



Assemblymember

Walter T. MOSLEY

Reports to the Public Housing Community

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Winter 2013

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct privilege to serve the New York City housing developments of central Brooklyn. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is the largest public housing authority in the country. There are well over half a million New Yorkers who are NYCHA residents and thousands more who are employed by the authority. The issues related to NYCHA are at the heart of the affordable housing crisis in New York City and deserve the highest priority and attention.

The last few months have presented significant challenges for the public housing community, but if we continue to stand and fight together, I know we can overcome these and any future obstacles.

In June, as a result of federal sequestration cuts NYCHA announced the closure of all community and senior centers. Thankfully, the City Council was able to provide funding to prevent the immediate loss of resources and services. However, there are still many issues to be addressed.

I urge all NYCHA residents and also those who are supporters of preserving New York City's affordable housing stock to make their needs and voices heard during future conversations and discussions about the revitalization of public housing. Economic development and growth should not trump the needs of countless working class families and seniors who have called their developments home for decades and continue to be the driving force that ensures the diversity and vibrancy of our communities.

As a lawmaker, I will continue to passionately fight and serve as an advocate for all members of the public housing community.

Should you have any questions, concerns or requests for assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to my district office through email, phone, or in person.

Assemblyman Mosley supports progressive public housing legislation

During the 2013 legislative session, Assemblymember Mosley supported legislation relating to the New York City Housing Authority while also working to meet the ongoing needs of the public housing community. Some of the key pieces of legislation are highlighted below:

NYCHA's budgetary woes have been a recurring matter that, without fail, adversely impact residents and lead to the reduction or threat of the loss of necessary services. Assembly bills **A.2185** and **A.5343** would stop NYCHA from paying for sanitation and police services already provided by the New York City Department of Sanitation and NYPD. This change prevents NYCHA from using scarce housing funds for services otherwise provided by city agencies. These funds can be used to address building repairs and remedy infrastructure issues.

Bill **A.2677** imposes certain governance and reporting requirements on NYCHA to ensure that it is held to the same laws and standards that are currently imposed on all New York State public authorities. It is in the best interest of the public to ensure that NYCHA functions as an open, transparent and accountable public authority. The provisions of the bill include a process to ensure that federal funds allocated for resident assistance are actually spent and the development of a public system to track capital, maintenance and repair projects.

Similarly, **A.6964** creates the "NYCHA Real Property Public Review Act" which would require that any disposition of land or buildings by NYCHA be subject to compliance with New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). This legislation will help public housing residents and the broader communities of which they are a part of shape the future of their neighborhoods through a fair and transparent process.

For the upcoming legislative session, Assemblymember Mosley will continue to support and advocate for the passage of legislation that will address the numerous issues surrounding the New York City Housing Authority.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER WALTER T. MOSLEY

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Assemblyman Mosley testifies during NYCHA public hearing

On Wednesday, July 24, Assemblymember Walter Mosley joined his colleagues in local and state government, resident leaders and countless public housing advocates to testify at the NYCHA public hearing for the draft annual plan for fiscal year 2014. During his testimony, Assemblymember Mosley highlighted key issues for consideration that require attention and swift action. An excerpt of the member's testimony is available below:

"My district includes the Farragut, Ingersoll, Walt Whitman, Lafayette Gardens, and Atlantic Terminal NYCHA developments.

"As we all know, public housing in New York City is in absolute crisis. The decisions we make now and the steps we take will dictate the future of NYCHA for generations.

"Many NYCHA residents all across our city continue to live in unsafe conditions and under management that is increasingly unresponsive to their most pressing needs and concerns. As entire public housing communities deteriorate given existing conditions, we find a classic tale of two cities where income and quality of life disparities have reached alarming levels.



Assemblyman Mosley hosts local NYCHA Resident Leaders for a roundtable discussion.

"The 2014 NYCHA plan does not adequately address the multi-million dollar operating deficit, the billions needed for major capital improvements, dwindling housing opportunities, and the staggering unemployment rates among NYCHA residents.

"Instead of taking common sense solutions to this deficit – this plan seeks to undermine the very nature and purpose of public housing itself."

