Message from the Chairman

NYCHA recently took an innovative and vital step forward in our efforts to preserve public housing in New York City by issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for our Land Lease plan, inviting developers to submit their proposals for building new affordable and market-rate rental housing – and retail, commercial and community facilities, where possible – on 14 sites at eight Manhattan developments. Land Lease is a vital part of Plan NYCHA, our five-year roadmap to preserve public housing in New York City.

The Land Lease RFEI reflects the input and feedback from numerous residents, elected officials, community boards and other concerned stakeholders who NYCHA has met with on multiple occasions this year. We even delayed the release date of the RFEI by several months to better engage residents and create a more inclusive environment. We will continue to provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process, both before and after the developers are selected.

Something new in the RFEI is our requirement that there be retail space included in the proposals at seven of the eight developments. This likely will lead to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), which many local elected officials suggested be a part of the Land Lease process. ULURP further will engage key stakeholders such as the Mayor, community boards, the City Council, the Manhattan Borough President, the Department of City Planning and the City Planning Commission.

By issuing an RFEI, we hope to identify qualified developers who can show how developing this land can benefit NYCHA, residents and the surrounding neighborhoods, while generating revenue to invest in preserving public housing. Once the RFEI responses are evaluated, if an initial proposal is exceptional and meets all of our goals for our residents and for revenue generation for NYCHA, that developer would be selected conditionally without a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Alternatively, the developers found to be qualified will be allowed to propose their ideas through an RFP.

NYCHA will move forward to maintain and preserve public housing, while many public housing authorities across the country are demolishing their buildings. One of the biggest benefits of the Land Lease plan is the revenue it will generate for NYCHA – an expected $30-$50 million every year.

By working with our various stakeholders, the Land Lease plan and this RFEI were strengthened significantly. It is critical that we put this plan in place to generate billions of dollars over the life of the leases. And I reiterate that NYCHA is leasing the land for development – no land or buildings will be privatized or sold, and development only will be done where no residential buildings currently exist.

The time to act is now. The great task of making sure public housing is around for current and future generations will require the dedication and ingenuity of New Yorkers from every walk of life – we hope that you will join us in this historic plan.

John B. Rhea

Survey Finds How Prepared NYCHA Residents Are for the Next Storm

Four out of five NYCHA residents are ‘very or somewhat prepared’ for a major storm similar to Hurricane Sandy hitting New York City. That is one of the key findings of a telephone survey conducted by NYCHA this summer of nearly 2,000 residents. The survey’s purpose was to find out if residents are prepared for an emergency, what additional information and support they might need and how they might respond to evacuations in the future. NYCHA will use the survey results to develop informational materials and communications strategies for emergencies such as storms, fires and blackouts.

Before Hurricane Sandy hit, only one in four of the residents surveyed said they were ‘very prepared’ for a major hurricane. But now, 43 percent said they are ‘very prepared,’ with another 37 percent ‘somewhat prepared.’ Most residents reported having enough prescription medication (78 percent), food (77 percent) and water (66 percent) to shelter-in-place for up to three days. Fewer reported having emergency cash on hand (56 percent) and a family evacuation plan in place (56 percent).

“I am encouraged to see that so many residents are doing more based on our shared experience from last year,” said NYCHA General Manager Cecil House. “Residents should be sure to take responsibility for getting themselves prepared for an emergency. We will continue to look for ways to support residents in being more informed about emergency preparedness.”

Eighty percent of households very or somewhat prepared for a major hurricane

Fifty-six percent of households have a family evacuation plan

Evaluating Different Populations

By design, surveys were split evenly between residents who live in what used to be called Zone A – the most likely to flood – and residents who did not live in Zone A. Residents in Zone A were more likely to say they have taken additional steps to prepare since Sandy (68 percent) compared to residents not in Zone A (57 percent). Overall, more than three-quarters of residents said that they would

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evacuate if ordered to by government officials. However, residents in Zone A were less likely to say they would do so than non-Zone A residents.

Approximately one-quarter of all surveys were completed by households with at least one member with limited mobility or life-sustaining equipment. These vulnerable households were more likely to report the need for uninterrupted electricity. Nearly one-third of vulnerable households reported a need to refrigerate life-sustaining equipment.

