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New Chairman Meets With Residents at Wise Towers to Talk About Energy Conservation in the New Year

RAISING AWARENESS Chairman Ricardo Morales speaks to Wise Towers residents about energy conservation.

By Eileen Elliott

On his first day as the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) new Chairman, December 15th, Ricardo Elias Morales met with residents of Wise Towers on Manhattan’s Upper West Side to talk about NYCHA’s “green” initiatives and help raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation.

“Our goal with this energy conservation initiative is to inform residents about how their actions in partnership with NYCHA’s efforts can leverage additional savings that can be reinvested back into the Agency. It’s a win-win for all—residents, the environment, NYCHA,” the new Chairman said.

The Chairman was joined by NYCHA’s Environmental Coordinator Margarita Lopéz, who heads the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Committee, Manhattan Borough Director Robert Knapp, staff from NYCHA’s Energy Department, and City Council Member Gale Brewer.

The message to residents was simple and direct: Turn off the television when you’re not watching it; switch off lights when they’re not in use; use Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) instead of traditional light bulbs; take showers instead of baths; don’t run the faucet when washing dishes, etc.

“We also wanted to let residents know about our plans to install CFLs at the development,” said Energy Director Lloyd Kass, who mentioned that the development also has two instantaneous hot water heaters. “We plan to visit all 343 developments before we’re through.”

In October of last year, NYCHA received preliminary approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide residents with CFLs at the development. The installation of CFLs is expected to result in savings of approximately $500,000 per year.

TIPS TO PREVENT FIRES

HEAP Changes Mean Increase in Food Stamp Allowance

More than 20,000 NYCHA households may now be eligible for significant increases in their food stamp benefit allowance. Governor David A. Paterson (at microphone) announced on October 16th that New York State has implemented changes in the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) which will result in an increase of $150 million in Federal Food Stamp benefits for low- and moderate-income families. The announcement was made at the Stanley A. Isaac’s Neighborhood Center in Manhattan.

Heather Kaplow, Managing Director of the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) HEAP Program, said, “This is an historic opportunity to help billions of dollars in Federal funding from NYCHA housing. …Tino really has made a big difference.”

Mr. Hernandez is returning to the private sector, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the drug treatment agency Samaritan Village. Mr. Hernandez

You know most cities are walking away from their public housing and we’ve gone in the other direction. We’ve invested a couple of billion dollars in NYCHA housing. …Tino has really made a big difference.”

(Continued on page 2)
Targeted Relief In Response to the Changing Economy

City agencies are responding to the economic downturn with new initiatives designed to create jobs, support the City’s workforce, small businesses and homeowners, and provide targeted relief to the City’s most vulnerable populations. And they’re doing it primarily by utilizing existing city, state and federal resources. New Yorkers can now take advantage of 18 new initiatives designed to help them weather the increasing challenges brought on by the changes in the global, national and local economies.

These are preliminary steps—as economic conditions and needs change, we’ll adjust what we’re doing to expand what is working, remove what isn’t and find ways to address problems we couldn’t anticipate. But the initiatives we are embarking on, with the cooperation of our partners in the City Council, will provide meaningful assistance to many New Yorkers who need it now, as we continue to tackle our challenges together as a city.

Open Five New Financial Empowerment Centers

The Department of Consumer Affairs’ Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) will use private funds to open five new Financial Empowerment Centers throughout the City early this year. The new centers will provide families with free financial counseling services in English and Spanish, including assistance with money management, managing credit and debt, and negotiations with creditors.

Expand In-Class Breakfast Pilot Program

The Department of Education will expand its pilot project which provides breakfast in the classroom to help ensure students eat a healthy breakfast. The program will be available to 300 schools whose student populations experience high poverty rates in addition to the roughly 50 schools currently serving breakfast to children in their classrooms.

Provide Targeted Food Assistance to Seniors

The Human Resources Administration, working with the Department for the Aging, the New York City Food Policy Coordinator and the Food Bank for New York City will use a new federal grant of $677,000 to create an automated food stamp benefit assessment and simplified application process for over 40,000 seniors who may be eligible.

