

# NYCHA Takes Major Steps to Improve Emergency Response



Manhattan Community Operations Deputy Director Leroy Williams, at left, during an emergency preparedness drill at Campos Plaza.

As NYCHA continues to fundamentally change the way it does business as part of NextGeneration NYCHA, the Authority released an [end-of-year report](#) detailing NYCHA's responses to emergency events in 2015 and other preparedness updates.

The NYCHA Office of Emergency Preparedness, which was created last year, has taken major steps to overhaul NYCHA's planning for major emergencies, ensuring the Authority is better aligned with the City's planning measures. With a new emergency management structure and a more comprehensive approach to planning, NYCHA has made great strides in emergency preparedness and operational resiliency, with more improvements planned for this year.

"Superstorm Sandy changed the way the entire City looks at preparedness and response capabilities," said General Manager Michael Kelly. "When tested with potentially devastating natural disasters to health emergencies like Legionella in 2015, NYCHA rose to the challenge and put our new structure and plans into action. We've shown considerable progress and plan to build on our successes to enhance preparedness, training and communications in 2016."

## Emergency Management Plan

NYCHA's Office of Emergency Preparedness is directing NYCHA's large-scale emergency preparedness and response efforts through the development of the Authority's first-ever master emergency plan—the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP integrates multiple plans to manage specific hazards NYCHA may face. As new threats to people and property surface, new plans are developed for inclusion into the CEMP, which also outlines roles and responsibilities of operational personnel and support providers.

## Resident Preparedness

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) provided emergency preparedness training sessions targeted to NYCHA senior citizens and residents in hurricane evacuation zones through the Ready New York

program. NYCHA also worked to recruit residents to become NYC Community Emergency Response Team volunteers through a NYCEM, NYPD, and FDNY program that trains New Yorkers to help prepare their neighbors and communities for different types of disasters.

## Activities in 2015

In 2015, key NYCHA emergency preparedness activities and reforms included:

- Planning and response to four major emergency and security events:
  - Winter Storm Juno (Jan.);
  - Legionella detection at Melrose Houses (Sept.);
  - Papal visit to New York City (Sept.); and
  - Hurricane Joaquin (Oct.).
- Creating 10 major emergency plans for the CEMP that ranged from dissemination of critical information to plans outlining the continuation of operations for each NYCHA department in the event of a major disruption.
- Leading or participating in more than 20 internal and external trainings and exercises while NYCHA continues to update planning materials.

“  
[We] plan to build on our successes to enhance preparedness, training, and communications in 2016.”

GM Michael Kelly

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## NYCHA Notes

### Congratulations



**Kerri Jew**, former Deputy Commissioner at the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS), has been appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, effective January 4, 2016. Ms. Jew oversees major components of NYCHA's organizational redesign, labor relations, and agency-wide process improvements.

While Deputy Commissioner at SBS, Ms. Jew oversaw the City's Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program, which promotes equity in City contracting opportunities and provides services to companies interested in doing business with government. Ms. Jew also served at SBS as Deputy General Counsel.

Additionally, Ms. Jew served as Executive Director of New York State's M/WBE Program at Empire State Department, after first serving as the Corporation's Compliance Officer.

Ms. Jew entered City service as a federal civil rights litigator with the NYC Department of Law and graduated with distinction from Emory University School of Law after earning a B.A. degree from Cornell University.

### Board Member Appointed



Chair Shola Olatoye welcomed Zaire Z. Dinzey-Flores as NYCHA's newly appointed Executive Board Member, effective December 23, 2015, at the Executive Board meeting held on that day. A scholar of housing policy and design, urban planning, and community inequality, Dr. Dinzey-Flores is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology and Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University in

New Brunswick, New Jersey. She has lectured and written extensively, including publishing an award-winning book titled *Locked In, Locked Out: Gated Communities in a Puerto Rican City* (University of Pennsylvania Press: 2013), looking at residential neighborhoods and public housing in Puerto Rico, the second largest housing authority under the jurisdiction of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In reluctantly accepting the resignation of former Board Member Richard Baron, Chair Olatoye thanked Mr. Baron for his service and described him as a "constant source of information and support."