About one in seven respondents participated in a home evacuation drill, and one in five said they or someone in their household took part in a workplace or school evacuation drill.

The surveys were conducted by NYCHA residents, hired for temporary positions with funding from a post-Hurricane Sandy grant from the federal Department of Labor, as reported in the June issue of the Journal. Households were sampled randomly, and telephone surveys were completed with 908 households in Zone A and 963 households outside of Zone A.

Complete results of the survey will be shared with residents at the NYCHA’s ongoing emergency preparedness meetings, part of its NYCHA Prepares efforts.

In Memoriam: Herma Williams

Herma Williams, the First Vice President of the Citywide Council of Presidents and a tireless advocate on behalf of all public housing residents, passed away on August 5. Ms. Williams was born and raised at Pelham Parkway Houses in the Bronx, and was the development’s Resident Association President since 1994. She raised her daughter as a single parent in Pelham Parkway Houses; her grandson is a third generation resident of the development. She became First Vice President of the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP) in 2010. She had served previously as Secretary since 2008 when she was elected Chairperson for the Bronx North District.

Ms. Williams was a vocal supporter of resident empowerment. As she wrote in a letter in the Residents’ Voices column in the November 2011 Journal, “We must continue to ‘lift every voice’ until we are heard!”

Ms. Williams was responsible for the launch of the Bronx NYCHA Task Force created in 2009 by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and for the coordination of a Bronx North Town Hall in 2010 sponsored by Congressman Joseph Crowley and attended by NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

Among the many duties Herma Williams performed as a member of the Citywide Council of Presidents was serving as the emcee at the launch of Resident Watch in 2010. “She lived her life according to a belief that I think can teach us all a valuable lesson: that nothing in the world can stop us when we work together to make life better for other people,” said Melba Butler, the Director of NYCHA’s Office of Resident Engagement. “It was obvious that her work was connected to something much greater, wider and deeper than herself.”

Passing of Former NYCHA Chairman Simeon Golar

Simeon Golar, NYCHA’s 12th Chairman, died on August 11, 2013, at the age of 84. He is the only Chairman to have grown up in public housing, at Fort Greene Houses in Brooklyn. Mr. Golar was appointed Chairman by Mayor John Lindsay in 1970.

Mr. Golar was described in an August 13, 2013, New York Times obituary as “an avowed integratonist.” Born in 1928 to a teenage mother who later put him up for adoption, Mr. Golar is reported to have had “fond memories of growing up in public housing.”
Ocean Bay Houses Residents Get Their Green Back

By Vinson Cunningham, with additional reporting by Eric Deutsch

On July 31, dozens of community members joined representatives from Lowe’s and other partners to plant new flowers, trees and shrubs to replace plants that were left ravaged in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy last October.

The inspiring effort began this spring, when Doris McLaughlin, Ocean Bay’s Resident Green Committee Captain, took a drive and realized how devastating the storm’s impact had been on the natural environment in her community. “My husband and I were driving through another part of Queens, and everything was just so green – trees, shrubbery, grass, everything. It was just so beautiful,” she said. “And I realized that our block still looked like the dead of winter because of the storm.”

This led Ms. McLaughlin and her Resident Green Committee to connect with the NYCHA Civic Corps and devise a plan to restore the neighborhood to its former glory. “We wanted to send a letter to Lowe’s,” she said. “We knew they had the kind of materials we needed, and we thought it was worth a try. The NYCHA Civic Corps thought it was a great idea – they helped us get started with the letter.”

The letter paid off. Lowe’s sent representatives from their landscaping department to survey the considerable damage and pledged to lend a helping hand. Geraldine Callands, an Ocean Bay resident who keeps her own garden at the development, said that was the turning point. “Sandy messed up all of our flowers and trees. It was so blessed for Lowe’s to come in here and beautify the neighborhood, all the trees were dead,” she said.

After staff from NYCHA’s Gardening and Greening program provided guidance about where residents could and could not plant, Ms. McLaughlin set up the planting event on July 31. “The sun was shining, children were out with us – it was a glorious day,” she said. “Everything turned out wonderful.”

