

NYCHA Announces NextGen Neighborhoods



Staff from NYCHA's Community Development Department met with residents at Holmes Towers as part of the ongoing resident engagement process.

Since the launch of NYCHA's 10-year strategic plan, NextGeneration NYCHA, the Authority has debuted key pieces of our strategy to address our chronic operating deficit and \$17 billion in unmet capital needs.

In September, we continued the rollout of our strategic plan with the introduction of NextGeneration (NextGen) Neighborhoods, a program to build 50 percent market rate and 50 percent affordable housing units on underutilized NYCHA land. This program will generate funds to reinvest in capital needs across NYCHA's portfolio as well as build more affordable housing.

The first two designated NextGen Neighborhoods are Wyckoff Gardens in Boerum

Hill, Brooklyn, and Holmes Towers on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

At Holmes Towers, about 930 residents live in nearly 540 units in two 25-story buildings on 2.81 acres of land. Completed in 1969, the development has nearly \$47 million in capital repair needs in the next five years. The proposal for Holmes Towers is to construct one mixed-income housing building consisting of about 350-400 units (175-200 units of which would be affordable).

At Wyckoff Gardens, about 1,150 residents live in nearly 530 units in three 21-story buildings on 5.81 acres of land. Completed in 1966, the development has nearly \$45 million in capi-

tal repair needs in the next five years. The proposal for

Wyckoff Gardens is to replace two underutilized parking lots with mixed-income housing buildings consisting of about 550-650 units (225-325 of which would be affordable).

Meetings with the developments and community began in September and will continue in October, employing the resident engagement model launched last fall at Van Dyke, Ingersoll and Mott Haven that resulted in the visioning plans for those three

(cont. p. 2)

Launching the Fund for Public Housing



Seeking patrons and supporters for NYCHA's programs can be a tall order. The Monroe Houses basketball court was refurbished last June with support from NBA basketball star and former NYCHA resident Carmelo Anthony. Office of Public/Private Partnerships Director Rasmia Kirmani-Frye (at left) reaches out to famous NYCHA alumni, among others, for assistance. With her (l-r) are Councilmember Marcos Crespo, Carmelo Anthony, GM Michael Kelly, and Monroe Houses RA President Carlos Mora. See story on p. 4.

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Why did NYCHA give Caretaker Victor Cortes a check for \$1,000? See p. 3.

NYCHA Notes

Congratulations on the following recent appointments and promotions.



Janet Abrahams recently joined NYCHA as Vice President of Operations overseeing the Optimal Property Management Operating Model (OPMOM) program. The success of this pilot effort to improve basic maintenance and repair service is critical to the management and progress of our NextGeneration NYCHA goals. Ms. Abrams comes to NYCHA from the Newark Housing Authority, where she served as Chief Operating Officer for nine years.

Prior to joining the Newark Housing Authority, Ms. Abrahams worked for the Chicago Housing Authority as the Assistant Director of Operations.



Stacey Charles joined NYCHA as the Director of the Enterprise Program Management Office. Ms. Charles is principally responsible for driving the implementation of the NextGeneration NYCHA transformation plan by overseeing a portfolio of strategic initiatives which represent top organizational priorities and tracking success in terms of outcomes achieved, savings realized and revenues generated. Formerly, she served as Executive

Director of the Project Management Office at the NYC Human Resources Administration, where she led a re-engineering effort for City Borough Offices.



Lakesha Miller, formerly the Director of Client Services for Leased Housing, was appointed Vice President of Leased Housing. Ms. Miller will oversee the day-to-day operations of all services and HUD-required activities for the Section 8 program. She will be responsible for ensuring NYCHA's compliance with all HUD regulations in the administration of the Section 8 program, quality assurance, strategic planning, operational improvements, Siebel

process and system improvements, and staff development.