Launch Debt Management Awareness Campaign

The Department of Consumer Affairs’ OFE will launch a year-long public awareness campaign to inform New Yorkers about how the City can help them take control of their finances. The first phase of the campaign will focus on helping New Yorkers deal with debt. The advertisements encourage New Yorkers to call 311 or visit NYC.gov to find free or low-cost financial education classes, counseling and workshops available through the City’s Financial Education Network directory.

Implement Largest Capital Infrastructure Plan in City’s History

Although ongoing pressure on the budget required the City to stretch the capital plan from four years to five, the total capital spending will be greater than at any time in the City’s history. This year alone, the City will spend $10.4 billion, creating roughly 25,000 jobs.

Create Green Jobs through Building Upgrades and Incentives

The City will work with the City Council to promote green buildings and with Con Ed and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to persuade the Public Service Commission to further expand its energy retrofit incentive program. Combined, the programs will create thousands of jobs.

In all likelihood, the current economic downturn will not end quickly. We can’t eliminate the burden many will feel and we can’t act as a substitute for failing or missing federal assistance in every case. We can create real jobs and provide targeted assistance to those who need it most.

To find out more about these and other initiatives, visit NYC.gov. And have a great New Year!

Michael R. Bloomberg

Wise Towers

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its three-phase Energy Performance Contract Initiative. The initiative focuses on replacing traditional light bulbs with CFLs; the installation of instantaneous hot water heaters in NYCHA developments; and boiler replacements at 35 sites. An additional energy-saving initiative, the Computerized Heating Automated System, allows for remote monitoring of NYCHA’s major boiler systems at 211 sites.

So far the conservation talks, which began last November, have been held at 303 Vernon Avenue and Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn, Mott Haven and Patterson Houses in the Bronx, South Jamaica Houses in Queens, and Manhattanville, also in Manhattan.

In 2008 NYCHA paid $531 million in utilities, which was roughly double the amount paid in 2002.

Hernandez

was Vice-President of Samaritan Village prior to his 16-year tenure in City government. As the Housing Authority’s 19th Chairman, Tino Hernandez has seen the agency through six straight years of federal under-funding. His legacy will include passage of the Shelter Allowance bill into law, which give NYCHA parity with private landlords in funding it receives for residents who are on public assistance; approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of the Section 8 transition initiative, the Computerized Heating Automated System, the implementation of cutting edge technology like instantaneous hot water heaters and the Centralized Call Center, which allows residents from all 543 NYCHA developments to call a single telephone number to schedule routine maintenance repairs.

NYCHA has also played a critical role in Mayor Bloomberg’s plan to preserve or create 165,000 units of affordable housing by 2013, and in his PlanNYC 2030 to create a greener, more sustainable City.

“I feel confident that I am leaving the Housing Authority in good hands,” said Chairman Hernandez. “I think I was able to assemble the best and the brightest in City government.”

Tino Hernandez’ last official day as Chairman was December 12th. He was the second longest tenure of any of NYCHA’s Chairs.

Eileen Elliott

Hernandez.

Special guest speaker Ashok Gupta joined New York City Housing Authority Environmental Coordinator Margarita López for a “Speaking Green” panel discussion on November 17th at the Bronx River Community Center. Mr. Gupta is the Air and Energy Program Director and Senior Energy Economist at the Natural Resources Defense Council. The focus of the discussion was on “Integrating Economics, Energy, Climate and Air Quality Strategies.” It was the second of NYCHA’s and the Clinton Climate Initiative’s quarterly lecture/discussion series.

The Housing Authority

Department of Communications

Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority

nyc.gov/nycha

Eileen Elliott

Mayor

Richardo Elias Morales....................................................Chairman

Vilma Huertas....................................................Secretary

Sheila Greene ..................................Director, Department of Communications

Peter Mikoleski, Leticia Barboza.........................................Photography

SPEAKING GREEN IN THE BRONX

Michael R. Bloomberg...........................................Mayor

Co-Editors

Douglas Apple ..............................................................General Manager

http://www.nyc.gov/nycha
Welcome to the New Year, NYCHA’S 75th Anniversary!

Welcome to the New Year! It’s great to be able to congratulate the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) on its 75th Anniversary. That’s 75 years of providing homes for hundreds of thousands of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers who have made this City what it is today.

I am especially honored to be addressing you as NYCHA’s new Chairman. I thank Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for appointing me to this important position of safeguarding this incredible resource while a national search is being conducted for a permanent replacement.