Several representatives from Lowe’s were on hand, joined by other local community-based organizations, such as the Rockaway Youth Task Force, and the Brotherhood. “My flower garden looks beautiful. The flowers are red and green,” said Ms. Callands. “The whole area is just beautiful.”

NYCHA youth plant flowers at a Hurricane Sandy recovery event at Ocean Bay Houses on July 31, 2013.

Want a Job Painting? NYCHA Wants You!

NYCHA is seeking residents who are qualified candidates to join a Painter’s Apprenticeship program. This opportunity to enter into an Apprenticeship program is designed specifically for NYCHA residents to learn a skilled trade. Wages start at more than $27,000 per year, based on a 35-hour work week. After completing the four-year program, wages increase to $48,000 per year, and full union benefits.

All applicants must be an authorized NYCHA resident, be at least 18 years old, be able to pass a drug test and have a high school diploma or be in the process of getting a GED. Participants will learn skills to become a union painter; training includes on-the-job as well as classroom instruction. The Painter’s Apprenticeship program is sponsored by the New York City Council.

To apply, residents who also are NYCHA employees should submit their cover letter and resume at www.nyc.gov/careers/search; search for Job ID “Painter Apprentice.” All other resident applicants should submit their cover letter and resume through the Employee Self-Service (ESS) system at www.nyc.gov/ess; search for Job ID “Painter Apprentice.”

CEASE THE GREASE

COOKING OIL AND GREASE

Cooking oil poured into a drain clogs pipes in your home and city sewers.

Clogged sewers cause sewage backups into your home and neighborhood.

Clogged sewer pipes can release sewage into local waterways, harming the environment.

DO pour cooled cooking oil and grease into a container, then seal and discard with your regular garbage.

Before washing pots, pans, and dishes:

DO wipe off oil and grease with a dry paper towel.

DO scrape leftover food into the trash.

Want a Job Painting? NYCHA Wants You!

For more information, please visit: nyc.gov/dep

NYCHA Residents receive training as part of the Authority’s Painter’s Apprenticeship program.
The NYCHA Not Wanted List

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA’s public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority’s ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The full list can be viewed at on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of February 20-March 6, 2013.

Prohibited as of February 20, 2013
- Richy Herrera, Astoria Houses, 1-20 Astoria Boulevard, Apt. 1B, Queens
- Henry Roy, Queensbridge South Houses, 41-06 Vernon Boulevard, Apt. 2B, Queens
- Maurice Sprain aka Maurice Spain, Mitchel Houses, 215 Alexander Avenue, Apt. 19H, Bronx
- Kasheem Williams, Astoria Houses, 1-20 Astoria Boulevard, Apt. 1B, Queens
- Lloyd Williams, Queensbridge South Houses, 41-12 12th Street, Apt. 6F, Queens
- Salim Wilson, McKinely Houses, 751 East 161st Street, Apt. 3F, Bronx
- Rousseau Woods, Johnson Houses, 1829 Lexington Avenue, Apt. 3B, Manhattan

Prohibited as of February 27, 2013
- Clarence Powell, LaGuardia Houses, 55 Jefferson Street, Apt. 5H, Manhattan
- LaBette Raggler, Bailey Park Houses, 116-30 Guy Brewer Boulevard, Apt. 1A, Queens
- Stanley Spencer, Bailey Park Houses, 116-30 Guy Brewer Boulevard, Apt. 1A, Queens

Prohibited as of March 6, 2013
- Ismael Canales Jr., Monroe Houses, 1755 Story Avenue, Apt. 6B, Bronx
- Ivan Canales, Monroe Houses, 1755 Story Avenue, Apt. 6B, Bronx
- Lefron Eley aka Le’Fone Eley, Monroe Houses, 1760 Story Avenue, Apt. 4E, Bronx
- Johnny Taylor aka Johnny Lamar, Jr., East 180th Street-Monterey Ave Houses, 558 East 181st Street, Apt. 5A, Bronx
- Michael Troutman, Breukelen Houses, 105-13 Glenwood Road, Apt. 6C, Brooklyn