Sideya Sherman, formerly Director of the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), was promoted to Vice President for Strategy and Partnership in the Office of the EVP for Community Programs and Development. In her new position, Ms. Sherman will support the transition of Community Programs and Development Department to a partnership-based, collective impact service model as outlined in NextGeneration NYCHA. In her prior position,

Ms. Sherman played an integral role in the early design of the "Zone Model," a partnership-based framework for connecting public housing residents to economic opportunity and critical programs and services.



Cindi Steinmetz, formerly Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, was promoted to Director of Accounting Operations. Ms. Steinmetz is responsible for the oversight of the accounts payable division and prevailing wage certification group. Ms. Steinmetz also functions as the relationship manager and asset manager of NYCHA's mixed-finance portfolio, consisting of 21 developments (LLC I and LLC II) ensuring

compliance with all regulatory requirements.

NextGen Neighborhoods (cont.)

developments which included Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the creation of 100 percent affordable housing.

Following the conclusion and evaluation of the current resident engagement pro-

cess, NYCHA plans to issue RFPs that reflect the communities' input for the construction of approximately 1,000 units of affordable housing at Wykoff Gardens and Holmes Towers.



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Interim Appointments

EVP for Legal Affairs and General Counsel **David Farber** is serving as interim EVP for Administration and Chief Administrative Officer.

Vice President for Disaster Recovery **Michael Rosen** is serving as interim EVP for Capital Projects.

A Proud Tradition Continues



Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye, with DeCarlo award winner Victor Cortes to her left in photo and runner-up Roberto Rodriguez to her right. HR Director Kenya Salaudeen is to the left of Mr. Cortes, and the remaining individuals are recipients of Certificates of Merit for their service (see full list in below box).

The John DeCarlo memorial Award — NYCHA’s premier employee prize — was presented on September 18 to two outstanding caretakers whose job dedication best perpetuates the legacy of the renowned caretaker for whom the award is named.

To the applause of proud family and management department members gathered in the Ceremonial Room at 250 Broadway, Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye presented a \$1,000 check to Monroe Houses Caretaker Victor M. Cortes and a \$500 check to runner-up Johnson Houses Caretaker Roberto Rodriguez.

The caretakers were selected out of over 50 nominees from all five boroughs for embodying the qualities of the beloved Caretaker John DeCarlo, who lost his life on duty at Marlboro Houses in 1997.

“It’s important both to remember the legacy of John DeCarlo and acknowledge the hard work of men and women that make our developments livable everyday,” Chair Olatoye said in presenting the awards.

In welcoming remarks, Human Resources Director Kenya Salaudeen recounted some of the qualities and stories about John DeCarlo that

have entered into Authority lore. “Always arriving at work on time and rarely taking time off, John’s quiet qualities and large size earned him the nickname of ‘gentle giant,’” she said. “Through his service



Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye with award winner Victor Cortes.

to residents, John exemplified the outstanding level of dedication that NYCHA now seeks to recognize each year through the John DeCarlo Memorial Award.”

In thanking NYCHA for the award, Mr. Cortes — who has served as caretaker for 50 years at the same development — remarked: “I feel like I am a role model for the new generation of caretakers. I encourage them to keep working hard because there are lots of opportunities here to serve residents and provide for your family.” (For more about Mr. Cortes, see p. 6).

Roberto Rodriguez — who was honored as runner-up

for the second consecutive year — recalled first putting on a NYCHA uniform at the age of 16 as a Summer Youth Employment Program participant. “This job takes hard work and dedication and that is what we all showed,” he said, referring to this year’s winner as well as the 12 caretakers from among the nominees honored with Certificates of Merit.

Praise for Honorees

Senior Vice President for Operations Brian Clarke told all the honorees, “It’s wonderful that you keep John DeCarlo’s spirit alive everyday in what you do.”

Bronx Property Management Department (PMD) Director Melania Allen and Brooklyn PMD Director Phil Calendrillo also thanked the honorees. Ms. Allen recalled “how well-loved John DeCarlo was” and noted that “just to be nominated for the DeCarlo prize is an honor.”

