

Russell Squire  
Chair

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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

November 18, 2021

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
The City of New York  
City Hall Street  
New York, NY 10007

Kathy Hochul  
Governor  
New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Eric Adams  
Mayor-Elect  
Brooklyn Borough Hall  
209 Joralemon  
Brooklyn, NY, 11201

Gregory Russ  
Chairman  
New York City Housing  
250 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Cyrus Vance Jr.  
Manhattan District Attorney  
New York County  
1 Hogan Pl  
New York, NY, 10013

Alvin Bragg  
Manhattan DA - Elect  
New York County  
1 Hogan Pl  
New York, NY, 10013

**RE: New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Reform Proposal from the Community**

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Governor Kathy Hochul, Mayor-Elect Eric Adams, Chairman Gregory Russ, District Attorney Cyrus Vnace jr, and District Attorney-Elect Alvin Bragg:

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on November 17, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 45 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS**, the EPA defines environmental justice as the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies” and is characterized by having “the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards” and “equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work,” we believe that it is a form of social justice,

**WHEREAS**, NYCHA residents are our neighbors, and many are first responders who continue to serve our NYC community through COVID, and we are concerned that NYCHA disrepair exposes or exacerbates health conditions among these members of our community. We also acknowledge there is disparities in housing protections between NYCHA residents and non-NYCHA residents,

**WHEREAS**, public health evidence has established that prevention is cheaper and more effective than treatment, we should apply the same philosophy to housing. However, we have let the health of our NYCHA buildings deteriorate, and consequently this impacts the health of NYCHA residents. We believe that the solution to this harm is to commit to a serious course of “treatment” while implementing a “prevention plan” to remediate NYCHA building repairs,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we call upon the NYC Council, State legislature, and Congress to prioritize and fully fund NYCHA housing and renovations such that the housing is modernized, and negative health impacts are minimized.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we call on **Governor Hochul**, the incoming NYC mayor, **NYCHA**, and **NYC administration** to address the following urgent issues:

- NYCHA residents are the best experts of their needs and NYCHA should partner with residents to initiate, direct, and implement the future of NYCHA initiatives. Residents must be empowered to lead and meaningfully integrated in any major decision making, in addition to the CCOP-RAB,
- The next NYCHA Chair should have lived experience with NYCHA housing.
- Prioritize the oversight, monitoring, and enforcement of NYCHA regulations and housing law, including NYCHA’s legal responsibility to respond to tickets within 24 hours and complete work as soon as possible to return homes to habitability,
- Implement the recommendations of NYCHA Federal Monitor Bart M. Schwartz as detailed in the reports on the federal monitor’s website, <https://nychamonitor.com/>.
- Prioritize and fully fund NYCHA housing and renovations such that the housing is modernized, and negative health impacts are minimized by starting with the buildings producing the greatest harm.
- Transform ground floor space for commercial purposes to provide residents with needed services and use the profits to support residential programs and repairs.
- Keep people housed when renovations are happening and do not displace them as we believe in the principle that communities need to be kept together,
- Change NYCHA regulations so residents’ rights are honored and afforded the same rights as any other tenant.
- Transition to resident management cooperation model for tenant groups that choose to do so.
- Fund training NYCHA residents on their rights under 24 CFR 964.
- Properly sequence repair work to ensure its efficacy, send out appropriate service providers for the problem (competence), and appropriately conduct all NYCHA building inspections and fully inspect individual apartments before they are transitioned.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we call on the incoming Manhattan District Attorney to hold NYCHA accountable to the law and investigate corruption and violations of law, audit NYCHA expenditures, and hold vendors and contractors to NYCHA accountable for their contracts.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

*Sarah Chu and Saundra I. Coleman*

Russell Squire  
Chair

Sarah Chu and Saundra I. Coleman  
Co-Chairs, Social Justice Committee

cc: Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District