

TESTIMONY FROM NYCHA CHAIR AND CEO SHOLA OLATOYE
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL BUDGET
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 – 1:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEW YORK, NY

Chairs Alicka Ampry-Samuel and Vanessa Gibson, members of the Committee on Public Housing and Subcommittee on Capital Budget, and other distinguished members of the City Council: good afternoon. I am Shola Olatoye, Chair and CEO of the New York City Housing Authority. I am pleased to be joined by Acting General Manager Vito Mustaciuolo; Deborah Goddard, Executive Vice President for Capital Projects; Tricia Roberts, Vice President for Finance; and other members of NYCHA's executive team. Thank you for this opportunity to present the Authority's adopted budget, which was approved by the NYCHA Board of Commissioners on December 20, 2017.

The State of Affairs for Public Housing

This month marks my fourth year as NYCHA's chair and CEO. I took on this role to improve the quality of life for residents, reset relationships, and stabilize the agency's finances. To do that, we developed NextGeneration NYCHA, the Authority's 10-year strategic plan and turnaround effort. With it, we've been able to balance NYCHA's operating budget for three years in a row, build up our reserves, launch the largest development program in our history, and improve quality of life for residents through innovative federal programs like the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) and Energy Performance Contracts.

For four years, I've discussed NYCHA's dire financial state, including its enormous capital needs and the \$3 billion loss in federal operating and capital funding since 2001. We are a federally funded agency, and federal underfunding remains the number one threat to public housing across the nation. While we are operating under a two-year federal budget agreement, we do not know what our specific allocations from HUD will be in the years 2018 and 2019.

The President's proposed 2018 budget makes it painfully obvious that the federal government seeks to fully abandon public housing, and that it wants local governments as well as residents (through a rent hike) to make up for this disinvestment. But as I have said, we will not let DC walk away from its responsibilities. The stakes are simply too high for the 1 in 14 New Yorkers who call NYCHA home – the teachers and police officers, seniors and veterans, who are the backbone of our great city. We will not turn our backs, but it will require bold and unpopular shifts in how we do business.

NYCHA's Budget Outlook

Before I take you through some of the accomplishments we've made despite these challenges, I'd like to discuss our projected operating revenues and expenses. I will also discuss our capital budget later in the testimony.

In 2018, NYCHA expects to receive approximately 20 to 23 percent of the public housing operating funding appropriated by Congress for all public housing authorities, based on historical trends. This is \$108 million less than we are eligible to receive – because HUD rations (or prorates) the limited federal funds it allocates to all the public housing authorities across the country.

With total revenue of \$3.339 billion and expenses of \$3.327 billion, we are projecting a slight surplus of \$12 million for 2018.

Two of our largest expenditures are employee benefits and utilities, for which we are budgeting \$572 million and \$544 million in 2018, respectively. These are also the expenses most out of our control. Even with central office headcount going down by more than 1,000 over the past decade due to attrition and transfers to other City agencies, our health care and pension costs have gone up by \$185 million during that same period – a 51 percent increase. The cost of utilities is also variable and unpredictable.

Our largest sources of revenue include rent from residents and federal operating funding. But the money we receive from the federal government and collect in rent are not enough to cover our costs as a landlord: After combining rent and federal operating funds, there's still a \$268 per unit annual deficit. And there's been an increase in chronic rent delinquency at NYCHA, much of which can be attributed to the HUD-mandated flat rent increases: nearly 95,000 households saw their rent go up by an average of 46 percent (or \$200 a month) since January 2014. Under the current policy, residents pay 30 percent of their adjusted income toward rent, which factors in certain deductions and expenses. If the President's draconian vision comes to pass and residents' rent is raised to *35 percent* of their gross income, we expect a negative impact to our rent collection rate, because many residents won't be able to afford a 33 percent rent increase.

We rely on the federal government for nearly two thirds of our funding. As I mentioned, for 2018, we expect to receive 20 to 23 percent of the public housing operating funding appropriated by Congress. But under the President's vision, our operating funds would be slashed by more than a third.

Currently, for our Section 8 program, we expect a funding proration rate of 95 percent this year, along with a \$6.5 million cut to the funds for running the program. Although we do not anticipate a Section 8 program deficit in 2018, if the final federal budget results in more cuts, we would have to stop issuing turnover vouchers. If the President's proposed Section 8 proration rate of 88 percent is enacted, we would lose nearly 10,000 existing Section 8 vouchers. It is more imperative than ever for us to rally against the federal government's starvation of public housing.

