



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027  
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**JOINT CB 10 HOUSING & LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**SHATIC MITCHELL**  
District Manager

**Thursday, May 21, 2020i**  
**6:30 PM**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Charles Powell, Chair of the CB 10 Housing Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM and introduced first members of Housing & Land Use Committee Members in attendance.
- Housing Chair Powell, then asked for all other CB 10 Board Members to record their attendance in the Zoom Group Chat.
- Housing Chair Powell was asked to introduce newly appointed Board members who were in attendance and with the assistance of other Board members made the introductions.

2. Brief Statements (relating to Housing/Land Use) – Statements and Presentations Occurred Throughout the Meeting (Zoom Recording of these Statements, Questions and Comments are available to the Public Upon Request)

- Representatives of Elected Officials
  - ✓ Minah Whyte of office of NYS Assemblyman Al Taylor presented
  - ✓ Michelle Booker of the Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat presented
  - ✓ Rafael Escano of the office of NYC Councilman Bill Perkins presented
  - ✓ District Leader Cordelle Cleare presented
  - ✓ Shana Harmongoff of the Office of State Senator Brian Benjamin presented as a continuation of the presentation of the State Senator following his departure from the meeting
  - ✓ Each of the above presenters spoke to, and touched on issues relating to, and efforts being carried out by their respective offices relative to the Covid-19 Epidemic.
- Representatives of Government agencies & Community Partners
  - ✓ Donald Notice of the West Harlem Group Assistance Organization presented
  - ✓ Kenneth Morrison of Lemor Realty presented
  - ✓ Curtis Archer of Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) presented
  - ✓ Each of the above presentations touched on the current challenges to residential and commercial tenants (especially in affordable housing

developments) presented by Covid-19 and efforts to sustain and support residents and businesses while operating their housing and/or development portfolios

3. Special Guest Presentation of Hon. Brian Benjamin – State Senator

- Senator Benjamin was first asked to comment on the recent report regarding the disproportional impact of Covid-19 on residents of NYCHA housing (especially within his District where the Grant NYCHA Housing Development topped the city wide list of deaths within the development).
- Senator Benjamin was also asked and responded to several questions (including those posed by the Chair of Housing and Committee members Shanelle Washington and Donna Gill) regarding what efforts were being made by New York State to provide direct assistance to renters within our District and beyond.
- The Senator spoke of a series of bills pending within the State Senate and Assembly to provide Rental Support and questions were raised regarding the status of the New York State Emergency Rent Relief Act and other legislative efforts to support renters and small landlords suffering the economic ill effects of Covid-19.
- Committee members and the public expressed the sentiment (during this discussion) that not enough was being done (on the State, City and Federal levels) to address the plight of tenants who are not able to pay rent due to loss of employment, illness and other situations and circumstances relating to Covid-19.
- Michelle Booker, Board member and representative of Congressman Espaillat spoke of the efforts of her office to create legislation in the most recent Federal stimulus package (the HEROES Act) and that this legislation proposed creating a fund of 100 Billion Dollars of emergency rental assistance and a more lengthy eviction moratorium.
- Donald Notice of West Harlem Group Assistance Organization spoke of his organization's contact and discussions with New York City Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in obtaining more Section 8 subsidies and vouchers for residents who have been impacted by Covid-19 and it was recommended by Committee members and by members of the public that CB 10 Housing Committee schedule a meeting with HPD (on the Commissioner level) to discuss this and other ways in which this Agency can be off assistance to renters.
- Rafael Escano of the office of Councilman Bill Perkins indicated that he and his office can be of assistance in convening the meeting with HPD.
- It is the intention of the CB 10 Housing Committee to schedule such a meeting with high level representatives of HPD and invite senior representatives our June Committee meeting.

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

- Housing Committee Vice-Chair Donna Gill announced a legal clinic for tenants to be sponsored by CB 10 and the A. Philip Randolph Square Neighborhood Alliance and held on June 16, 2020. It will be a Zoom call (information to follow).

6. Adjournment – At 8:45 PM