Security Cameras Installation Update

As part of NYCHA’s comprehensive plan to make public housing developments safer, it is on track to roll out wide-ranging security enhancements that include Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance cameras at 86 developments by the end of 2013, a complete list is below. NYCHA’s Layered Access Control includes modern intercoms, wireless key fobs, technologically advanced cameras and vandalism-resistant doors as a supplement to CCTV cameras. NYCHA does not have the funding to install these systems at all of its developments, but will install them where elected officials have allocated discretionary funding for security measures. Since the inception of the CCTV surveillance program in 1997, NYCHA has installed 8,090 security surveillance cameras of varying scale at 691 buildings in 125 developments citywide.

Play Street Program Held at 10 Developments This Summer

NYCHA youth got a great benefit this summer from NYCHA’s partnership with the Police Athletic League (PAL). PAL’s Play Streets program was held at 10 developments, offering prevention education, sports, games and cultural arts activities. The program closes off streets and other public areas to provide youth aged six to 16 with safe, supervised, fun-filled places where they can play and learn during the summer months.

“Recreational and educational programs such as PAL Play Streets provide a safe haven for our youth and afford them invaluable life skills,” said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. “Partnerships such as these enable us to prepare and support our youth, who are not only our most precious resource but our future.”

The PAL Play Streets program was held in the Bronx at Monroe Houses, Brooklyn at Marcy, Red Hook East and Whitman Houses; Manhattan at Campos Plaza, Douglass and Grant Houses and Lehman Village; Queens at Hamilton Houses and Staten Island at Mariners Harbor Houses.

Renewed financial support for the Play Street at Douglass Houses came from proceeds of narcotics trafficking during criminal prosecutions by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

“Thanks to our PAL supporters and NYCHA, even more children who are growing up in some of New York City’s toughest neighborhoods will have a safe place to play this summer and a positive alternative to life on the streets,” said PAL Board Chairman and former Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.
NYCHA Seniors Get Emergency Preparedness Training

Some NYCHA seniors are more prepared for an emergency now, thanks to training by the City Office of Emergency Management (OEM). As part of NYCHA’s efforts to encourage residents during hurricane season to have an evacuation plan, gather emergency supplies and be informed about hazards, OEM trained senior residents this summer in emergency preparedness. Sessions were held in each borough – at Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses in the Bronx, Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn, Stanley Isaacs Houses in Manhattan, Queensbridge North Houses in Queens and West Brighton Houses in Staten Island. NYCHA provided translators in Chinese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. For details that were provided in the training, please see the cut-out graphic at right. For more information, go to nyc.gov/oem or on.nyc.gov/emergencynychacha.

NYCHA seniors gather materials at an emergency preparedness training session at Queensbridge North Houses on August 1, 2013.
In case of an emergency, you can count on us.

If you use life-sustaining equipment or you know someone who does, it's important to let us know. Con Edison keeps a record of these individuals so that we can contact them in case of an emergency. Even if you are not a Con Edison customer but live in our service area, you are eligible to be contacted in case of an emergency. To give us this information, complete and mail the accompanying form or call 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).

To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify the equipment that you use.

Life-Sustaining Equipment/Medical Hardship Survey

Equipment Information:
- Tank-type respirator (iron lung)
- Cuirass-type (chest) respirator
- Rocking bed respirator
- Electrically operated respirator (used more than 12 hours a day)
- Apnea monitor (infant monitor)
- Hemodialysis equipment (kidney machine)
- Other, please specify:

Frequency of use: Times per week ______________ Hours per day __________
Is equipment used during sleeping hours? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, how often? ________________________________________

Please mail this survey to:
Con Edison Life-Sustaining Equipment/Medical Hardship
30 Flatbush Avenue, Room 515
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Five NYCHA residents were part of the latest graduating class of the Women’s Initiative for Self Employment’s 11-week business training program. Since partnering with NYCHA’s Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) in 2012, the program successfully has graduated 20 NYCHA residents.

Women’s Initiative assists low-income women who dream of owning their own business. Its mission is to build the entrepreneurial capacity of women to overcome economic and social barriers and achieve self-sufficiency. Through the program, women learn to start, or expand, their businesses.

