Symptoms usually start two to 12 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and may last up to a week. Zika may be mistaken for other diseases caused by mosquitoes, such as dengue virus or chikungunya virus. Health care providers use a blood test to confirm Zika.

PREGNANCY WARNING

Zika is not dangerous for most people. However, Zika causes birth defects. One birth defect linked to Zika is a smaller than normal head. This condition is called "microcephaly." Health experts are still learning about the link between Zika and microcephaly.

AFFECTED AREAS

Zika is affecting parts of Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean and other places listed by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. (Find the latest Zika-affected locations at **cdc.gov/zika**.) The type of mosquito linked to the current outbreak, *Aedes aegypti*, lives in these places. *Aedes aegypti* has *not* been found in New York City.



Citi Bike is a fun and affordable mode of transportation! Join for only \$5/month (with annual commitment), and get access to thousands of bikes around Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Membresía anual sólo \$5 al mes para residentes de NYCHA.

NYCHA 居民若成為 Citi Bike 年度會員, 月費只需 \$5.

visit citibikenyc.com/nycha

OR CALL
1-855-BIKE-311

City Harvest's MOBILE MARKETS

are open-air, bimonthly distributions of fresh fruits and vegetables located at NYCHA sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island. They are free of charge to residents who qualify and live in the area. To register with City Harvest, bring a Photo ID and Proof of Address to the next market in your neighborhood. All markets are from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Check below for market dates and locations.

Market Locations and Schedule

Melrose Houses, Bronx: Every 2nd Saturday and 4th Wednesday

Parking lot, Phipps Classic Center: 286 East 156th Street

Stapleton Houses, Staten Island: Every 1st Tuesday and 3rd Saturday

Tennis Court at Stapleton Houses, behind 75 Hill Street

Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn: Every 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday Parking lot on Myrtle between Tompkins Ave. and Throop Ave.

St. Mary's, Bronx: Every 2nd Saturday and 4th Tuesday St. Mary's Community Center/ Parking lot on Cauldwell Ave: 595 Trinity Avenue

Dyckman Houses, Manhattan: Every 2nd Wednesday and 4th Saturday



On sidewalk off of Dyckman Ave. between Nagle Ave. and 10th Ave.

Washington Heights/ Inwood, Manhattan: Every 2nd Thursday and 4th Saturday 175 Nagle Ave.

Astoria, Queens: Every 1st Saturday and 3rd Thursday Astoria Houses Basketball Courts, off Astoria Blvd: 7-1 Astoria Blvd.

Queensbridge, Queens: Every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday

Jacob Riis Settlement House: 10-25 41st Ave., LIC

Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island: Every 1st Wednesday and 3rd Saturday Basketball court directly in front of the Senior Center: 22 Roxbury St.

Prince Hall, Manhattan: Every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday 454 West 155 St., Between St. Nicholas & Amsterdam

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

PLAYING WITH PALS, A NEW COURT AT FREDERICK SAMUEL HOUSES WILL SEE PLENTY OF ACTION THIS SUMMER

crimes to purchase new athletic equipment for the young people of Frederick E. Samuel Houses and to support fun recreational opportunities," Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan said. "We are happy to help create better spaces for young people to thrive. We look forward to participating in many future programs that benefit the youth of New York City with the Police Athletic League and all of our partner agencies."

Joining Brennan at the ribbon-cutting were NYCHA's Vice President for Public Safety Gerald Nelson; Frederick J. Watts, Executive Director of New York City's Police Athletic League; Reverend Calvin Butts, Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church; Elijah Brooks, Director of the Frederick E. Samuel Community Center; NYPD officers from

the 32nd Precinct and Police Service Area 6; and more.

"This new gymnasium is a powerful example of how collaboration between NYCHA and law enforcement is making neighborhoods safer and more connected," said Gerald Nelson, NYCHA's Vice President for Public Safety. "With this major investment, ill-gotten gains have been repurposed for the good of the community. This vibrant public space – an invaluable resource for residents, just in time for summer – will bring people together, encourage positivity, and strengthen the community."