NextGen NYCHA Progress

Since its release nearly three years ago, NextGeneration NYCHA has served as a critical roadmap for fundamentally changing the way we do business at the

Authority. Turnaround efforts take time, but I think we can all agree that we want to keep moving forward.

Stabilizing the Authority's Finances

Put simply, the more revenue we have, the more we can do to support our residents' quality of life. Since 2015, NYCHA has achieved more than \$313 million in savings from NextGen initiatives. That includes the Mayor's relief of payments to the City (\$84 million), reduced central office costs (\$47 million), converting formerly unfunded units built by the City and State to a Section 8 funding stream (\$16 million), RAD at Ocean Bay (\$44 million), and our public-private partnerships involving six Section 8 developments (\$108 million).

And by reducing the number of central office staff by more than 600, we have been able to add 239 frontline positions.

Operating More Efficiently and Effectively

Improving our operations is another way we can serve residents better, and another crucial aim of NextGen NYCHA. Before we launched our strategic plan, basic repairs took an average of 13 days to be completed. We've brought that down to four days. At our 56 NextGen Operations sites, where we've empowered property managers with more control and accountability, basic repairs are being completed even faster. But if there are more cuts from Washington, it is unlikely we'd be able to continue driving down repair times.

Our NextGen digital initiatives are also streamlining our operations. Thirty-seven hundred employees – including maintenance, skilled trades, and emergency services staff – are now equipped with smartphones, enabling them to open and close work orders while getting resident sign-off on the work on-the-spot. Using their smartphones, maintenance workers are completing 9 percent more work orders. Residents have used the MyNYCHA mobile app to open more than a half

million work orders since it was launched. Last year, we finished rolling out online annual income certification to streamline the process for residents – and now office staff have more time to focus on other tasks.

Through the NextGen Sustainability Agenda, NYCHA is reducing its carbon footprint, benefitting residents and the city at large. We brought recycling to all 325 developments. And we started work on three large-scale Energy Performance Contracts that will upgrade lighting and heating systems while reducing energy usage, part of an approximately \$300 million initiative.

Under the Mayor’s Action Plan, we’ve installed more than 6,200 security lights at 14 developments which had the highest crime rates in 2014, with a more than \$140 million investment from the City – and we’re in the process of installing security cameras and high-tech building entry systems at all of these sites. Thanks to City Council Fiscal Year 2017 funding, we installed about 560 security cameras and upgraded 38 cameras at 19 developments – on time. Crime dropped more than seven percent across NYCHA developments last year.

(Re)building, Expanding, and Preserving Public and Affordable Housing

Our capital budget includes three sources: federal funding from HUD, federal FEMA funding, and City funding. In recent years, HUD has provided NYCHA with about \$300 million annually in federal capital funds. For 2018, we allocated about \$222 million for roof and façade repairs, heating plant replacements, elevator rehabs, and bathroom renovations.

If the President has his way, and our federal capital funding is zeroed out, these vital projects will be halted at our aging buildings – 60 percent of which are more than a half century old – and residents will suffer the consequences.

While the federal capital funding we receive is far from enough to meet our buildings’ vast capital needs – and has declined by a cumulative \$1.6 billion since

2001 – we’re using the money we do receive as quickly and efficiently as possible to improve residents’ quality of life. More than a billion dollars of construction work is currently underway across the Authority. In the past four years, we’ve committed our federal capital grants within an average of 12 months – well ahead of HUD’s 24-month obligation deadline – and spent the grants an average of 15 months ahead of the 48-month deadline. We completed our Bond B work ahead of schedule: about \$500 million of major improvements at 319 buildings.

By the end of 2017, we had awarded \$1.85 billion in contracts as part of our historic FEMA grant to repair and strengthen 33 Sandy-impacted developments. At that point, we had spent \$730 million of these funds, and hired about 250 NYCHA residents in the process. In the next two years, we expect to spend approximately \$1.7 billion on the Sandy recovery and resiliency program. Residents are getting new roofs, electrical systems, and boilers; backup power; and flood protection.

We are addressing some of our buildings’ most critical infrastructure issues thanks to Mayor de Blasio’s support. He has committed an unprecedented level of resources to the Authority, including \$1.3 billion to fix nearly 1,000 roofs, millions to repair facades at over 400 buildings, and, most recently, \$200 million to replace boilers and upgrade heating systems at 20 developments. We completed roof replacements at 63 buildings, and construction for the second set of buildings is on schedule to begin this May.