Much has been accomplished here through the hard work of NYCHA staff and the cooperation of you, the more than 400,000 New Yorkers who make your homes in the Housing Authority’s 343 developments.

I’d like to take a moment to tell you just a little bit about myself. I was appointed as NYCHA’s General Counsel in 2001 and prior to that time directed NYCHA’s housing litigation divisions. This is the second time in NYCHA’s history that a General Counsel has been appointed Chairman.

In my role as the Authority’s Chief Ethics Officer I have ensured that NYCHA employees comply with the agency’s Code of Ethics as well as the Conflict of Interest Board’s rules and regulations. In addition, as the principal architect and a member of NYCHA’s Audit Committee, which focuses on the integrity of NYCHA’s financial reporting and accountability, I am in a strong position to help NYCHA face the Housing Authority’s financial challenges.

As we all know, there is a new Administration in Washington that promises change. The best change we can work for is getting public housing on the national agenda, and securing full funding for public housing at the Federal level. As Chair, I will press for a proactive urban agenda with the new Administration. And I will continue to encourage all levels of government to support public housing.

The New York City Housing Authority is only as strong as the residents who make their homes here. I know with the support of the Mayor, with your help, and with the help of elected officials, trade unions and our other supporters, we can do more than keep the dream of public housing alive, we can keep the reality of public housing alive, and ensure its viability for future generations.

Please work with me in the New Year on this vital mission.

Ricardo Elias Morales
Chairman

Here’s How You Can Save $6 In the New Year

Saving—it’s easier said than done, especially in today’s economy. Most Americans save less than 1% of their income, so you’re not alone if you find it hard to save. But that can be little comfort when you need to draw on your savings for unexpected expenses and there’s nothing there.

— Where can you begin?

Think about what’s important to you—a new computer, something special for your family, a trip, starting a small business, retirement, travel, starting a small business, or making a large donation. Then decide how much you can save in a week—it doesn’t have to be much—and multiply times 52 weeks. With that goal in mind, apply some or all of these suggestions to keep your resolution to save.

— Start by opening a savings account and thinking of yourself as another monthly bill. Then after you pay your rent, pay yourself second. Decide on some amount you would like to set aside. Using Direct Deposit or automatic transfer to a savings account makes saving easier because if you don’t have the money in your pocket, or in your debit card account, it’s harder to spend. Ask your employer how to apply for direct deposit. And shop for a bank that offers an account that earns interest so your savings can grow even more.

— Save small amounts. Even small amounts of savings add up. Write down everything you spend for a few days then circle items that you can reduce or even eliminate from your list. Where can you save? You make the choices:

— Do you eat out a lot? ($8 a day for lunch = $160 a month!) Bring your lunch a few days a week.

— Can you cut back on daily expenses, such as coffee, candy, soda? If you can save $3 a day, you can add $1,095 a year to your savings.

— Do you have services you don’t really need? If you use a cell phone, can you eliminate your landline?

— If you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), you can get a great head start on accumulating savings. Call 311 to learn if you qualify for the EITC and other tax credits. To find a free or low-cost tax preparation site near you. See the chart on page 7 to determine your EITC eligibility and benefits.)

— Use cash or a debit card when possible. It’s so easy to swipe your credit card when you

(Continued on page 7)
In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority’s ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on July 25, and August 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2007. Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA’s Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg’s Operation Safe Housing Initiative.

REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA’S
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.

**Prohibited as of July 25, 2007**

- **George Irrick** Case 5347/07 formerly associated with the third floor of Zabar Irrick 370 Bushwick Avenue, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
- **Sonny Cordero** Case 5377/07 formerly associated with the third floor of 261 West 114th Street, Randolph Houses, Manhattan.
- **Javier Florenciani** Case 5382/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 2125 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

**Prohibited as of August 1, 2007**

- **Leonel Torres** Case 5534/07 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 639 Rosedale Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
- **Kingsley Newland** Case 5577/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 88 South 10th Street, Berry Houses, Brooklyn.

**Prohibited as of August 8, 2007**

- **Tysthawn Fowler** Case 5736/07 formerly associated with the first floor of 13-10 Reifern Avenue, Reifern Houses, Queens.
- **Fahim Hannan** Case 5745/07 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 875 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.
- **Kevin Rivers** Case 5749/07 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 425 East 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.