The gym may also encourage a little healthy competition: Who will win the rematch at the center's next Kids versus Cops match?



Cutting the ribbon on the beautifully renovated gymnasium made possible with funds from seized narcotics, thanks to New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan and her staff.



BRIGHT LIGHTS AT BUSHWICK HOUSES

Mayor Bill de Blasio, Chair Shola Olatoye, and NYPD Housing **Bureau Chief James Secreto tour** some of the 305 new energyefficient exterior safety lights recently installed at Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn. As part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), \$140 million of security lighting, CCTV cameras, and layered-access control doors will be installed at 15 NYCHA sites. The MAP initiative also brings extended community center hours, expanded youth programs and services, and more police officers to these sites.

New Maps and Data on NYCHA's Website

THE NEXT TIME you visit, check out some cool new features on NYCHA's website (**www.nyc.gov/nycha**):

- An interactive map (in the "Developments" section on the "About" page) that
 is searchable by address or NYCHA development name. It provides data such as
 info about NYCHA developments (including management office contact info),
 nearby community and senior centers, addresses and phone numbers for elected
 officials, and hurricane evacuation zones.
- A similar feature released last year, the Interactive Sandy Transparency Map, provides the latest information about the recovery work at the 33 developments severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy.
- NYCHA's Development Data Book, which has been around for decades, got a makeover. It's now in color and is easier to navigate, because a clickable table of contents takes you directly to the desired section. Clicking on individual developments brings you to a map and data about that development.



NYPD SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE EARNING GOOD PAY AND BENEFITS!

School Crossing Guards help children safely cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. School Crossing Guards control traffic flow around schools in the morning, at lunch time and at the end of the school day.

Take advantage of these excellent Civilian PART TIME JOBS with the NYPD!

- GOOD PAY \$11.79/HOUR TO START, \$13.83/HOUR AFTER 3 YEARS
- HEALTH BENEFITS-HEALTH INSURANCE WITH 20+ HOURS WORKED PER WEEK
- WORK CLOSE TO HOME
- SUMMER WORK ALSO AVAILABLE

There are no formal education or experience requirements for this job, but all candidates must be able to understand and be understood in English.

Prospective candidates must pass a qualifying medical examination, which includes drug screening and a character/background investigation, prior to appointment. You must also complete six (6) days of training at the Police Academy once appointed.

If you are interested in applying for a School Crossing Guard position please visit:

http://nypdcivilianjobs.com/schoolcrossingguard/

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



The New York City Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

THE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM: PARTNER ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

ASILA AMIN HAS big dreams for herself and her four sons: "I want to buy a house with a backyard."

Ms. Amin, a Section 8 voucher holder, has lived at Stapleton Houses for 14 years. She knows it will take lots of planning and saving to achieve her goal. That's why she attended a May 19 information session hosted by REES, the New York City Human Resources Administration, and ResCare, NYCHA's Staten Island Jobs-Plus partner, to learn about the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

Ms. Amin liked what she learned. FSS is a five-year savings program designed to help Section 8 voucher holders achieve economic independence. Participating families set personal goals to achieve by the end of the contract period; these usually include obtaining employment and becoming free of cash public assistance benefits. Ms. Amin, who works at a nursing home, enrolled in the program and set a goal to obtain her Licensed Practical Nursing certification.

Participants in FSS also receive a

savings account that grows as their household income increases, as well as education, career counseling, job training, money management, and placement services. Recent graduates of FSS have used their savings to make a down payment on a home, pay for higher education, and start a business.

Jillian Valdez is an FSS graduate success story – she will be moving into her new house on Long Island with her three children later this year. After four years in the program, she completed it in May with enough money in savings for a down payment to buy a home through the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America.

Through the program, Ms. Valdez earned her high school equivalency degree, completed medical assisting training, and began a position at a radiology office, working her way up to managing a staff of 32 people. She also addressed one of her major challenges: learning how to budget and be accountable for her spending. Ms. Valdez is grateful for the program's step-by-step partnership and tutoring.