### Letter of Commendation to Staff

"I absolutely love the ASK HR line," wrote Wagner Houses Secretary III A **Joy Tynes** to the [ASK HR feedback](#) email account. "It helps me get quick answers to questions we have at the field office," she said.

"If no one else tells you this, I truly appreciate all that you do and your kind and efficient service. Happy holidays and Happy New Year to ASK HR Staff."

Ms. Tynes later remarked that the helpline had assisted her with learning the status of the civil service waiting list for Housing Assistant; navigating the Forms and Reference Library's new system; and questions about excused time.



### Hope 2016 Street Survey

Volunteers are needed to assist the NYC Department of Homeless Services in conducting its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) on Monday, January 25, 2016.

Three thousand volunteers will help count the number of New Yorkers living on the City's streets by canvassing parks, subways, and other public places. Training sites are located throughout the five boroughs, close to the survey area, usually in a neighborhood of the volunteer's choice. Volunteers arrive at 10 p.m. at their respective sites,

where they receive detailed orientation and training.

Employees interested in volunteering as surveyors should visit [www.nyc.gov/hope](http://www.nyc.gov/hope) to register. Volunteers assist from approximately 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. to help the City best project service needs and allocate resources for the street homeless population.

For additional information, or to register, go to <https://nychope.site/>.

NYCHA non-managerial volunteers may be credited with compensatory time for participating in the program.



New York City Housing Authority  
Department of Communications  
250 Broadway | 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

212-306-4384  
[NYCHANow@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCHANow@nycha.nyc.gov)

## End-of-Year Message from Chair Shola Olatoye

Dear NYCHA Employees,

2015 has been a year of tremendous change for NYCHA. Last spring, we launched NextGeneration NYCHA, our 10-year strategic plan to fundamentally change how we do business. With unprecedented support across the City, we've focused on getting our financial house in order to improve NYCHA for today's residents and future generations.

It's taken considerable hard work, but thanks to your efforts, we've moved the Authority forward.

We've made meaningful changes to how we approach maintenance and repairs by focusing on improving service levels with common sense changes in our procedures in the Fix-It-Forward initiative. We launched the MyNYCHA app, which has been downloaded 15,000 times, allowing residents to schedule repair appointments from the convenience of their phones. All 18 of our OPMOM sites are meeting their goals to address emergency repairs within 24 hours and within budget.

For too long, NYCHA was forced to put off major roof repairs because of a lack of money. This year, with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio, we were able to do something about it through our Bond B program. As of this week, we've replaced old and crumbling roofs on 143 buildings, housing 18,500 residents.

After three years and many rounds of negotiating, we secured \$3 billion in federal disaster recovery funds from FEMA to begin the real recovery from Hurricane Sandy. We've put four contracts out and shovels in the ground at 17 developments.

In 2015, we also focused on improving safety at our developments. In addition to enhancing communications between NYCHA and NYPD, we've started the installation of new exterior lighting at seven developments and installed new camera technology at over 30 developments.

Along with improving the quality of our current public housing stock, we've looked for ways to increase the affordable housing options for NYCHA residents and New Yorkers. This year, we moved forward with plans to build up to 500 new, 100-percent affordable apartments at Ingersoll, Mill Brook and Van Dyke.

We also closed the CAMBA project, providing 30 percent of the units to homeless families and 70 percent of the units to low-income families. As part of NYCHA's Home Ownership Program, our Development department sold 13 FHA single-family homes we inherited from HUD in the 1970s to NYCHA public housing residents and plans to sell the remaining 35 FHA homes in 2016.

Leased Housing provided rental subsidies to 387 homeless veterans this year, bringing the total number of veterans' families served by NYCHA to 2,488. Ninety-eight percent of all Section 8 re-certifications were completed, surpassing our goal of 95 percent.