NYCHA DEFICIT AND INFILL PROPOSAL

"NYCHA must terminate the \$75 million annual payment given to the NYPD for services that are already paid for by resident income taxes. These low income residents should not have to make additional payments for basic protections ensured to all New Yorkers. This one step alone would more than make up for the Authority's operating deficit.

Unfortunately, this plan attempts to raise revenue in a way that would destroy public housing in New York City as we know it. Already, eight developments in Manhattan are to lease large parcels of their open space – open space that was created to ensure a decent quality of life for NYCHA residents – and hand it over to private developers to build luxury apartments.

This plan is not reflective of the interests of NYCHA residents or even the larger communities – as such, this proposal has been opposed by all affected community boards."

HUD SECTION 18 AND SECTION 8 VOUCHERS

"NYCHA must also comply with HUD Section 18 and include any applications or proposals in the 2014 or 2015 annual plan.

Our entire nation is hurting economically, yet struggling working families are getting less help than ever before. By the end of the year, an estimated 1,200 Section 8 vouchers will be cut and no new vouchers will be issued due to federal sequestration. To exacerbate this situation NYCHA plans to reduce the "payment standard" from 110% to 90% of the allowable HUD FMR, which will increase rents on nearly 10,000 Section 8 voucher holders."

DOWNSIZING

"There are also major issues with the New York City Housing Authority's downsizing scheme that need to be addressed.

I call on the New York City Housing Authority to have more consideration when downsizing residents, especially the elderly. Senior citizens should have the highest priority when being downsized to ensure that they have every opportunity to stay in the developments they are currently living in. The language of the downsizing letters needs to be clearer so that no resident is uncertain about what their rights are, where they are being moved to and what assistance they are expected to receive. Common sense exemptions to the downsizing rule should be honored by NYCHA and its management staff."

Frequently Asked Questions

What are NYCHA's policies on succession rights?

In order for you to be eligible for succession rights in a NYCHA development you must meet all three of the following qualifications:

1. You were listed on the original family roster when the tenancy began, or at a later point, you were either granted permission by NYCHA to become a permanent member of the household, or you were born to or adopted by someone who is already an official permanent member of the household; and
2. You have continued to live in the apartment and have been listed on the family composition for over a year since becoming a member of the household; and
3. You are otherwise eligible for NYCHA housing, using NYCHA's rules concerning income and criminal background.

What if I am a remaining family member who has lived in the apartment for a long time, but was never officially added to the household?

In such a case, it will be very difficult, but not impossible to get succession rights. Many of these cases require legal action to be resolved. My office can assist you in understanding NYCHA's succession guidelines.

If I have a parking issue or need information on NYCHA's new parking policy, who can I contact?

As of this past April, NYCHA has been partnering with Greystone Company to administer its Residential Parking Program and manage its parking lots. If you have any issues related to NYCHA's parking lots, Greystone Company can be reached through their customer service line at 212-268-9418 or email at GreystoneParkingServices@greystone.com. Information regarding the changes to NYCHA's parking policy can be found at www.nychaparking.com.



Assemblyman Mosley participating in a public housing workshop during the 2013 NYSABPRL Caucus weekend.

Disaster Preparedness: NYCHA Rules

Following the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, Assemblymember Walter Mosley continues to encourage all NYCHA residents to make sure that they are prepared in the event that a disaster strikes. Even residents who do not live in a flood/evacuation zone should be prepared for an emergency. All NYCHA residents should have an evacuation plan, a gathering of emergency supplies, and general knowledge about which hazards may affect your area.

A family evacuation plan should include an emergency support network of family and friends, documents with all of your medical information, knowledge on where you will go and how you will get there, and plans for the care of any household pets.

A family's emergency supplies should have a "stay at home package" in the event that they are forced to stay in their home and a "go package" in the event that they are forced to evacuate their home. A stay package should include enough supplies to last for at least a week, a gallon of drinking water per person per day, and enough non-perishable food to last for at least a week. An emergency go package should contain copies of important documents, cash and/or credit/debit card, list of all medications you are currently taking and their dosages, flashlight, battery operated radio with extra batteries, contact information for your household and members of your support network, prepaid calling card, metrocard, note pad and pen.