"They guided me in every area when



Wasila Amin discusses the goals she'd like to achieve while participating in the FSS program with Ernst Louis, FSS Program Coordinator.

I needed help. I used to think I couldn't make it on my own. I couldn't picture myself without Food Stamps, welfare, Medicaid. But with the program and all the classes and the help – it gave me the courage to grow and to succeed," Ms. Valdez explains.

Ms. Amin is excited to follow in Ms. Valdez's footsteps: building her savings and accessing all the services available for her and her sons.

As an FSS member, Ms. Amin runs no

risk of losing her Section 8 voucher and may continue to receive Section 8 assistance after graduating from FSS if she still meets the Section 8 eligibility.

Stapleton Houses Section 8 voucher holders can learn more about FSS and enroll in the program by visiting their local Jobs-Plus site at 30 Bay Street, 4th floor. Section 8 voucher holders interested in learning about the FSS program can contact **REES for information at 718-289-8100.**







REMOVING STANDING WATER SO MOSQUITOES CAN'T BREED



APPLYING INSECT REPELLENT & COVERING EXPOSED SKIN TO AVOID BITES.

USING WINDOW SCREENS TO KEEP MOSQUITOES OUT

THE **ZIKA VIRUS** CAN BE **dangerous** to women who are pregnant or are trying to become pregnant because it may cause birth defects

Call 311 to report standing water or visit **nyc.gov/health** for more information.



Cultivating a Greener Tomorrow

Devoted Environmentalists Dish the Dirt

On a sunny Saturday in June, nearly 100 NYCHA residents gathered at the Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn for the second annual Resident Green Committee (RGC) Summit. Through RGCs, NYCHA residents lead the charge for a greener city at

their own developments, promoting energy efficiency, organizing clean-up days, and tending approximately 700 gardens known across the five boroughs for their beauty. Celina Lynch and Cynthia Simpson spoke about their experiences at the Summit and their newfound love of gardening.

Celina Lynch, president of the RGC and garden at Ingersoll Houses:

"I was on a panel with two other RGC members, answering questions from the moderator and the audience. We discussed the challenges we face as gardeners, and talked about how we can partner with other organizations to get more



Green thumbs Selena Lynch of Ingersoll Houses (left) and Cynthia Simpson of Marcy Houses.

for our gardens, like wood chips, compost, and funding. We recently got a grant, for instance, to build a pathway for people with mobility issues.

Our garden is

services and support

Our garden is named 'Ingersoll Garden of Eden.' We're in the middle of changing the name to 'International

Garden of Eden' to reflect the diversity of our population. Eighty-eight people tend it. We share plants and vegetables with the community from the shared part of the garden. We're planting hot peppers (Scotch bonnet and habanero), corn, watermelon, cantaloupes, sweet red peppers, okra, and collard greens.

I want to participate in the Summit every year! I enjoyed meeting other RGC members at the Summit, people from Jamaica, Far Rockaway, East New York. We shared ideas and invited each other to visit our gardens to learn more. Before I got involved, I had no interest in gardening whatsoever, to be honest, but I really



Erycka DeJesus, a Ravenswood Houses RGC member, leads a workshop on composting.

got into it. My garden is doing so well, growing so beautifully, and I'm so proud of it! I truly love gardening now!"

Cynthia Simpson, captain of the Marcy Houses RGC:

"We had a lot of people attending from Marcy Houses—at least a dozen—and we won a solar-powered radio in the raffle! I took a workshop for the RGC captains and got to meet a lot of different people from different developments; we exchanged phone numbers

to keep the conversation going.

I had never really been interested in gardening until the RGC came to Marcy. When we started our garden in 2014, that was the first time I ever dug in a garden. Working in the garden is therapeutic; it takes away whatever's troubling you. And you get to meet a lot of people who live around you, whom you wouldn't talk to otherwise – they see you working in the garden and ask questions about it. Then they end up helping out, swapping ideas with you!"



Fit, Fun, and Healthy

ZUMBA CLASS, a group Electric Slide dance, and neck and shoulder massages sound like offerings at a spa retreat – but these activities were part of the Bronx Senior Health & Fitness Day to celebrate older adults keeping active and healthy.