This year we've made significant progress resetting our relationship with our residents. In addition to creating seven new tenant associations and four new youth councils, Community Programs and Development worked hard to engage the

residents of Holmes and Wyckoff as part of NextGen Neighborhoods—the initiative that will build new housing, half affordable and half market-rate, to expand affordable housing options and generate much-needed revenue for major repairs to our existing buildings.

This is an amazing list of accomplishments. I am deeply grateful for your hard work. I also want to note that our work is far from done. Our service levels remain persistently high and rent collection too low at certain developments. Two hundred employees are out every day due to workplace injuries. Our developments are still not as clean as they should be. And despite concentrated efforts, only about 60 percent of you communicate with your NYCHA colleagues using email.

How do we address these long-standing and disturbing trends? What will you do in 2016 to make NYCHA developments safe, clean and connected? 2016 is going to be a pivotal year for NYCHA. I welcome your continued partnership on the road to our NextGeneration NYCHA vision of safe, clean and connected communities. I hope you accept the challenge as I have.

Sincerely,




Chair Olatoye emailed the YouTube video to employees and it was also played at the December 2015 Board meeting.

## “I am NextGen” Jasmine Williams and Michael Kmiec

The “I am NextGeneration NYCHA” campaign continues to bring to the attention of the public outstanding employees, residents, and supporters of NYCHA who embody the commitment to service that’s required to transform our NextGeneration NYCHA vision of safe, clean and connected communities into a reality. The [December](#) issue of *NYCHANow* featured Technical Resource Advisor Denise Torres and Recovery to Resiliency Community Outreach Worker Robert White. Prior to that, in [October](#), we featured Supervisor of Caretakers Harrison Torres.

The next two employee honorees are both assigned to King Towers, in Manhattan. **Jasmine Williams** has worked at King Towers, where she is now assistant property manager (APM),



APM Jasmine Williams and APMS Michael Kmiec in front of a marker-board that tracks the status of maintenance and repair requests.

### Jasmine Williams

#### What do you enjoy about your role as an assistant property manager?

I like interacting with residents and resolving their concerns. Sometimes it takes being like a social worker to understand what someone goes through on a daily basis. My goal is to get everyone on the same page—residents, management and maintenance, so I can see a job through to completion in a way that meets residents’ needs.

#### What’s your favorite part?

Knowing the procedures is important, but I really like when I can find a solution by being creative. When a disabled resident had a roof leak that would take a long time to repair, I saw that she

would qualify for a transfer to a “504” one-bedroom apartment for people with physical disabilities. Now she’s grateful for the transfer to a more convenient home.

Other times, I try to expedite a job by sending an email to a skilled trades supervisor or taking a photo to show the urgency of a repair. Then we follow up to make sure that the work was completed.

#### What part do you like least?

It’s always sad when a resident you know passes away. You develop a bond, so when you don’t see them for a long time and you find out why, it’s hard.

#### How does NextGen NYCHA affect you?

I like trying to get back to our core goal of being a landlord

(cont. p. 5)

since joining NYCHA in 2001. “I never thought when starting out here as the assistant property manager’s secretary that I would be behind this desk one day,” she said. “Now I know the rewards of hard work and proper guidance.” As a NYCHA resident, Ms. Williams also knows NYCHA from the customer’s perspective. “That helps me handle a situation fairly,” she said. “We’re the communications link between maintenance and management—a bridge to follow up and ensure that residents get their needs met.”

Assistant Property Maintenance Supervisor (APMS) **Michael Kmiec** worked his way up the ranks since 2010 at three other developments before being assigned to King Towers in February 2015. “As a caretaker, I saw that taking pride in what you do makes a difference. I want to represent the Housing Authority in a way that recognizes what it’s done for me—in terms of salary, benefits, and a career—as well as the residents I care about,” he said. “And I want to help NYCHA win back the respect it deserves.”