“As outlined in Plan NYCHA, we have taken an unprecedented approach to the work of connecting residents to critical programs and services by pursuing partnerships with best-in-class providers,” said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. “Our partnership with the Women’s Initiative offers an incredible opportunity for residents to access the educational services and professional expertise needed to turn their business dreams into reality.”

On average, clients nearly double their average annual individual income during the first year after training, from less than $13,000 before training to more than $25,000 one year after training. The percentage of clients who own a home also doubles two years after training. Five years after training, 70 percent of Women’s Initiative clients are self-employed, far exceeding the national average for business survival. These clients average nearly $150,000 in annual sales.

The Women’s Initiative’s program includes a workshop that helps women self-assess their business ideas to develop the next steps in launching their enterprise; a business management course to help them start, strengthen and grow their business; and a network that provides connections for graduates of the program with influential women in business and access to capital.

Women’s Initiative Trains Residents to Self-Start Their Businesses

Receive comprehensive healthcare services
Enjoy daily activities and hot meals
Make new friends
Get quality medical care
Covered by Medicaid
Open 7 Days a Week

St. Barnabas Adult Day Health Care Program

If you have a loved one who would benefit from our program, please call 718-960-3610 or 646-203-7615.
NYCHA Celebrates

Ah, summer! What's summer without getting in the pool on a hot day? These girls at the Gunhill Community Center on August 9 took part in the Learn to Swim program, sponsored by NYCHA, the NYC Department of Health and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. Photo by Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

This resident is no grouch as he serves up some tasty food at the Vladeck Houses Family Day on June 5.

NYCHA youth learn CPR at the National Night Out event at Woodside Houses on August 6.

Yum! Refreshing watermelon helps cool down NYCHA youth at the annual NYCHA Kids Walk at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island on August 20.

Sippin’ and slidin’ at the National Night Out event held at Fulton Houses on August 6.

New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony gets ready to toss a jump ball to start a game at Red Hook East Houses on June 27 at the basketball court refurbished with funds from his foundation.

Hundreds of seniors dressed up and danced the night away at the “Senior Prom” on June 21 at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses Community Center. Photo by Felix Cruz.
Summer 2013

This NYCHA youth isn’t crying over spilled juice - he’s too happy to have a fireman’s helmet and hot dog at the National Night Out event at Jefferson Houses on August 6.

NYCHA youth make their moves at the 11th Annual Chess Tournament held on June 19 at the Rutgers Community Center.

Janice Mikell from Marlboro Houses croons a beautiful rendition of Sam Cooke’s “A Change is Gonna Come” at the Make Music New York event on June 21 at Strauss Houses.

Fun carnival games were part of the National Night Out event at Jefferson Houses on August 6.

NYCHA youth get excited as they cross the finish line at the annual NYCHA Kids Walk at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island on August 20.

Board games more appropriately sized for giants were brought out for the National Night Out event at Woodside Houses on August 6.
St. Charles Borromeo School
214 West 142nd Street, New York, NY 10030
(we are in the neighborhood between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglas)

NURTURING A STRONG S.T.E.M.
(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
Program for the Foundation of Tomorrow

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St. Charles follows the common core curriculum as well as the Essential Learning curriculum of the New York Archdiocese which allows us to infuse faith, morals, and values.

We offer SMART Boards in every room, a state of the art science lab and computer lab, physical education, art, music, library, Spanish for grades 6 through 8, and extracurricular activities.

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Tours are available at your request – Call to make an appointment
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From 9:00-12:00, extended hours to 2:45 is $220/month
Visit our website at: www.stcharlesschoolcentral.org or call: 212-368-6666/7
Affiliation with Fordham University’s The Rosa A. Hagin School Consultation & Early Childhood Centers At the Graduate School of Education
Note: financial assistance is available based on qualification and availability

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- State of the Art Computer Lab
- After School Program
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- Guidance Counselor
- Special Education Teacher Pull-Out-Program
- Performing Arts
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- Technology Infused Curriculum
- Literacy Coach
- Breakfast and Lunch Program
- Summer Camp
- School Choir
- Drum Circle