On May 25, 200 seniors from Bronx senior centers celebrated the 23rd annual National Senior Health & Fitness Day, the nation's largest health promotion event for older adults, at Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center. Organized by Bronx Community Operations and Family Services, the event included a host of activities, presentations, and workshops geared toward health and fitness. In addition to Zumba and the Electric Slide, other fitness activities included yoga and stationary and sedentary exercise classes.

There were also presentations on general nutrition, diabetes, the benefits of going gluten-free, home health care options, osteoporosis, and respiratory health. Many seniors lined up for the screenings for blood pressure and cholesterol; neck, scalp, and shoulder massages; and podiatry examinations offered by health service organizations.



Blood pressure check-ups were a popular service offered at the event.

Anne Johnson, Resident Association President of Soundview Houses, didn't get a chance to get a massage or her blood pressure checked, but she did eniov watching the seniors be involved: "The seniors really enjoyed it. An event like this is important because it keeps seniors in shape and actively involved; they need to keep their bodies and their minds active, so this was good for them."

"This event was great because a lot of seniors don't get out like they should," Loretta Masterson, Resident Association



Seniors learned a few simple moves they can do at home to keep themselves active and healthy.

President of Sack Wern Houses, said. "Some of them are stuck at home, no one comes to see them, so it's good to have events like this where they can have some time to chat, find out what's going on, and maybe get a little incentive to get up and get out of the house."

Community partners included: Avondale Care Group, Apple Bank, Brightpoint Health, Crown Health Care, the FDNY, Growth of Life Healthcare, HHC Lincoln Medical Center. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Helping U Homecare, Lott Community Home Health Care, Phipps Neighborhoods, Police Service Areas 7 and 8, Presbyterian Senior Services, SHARE, Senior Whole Health, Visiting Nurse Service of New York, United Health Care, and Urban Health Plan.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, YOU CAN COUNT ON US.

If you use life-support equipment or know someone who does, it's important to let us know. Con Edison keeps a record of these individuals in order to contact them in the event of an emergency to make sure they are safe. Call 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633) or log into conEd.com and choose the Enroll in Special Services option to complete our online form. If you choose to call, please have your 15-digit account number available.

> To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify the equipment that you use.



MAKE A SPLASH!

Keep Cool in a Pool, Beat the Heat at the Beach

This summer, City beaches are open daily through Labor Day from 10 am to 6 pm and pools are open from 11 am to 7 pm (closing from 3 pm to 4 pm for cleaning). Visit **www.nycgovparks.org** for more information.