How did two NextGen NYCHA employees wind up working at the same development? That’s hard to say. But the handwritten sign over the entrance to the lunchroom reads: “I believe each of you can accomplish great things. Just Dream, Plan and Act. You can do anything. Believe!”

To nominate someone for the “I am NextGen” campaign, please send your suggestion to [nextgen@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:nextgen@nycha.nyc.gov).

### Michael Kmiec

#### What’s most rewarding about your job?

I take pride in being a civil servant and helping people. We are all here to help each other.

#### What keeps you motivated?

This job is not easy. Relationships with your supervisors are as important as with residents. Having support from above, having things clearly explained, and being accountable, keep me motivated.

#### How do you effectively supervise the repair process?

Dealing with repairs includes building great relationships with people. Otherwise, you won’t make much headway. I’m very hands on. When I follow up on a repair that I helped expedite and I see

“

Dealing with repairs includes building great relationships with people. Otherwise, you won’t make much headway.

”

Michael Kmiec

that the resident is satisfied, then I’m satisfied.

#### How do you handle a difficult or angry resident?

Sometimes someone is unhappy from past interactions and you have to explain a past situation or just ask for a fresh start. Other times, if a resident maybe never had to maintain an apartment, you have to help educate them so more repairs aren’t a problem later.

(cont. p. 5)

## Senior Leadership Meeting Features NY1 Anchor Errol Lewis

The final Senior Leadership Meeting of 2015 held on December 8 was designed to provide managers with a key competency to meet NextGeneration NYCHA's challenging goals: collaborative leadership. The training—previously suggested by the managers—included group exercises on planning effective meetings, stakeholder analysis, and task delegation. "The possibilities for how you can creatively apply these tools...are endless," Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye told the managers in opening remarks, "and I am excited to see what you will do with them."

The training by representatives from Community Resource Exchange was preceded by detailed updates by lead managers of 10 NextGen projects; a report by General Manager Michael Kelly on key performance indicators; and a presentation by Executive Vice President for Community Programs and Development Melanie Hart on CP&D's new mission and resident engagement strategy. The lively training sessions were followed by a briefing from Vice President for Development Nicole Ferreira on NYCHA's NextGen real estate development strategy.

Chair Olatoye identified a number of areas where significant progress has been made since launching NextGen NYCHA in May. These included: increased transparency on NYCHA's website, the launching of the MyNYCHA app, selection of an energy service company to manage energy performance contracts for 80 developments, selection of a developer for the 100-percent affordable housing at three developments, roof replacements on 116 buildings with more on the way, the launching of the Fund for Public Housing, and the success of the Food Business Pathways program,



which graduated its third class of food entrepreneurs.

"But of course we've only just begun the work we've set out to do," Chair Olatoye noted, "and we've got a long road ahead of us."

### A Character Witness for Public Housing

The full-day meeting concluded with a candid guest interview by Chair Olatoye with Errol Lewis, political anchor at NY1 and host of "Inside City Hall." Raised in Manhattanville Houses and a staunch advocate of public housing, Mr. Lewis said that "the negative stereotypes about residents

are different from [his] memories." Notwithstanding drug-related problems during the mid-'60s, "there was still a sense of community. As a kid, I thought it was the greatest place in the world."

Citing famous alumni of public housing, such as Reverend Al Sharpton, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein, and Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, Mr. Lewis said the biggest untold story about NYCHA is its residents. "If you don't know anybody personally who lives there, all you know is from the media reports," he said. "Public housing needs a character witness."

Recalling his own opportunities through Manhattanville Houses, the Head Start program, and affirmative action, Mr. Lewis said, "I'm happy to write a check [for tax] in April."

During the audience Q&A, Mr. Lewis remarked, "I would love to see attitudes about public housing change, and I would like to help."

## I am NextGen (cont.)

### Jasmine Williams

but also connecting residents to community services and opportunities. It's also really good to see a resident become an employee of the agency where they live through the Resident Training Academy or other opportunities. NextGen also sets goals for performance in many areas which we all strive to meet.