We appreciate the extraordinary support from the Mayor and this body, which is enhancing our capital projects going forward. However, City funds are not a replacement for HUD funding. So we must continue advocating for capital investment from the federal government. Considering the massive needs, any cuts to capital funding are unacceptable and have a severe and immediate impact on our residents.

Recently, there has been a lot of attention on ways the State can further step up to help improve the quality of housing at NYCHA. The Assembly is already leading the way – by including \$200 million in new capital funding to match the City’s contribution and passing design-build this week. The City has sought design-build authority for years – it matters because it could shave a year or more off the time it takes to replace much-needed heating systems at NYCHA. Moreover, it would be helpful for the leadership at the State to release the \$200 million allocated to NYCHA in last year’s budget, commit to \$200 million in new capital dollars in this year’s State budget, and to sign design-build for all NYCHA projects into law.

It’s important to note that with the steady decline in federal capital dollars, NYCHA is pursuing innovative ways to fund the building and apartment upgrades that residents deserve. Last year, we closed on the largest single-site RAD transaction in the nation, bringing \$325 million to repair and modernize 1,400 apartments at Ocean Bay-Bayside in the Rockaways, home to 4,000 residents. That means new kitchens and bathrooms, new roofs, and state-of-the-art security and heating systems for residents. We selected developers for three new RAD bundles, which will raise \$300 million for extensive repairs to an additional 1,700 apartments throughout the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Our NextGen Neighborhoods program is bringing desperately needed affordable housing to our city and revenue for building upgrades at NYCHA. To date, we’ve announced four sites where this vital program will create a 50/50 mix of affordable and market-rate housing on under-utilized land: Holmes Towers, Wyckoff Gardens, La Guardia Houses, and Cooper Park Houses. This represents more than 750 new affordable apartments currently in the pipeline.

Engaging Residents and Connecting Them to Opportunity

Our work to support residents goes beyond the foundations of an affordable home – we also connect residents to life-changing opportunities. Since the launch

of NextGen NYCHA, our Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability and partners have facilitated more than 8,200 resident job placements and over 19,000 connections to services. Through job training, union apprenticeship programs, and business courses, we are providing residents with many pathways to opportunity.

And we're engaging people in new and different ways with 14 new Youth Councils, dedicated engagement on our real estate development activities, and, thanks to the City Council, our recently launched Resident Leadership Academy.

Conclusion

With NextGeneration NYCHA as our guide, we are strengthening our organization and improving the quality of life for our residents. But decades of disinvestment don't come undone overnight – and there is no NYCHA fairy waiting in the wings to rescue us. Put simply, we need a sustainable financial model. Our residents deserve it.

Come to the table to help us address the challenges – we cannot solve them on our own – and stand with us as we urge DC and Albany to provide public housing with the funding and resources it needs. We are home to 600,000 people, a population greater than Atlanta: The stakes are too high for us to be divided when the Trump administration's fiscal threats remain. Last year, we came together as partners – elected officials, residents, and advocates – to make the case for public housing, and we will fight tirelessly again this year.

We appreciate the support we've received from the Mayor, City Council, and other City agencies for our NextGen NYCHA initiatives. This assistance is critical. While City funding can supplement but cannot replace HUD funding, we encourage Council Members to allocate more funds for capital projects that will improve resident quality of life, like new boilers, elevators, and gas risers. And we

ask that you stand with us as we urge Albany to pass design-build legislation that will enable us to complete major capital projects faster.

There is more work to be done. Thank you for your support. We will take your questions now.



FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony of Lorraine Collins
Director of Public Policy and External Affairs
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**

**To the New York City Council
Preliminary Budget Hearing –Public Housing**

March 14, 2018

On behalf of Enterprise Community Partners, I would like to thank Chair Ampry-Samuel and the City Council Committee on Public Housing for convening today’s preliminary budget hearing with the Subcommittee on Capital Budget. This hearing provides an opportunity to discuss city priorities reflected in their budget for Public Housing. Recent operational and maintenance failures have brought the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) need for capital funding into the public eye. We at Enterprise believe that this is an important moment for the city to build up support for public housing and provide residents with the repairs and investment these buildings need in order for them to remain an asset for residents and the city long-term.

Enterprise is a national non-profit organization that provides capital for affordable housing and community development, advocates for policies that advance these goals, and supports local groups working on these issues. Since our New York office opened in 1987, we have committed nearly \$3.4 billion in equity, loans, and grants to help create or preserve over 60,000 affordable homes for nearly 160,000 residents in the region. Enterprise has three primary program areas in New York City through which we incubate scalable solutions, evaluate successful models, and expand what works through policy. We develop these programs in coordination with city and state agencies, community-based organizations, financial institutions and other stakeholders.

