

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 29, 2009 AT THE BOARD OFFICE

#### PRESENT

Thomas Durham  
Anthony Creaney  
Tracy Feerick  
Beverly Fettman  
Philip Friedman  
Thomas Giallorenzi  
James Plaza  
Candice Giove  
Deborah Kraus  
Howard Leventhal  
Howard Levinger  
Robin Newman  
Lynn Schwarz

#### AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
Riverdale Review  
Park Reservoir Housing  
Park Reservoir Housing  
Park Reservoir Housing  
Fort Independence Neighborhood Association

I. Introductions  
Board Members

II. Brief Chairs Report:

T. Durham informed of the following changes to the agenda:

1. The representatives from the Promenade Apartments will not be in attendance but will be at the March meeting.
2. The new subcommittee on abandoned and vacant properties will not convene due to the absence of Community Board 8's Chairman Damian McShane, who is ill with the flu, and the absence of Ari Goldman. A new date will be set. However, the Chair of the subcommittee, Phil Friedman will give us a brief outline of the Committee's goals.
3. Due to the fact that most in attendance are interested in the issue regarding the supportive housing at 3882 Cannon Place and the reinstatement of the Stop Work Order, the committee will take up this matter in substitution of items removed from the agenda.

III. Agenda

1. Subcommittee Regarding Problem Properties in the Community.

Subcommittee Chairman Friedman explained the goals of the committee: to take a proactive approach in identifying the owners of abandoned construction properties, sites, lots, vacant buildings (new & old), and vacated stores/commercial businesses. The committee will learn the scope of the problem throughout the community and move to take the best course of action using all tools available to help change the trend. The committee should have a formal report by April.

2. Chain Link vs. Plywood Fences.

There was mixed reaction to the Department of Buildings Commissioner Thomas A. Fariello's order for installation of only chain link fencing for construction sites in the community and it prompted further

discussion. It was concluded that each case should be handled accordingly, with the best type of fencing suitable, depending on the construction activity, lot size, etc.

### 3. Update on Cannon Place.

The residents of Van Cortlandt Village (VCV) and Kingsbridge Heights (KBH) attended the meeting in large numbers to hear the explanation for the SWO removal from the 3882 Cannon Place (supportive housing) construction site. Buildings Commissioner Fariello stated he believes that the developer, Mr. Fernandez, had acquired the Volunteers of America (VOA) as the necessary not-for-profit-organization partnership to meet the requirements of the filed Building's application. The residents and members of the committee discussed many ideas on ways to oppose the project at this point. The committee agreed to conduct a letter writing campaign, news publicity, and physically protesting the construction site. Most of the residents agreed to engage in all of the measures set forth. The Chairman agreed to their ideas but will still put in the request where the VOA appears on the application as a partner. Without the not-for-profit- organization, the R4 zoning variance would never nor should have been granted. The application with the VOA or lack of the VOA will determine what actions and direction this Committee should take.

## IV. New Business

Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2011.

## V. Adjourn Meeting

Next meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2009.

Submitted by,

Thomas Durham  
Chairman  
Housing Committee

TD:pm  
3/30/09