Bronx

Bronx River Playground Pool
E. 174th Street & Bronx River Avenue

Claremont Pool

170th Street and Clay Avenue

Crotona Pool

173rd Street and Fulton Avenue

Edenwald Houses Pool

Schieffelin Avenue & E. 229th Street

Floating Pool

Tiffany Street & Viele Avenue

Haffen Pool

Ely and Burke Avenues

Mapes Pool

E. 180th Street between Mapes & Prospect Avenues

Mullaly Pool

E. 164th Street bet. Jerome & River Avenues

Orchard Beach and Promenade

On Long Island Sound in Pelham Bay Park

Van Cortlandt Pool
W. 242nd Street and Broadway

vv. 242110 Street and

Brooklyn Betsy Head Pool

Boyland, Livonia and Dumont Avenues

Brighton Beach

On the Atlantic Ocean, from Ocean Parkway to Corbin Place

Brooklyn Bridge Park Pop-Up Pool *Pier 2*

Bushwick Pool

Humboldt Street, Flushing and Bushwick Avenues

Commodore Barry Pool

Flushing and Park Avenues, Navy and North Elliot Streets

Coney Island Beach

On the Atlantic Ocean, from W. 37th Street to Ocean Parkway

David Fox/PS 251 Pool

E. 54th Street & Avenue H

Douglas and DeGraw Pool

Third Avenue and Nevins Street

Glenwood Houses Pool

Farragut Road & Ralph Avenue

Howard Pool

Glenmore and Mother Gaston Blvd., East New York Avenue

JHS 57/HS 26 Pool

117 Stuyvesant Avenue

Kosciuszko Pool

Marcy Avenue between DeKalb Avenue & Kosciuszko Street

Lindower Park Pool

E. 60th St., Mill Rd. & Strickland Avenue

Manhattan Beach

On the Atlantic Ocean, Oriental Blvd., from Ocean Ave. to Mackenzie Street

McCarren Park Pool

McCarren Park

PS 20 Playground Pool

Between Clermont Ave. & Adelphi Street

Red Hook Pool

Bay and Henry Streets

Sunset Park Pool

Seventh Avenue between 41st and 44th Streets

Manhattan

Abe Lincoln Pool

5th Avenue & E. 135th Street

Asser Levy Pool

Asser Levy Place and E. 23rd Street

Dry Dock Pool

E. 10th Street between Avenues C and D

Frederick Douglass Pool

Amsterdam Avenue between 100th &

102nd Streets

Hamilton Fish Pool
Pitt Street and Houston Street

Highbridge Pool

Amsterdam Ave. and W. 173rd Street

Jackie Robinson Pool

Bradhurst Avenue and W. 146th Street

John Jay Pool

East of York Avenue on 77th Street

Lasker Pool

110th Street & Lenox Avenue

Marcus Garvey Pool

124th Street and Fifth Avenue

Sheltering Arms Pool

W. 129th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Thomas Jefferson Pool

E. 112th Street and First Avenue

Tompkins Square Pool

Ave. A between E. 7th & E. 10th Streets

Tony Dapolito Pool

Clarkson Street and Seventh Avenue South

Vesuvio Pool

Thompson St. between Spring & Prince Streets

Wagner Pool

E. 124th Street between First and Second Avenues

Queens

Astoria Pool

19th Street and 23rd Drive

Fisher Pool

99th Street and 32nd Avenue

Fort Totten Pool

338 Story Avenue

330 Story Avertue

Liberty Pool 173rd Street and 106th Avenue

Marie Curie Park Pool

211th Street & 46th Avenue

PS 10 Pool

45th Street & 30th Road

PS 186 Playground Pool

Little Neck Parkway & 72nd Avenue



Rockaway Beach and Boardwalk

On Atlantic Ocean, from Beach 9th Street, Far Rockaway, to Beach 149th Street, Neponsit

Windmuller Pool

54th Street & 39th Road

Staten Island

Cedar Grove Beach *Ebbitts Street and Cedar Grove Avenue*

Faber Pool

Faber Street and Richmond Terrace

General Douglas Pool

Jefferson Street & Seaver Avenue

Lyons Pool *Pier 6 and Victory Boulevard*

Mariner's Harbor Playground Pool

Grandview Avenue & Continental Place

Midland/South Beach and Franklin D. Roosevelt Boardwalk

On Lower New York Bay, from Fort Wadsworth to Miller Field

PS 14 Playground Pool

Tompkins Avenue btwn Hill & Broad Streets PS 46 Playground Pool

Parkinson Avenue & Kramer Street

Tottenville Pool

Hylan Boulevard and Joline Avenue
West Brighton Pool

Henderson Avenue between Broadway and Chappel Streets

Wolfe's Pond Beach

On Raritan Bay and Prince's Bay, Holton to Cornelia Avenues

State Safety Law Protects NYCHA Workers

OFFICERS, NYCHA employees are public servants who take their job responsibilities very seriously. Property management staff work hard to keep

LIKE FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE

NYCHA developments and facilities clean, safe, and well-maintained. And, like firefighters, police officers, and other public servants, NYCHA employees receive special protections under

the law. Legislation passed in 2014 provides NYCHA staff with the same deterrents to assault that protect NYPD and MTA workers and State crossing guards: Any individual who physically assaults any NYCHA employee may be charged with violent felony and receive a sentence of up to one year in prison.

