



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
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NYCHA Announces Its Safety & Security Task Force
Public Housing Leadership, Residents and the NYPD Work in Collaboration

The New York City Housing Authority has convened the newly constituted Safety and Security Task Force for public housing. The Task Force is a collaborative effort to improve safety in NYCHA developments and the quality of life of the residents. It will review the policies and procedures that govern the conduct of the relationship between the residents, NYCHA, and the police.

“The establishment of the Safety and Security Task force is of great importance to NYCHA as we bring together groups and individuals who have a paramount interest in helping the Authority in reducing crime and criminal activity, said John B. Rhea, Chairman of NYCHA. “Residents of NYCHA should know that NYCHA leadership, along with members of the Citywide Council of Presidents and the NYPD are committed to working together to provide safe and secure housing for the future—and creating a climate of mutual respect.”

The Task Force came together after initial discussions with Chairman Rhea and residents in September 2009; there was also a meeting with NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly. The Task Force formally convened for the first time in December, 2009, as it outlined issues and defined the group’s scope; made initial recommendations; appointed other Task Force members; established timelines; and defined the next steps to be taken.

“We are pleased to be involved in this very significant effort to assist NYCHA, its residents and the NYPD is maintaining safety and security within each and every public housing development,” said Reggie Bowman, President of the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP). “With our voices at the table, we feel confident that issues and concerns that residents express everyday will be brought to these very important discussions. While we are working to reduce crime, we also hope to increase good will between residents and police.”

“The Task Force is a great vehicle for residents, police, and housing officials to focus on safety in housing developments in a collaborative way,” said NYPD Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly. “I want to thank all the participants who worked so hard to make it a reality.”

The committee will look at current regulations concerning NYCHA property, along with adjoining parks and buildings, technology improvements, and capital work needed to increase security.

Since inception, the Safety and Security Task Force has been expanded to include individual experts with resources and expertise to ensure input not only from NYCHA residents, but also from external stakeholders, such as the Department of Youth and Community Development; the Community Affairs Unit; and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The Task Force, which will be composed of five subcommittees, will research leading practices and make recommendation on improving the safety and security for residents.

At the February 4, 2010 Task Force meeting, employees of the Spring Creek Department of Public Safety were present and provided information on their department's mission, operation, and program elements. Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott was in attendance and pledged his and City Hall's support.

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