



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. Frank Franz, Committee Chairperson

The Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting met on Thursday, April 22, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members were present: Nicole Carter, Matthew Martinez, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Carmen Rivera, and Jacquetta Whaley.

The following item was discussed:

- Department of Housing Preservation and Development

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development informed us about their NYC Housing Connect portal that individuals can use to find and apply for affordable housing opportunities across the City. NYC Housing Connect portal was developed in 2013. In July 2020, they launched a new version based on the user's feedbacks and designed the website to make the affordable housing application process easier, more accessible, and user-friendly. In addition to new affordable rentals, the new portal also host homeownership opportunities and re-rentals of affordable homes that went through the lottery previously. Individuals will also be able to customize their housing search by filtering for the right opportunities directly on the portal, searching by borough, income, household size, and more. There is also an enhancement in the application process where the applicants will receive assistance calculating their income accurately to determine what they are eligible for at the start. The new portal has a mobile-friendly design that allows individuals to apply easily from the convenience of their phone or tablet and a streamlined selection process that allows applicants to submit documents electronically, receive real-time alerts for important deadlines, and move through the process faster. Individuals are still able to view their log numbers on existing applications using their old account credentials on the old portal, however, they have to make a new account on the new portal to apply to the open lotteries because the information will not be carried over. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development also informed us that the new portal has a learn tab that allow individuals to learn how to use NYC Housing Connect through training videos. It was also advised that to visit the portal frequently to check for new developments and emails for application updates. Individuals are still able to request a paper application from the developers if prefer.