**Prohibited as of August 15, 2007**

- **Elliot Diaz** Case 1393/07 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 1191 Park Place, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
- **Kahlif Abdullah** Case 5861/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 1615 Dean Street, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
- **Terrance Thompson** Case 4965/07 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2946-50 West 23rd Street, Carey Garden Houses, Brooklyn.
- **German Alvarez** Case 5766/07 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
- **Hagler Clotter-Alvarez** Case 5966/07 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 292 Ralph Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.

**Prohibited as of August 22, 2007**

- **Anthony Madiera** Case 6008/07 formerly associated with the first floor of 1150-52 College Avenue, Claremont Rehab Houses, the Bronx.
- **Guilermo Bermudez** Case 6003/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 710 Tinton Avenue, Adams Houses, the Bronx.
- **Quitevettia Peacock** Case 5057/07 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 309 McDougal Street, Ocean Hill Apartments, Brooklyn.
- **Marcus Scott** Case 6046/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 35-06 21st Street, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.
- **Kevin Rivers** Case 6049/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 829 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn.
- **Stephen Phillip** Case 6073/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 3573 Norstrad Avenue, Sheepshead Bay Houses, Brooklyn.
- **Terrance Harris** Case 6089/07 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 412 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
- **Edgaro Díaz** Case 6134/07 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 60 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
- **Malik Morgan** Case 6105/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 434 Beach 58th Street, Ocean Bay Apartments, Queens.
- **Jermaine Penn** Case 6186/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2950 West 35th Street, O’Dwyer Houses, Brooklyn.

(Continued from page 1)

the Housing Authority has made by increasing revenue and cutting expenditures, the lack of federal subsidy which amounts to a loss of approximately $551 million since 2002, has made it difficult to continue to provide many of the community and social services it has historically provided to residents. To further complicate the situation, as of January 1, 2008, the federal government stopped recognizing the $115 million cost of providing these services to NYCHA residents as expenses eligible for federal reimbursement.

“The situation has created an opportunity to allow NYCHA to place its focus on its core function and turn to the city’s social service agencies to bring high quality services on site to NYCHA residents through a network of programs and providers expert in three key areas—youth, prevention and employment,” the former Chairman said when testifying.
FIRE SAFETY

The New York City Housing Authority has developed procedures to ensure that proper fire safety measures are followed by staff and residents to prevent fires. Residents are reminded that fire safety begins at home. Every family should know the basics of how to prevent fires in your apartment and what to do in case of fire.

In the event of a fire always call 911 first!

Smoke Detectors
— Never remove a smoke detector for any reason. Smoke detectors save lives.
— All smoke detectors have a test button and should be tested each month by a member of your household.
— All smoke detectors installed by NYCHA whether hard wired (electrically connected) or battery operated are equipped with an audible "LOW BATTERY" warning signal. This signal is identifiable by an alternating "BEEPING" sound. When this warning 'beep" is heard the battery must be replaced immediately.
— Be proactive. Change your smoke detector batteries twice a year — in the spring and fall when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

The Fire Department sponsors free smoke detector battery giveaway campaigns throughout the year, especially at Daylight Saving Time.

If you cannot afford batteries for your Smoke Detector, contact your local fire station.

Fire Safety Notices
— NYCHA is required to post a Fire Safety Notice on the inside of every apartment entrance door. The Fire Safety Notice is a white sticker with black lettering and describes the actions to follow in the event of a fire emergency in your building.
— If your apartment entrance door does not have the Fire Safety Notice sticker posted contact your management office immediately and they will provide one for you.
— If your apartment has a fire escape it must be kept clear of all items.

General Fire Safety Tips
— If you are having a heating problem call the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771 and/or your Management Office.
— Never use your stove or stove top burners as a source of heat. When you use your stove to heat your apartment, poisonous carbon monoxide builds up hour after hour. Carbon Monoxide has no odor, smell or taste and can be deadly. Natural gas from your oven can also build up.

Space heaters are temporary heating devices and should only be used for a limited time each day and should never be connected to an outlet with an extension cord. Unplug any space heaters when not in actual use. Electric heaters with frayed or damaged cords should never be used.

