

**Testimony from NYCHA’s Chief Operating Officer Eva Trimble**  
***Doors, Locks, and Lights: the Infrastructure of Resident Safety at NYCHA***  
**Committee on Public Housing with the Committee on Aging**  
**Thursday, November 30, 2023 – 1 p.m.**  
**New York City Hall Council Chambers**

Chairs Alexa Avilés and Crystal Hudson, members of the committees on Public Housing and Aging, other distinguished members of the City Council, NYCHA residents, community advocates, and members of the public: good afternoon. I am Eva Trimble, NYCHA’s Chief Operating Officer. I am pleased to be joined by Shaan Mavani, Chief Asset and Capital Management Officer; Lauren Gray, Senior Vice President of Quality Assurance, Safety, and Technical Programs; and Chief James Secreto, Vice President for Public Safety and Security.

The safety of residents is a fundamental part of our mission, so thank you for this opportunity to discuss our efforts to enhance the safety and security of NYCHA developments.

**Safety Infrastructure at NYCHA Developments**

We recognize the important role of security cameras and other security enhancements like layered access controls and exterior lighting, so we are always seeking funding to increase the scale of these measures across our portfolio. Since 2014, NYCHA has expended about \$600 million on cameras and other security infrastructure – funding that’s generously provided by City Council members and other elected officials, including the Manhattan District Attorney, as well as through initiatives like the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety.

More than 18,500 CCTV cameras are currently installed at NYCHA developments across the city – they are placed strategically at building entrances, roof landings, stairwells, and other exterior and interior areas where illegal activity could occur or unauthorized entrants could gain access. When installing sidewalk sheds for public protection or other structures, we always try to have them designed to minimize blocking security cameras or creating dark, unsafe spaces. If we learn about a camera or lighting that inadvertently becomes blocked due to sidewalk shedding or any other obstruction, we immediately work to re-position the camera, lighting, or obstruction to a new location.

In the past decade, NYCHA has installed nearly 10,000 exterior lights at 87 developments. We've also installed layered access controls – new entrance intercoms, key fobs, and doors – at more than 400 buildings across 80 developments.

Considering the massive capital needs across the Authority – currently totaling more than \$78 billion – we appreciate the funding from the Council and other partners which enables us to install these vital quality of life and security enhancements. To help maintain our investments in layered access controls and ensure their functionality, we issued protocols for staff on monitoring and repairing damaged doors promptly, work that is both costly and time consuming. Our protocol is to also alert the NYPD in the event of a nonfunctioning door.

### **Collaborating on Safety and Security**

NYCHA's Office of Safety and Security is dedicated to the safety of residents, through its monitoring of security systems and policies as well as partnerships with experts like the NYPD. We work closely with the NYPD on many aspects of crime prevention and security enhancement, including the placement of CCTV cameras and exterior lighting.

The Office of Safety and Security is also working with property management and resident leadership to assess potential safety hazards at our properties through inspections – as well as the analysis of data, reports, and resident input – to develop solutions for any issues.

### **Addressing Intrinsic Challenges to Make Progress for Residents**

As we strive to address the growing challenges of aging buildings that have not received the investment they've needed for decades, the safety and quality of life of residents remain at the heart of our mission.

We appreciate the support of our partners, including the NYPD and the City Council, as we work with residents to foster safe communities at NYCHA. We are especially thankful for funding from Council Members for security enhancements such as cameras, exterior lights, and layered access controls. We hope that you will continue to partner with us on these efforts, as we need funding to not only install this infrastructure but also to maintain it.

Although we commit all available resources and work with our partners to promote the safety of NYCHA communities, there is always more that can and must be done. Thank you for your support as we continue to make progress for residents. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.