### How do you keep up staff morale?

I try for mutual respect and understanding in all my interactions. When I ask someone to do something, I try to have them understand not only the policy but the reason for it. That way, they know how they are contributing to a larger goal. How our team works here every day to get the job done is something that I haven't found anywhere else.

### Michael Kmiec

### How does NextGen NYCHA affect you?

I worked for many years in the private sector, where there is accountability. When I worked at Lincoln Houses, which is an OPMOM development, I saw a different, more accountable atmosphere. Now with NextGeneration NYCHA, my [property maintenance] supervisor and the [property] manager share information

with me and we work more as a team. I think this is the direction of NextGen and I like it.

### Is there anything you'd like to add?

I want to see NYCHA survive, not disappear. We all have to hold up our end of the deal, no matter what your title. I work beyond my hours but I see it can help residents and staff get the job done. I want to see NYCHA as good as it was in the past.

## Look for Shorter and More Productive Meetings in 2016



Managers formed small groups to practice crafting meeting agendas at the BNY Mellon headquarters in Lower Manhattan.

Good news! Managers at the final Senior Leadership Meeting of 2015 (see p. 5) spent the afternoon on December 8 learning and practicing how to convene shorter and more productive meetings.

The workshop session began with a show of hands indicating that the senior managers strongly agreed that most meetings were too long. And the training ended with Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye challenging managers to im-

plement the new approach.

Planning the meeting is as important as the meeting itself. The meeting agenda must clearly identify the purpose(s), including action-oriented goals such as making a decision or solving a problem, or information-oriented discussion such as learning from a report or tracking a project's progress. Outcome(s) should be clearly in mind to set the right direction.

Sample outcomes included:

"An action plan of who does what by when for the next phase of NextGen NYCHA," and "A shared understanding of what worked/needs improvement in crisis management."

The next question is which stakeholders to invite. Stakeholders may include people who are involved in the decision-making process or impacted by the decision; those who can either implement or obstruct the desired outcome; and those who have

relevant information or expertise. Keen collaborative skills may be required to effectively engage stakeholders who will be concerned with "what's in it for me" and who may have competing interests.

Action-oriented meetings may include a delegation of key tasks. Sometimes a meeting can begin with introducing each participant and his or her role in the process. The "default" length for a meeting should be a half hour, or up to one hour depending upon the purpose.

Many meetings will end with a series of "next steps" in place, based in part on the delegation of tasks. The act of delegating tasks and sometimes coaching staff to perform them is so crucial that a second afternoon workshop was devoted to these elements.

With these concepts in mind, the workshop participants formed small groups around tables to decide upon a meeting topic and draft their own meeting agenda. After a lively period of collaboration, they were asked to comment on their experience.

"Starting with an agreed purpose gave us a common goal," one manager said.

"Considering the self-interest of various stakeholders was challenging," said another.

"Saying to each stakeholder why they were there helped form role clarity," another manager observed.

"A number of managers have mentioned that their use of a more focused agenda has saved time, adding to the productivity of their meetings," Chair and CEO Shola Olatoya later said. "Working smarter will enable us to meet our NextGen goals on time, and produce great results."

### Sample Meeting Agenda from Community Resource Exchange presentation

What (Content)	So What (Outcome)	How (Process)	Who (Roles)	When (Time)
Overview / Opening	<i>A shared understanding of outcomes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Check-in: what I need to be present</li> <li>• Review of desired outcomes</li> <li>• Check for understanding / agreement</li> </ul>	One person (usually meeting chair)	9:00 – 9:05 am
Report progress on NGN	<i>A shared understanding of current NGN status to support executive team planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotate presentations by department</li> <li>• Seek feedback</li> </ul>	One representative per department	9:05 – 9:45 am
Develop communications plan on evictions	<i>A communications blueprint outlining core messages</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present key communication milestones</li> <li>• Brainstorm key messages to deliver</li> <li>• Vote on best ideas</li> </ul>		9:45 – 10:45 am
Next steps	<i>An action plan of who does what by when</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitator to review what/who/by when</li> </ul>	Facilitator / Chair	10:45 – 10:55 am
Close	<i>Understanding of what worked / needs improvement in meeting process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any acknowledgements</li> <li>• Reflection on plus/delta</li> </ul>	Anyone in the room	10:55 – 11:00 am

