

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023, AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

A recording of this meeting is available via YouTube, linked here: <https://youtu.be/AlF7Jlml18>

ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present: L. Chong (Chair), J. Reyes

Committee Members Absent: I. DeLeon

CB8 Members/Staff: L. Szabados, E. Green, D. Padernacht

Guest: Amalgamated Board members/Residents; E. Yaker, K. Johns, J. Spiegel, R. Scott, J. Gonzalez, J. Lastarria, Nearly one hundred Amalgamated residents and community residents (see Zoom video)

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Chong called the meeting to order at 7:05PM

Roll call was conducted – noting quorum. Introductions of all were had.

CHAIR'S REPORT

FY25 Housing committee budgets submitted, as discussed, and approved at the March meeting.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY AND MARCH MINUTES

The Committee (Motion by L. Chong, Seconded by J. Reyes) unanimously approved the minutes for January 2023 and March 2023.

DISCUSSION OF LOCAL LAW 152 AND 97

Local Law 152 (LL 152) of 2016 requires that, commencing on January 1, 2019, building gas piping systems shall be periodically inspected at least once every five years.

Local Law 97 (LL 97) requires large -over 25,000 square feet- existing buildings in New York City (NYC) reduce their emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. It targets existing buildings and requires owners to invest in renovation and retrofitting to make their buildings more energy efficient, and the NYC Accelerator Program (reduce greenhouse gas emissions).

An inspection of certain buildings within the Amalgamated Houses (Amalgamated) revealed non-emergency deficiencies within their gas piping requiring repair. Amalgamated was given notice to repair such deficiencies or turn off the gas to the affected buildings by July 1, 2023,

Concerns regarding the need for at least a one-year extension to obtain adequate financing to proceed with repairs and renovation to be in compliance with Local Law 152 (not withstanding Local Law 97, along with request that the Department of Buildings (DOB) stay enforcement of LL152.

The attendees voiced their worry of public health, safety, and welfare concerns if they are forced to turn off their gas – over eight hundred (800) apartments at Amalgamated Houses would be affected.

The attendees were urged to contact their local elected officials with their concerns, Councilman E. Dinowitz (718) 549-7300/(212) 788-7080 and were provided information on agencies that may be of assistance: New York City Accelerator (212) 656-9202, Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and New York State (NYS) Housing and Community Renewal (HCR).

The attendees were given information on Councilman E. Dinowitz zoom forum, being supported by Community Board 8 on May 16, 2023, on the issues discussed this evening - LL152.

With the assistance of Board member D. Padernacht, a resolution was drafted in support of Amalgamated Houses, and similar impacted developments, in support to:

1. Urge the Department of Buildings to extend the date for Amalgamated Houses, as well as all other similarly impacted developments, to comply with LL152 for one year.
2. Urge all elected officials to aid in securing public financing and preservation for Amalgamated Houses, and similarly impacted developments, through funding sources such as Housing Development Corporation and NYS Housing and Community Renewal.
3. Asks that our elected officials contemplate legislation of a carve-out in Local Law 152 within six months of notice of non-emergency deficiencies in their gas-piping systems.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – none

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

Minutes Recorded by,

Julie Reyes, Housing Committee Member

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Chong

Chairperson, Housing Committee