“Victor is a very hard worker who stays late and also encourages others to work at a higher level,” said Monroe Houses Property Manager Ricardo Rodriguez. “He makes my job and the superintendent’s job much easier.”

In closing remarks, Ms. Salaudeen announced that a

plaque would be permanently installed at Monroe House in recognition of the 2015 John DeCarlo Memorial Award’s presentation to Victor Cortes. Ms. Salaudeen also acknowledged the many supervisors who took the time to recognize outstanding caretakers by preparing commendation memos and completing the nomination forms.

“It is so important to document outstanding performance,” she said. “Let’s all try to catch someone doing something good and take the time to write commendation memos for deserving employees. The person you recognize and encourage might be a future DeCarlo Award winner.”

Certificates of Excellence

Vick V. Aduware
Gowanus Houses
Raymonde Archer
Beach 41st Houses
Valeriy Ashurov
Sheepshead/Nostrand
Nelson Batista
Stapleton Houses
Angeline Boyd
Garvey Houses
Andres Cruz
Ft. Independence
Gregory Cruz
Sheepshead/Nostrand
Cecilio Diaz
Wald Houses
Hector Guerra
Astoria Houses
Maximo Jimenez
Astoria Houses
Melvyn Nieves
Twin Parks Consolidated
Brian Vargas
Clinton Houses

Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has presented NYCHA with its prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its current budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the Authority as it reflects the commitment of NYCHA's leadership and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

Along with the award, a Certificate of Recognition has been sent to NYCHA's Department of Budget and Financial Planning, which prepares the annual budget.

NYCHA's FY 2015 Budget Book was evaluated by an independent panel of budget experts and was rated on 27 criteria, including its effectiveness as a policy statement,



From left are: Tracey Smith, Deputy Director for Capital Budget and Revenue; Hector Ramos, Deputy Director for Operating Expenses; Department of Budget and Financial Planning Director Georgiana Okoroji; Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye; Supervisor for Central Offices Arlene Nieves; and Sungwoo Kim, Deputy Director for Central Office and Labor.

financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. The document is an important part of NYCHA's efforts to achieve transparency and provide clear information to the public on NYCHA's operations.

"The GFOA's recognition is a tribute to our highly dedicated Budget and Financial Planning staff, and the assistance we receive from many NYCHA departments," said EVP

& Chief Financial Officer Richard Couch. "Their collective efforts reflect our commitment to provide the public with a clear and complete budget."

A formal presentation of the award in the NYCHA Board Room will be scheduled for early next year.

Launching the Fund for Public Housing (cont.)

Rasmia Kirmani-Frye, the Director of NYCHA's Office of Public/Private Partnerships, has been hard at work launching the Fund for Public Housing, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

A key NextGeneration NYCHA strategy, the Fund will increase investment in NYCHA communities, making them safer, cleaner, and more connected. It will be an important part of NYCHA's transformation from direct service provision to a partnership-based service structure.

The Fund will launch in the coming months, building on current innovative partnerships and creating new ones, with the goal of raising \$50 million in its first year to invest in NYCHA and its residents. The Fund is already recruiting an inaugural Board of Direc-

tors; in October, NYCHA will be posting the application for two resident Board members on the NYCHA website. It is vital to the success of the Fund's mission that residents' voices be well represented.

The Office of Public/Private Partnerships wants to

strengthen the Board. One resident Board member will be chosen from a pool of applicants between the ages of 18 and 24 to develop leadership among younger NYCHA residents, and the other Board member can be over age 18. The resident Board members, working with the entire Board, will advise the

Fund.

"We are reaching out to residents to serve as Board members to ensure that we have strong input from the public housing community," said Ms. Kirmani-Frye. "Public housing residents also can provide an extremely valuable network of supporters who can help us generate interest and resources that will enable unique partnerships and innovations to invest in public housing."