## Family Reentry Program Celebrates Two Years of Success

On December 2, the NYCHA Family Reentry Pilot Program celebrated two years of successful reentry and family reunification, at an event co-hosted with the Vera Institute of Justice at the Fortune Society, in Long Island City, Queens. The program has admitted 54 individuals in its first two years, enabling them to live in their families' NYCHA apartments with temporary permission while in the program, and to be added to the lease upon their graduation from the program. The first participant, who enrolled in November 2013, has just completed the two-year program and is in the process of becoming an authorized family member on his mother's NYCHA lease.

Nora Reissig, director of NYCHA's Department of Family Services, and Margaret di Zerega, director of Vera's Family Justice Program, both spoke at the celebration about the genesis of the program that offers individuals recently released from prison equal access to affordable housing, family support, and

opportunities such as employment and higher education.

Julio Medina, Executive Director of Exodus Transitional Community, spoke about the

medal was presented to all the participants, partners, and staff in attendance.

"We also want to recognize the Family Reentry Pilot Pro-

productive and law-abiding members of society," Ms. Reissig said.

"We've found that the family reunification model



**Family Services Department Director Nora Reissig is at center and, to her left in the photo (from right to left), are: Program Coordinator Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin; Steve Miller, Reentry Operations Manager, NYS Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision; Margaret di Zerega, Director, Vera Institute of Justice; and Michelle Yon, Asst. Program Specialist, NYS Department. of Corrections and Community Supervision.**

importance of partnerships, especially within families. Closing remarks were delivered by Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, NYCHA Reentry Pilot Coordinator, who ended the evening's activities with words of encouragement and a medal displaying the words: "Effort, Respect, Courage, Honor, Friendship, Passion, Victory & Fair Play." The

gram staff and our partner agencies for their commitment and ongoing dedication to ensure that individuals who have paid their debt to society and are being released from incarceration—and who have demonstrated a determination to turn their lives around—are given access to the stable housing and family support needed to become

benefits both the program participant and the family," she noted. "Program participants provide support, safety, and security to their family members, and the family members help encourage participants to reach their goals, help keep them on track when needed, and help motivate them to make positive changes."

## NYCHA's Chanukah Celebration



**Guest speaker Don Goodman**

On December 7, the first day of the eight-day festival, Batei Tsiibur, the Housing Authority's organization of Jewish employees, held its Chanukah party.

As Batei Tsiibur president Alan Pelikow noted, this most widely celebrated Jewish holiday commemorates the unlikely military victory in 138 B.C.E. of a vastly outnumbered band of Jews, the Macabees, over their Greek Syrian rulers who forbade religious practices to force Judaism to meld into the larger Greek culture.

However, "the miracle we celebrate," he said, is not the military but "the spiritual victory," when one day's supply

of oil to light the menorah of the Temple in Jerusalem miraculously lasted for eight days—thus, the eight candles on the Chanukah menorah.

Guest speaker Don Goodman, an Internet talk radio producer and host (<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/don-zusya-goodman>) discussed "Jewish Thoughts on Universal Issues." In his remarks, Mr. Goodman stated that we all stem from the same human family and all have the obligation to make the world a

better place.

Mr. Goodman also discussed the seven basic Noahide laws that are embodied in Jewish tradition. These laws involve the recognition of a creator and require people to value life (not to murder), to value interpersonal relations (not to commit adultery, not to steal, and to establish courts), and prohibit cruelty to animals.

For membership information, please contact Nina Winer at 212-306-8558.

