



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**BURT LAZARIN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

April 26, 2019

Mayor Bill DeBlasio  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Kathryn Garcia  
Interim Chair and CEO  
NYCHA  
250 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Demolishing Public Housing**

Dear Mayor DeBlasio and Chair Garcia:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4)<sup>1</sup> is deeply concerned over reports that the City is considering the unprecedented action of demolishing public housing. These rumors are destabilizing our community and creating panic among residents of Fulton Houses.

Every unit owned by the New York City Housing Authority is someone's home. These apartments are a public resource for today and for the generations that will follow. Fulton Houses was built and has been maintained for over 50 years by public funds. MCB4 is strongly against the demolition of any of these units. It is a precedent we do not want set and an image (wrecking balls hitting the walls of public housing) we do not want to see. It could be the beginning step onto a slippery slope. MCB4 wants to explore other alternatives to demolition and the construction on site of luxury housing.

MCB4 is a strong advocate for the development of new affordable housing across our District. We have worked hard together with residents, elected officials, city agencies, and real estate developers to successfully bring about new 100% affordable apartment buildings on the grounds of Fulton and Elliot/Chelsea Houses; and we had an agreement to do the same at Harborview. Our Board will continue to partner with the community of public housing residents, NYCHA representatives, HPD and elected officials seeking creative solutions to today's critically underfunded public housing.

Rather than have a proposal enter the civic domain in press bits and pieces, MCB4 looks forward to an open discussion about the urgent financial needs of our neighborhoods' public housing and

our neighbors' housing concerns. Through a meaningful public conversation a transparent plan could be created without setting a dangerous precedent.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burt Lazarin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Burt Lazarin  
MCB4 Chair

cc: Hon Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Congress  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, New York State Senator  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council  
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, New York City Council  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Miguel Acevedo, President Fulton Houses Tenant Association

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<sup>i</sup> This letter is subject to ratification of Full Board at the Wednesday, May 1, 2019 meeting.