Employees can let potentially interested residents know that the application for Board member positions and more detailed information will be online in mid-October, and should encourage them to apply. The position is a volunteer role that will require a commitment of approximately 10 hours per month, including one Board meeting each quarter. Feel free to email Ms. Kirmani-Frye or call her at 212-306-8210 with questions.



The Food Business Pathways program is the kind of partnership that the Fund would like to increase. Above are proud graduates at the second graduating class of the program, in March.

hear from all interested residents about how they would like to contribute their unique

Fund on achieving its goals and will create a network of resident-led support for the

A True, New NYCHA Development Plan

The following op-ed piece by Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye was published in the Sept. 28, 2015, issue of Gotham Gazette.

Public housing has been an integral feature of New York City life since Fiorello La Guardia opened the doors of First Houses 80 years ago, and roughly five percent of the city's population lives in public housing today. As a landlord, NYCHA manages buildings, but our real service is to people — the 615,000 residents who live in our developments and our Section 8 voucher holders.

We are doing everything we can to ensure the long-term survival and health of public housing in New York City. This includes new, creative solutions to major challenges.

We face immense financial obstacles as NYCHA struggles to repair and maintain our buildings and grounds. We can no longer delay making difficult, critical choices about how we operate, how we are financed, and how we rebuild and rehabilitate our 328 developments. To avoid the fate of other housing authorities across the country, NYCHA must find innovative solutions to maintain and improve our properties.

Due in part to federal and state disinvestment, the city is investing more than ever to craft solutions that bring about real change. We are doing this because we recognize the simple truth that we have an ethical responsibility to provide and sustain affordable housing for our city's low-income populations.

Today, just 18 percent of

the land on NYCHA's 328 developments is used to house residents. Using some of that land to develop new mixed-income housing can generate significant funds benefiting local and citywide NYCHA residents, as well as those in the surrounding community. We call these devel-



Staff met with residents at Ingersoll Houses last fall to develop visioning plans for the creation of 100 percent affordable housing.

opments NextGen Neighborhoods because they provide the funding we need to create the safe, clean, connected communities that we envision in our 10-year strategic plan, NextGeneration NYCHA.

This isn't the first time NYCHA has proposed developing market-rate housing on our properties, but it is the first time resident engagement has been made integral to the process. And the first time an administration has pledged to ensure that just as many units of affordable housing are built as market-rate housing.

This 50/50 model will

ensure a significant percentage of the proceeds from the affordable and market-rate buildings will be provided to each development for residents to invest back into building new kitchens, fixing the root causes of leakage, and other priorities. The remaining funds will be

funneled by NYCHA into making improvements across NYCHA's portfolio.

Our strategic plan aims to preserve this precious resource of public housing for the next generation of New Yorkers. NextGen Neighborhoods is just one of the 15 initiatives we outlined in the plan to rebuild and repair our properties and sustain NYCHA for the long term.

The funds we generate through NextGen Neighborhoods will be added to those generated from other strategies — such as our parking initiative, our commercial initiative, and our preserva-

tion initiative. None of these strategies work in a vacuum; they all work together as a comprehensive plan to get NYCHA's financial health in order, create more affordable housing, and invest in the Housing Authority and in the future of our city.

I've been clear that upon moving into this position, Mayor de Blasio charged me with the task of resetting the Authority's relationship with residents. We cannot do business as usual with our city's public housing and expect to see substantive and lasting change.

Our new plan is not the infill proposal put forth by the previous administration — this is NYCHA working together with residents, with community members and advocates, and with elected officials to support the creation of mixed-income affordable housing on NYCHA property.

This is not privatization, but aggressive preservation — a strategy that is smart for residents and surrounding communities as well as NYCHA. We can generate money to repair and upgrade our developments while adding to the city's affordable housing stock, attracting new stores and services to neighborhoods and producing income that can help NYCHA residents in other parts of New York. NYCHA will not compromise the rights of public housing tenants, unfairly evict tenants, or convert public housing units to market-rate housing. We're in the business of housing people.