"All employees deserve to be safe and respected in the workplace," Chair

Shola Olatoye said when the bill was passed. "The Mayor, NYCHA leadership, and the Teamsters worked together to get this bill approved in Albany. It is an example of what can be achieved when we work as one for a common goal. I want to thank the Legislature and Governor for recognizing the important work that our frontline staff does every day."

"NYCHA employees are on the

frontline of efforts to protect and care for public housing residents and they deserve this increased protection," said Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, who advocated forcefully for the legislation. "The hardworking employees at NYCHA who make so many sacrifices for others can feel more secure working at housing developments throughout the City."

HUD Healthy Home Safety Tips

All About Household Poisons:

- Read warning labels and follow storage directions on household products.
- Poisonous products can include medicines, cleaning supplies, hair spray, and home repair materials.
- Keep poisonous products out of children's sight and reach on high shelves. Install child-proof latches on cabinets that do not have locks.
- Store food and non-food products separately to prevent confusion and protect your family from container contamination and toxic spills.
- Always choose non-toxic alternatives when possible and use products with child-resistant caps.
- Never mix cleaning products together they may produce dangerous fumes (e.g., ammonia and bleach should never be mixed).
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home.
- Flush expired medicines down the toilet rather than throwing them in the garbage.
- If it is necessary to use harsh chemicals, use them when children are not at home, or at least when they are in a different room. Always wear gloves when handling products that could be toxic and follow all manufacturers' instructions.
- Call 800-222-1222 for Poison Control.

All About Allergies

An allergen is something that causes allergy signs or an allergic reaction. Many of the same asthma triggers also cause allergic reactions in people who don't have asthma. There are many common allergens. Some are those listed here. It's very important to talk to your doctor if you have had a reaction to any of these:

Household triggers: pets (most often animal skin flakes or "dander"), smoke, mold, dust and dust mites.

Foods: milk and dairy products, citrus fruit like oranges and lemons, artificial colors and flavors, nuts, and shellfish like shrimp or clams.

Medicines: penicillin, some heart medicines, and some anti-seizure medicines.

Insect stings and bites: most are caused by yellow jackets, honeybees, paper wasps, hornets, and fire ants. In some people, reactions to stings become more serious as years go by. Eventually, it may take only one sting to kill. Talk to your doctor if you have had a serious reaction to a sting.

Contact allergens: cause reactions when things like plants, cosmetics, jewelry, or latex (a type of rubber) touch the skin. Rashes are common reactions to these allergens.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Know your allergies, and know what to avoid. Not everyone is allergic to the same things!
- Contact your doctor about any unusual reactions to food, plants, medicines, or other items.
- Avoid contact with things you know trigger allergies. Avoid being outside
 or having the windows open when pollen counts are high. Read food labels
 carefully to avoid ingredients that cause reactions. Choose medicines and homecare products carefully. Remove carpets or vacuum often to avoid animal dander.
- Keep a clean home. Control pests such as mice and cockroaches. Vacuum floors and upholstery often and consider removing carpet. Avoid having mold, cigarette smoke, pesticides, and chemicals inside the house. Keep pets out of the bedrooms of family members who are allergic to them.

In the event of a severe allergic reaction, seek emergency medical attention immediately—call 911 or Poison Control at 800-222-1222.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

DON'T



Leave burning candles and incense or cooking food unattended.



Make a fire escape plan, and use it.



Overload electrical outlets.



Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.



Smoke indoors.



Maintain smoke detectors and test every 3 months.

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

If you need smoke detectors installed or replaced, call the Customer Contact Center at 718-707-7771.

SAFENYCHA

Bill de Blasio, Mayor



ELEVATOR SAFETY



Bill de Blasio, Mayor **Shola Olatoye,** Chair and CEO



IF YOU ARE STUCK IN AN ELEVATOR, STAY PUT.

1 Stay in the elevator. 2 Ring the alarm. 3 Call 911. 4 Wait for professional help to come.

Don't get in an elevator if the door opens and you see:



No elevator



Elevator **moving**



Elevator not level with floor



Lights out

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Report any elevator issues to NYCHA's Customer Contact Center at 718-707-7771.