Enterprise’s public housing program supports the preservation of public housing communities across the state to be green, resilient, healthy and connected to opportunity by driving new resources and expanding public-private partnerships.

As you know, NYCHA is New York City’s largest landlord of affordable housing and is the largest public housing agency in the country. NYCHA employs over 11,000 individuals, has over 400,000 residents, 300 locations and over 180,000 individual apartments. The top three employers of public housing residents are public systems that keep New York running: the city

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.

One Whitehall Street ■ 11th Floor ■ New York, NY 10004 ■ 212.262.9575 ■ www.EnterpriseCommunity.org



Department of Education, NYCHA and the NYPD. Public housing is the lifeblood of New York City, and continues to be a stabilizing force and a connector to opportunity for all who live there. But to continue to serve the city's most vulnerable residents, NYCHA needs resources for an array of critical capital needs. Even in the face of severe federal budget cuts, NYCHA has introduced new technologies to streamline services and has reduced response time to maintenance repairs from 150 days to just 9.6 days, resulting in \$2.6 million in savings.¹ While these timely reductions have improved resident wellbeing and saved the agency millions, more cannot be done without a substantial investment in capital funding. As one of the biggest city assets, the city must do more to support this portfolio of housing.

According to the Citizen's Budget Committee, years of underfunding and cuts from the federal government have left NYCHA with a backlog of \$25 billion in capital needs.² In 2016, HUD's public housing assessment system ranked NYCHA among the lowest scoring large public housing authorities for physical conditions.³ Without a doubt there are several operational and maintenance improvements that need to be made, but the need is clear, NYCHA buildings are old and have been starved for capital funding for too long.

Enterprise has urged both New York State and New York City to each provide \$250 million to NYCHA in this year's budget. A \$250 million commitment from the city would be a significant down payment on much needed repairs that would improve the quality of life for thousands of residents. Enterprise suggests two parameters for the budget that would ensure that residents can benefit from these funds quickly.

- First, this funding should be allocated in one year instead of spreading it over multiple years.
- Second, the funding should go to NYCHA's infrastructure needs – things like roofs, elevators, and boilers – needs that have impacted residents this past winter and are essential to long-term resident health and wellbeing.

¹ Next Generation NYCHA 2017 Q2 Report: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/about/nextgen-nycha.page>

² NYCHA Capital: What you need to know <https://cbcny.org/research/nycha-capital>

³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, "Public Housing Physical Inspection Scores 2016", www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/pis.html



We believe this kind of funding, enacted in this city council capital budget, can set a precedent for support of critical infrastructure for our city. Enterprise commends the Council for its commitment to connecting all residents to opportunity, affordable housing, and for understanding that NYCHA is our city's greatest affordable housing resource. Thank you to the Committee for all your efforts to make New York a better city for low-income New Yorkers.

City Council Committee on Public Housing Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony of Naomi Johnson, Tenant Association President, Howard Houses

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Naomi Johnson. I have lived in NYCHA's Howard Houses for 38 years and I have served as the President of the Howard Houses Tenant Association for the past seven years. Thank you Chairwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel and members of the City Council for allowing me to testify before you today.

I am here today to talk about two major threats to the NYCHA community: lack of capital operating funding and threats of rent reform at the federal level.

As you know, NYCHA has been chronically underfunded, which has created major infrastructure problems for Howard Houses. In fact, the chronic underfunding of NYCHA has made my position as President of the Tenant Association very challenging. I am constantly hearing from residents about what needs to be fixed or replaced, why we do not have cameras, with heat and hot water being the top complaint. In my role, I have been advocating for security and basic infrastructure work, but there has not been enough resources available. Capital investment into Howard Houses is long overdue, and I know our development is not alone.

At the federal level, NYCHA is facing threats of a major budget cut and potential for rent reform, which could raise the tenants rent from 30% to 35% of their income. Rent reform would also eliminate important deductions like child care or medical expenses. Working families rely on their deduction for childcare, seniors on a fix income would also be affected. Eliminating these deductions would also increase, the rent for working families, how do we expect them to make ends meet?

Many residents in the development; families, seniors and others, would not be able to pay the increased rent, and I believe they would become homeless. They certainly would not be able to afford a market rent unit in NYC, and many of them may not have a family safety net or anyone they could stay with. In these cases, all that is left is to enter the City's shelter system. This is not what we want for our vulnerable seniors and families.

