

NYCHA CHAIRMAN JOHN B. RHEA
HARLEM RBI DREAM ACADEMY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ANNOUNCEMENT
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011 – 12:00 PM
HARLEM RBI'S FIELD OF DREAMS, 100th STREET BET. 1ST AND 2ND AVENUES, NYC

Good afternoon...and thank you, Mayor Bloomberg, for that generous introduction and for your leadership in supporting New York City's most precious resource: our youth.

To the families of Washington Houses who are with us today, to our colleagues, and to our many partners—in the Bloomberg Administration, in the City Council, at Harlem RBI, at Civic Builders and at Jonathan Rose Companies—thank you for supporting NYCHA's vision for the future of public housing neighborhoods: a vision that begins with the families we serve, that honors our children's dreams, and recognizes that only through partnership can we create the neighborhoods our children so richly deserve.

I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for his unwavering dedication to creating open, integrated communities that include quality affordable homes, first-rate schools, community facilities, and the programs and services that will ensure New York City remains the

place where dreams are realized. NYCHA is grateful to the Mayor, to Chancellor Dennis Walcott and to Commissioner Mathew Wambua for their support. DOE and HPD have been true partners from this project's inception. We are truly grateful for the tremendous talent focused on strengthening neighborhoods, improving education and creating resources for our youth in New York City.

I want to thank our friends from Harlem RBI—Rich Berlin and Mark Teixeira. Harlem RBI is a jewel of the East Harlem Community and we are proud to work with them to create a better future for NYCHA's youth.

We're also grateful for the partnership of David Umansky of Civic Builders and Jonathan Rose of Jonathan Rose Companies. I am pleased to announce that in a joint venture with Jonathan Rose Companies, NYCHA will have the option to purchase the newly constructed housing units for \$1 after the expiration of a 15-year lending period. These housing units will provide up to a 25 percent preference for qualified NYCHA residents, just another

example of how we're working with our partners to both support the Mayor's New Housing Marketplace and serve our residents by creating new affordable homes.

I want to thank a true champion for the families of East Harlem— Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito. Council Member, your energy and your resolve are inspiring and invaluable, so thank you.

I want to thank the residents of Washington Houses for being with us every step of the way. And I encourage our residents to stay engaged as we move forward. The construction of the DREAM Charter School and these new homes will undoubtedly enrich the Washington Houses Community. I look forward to children who live in Washington Houses attending the DREAM Charter School and to NYCHA residents filling many of the new jobs that will be created both during construction and after this new project is complete.

Finally, to Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and our partners at the Department of City Planning, the Department of

Environmental Protection, and the Department of Parks and Recreation—thank you for your help in making this dream a reality.

Our children are our most precious resource, and the future prosperity of New York City rests on how well we prepare and support them today. On behalf of the families of Washington Houses and every NYCHA family—thank you.