

**NYCHA CHAIR JOHN B. RHEA
HOUSING PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S
28TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON
ADDRESS: EXPANDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010 – 11:30 AM RECEPTION; 12:15 PROGRAM
THE ROOSEVELT HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY**

Thank you, Marc, for that very gracious introduction.

As you all know, Marc Jahr's long career is one of public service and an abiding commitment to fostering healthy, vibrant communities that make New York one of the greatest cities on earth.

It is my pleasure to be with Marc and all of you this afternoon, especially as we commemorate the

Housing Partnership Development Corporation's 28th Anniversary. To Founding President and CEO

Kathryn Wylde, Chairman John McCarthy, President and CEO Daniel Martin and the HPDC Board of

Directors—Happy Anniversary and congratulations on your astonishing record of accomplishment – a record

that continues to inspire policymakers and developers around the world.

On your 28th anniversary, we celebrate HPDC's milestone of creating or rehabilitating 28,000 units of affordable home ownership throughout the City—an achievement not of buildings, but for families; not of bricks, but for communities and the powerful foundation strong neighborhoods and vibrant communities contribute to achieving our dreams as individuals and as a City.

When you look at the history of New York, what appears consistently is an evolving story of people coming together to move the City forward—a story of not simply getting there, but of getting there together.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has been a champion of integrated development and collaboration throughout

his tenure, connecting community planning with economic growth; environmental sustainability with citizen empowerment; and neighborhood revitalization with corporate responsibility. NYCHA shares the Mayor's vision of collaboration, and we have not only worked with long-standing and steadfast friends and colleagues—like Marc Jahr, Rafael Cestero, Priscilla Almodovar, and the men and women of HPDC, but we have also embraced new partners from the private and non-profit sectors who believe as we do that public and affordable housing is essential to the future of New York.

Meeting our affordable housing goals could hardly be more important than they are today. We know from the U.S. Census and the work of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC that population growth in New York City will

require creating as many as 500,000 new units of housing.

Today, NYCHA serves over 650,000 New Yorkers and we forecast significant growth among both our youth and senior populations, as well as growth in our

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities

(NORCs). Securing public and affordable housing for the future will require innovation, new and enhanced financial tools and the benefit of strong, enduring partnerships.

Our work may begin with quality affordable housing, but it doesn't end there. We must ensure that neighborhoods are even more economically viable, safer, and more responsive to the needs of families.

Our partnership with elected officials is central to achieving those community goals. No one more than

Senator Charles Schumer has championed strong communities and stood with low and moderate income families. Chuck remains one of NYCHA's most steadfast friends. Most recently, he fought for public housing families across the country and right here in New York during the creation of the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act bringing valuable resources – to the tune of \$423MM – that allowed us to improve our critical infrastructure and create hundreds of jobs—many of them filled by NYCHA residents.

Now Senator Schumer is working with President Barack Obama to advance the President's Partnership for Sustainable Communities. At NYCHA, we've watched the advancement of the President's Plan with great interest as we are currently developing our own

comprehensive strategic vision to strengthen public housing communities in New York. Much of our vision builds on the work of Senator Schumer and President Obama as it puts reinvestment in people and communities at its core.

NYCHA's Plan to Preserve Public Housing is a five year roadmap that began as a conversation—amongst employees and our most important partner: NYCHA residents. And in the coming months we will engage community advocates and key stakeholders, including many of you who are here today. NYCHA is listening and empowering our partners in an unprecedented collaborative effort that will advance a strategy to strengthen public housing and all of New York City. We are excited about the opportunity to work with each of you as we develop innovative, family-focused

solutions to make our communities, our city and our nation stronger.

By working together, not only will we create solutions, but we will also empower families to be the owners of that journey.

Thank you very much.