## News to Use

### Update your Beneficiaries



With New Year's resolutions fresh in our minds, here's one that everyone should add to their list: Don't forget to update your beneficiaries. We are fortunate to have a variety of monetary and other job-related and union-related benefits that we must keep track of as our families grow and change. Every employee should complete a Designation of Beneficiaries form to ensure that any monies due upon the employee's death are given to only the individuals they have selected. However, updating your pension beneficiaries does not change beneficiaries for other payments or benefits to which survivors may be entitled.

- The NYCERS change of (pension) beneficiary form can be downloaded from the NYCERS website at [www.nycers.gov](http://www.nycers.gov), or requested by calling NYCHA's Ask HR at 212-306-8000 or NYCERS at 347-643-3000.
- Beneficiaries for other job-related entitlements, such as unpaid salary, accrued annual leave, retirement bonus, expense reimbursement and retroactive monies owed, can be updated by completing a Designation of Beneficiaries form (#015168), available from the Forms and Reference Library on NYCHA Connect, or Ask HR.
- For information about updating beneficiaries for life insurance, death benefits, annuities or disability payments through a union welfare fund, call your union office or ask your shop steward. Employees covered by the Management Benefits Fund may contact the Employee Benefits Division at 212-306-8482 or the Management Benefits Fund at 212-306-7290.
- Finally, employees who participate in the Deferred Compensation Plan administered by the NYC Office of Labor Relations must contact 212-306-7760 for information.

### Free Screening of "Pomonok Dreams"

Come to a free screening of "Pomonok Dreams," a new documentary about the early days of Pomonok Houses by filmmakers Terry Katz and Alan Stark, who both grew up and lived at Pomonok from the 1950s through the 1970s. A Q&A with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

**WHERE:** 90 Church St.  
5th floor Ceremonial Room  
**WHEN:** Thur., Jan 21  
Doors open at 6:45pm.  
Showing begins at 7:15pm.

RSVP by Monday, Jan. 18:  
at: 212-306-4851 or 212-306-6523.  
*Sponsored by NYCHA's  
Emerging Leaders Association.*

### Commuter Benefits Program Increase



Savings in commuting costs available through the popular Commuter Benefits Program have increased in 2016. The amount you can deduct from your taxable income for

commuting costs for MTA, LIRR, N.J. Path and other mass transportation expenses will change as follows:

1. The Transportation Fringe Benefit Monthly Pre-Tax Limit will increase from \$130 per month to \$255 per month. This applies to the Commuter Card Plan that is the most popular choice for NYCHA employees, as reported in the [June issue](#) of NYCHANow.
2. The Parking Fringe Benefit Monthly Pre-Tax Limit will increase from \$250 per month to \$255 per month.

To review your payroll deductions amounts and make any necessary payroll deduction changes, visit NYCAPS under the HR tab in NYCHA Connect or contact [Susan.Mathew@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Susan.Mathew@nycha.nyc.gov) or at 212-306-6824. Additional information is available at: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/opa/html/transportation\\_benefits/transportation\\_benefits.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/opa/html/transportation_benefits/transportation_benefits.shtml).

By enrolling in the City of New York Commuter Benefits Program, you can save up to 40 percent on the cost of your commute using public transportation and parking costs.

### ATLS Transfer Period is Coming for DC 37

**This year's application filing period for the Automated Transfer List System (ATLS) for employees in District Council 37 represented titles runs from January 25, 2016 through February 28, 2016.** (The filing period for Teamsters covered employees usually begins in November.)

Once a year, eligible employees are allowed to select up to six locations in ATLS to which they would like to transfer. Human Resources' Employment Division implements the lateral transfers by accessing their transfer requests.

Employees that have NYCHA computers and LAN ID numbers may file their requests electronically through the Authority's Internet home page (NYCHA Connect).

The Human Resources Department will provide an ATLS package that contains complete information along with the ATLS Request Form and ATLS Location Reference List later this month. For information about ATLS, please contact ASK HR at 212-306-8000 or at [ASK\\_HR@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:ASK_HR@nycha.nyc.gov).