Candles and Fire Safety
Never leave a lit candle unattended in any room of the house. Never leave a child or pet alone with a lit candle or any open flame. Children and unattended pets can knock over a candle causing a fire and possible burns. With open flames, such as those on a stove, loose clothing or material can easily catch fire. Never use candles near combustible materials such as curtains, drapes, bedding and or cabinets. If you are going to use candles, make sure they sit properly in holders on a flat non-flammable surface.
TWO OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY’S (NYCHA’S) NINE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT (COP) DISTRICTS HELD INSTALLATION CEREMONIES IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR. ON OCTOBER 17TH, THE MANHATTAN NORTH DISTRICT COP’S SWearing-IN CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT MANHATTANVILLE HOUSES IN HARLEM. AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WAS CONGRESS MEMBER CHARLES RANGEL. ON OCTOBER 27TH, THE BRONX NORTH DISTRICT COP HELD ITS INSTALLATION CEREMONY AT THE SUE GINSBURG SENIOR CENTER AT PELHAM PARKWAY HOUSES IN THE BRONX.


THE CCOP WORKS WITH SENIOR NYCHA STAFF ON THE MANY ISSUES AFFECTING LIFE IN NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING ISSUES AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS. EACH MEMBER OF THE CCOP ALSO IS A PART OF THE RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD WHICH WORKS WITH NYCHA ON THE CREATION OF ITS ANNUAL PLAN WHICH IS SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

MANHATTAN NORTH COP Shown from left to right are: Recording Secretary Patricia Moore of Wilson Houses, Treasurer Nathaniel R. Greene of Dyckman Houses, Financial Secretary Anne Bradshaw of Taft Houses, Chair Ethel Velez of Johnson Houses, and Vice Chair Ruby Kitchen of King Towers.

BRONX NORTH COP Shown from left to right, standing in the back row are: Chair Herma Williams, 1st Vice-Chair Loretta Masterson, Recording Secretary Emma Miller, Corresponding Secretary Ernestine Russell, Treasurer Robert Hall, Sergeant-At-Arms Harvey Butler, and 2nd Vice-Chair Keith Ramsey.

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<th>Checks Cashed</th>
<th>Bills Paid</th>
<th>PrePaid Sold</th>
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TAX YEAR 2008
Earned Income Tax Credit

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<th>Tax Year 2008</th>
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<td>$12,880 (MFJ)</td>
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*MFJ = Married Filing Jointly
Provided by NYC Office of Financial Empowerment

The value per pound is usually better than the smaller sizes. Shop with a list and try to avoid expensive "convenience" stores.

Watch your New Year’s resolution pay off. Set your goal, create a plan and let your savings grow. You’ll feel proud of yourself for keeping a resolution — and a little richer and more secure.

These tips were submitted by Carol O’Rourke, Executive Director of The Coalition for Debtor Education.

**GET FREE HELP WITH YOUR TAXES**

Call 311 for the location of FREE tax assistance sites in your area. Avoid the rush - Call Now.

Remember to file for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It returns tax dollars to help cover basic expenses. Working families and individuals earning less than $40,000 a year may qualify and could receive up to $6,000.
The Digital TV Transition
Are You Ready?
What You Need To Know About DTV

After February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations will broadcast only in digital. If you use "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna with your analog television you must take action to continue receiving television broadcasts after February 17, 2009.

There are three options to keep receiving television broadcasts after February 17, 2009:

1. Buy a converter box that will plug into your analog TV.
2. Buy a TV with a digital tuner.
3. Connect your analog TV to a cable pay service.

NOTE: NYCHA residents are prohibited from installing any television or satellite antennas on the window wall or at any place outside of the apartment such as window frames, window guards, or the brickwork on the exterior of the building without prior written consent from NYCHA.

- Certified TV converter boxes are expected to cost between $40 and $70.
- The Federal Government is offering U.S. households up to two $40 coupons to help with the cost of certified converter boxes.
- Coupons are free, but supply is limited.
- Coupons expire after 90 days and cannot be reissued.
- Coupons will be mailed to you from the Federal Government. The coupon will look and work like a plastic gift card.

With your coupons you will also receive instructions for using the coupon, a list of coupon-eligible converter box retailers, a list of retailers where you can use the coupon, and frequently asked questions about the Program.

For more information or to request your coupons, call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY) visit online at: www.DTV2009.gov, apply by mail at:
P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208, or fax 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632).

A translation of this document is available in your management office.

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