All residents should know if they live in an evacuation zone. You can find out by calling 311 or by visiting www.nyc.gov/hurricanezones. I encourage all public housing residents to sign up for NYCHA alerts.

If you believe for any reason that you or a family member may have a disability or medical condition that will require assistance during an emergency, you should complete an online Emergency Registration Form.

Update on NYCHA infill proposal

On October 10, 2013, the New York City Council and a group of tenants filed a lawsuit to prevent the Infill Strategy from moving forward. The controversial Infill Strategy plans to lease parcels of NYCHA land to private developers for the purpose of luxury housing development. The deal, which intends to generate revenue for capital projects and repairs,

allows for the construction of new market-rate apartment buildings, along with a handful of affordable housing units, in eight public housing developments throughout Manhattan. This past spring, NYCHA issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking ideas from developers. The lawsuit preempts the November 18 deadline set by NYCHA for proposals.

The plaintiffs argue that the agency failed to include the City Council on the decision-making regarding the plan to build on public housing grounds. They have also pointed out that the administration failed to follow standard protocol, which requires that NYCHA officials go through City Council for approval before leasing public land.

Available Community Resources

Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ) is available to help veteran families, homeless female veterans & homeless veterans with children.

Assistance with housing, transportation and child care needs, supportive services and access to emergency food.

Contact BVSJ at 665 Willoughby Ave. (between Marcus Garvey Blvd. and Throop Ave.)
718-852-6004 at Ext. 269 or Ext. 255

Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions offers services for job seekers, assistance with job placement, workshops, training and education, work support and opportunities for continuous advancement. **Please contact Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions at 718-577-2194**

Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 BLDG 92 Employment Center:

For Job Seekers

The Employment Center specializes in placements for job seekers of all skill levels, with emphasis on local residents (including NYCHA residents), veterans, and individuals with experience in industrial/manufacturing, hospitality, warehousing and distribution. The center also provides internship or job training options.

For Employers and Local Business Owners

Brooklyn Navy Yard Employment Center can do all pre-screening and vetting for business owners, saving valuable time and resources. With key partnerships with local groups, and a great reputation with local residents, the Employment Center can help identify (and retain) qualified employees. Visit their website at brooklynnavyyard.org/employment or contact ecenter@brooklynnavyyard.org or **718-907-5996**.

BLDG 92 Exhibits and Programs:

The exhibits at BLDG 92 are free and open to the public **Wednesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.** and select holidays. Stop by with your family and enjoy a journey through the Brooklyn Navy Yard's past, present and future. BLDG 92 tells for the first time the story of the historic Brooklyn Navy Yard, the 300-acre site nestled on the world-famous Brooklyn waterfront that opened in 1801 as one of America's first naval shipyards. 63 Flushing Ave (at Carlton), Brooklyn, NY, **718-907-5992**, www.bldg92.org

Brooklyn Academy of Music Seniors Cinema Program

BAM continues its commitment to community arts programming with Senior Cinema, a monthly film series at BAM Rose Cinemas that provides moviegoers 65 years and older free admission to a movie with complimentary popcorn and soda. BAM partners with the New York City Housing Authority to provide participating senior centers and community-based organizations with subsidized bus transportation to and from BAM for Senior Cinema. **For reservations, call 718-636-4122.**



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2014 Youth Job Fair and Career Expo

According to the United States Department of Labor the national unemployment rate for youth, ages 16 to 24, is at approximately 16 percent. This rate is even higher in urban areas with a large minority population. To address this problem Assemblymember Mosley will be teaming up with the Tillary Park Foundation, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Workforce 1 NYC Business Solutions and other community organizations to host a youth job and resource fair, this January. This fair will include opportunities to meet employers with available positions and hiring opportunities. Workshops on resume writing and interviewing skills will also be provided, along with information on trade skills development and apprenticeship options.

For additional information on the 2014 Youth Job Fair and Career Expo, please call 718-596-0100.