This is NYCHA moving forward, instead of maintaining the status quo. There is no better way to serve our residents.

“ We can generate money to repair and upgrade our developments while adding to the city's affordable housing stock... ”

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

NYCHA Notables



“They call me a legend,” John DeCarlo Memorial Award winner **Victor M. Cortes** said of colleagues and residents at Monroe Houses, where he has worked as a caretaker for the past 50 years.

“I saw three generations growing up here and have never had a problem because I show respect and make friends

with everyone,” said Mr. Cortes, a 35-year NYCHA resident.

What keeps Mr. Cortes coming to work and working hard every day after 50 years? “Praise from supervisors encourages all employees to do their best,” he says. “The appreciation from supervisors, skilled trades staff, coworkers and residents motivates me to keep on working.”

But not all his supervisors encourage him to come in every day. With more than 600 days of unused leave, Mr. Cortes has been advised to take some well-earned time off!



This picture of **Harrison Torres**, Supervisor of Caretakers at Patterson Houses, may soon look familiar. It will be posted on bulletin boards in development offices and shared on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. He has also been featured in the *NYCHA Journal*. But why?

The “I am NextGeneration NYCHA” campaign will be presenting profiles of 12 residents, employees and community supporters — one about every two weeks — to put a face and a name on the 400,000 residents, 11,000 employees, and others, behind the “NYCHA” that the public hears about. Call it our own version of the popular “Humans of New York” blog.

In Mr. Torres’ case, you couldn’t find a better example. Raised in public housing, he started working in construction as part of the Section 3 resident hiring program. After serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer, Mr. Torres graduated from the REES NYCHA Resident Training Academy before being hired as a caretaker. He has worked at Patterson Houses for almost one year.

On the poster, Mr. Torres tells his story this way: “When I was a kid growing up, I used to watch the Housing workers doing their jobs, bagging the garbage and stuff like that, thinking it was easy but now I realize it’s much harder than I thought! There’s always something different everyday, a new experience to learn from. I’m trying to take it all the way I can go!”



After 17 years of helping employee organizations plan and host their annual events, it’s only fitting that **Millie Molina**, Senior Manager for Events & Communications Services in the Department of Communications, should be honored at one of them. The Hispanic Society of NYCHA agrees and is honoring Ms. Molina at its

46th annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Oct. 16.

“Helping to plan and organize employee and other events is a lot of hard work with many details for my staff and me to tend to,” says Ms. Molina. “But it’s really gratifying to see people having a good time and to receive comments of appreciation.”

In addition to employee events, Ms. Molina and her staff also handle logistics for press conferences, mayoral events, town halls, and resident meetings. She also supervises staff photographers, audiovisual technicians, and the Language Services Unit.

Having recently provided support for the CUNY Scholarship Luncheon and then preparing for Hispanic Heritage Month, Ms. Molina is a busy person — but never too busy to provide good advice or assistance to ensure that Authority events are successful.



Being a social worker at NYCHA presents a unique set of challenges and rewards. Perhaps no other job requires the empathy and depth of personal commitment to helping others. Supervising Social Worker **Riva Levine** has lived that life of service to NYCHA residents for almost

33 years and her last day of work is the end of October.

Starting as a geriatric social worker in 1983 and earning her Doctorate in Social Work in 1996, Ms. Levine has seen a lot of changes. But one thing has remained the same. “It’s gratifying to help NYCHA’s residents and also to see the dedication of my co-workers every day,” Ms. Levine says.

Working with residents following the 9/11 tragedy and Superstorm Sandy has provided plenty of memories and highlights in Ms. Levine’s experience. For the past 10 years, she has supervised from four to six community associates from the Queens Family Services Office. During and prior to this time, “things have become more professional and changes in technology have enhanced our productivity,” she says.

In addition to the gratification from helping NYCHA’s seniors, Ms. Levine received at least one other reward from her job — she met her husband, who was then a supervising social worker at NYCHA. Congratulations on your retirement, Riva.