SAFE SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS AND TEENS AT NYCHA COMMUNITY CENTERS Extended Summer Hours, Additional Activities at 116 Locations

From July 5 to August 26, 116 community centers at NYCHA developments in all five boroughs will feature extended hours: 6 pm to 11 pm on weekdays and 3 pm to 11 pm on weekends. For more information, call your borough's NYCHA Community Operations office: Bronx (718-409-8630); Brooklyn (718-289-8130); Manhattan (212-306-3324); Queens (718-969-6240); Staten Island (718-815-0140).

Bronx

Betances Houses Boston Secor Houses Bronx River Houses Butler Houses Castle Hill Houses Davidson Houses East 180th Street-Monterey Avenue Eastchester Gardens **Edenwald Houses** Forest Houses Fort Independence Houses Gun Hill Houses Highbridge Gardens Marble Hill Houses Melrose Houses Mill Brook Houses Mitchel Houses Morris Houses Murphy Houses Parkside Houses Patterson Houses Pelham Parkway Houses Sedgwick Houses Sotomayor Houses

Soundview Houses St. Mary's Park Houses Throggs Neck Addition

Brooklyn

Albany Houses Armstrong Houses Atlantic Terminal Site 4B **Bay View Houses Boulevard Houses** Breukelen Houses **Brevoort Houses Bushwick Houses** Bushwick II (managed by Hope Gardens) Carev Gardens Cooper Park Houses Cypress Hills Houses Farragut Houses Glenwood Houses Howard Houses **Hughes Apartments** Independence Towers Ingersoll Houses Kingsborough Houses Lafayette Gardens

Marcus Garvey Houses Marlboro Houses O'Dwyer Gardens Pennsylvania-Wortman Houses Pink Houses Red Hook East Houses Roosevelt Houses Saratoga Village Seth Low Houses Sheepshead Bay Houses Stuyvesant Gardens Sumner Houses Taylor-Wythe Houses Tilden Houses Tompkins Houses Unity Plaza (sites 4–27) Van Dyke Houses Williams Plaza Williamsburg Houses Wyckoff Gardens

Manhattan

Amsterdam Addition Baruch Houses Campos Plaza Chelsea Addition

Clinton Houses De Hostos Towers Douglass Houses Drew Hamilton Houses Dyckman Houses East River Houses **Grant Houses Holmes Towers** Jefferson Houses Johnson Houses King Towers Lehman Village Lower East Side I Manhattanville Houses Polo Grounds Towers Riis Houses Robinson Houses **Rutgers Houses** Samuel Apartments Seward Park Extension Smith Houses Taft Houses Two Bridges Wagner Houses White/Washington Houses Wise Towers/WSURA

Queens

Astoria Houses
Beach 41st Houses
Forest Hills Cooperative
Hammel Houses
Latimer Gardens
Ocean Bay Apartments
(Bayside)
Pomonok Houses
Queensbridge North Houses
Ravenswood Houses
Redfern Houses
South Jamaica Houses
Woodside Houses

Staten Island

Berry Houses Mariner's Harbor Richmond Terrace South Beach Houses Stapleton Houses Todt Hill Houses West Brighton Plaza

PLAY IT SAFE THIS SUMMER

Beat the Heat

Extreme heat is no joke. Every summer, New Yorkers get sick from it, and it can even be fatal. Here are some important tips to deal with the heat this summer:

- Use an air conditioner when it's hot out, and use window shades to block the sun.
- If you do not have an air conditioner:
- Go to a cool place like a family or friend's home, library, shopping mall, or NYC Cooling Center (call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/311 for the location nearest you).
- Use a fan ONLY with the windows open.
- Drink lots of water, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid beverages with alcohol, caffeine, or high amounts of sugar.
- Cool showers or baths may be helpful, but avoid going from one extreme temperature to another.
- When outside:
 - Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes and a hat.
 - Wear sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher on your face.
 - Stay in the shade and out of direct sun.
 - Avoid strenuous activity.
- Never leave children, pets, or those who require special care in a parked car during periods of intense heat.
- Check in with family, friends, and neighbors often to see how they are doing.
- Visit **www.nyc.gov/beattheheat** for more information.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A FREE AC UNIT?

