

**(PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL)**

**HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 24, 2022 @ 7PM**

**Held Virtual via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Members: S. Vasquez (Chair); L. Chong, I DeLeon, J. Reyes

Absent Members: T. Morris

Guests: None

Mr. Vasquez called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM>

Mr. Vasquez introduced himself to the Committee members as a newly appointed Chair. He stated he will be leaning on current committee members for support and assistance to make sure meetings and logistics are properly addressed. He also stated he is a member of law enforcement employed with NYPD for approximately 10 years in West Harlem.

Other Committee members introduced themselves:

Ms. Chong stated she had been a Community Committee Member and helped with the publication of the current Housing Guide. She is a newly appointed Community Board members. She also serves on the Aging Committee and is co-chair of the Riverdale Senior Services Social Action Committee (SAC). Her work experience include two stints at HPD, several non-profits dealing with housing development and retired from the Manhattan Borough President's Office as Director of Land Use, Housing and Development. Currently she service on housing advocacy boards that deal with affordable housing. Previously, she has been involved with the following Community Boards: Mn CB 9 (member and Board Chair); Mn CB 11 (Community resident member); and Bx CB 3 (Community resident member).

Ms. Reyes stated she has been on CB 8 for quite a few years. Has been on the Housing committee and Land Use committee. She is a realtor working in Westchester, the Bronx, and Manhattan.

Ms. DeLeon is new the Board and looks forward to learning the issues.

**Discussion of Proposed Initiatives:**

1) Mr. Vasquez – increase outreach and make sure information /assistance is reaching those who need it. Stressed importance of participating at events. Be more pro-active within CB 8.

2) Ms. Chong brought up NYCHA Preservation Trust Town Hall Meeting and was wondering if Tony Edwards could provide insight.

3) Perception that CB 8 is wealthy: NOT TRUE. We have rental housing and majority is rent regulated. We should reach out to local non-profit advocacy organizations such as Northwest Bronx Community Clergy Coalition, University Heights Neighborhood Association, Housing First, Right to Counsel, etc.

4) Ms. Reyes mentioned working with Land Use re; Affordable Housing. She also issued a correction: confusion of roles of Ted Morris and Tony Edwards. Ms. Reyes recommended reaching out to Mr. Edwards re: Town Hall Meetings.

5) Ms. Chong mentioned the Visitation Site. Is the housing portion being offered really affordable housing? Does the CB have a say in the breakdown? Is Federal dollars being used to develop this site? If not, no need for Federal AMI. WE should discuss other means of determining affordability: i.e. CB 8 Census Tracts AMI. Need for the CB to get other players involved: Borough President, City Council and other elected officials. Ms. Reyes proposed starting a dialog with elected officials to consider

modifying use of AMI. Ms. Chong inquired as to who our Bronx City Planning representative is who could help in getting income data. Ms. Reyes stated that the Special Committee of Racial Equality created info that may show this data.

**Chair's Report:**

- 1) No September meeting due to holidays.
- 2) Summer complaint: living conditions at NYCHA development (125 West 228<sup>th</sup> Street). With CB outreach to elected officials, NYCHA reps and Tenants Council were able to resolve the issue. (Thank you Ciara, Pablo and Madame Chair).
- 3) On June 18 we tabled at the Marble Hill event and on August 20 we did the same for Family Day. Great outreach.
- 4) On October 6 we partnered with CM Eric Dinowitz's office and HPD – HPD informational van was set up in the district and provided housing resources.

**Old Business:**

- 1) Discussion on status of old Minutes
- 2) Ms. Reyes recommended CB 8 and Housing Committee should conduct a Housing Fair in the Spring.

**New Business: (Recap)**

- 1) NYCHA Preservation Trust
- 2) Work with Land Use Committee on affordable housing and AMI
- 3) Housing Fair
- 4) Mayor's Office of Tenant Protection (for 11/28 meeting)
- 5) Restructuring of AMI
- 6) Update Resource Guide
- 7) Continuation of discussion regarding AMI
- 8) Mr. Vasquez brought up issue of language barrier and need for Spanish translation. Ms. Reyes said she can provide assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44PM.

Next Meeting to be held on November 28, 2022 at 7PM via Zoom.

Prepared by Lee Chong

Submitted by Stephen Vasquez