Let us know about your noteworthy personal or professional accomplishments at NYCHANow@nycha.nyc.gov or as indicated on p. 2.

The Sky's the Limit for NYCHA-CUNY Scholars



Standing with scholarship recipients and CUNY executive support staff are (from left): REES Ass't. Director and Scholarship Program Manager Tischelle George; Cheryl N. Williams, CUNY Associate Dean for Special Programs; GM Michael Kelly, and (at far right) Zina Richardson, University Director of Career Services.

Some of NYCHA's and the City's most promising young scholars were honored at the 10th annual NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Awards Ceremony held at Borough



NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly

of Manhattan Community College on September 22. The 15 highly motivated young residents, all enrolled full-time at a CUNY college, were selected for the \$1,000 award from more than 100 NYCHA applicants, based on their outstanding academic achievement and record of community service.

The honorees' personal essays that were part of the application process described how stable and affordable housing at NYCHA, and a world-class and affordable public education at CUNY, helped them overcome obstacles and set out on a firm course to achieve their goals.

"You are agents of change in your families and your communities," General Manager Michael Kelly told the honorees. "Change is something we spend a lot of time talking about at NYCHA — how we can make things better for today and the future. And one of the keys to that is education."

"Each of you has a unique story," said Mr. Kelly, "but you all share a sense of aspiration. And you all know the great value of public institutions like NYCHA and CUNY."

"Education is my priority," said honoree Nancy Villavicencio, before the ceremony began. "My parents [who emigrated from Columbia and Ecuador] didn't have a chance, so they encouraged my sister and me to achieve."

In addition to helping pay college costs, "winning allowed me to see the other winners' inspiring stories," said David Ventura, who is primary caregiver to his disabled brother after recently losing their mother. David's mother told him, "Never give up on what you do."

"Know where you want to go, and have a vision or plan for making that dream a reality," Cheryl N. Williams, Associate Dean for Special Programs at CUNY, told the

scholarship winners. "Having affordable housing in an area of the nation where that is not a given, and being at the best urban university in the nation — the sky is the limit!"

"The greatest asset at NYCHA is the people that make this place their home," declared Councilmember Mark Levine, a contributor to the scholarship program. "Remember the service part of your commitment. This is a city that needs your talent."

Former scholarship winner Ebony S. Johnson, who kept in touch with the program as encouraged by Tischelle

George, Assistant Director and Scholarship Program Manager in REES, told the most recent winners, "Two years ago, as a NYCHA-CUNY scholar, I found one of the best support systems I could have. Always reach out to your NYCHA family."

The scholarship was established in 2005 with fees paid to the Department of Communications by production companies for filming at NYCHA locations. The program is now maintained by contributions from City Councilmembers' discretionary funds. In 2011, NYCHA established the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship as a part of the program, to recognize the academic and civic achievements of disabled NYCHA residents enrolled at a CUNY college. Since 2005, NYCHA has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships — \$15,000 this year alone. Applications for the 2016 NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship will become available in May.

Mayor's Graduate Scholarship Program

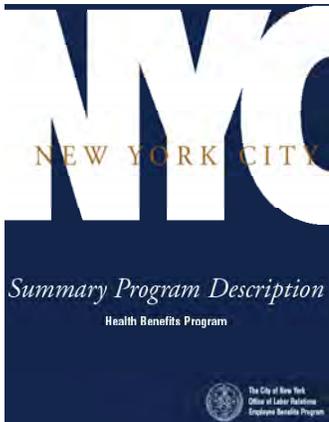
Applications are now being accepted for the Mayor's Graduate Scholarship Program (MGSP) for the 2016-2017 school year. Through this program, full and partial scholarships are provided for graduate study in a wide variety of academic and professional programs. To be eligible, you must be an active, full-time City employee who has earned an undergraduate degree by the fall 2016 semester.

