

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

TO: BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
FROM: DARIS B. JACKSON, CHAIR, HOUSING COMMITTEE
DATE: MARCH 5, 2020
RE: MEETING HELD ON 2/24/2020, FT. INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Jackson, P. Ellis, G. Santiago, J. Reyes, J. Townes

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

L. Lopez, T. Pardo

GUESTS PRESENT:

D. Gellman (CB8), T. Borrero, S.E. Guzman, T. Reets, R. Rodriguez, K. Figueroa, E. Burgos, M. Rosa, A. Rodriguez, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez,

Daris B. Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

- 1. Having a quorum at 7:15 pm, the January, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.**
- 2. Introduction of Guests**
- 3. Discussion led by J. Townes** – CB8 and Housing Committee member J. Townes attended meetings during January and February, 2020 and submitted a memo regarding housing security and The Tenant Protection Act of 2019. A discussion was held, and Ms. Townes submitted a memo to the committee summarizing the goals of the legislation, and references regarding rent stabilization and rent control, the NYS HCR Office of Rent Administration of 2019 Annual Report, an overview of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, and information on how to file for overcharges. The memo submitted by Ms. Townes to the Housing Committee will be annexed to this report and will remain on file with Community Board 8.
- 4. Translation of Housing Resource Guide** – Discussion was held on the translation of the Housing Resource Guide from English to Spanish. Committee members were updated on the process, and the current bids by translation service providers. While the committee was advised by D. Jackson that our role at this point is advisory, The Committee highlighted that the current version of the Housing Resource Guide does not contain the updates presented on by Ms. Townes at the start of the meeting; as such, a review of the Housing Resource Guide will be conducted prior to submission for translation, to include an addendum with the new laws and resources.
 - Discussion on whether the translation service will offer discounts for translation to further languages in the 2020-2021 session.
- 5. Discussion was held regarding financial assistance for Lead Paint removal** – As per HPD the current grants and other financial assistance are available to home/unit owners, and not residents directly.

- 6. Discussion – Partnership with Aging Committee on Department of Finance financial assistance and grants for Seniors**
 - Committee members expressed willingness to partner with Aging Committee – possibly for April Meeting – would need to be at a time that considers the participants and the committee members’ schedules and availability.
- 7. Discussion – Revision of the proposed Housing Committee Community Event.**
 - Julie Reyes will assist the Committee Chair on revising the event
 - Committee Members expressed significant interest in a possible collaboration with the Economic Development Committee regarding this event.
- 8. Budget**
 - The Agenda was orally amended to reflect that the budget discussions are regarding FY2022.
 - Follow-up with Marble Hill Community Center, Ft. Independence, NYCHA, DOB, and other agencies regarding budget requests.
 - Committee meeting for March, 2020 will be moved from Community Board Office to Marble Hill Community Center.
- 9. Update on Homeless Population in Brust Park**
 - DHS Outreach Services were provided. Will continue to monitor.
- 10. Discussion – Shooting of NYCHA Supervisor by NYCHA employee at Ft. Independence Houses.** Committee will follow-up with Public Safety Committee and the 50th Pct regarding status
- 11. NEW BUSINESS -**
 - Guest T. Borrero raised issue of line B of Ft. Independence Houses not having gas for over a month. Discussion was had – Committee Chair Jackson spoke with Ft. Independence management, who informed the gas line modification will be completed by mid-March, 2020; in the interim, tenants in line B were given electric hotplates for cooking. G. Santiago informed affected tenants to inquire about possible reimbursements for food during the gas outage.
 - G. Santiago raised issues regarding replacement stoves and ovens at Marble Hill that may either be faulty, or may have faulty investigation – discussion was held on the issue.
- 12. Having no further business...**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.