Through New York State's Home Energy Assistance Program, you may be eligible for funds for the purchase and installation of one air conditioner or fan – up to an \$800 benefit. This assistance is only available to households meeting the income guidelines and which include a household member with a documented medical condition that is worsened by extreme heat. Visit https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/ program.asp#cooling or call 800-342-3009 to see if you qualify and find out how to apply. Apply now through August 31 for this valuable benefit. A limited amount of funding is available, and assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

HEAT ILLNESS SYMPTOMS

- hot, dry skin OR cold, clammy skin
- weakness
- dizziness
- nausea or vomiting
- trouble breathing
- confusion, hallucinations, or disorientation

IS YOUR AIR CONDITIONER UNIT SAFE TO USE?

- All air conditioners must be safely installed, properly braced, and conform to the manufacturer's installation specifications.
- Do not use bricks, wood, cans, phone books, or any other object to support or level the AC unit.
- If you need info on proper installation or if you see an AC unit that appears to be improperly installed, call the CCC at 718-707-7771.
- During an apartment inspection, NYCHA staff will determine whether AC units and window guards are installed properly.

SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME Extension Cords

- Extension cords should not run under rugs or behind radiators, be nailed to walls, or be run through water.
- Replace old, damaged, or frayed extension cords.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Never use indoor extension cords outdoors.
- Use cords that are rated to handle the wattage of the devices that they're powering.
- Never use a cord that feels hot.

- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug.
- Don't plug extension cords together.

Window Guards

- NYCHA requires that every window in an apartment have a window guard, except windows that open onto fire escapes.
- If an air conditioner unit is being removed from a window, residents must notify Property Management prior to its removal so an appointment can be made to immediately install a window guard.
- Call the CCC immediately at 718-707-7771 if you believe that a window guard is not secure or installed properly; the L-shaped stops keeping the bottom window from opening too high are absent or installed improperly; or there are unguarded openings greater than 4½ inches anywhere in the window.

Barbecuing

- At some developments, NYCHA Property Management provides clean, safe areas for barbecuing on development grounds.
- The lessee must request permission from Property Management to barbecue on development grounds.
- Barbecue grills must be under the continuous care and direction of a person at least 18 years of age.
- Never use a charcoal grill indoors.

Crime Tips

- Report immediately any issues with building entrance doors and intercoms or lighting in common areas and grounds to the CCC at 718-707-7771.
- Call **911** in the event of an emergency or to report a possible crime.

WHO IS AT RISK FOR HEAT ILLNESS?

- People without air conditioning
- The elderly
- Children
- People with chronic illness or mental health condition
- People who are obese
- People who use drugs or drink heavily
- People who take certain medications (talk to your doctor for more info)

Preparing Your Home for Vacation

- Turn off all electrical appliances.
 Unplug televisions, computers, and appliances that are susceptible to lightning and power surges.
- Remove all perishable foods from the refrigerator and take out the garbage.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- Let a trusted neighbor know you will be away and have them keep an eye on your home; provide them with your vacation address and telephone number so you can be reached in case of an emergency.

Travel Safety Tips

- Make copies of your ID and passport in case either is lost or stolen. Bring a copy on your trip and store it separately from your original. Leave another copy with a friend or relative.
- Lost wallets are the leading cause of identity theft. Only carry the card(s) you plan to use on your trip. Keep your card's account info and customer service number in a hotel safe or other secure location in case you lose the card.
- Know your surroundings and plan your route in advance. Be aware of how local residents talk and dress, and consider whether certain actions will make you stand out as a tourist.
- Protect yourself from lightning, hail, thunderstorms, and tornadoes by monitoring the local weather and packing the appropriate gear.
- Posting photos or checking in on social media sites advertises your absence from home. Real-time updates can be tempting, but wait until you return home before sharing your vacation adventures.