Scholarships are provided by the participating schools, which select the winners from among those who have applied directly to one of their graduate study programs. All application materials are available on the MGSP Website, www.nyc.gov/mgsp.

Completed MGSP applications must be submitted to NYCHA's Human Resources Department no later than Monday, November 16, 2016. Address applications to Grace Dale, 90 Church Street, 5th floor. Ms. Dale can be reached at 212-306-3880.

News to Use

The Health Benefits Transfer Period is Now!



The Summary Program Description booklet is available from the Office of Labor Relations website at www.nyc.gov/olr.

Human Resources Employee Benefits Division at 90 Church Street - 5th Floor, New York, NY 10007 by Friday, October 30 or postmarked by Saturday October 31, 2015. Employees with access to employee self-service (ESS) may participate in some transfer period activities online. ESS selections must be made by October 31, 2015.

Options should be reviewed carefully before important decisions are made. The application cannot be revised once it is received, and no further changes in coverage can be made under ordinary circumstances until the next transfer period in approximately one year.

The effective date of changes will be January 3, 2016; adjustments in payroll deductions will be reflected in paychecks

The fall 2015 Health Benefits Transfer Period will run from October 1–October 31, 2015. During this time, employees may:

- enroll in or drop health insurance coverage;
- change health insurance plans;
- add or drop coverage for eligible dependents;
- add or drop an optional rider coverage; and
- apply for the health insurance buy-out waiver.

Applications and supporting documentations must be received by the

issued January 21, 2016.

For a Summary Program Description (SPD), a list of health plans, and to review a Summary of Benefits of Coverage (SBC) of a particular health plan, you may visit

the Office of Labor Relations' Health Benefits website at www.nyc.gov/olr.

Applications may be requested via e-mail to HR-Benefits@nycha.nyc.gov or by phone at (212) 306-8000.

A Safe and Secure Workplace

NYCHA is committed to a workplace free from violence and hostilities and to providing our employees with a safe and professional work environment

All NYCHA personnel are responsible for notifying the Office of Safety and Security (OFSS) of any violent incidents or threatening behaviors, including threats they have witnessed, received, or have been told that another person has witnessed or received. Similarly, any unsafe conditions or practices should also be reported to OFSS.

Reporting incidents to the Office of Safety and Security

may be done through the submission of a "Safety and Security Incident Report" (889.003), by calling the OFSS Security Command Center at (212) 306-8800, or sending an e-mail to SafeNYCHA@nycha.nyc.gov.

NYCHA has a zero-tolerance policy regarding retaliation: any employee who reports workplace violence incidents or unsafe practices or conditions, provides information regarding an unsafe situation, and/or assists with an investigation is protected from retaliation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Learning More About Public Housing

Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye shared an interesting article on public housing with Department of Communications (DOC) staff and others, from this month's *Atlantic* magazine. Needless to say, NYCHA is amply discussed. The article, "The Real Power of Public Housing," will no doubt be included in the news clips that DOC sends out but since not everyone receives them, you may see the article by clicking [here](http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/09/the-power-of-public-housing/406705/) or by visiting: <http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/09/the-power-of-public-housing/406705/>.

And while you're learning more about public housing, don't forget to see the exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York titled "Affordable New York," which traces more than a century of affordable housing activism while focusing on current and future initiatives. The exhibit includes archival photos and a wealth of information about NYCHA.

You may contact the Museum of the City of New York for additional information at 212-534-1672. The exhibit runs through February 16.

Flu Vaccination Campaign



Due to strong employee response, NYCHA will be hosting another free Flu Vaccination Clinic at 90 Church Street on **October 26** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ceremonial Room on the 5th floor.

You may schedule your

online workplace appointment [here](#), using "nyc" as your username and "flushot" as your password.

Be sure to download and complete the consent and information forms and bring them with you to the appointment. You must also bring your employee ID.

If you are unable to access the online scheduler, you may also schedule an appointment by calling Affiliated Physicians at 866-481-4391. Additional information is available online [here](#).