It is essential that the City Council ensures that NYCHA receives the funding they need to keep providing services and protecting affordable housing. Thank you for your time today.

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Maggie Petway and I am the Vice President of Edenwald's Resident Council. I was asked to come here today to make a statement regarding my time in Edenwald Houses and how these repeated budget cuts affect my life, my son's life and the many residents of this development. I have lived in Edenwald Houses for 47 years.

And just to give you a little of my personal history – I've worked every summer since I was 14 in this very development, began working after school at age 17 and then full time at age 20. I've worked at two law firms – one as an intern and the other as a fulltime employee for four years. I am currently employed as a paralegal in City Government – my official Civil Service title is Administrative Manager – at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the last 30 years.

I live in this development with my son. He is a 22 years old college student studying Media Graphics and Digital Design. My immediate neighbors are a retired couple in their 90's, both are ill with the usual plagues that old age can bring, there's a sick elderly woman who is in a wheelchair and is taken to dialysis 2-3 days a week and there's a woman in her late 70's who took in foster children and has now seen her last child enter college last year. I could tell you about many of the other people that live in this development – people I see monthly at the Resident Council meetings – those who have disabilities, those who have children with disabilities, the infirmed, the elderly and those making it to a meeting after working all day. NYCHA is their community.

Over the years, I've watched how budget cuts have slowly caused decay. Less maintenance workers to handle repairs in a timely fashion, reduced funding for roof or boiler repairs, less building cleaners to handle janitorial duties, less materials for mold and lead plaster remediation, windows that are corroding and falling apart and working appliances that are almost impossible to get. I saved "vacation money" last year but had to spend it purchasing a working refrigerator (after receiving two defective ones) and used the balance to pay back my son's student loans.

It angers me when I hear that the current Presidential administration is talking about reforms to eliminate the deductions given for the elderly, disabled and for children for family compositions that lower the income for the household. It means that my elderly neighbors may have to choose between their heart and pressure medications and paying their rent.

Also under this administration's rent reform proposal, they would increase tenant rent from 30% to 35%. This enrages me! A person making minimum wage or anyone just barely getting by could have their entire lives thrown in turmoil. How about the single mom who lives across the street, has been working on her job for three years, has not been given a raise and one of her two children is autistic. Should this resident have to choose between buying shoes for her kids and paying 35% of her income on top of losing the deductions that make rent for her apartment fairer? And then we hear in the news about the same agency spending thousands on new office furniture, on the backs of the poor, the disabled, children and the elderly is beyond unfair – it's cruel.

Housing policy is complex and costly – from subsidies to tax credits and from tenant advocates to landlords. Sometimes they work in harmony with one another and other times, working in total opposition. We have a larger problem in this country than we can hope to solve in one or two hearings. I know that smarter people than me have tried to figure this all out and failed. But what I do know is that you don't make a bad situation worse. You don't reduce funding to an agency already on life support and you don't kill the hope of many that are barely hanging on.

I have to be honest – I didn't want to attend the hearing today. I've seen these before, people come, plead, pour their hearts out and the tenants never get what they want or need. In general, just more of the same political banter about budgetary constraints and limitations. What this boils down to is that rents, food, health and medical costs keep going up and service and quality of life go down. I am here today in hopes that we can stop playing politics: oppose rent reform and ensure enough funding to get NYCHA's residents needs met. Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

Submit for
the RECORD

Statement of Earlton Massenburg provided for City Council Preliminary Budget Hearing, 3/14/18

The Section 3 service helped me greatly with my success in getting in to the Local 3 Union. They provided a class to help me pass my test and also gave us free lunches to make us as comfortable as possible. Also upon me getting in they gave me a free bag of tools to jump start my career.



Earlton Massenburg

FOR THE RECORD

FOR THE RECORD

Submit for
the Record

Greetings,

My experience with Section 3 was great from beginning to end. The program has given me the skills to establish a career as an electrician. No other program I know of offers such opportunities. The people are professional and down to earth. If you have questions they are there to help.

Damon Carpentier

dccarpentier@gmail.com

City Council Committee on Public Housing Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony of Ariel Perry Decamp

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Good afternoon, my name is Ariel Decamp. Thank you Councilwoman Ampry-Samuel and other City Councilmembers for having me here today.

I have lived in NYCHA's Van Dyke Houses for 15 years. My personal goal for the future is to become a biochemist. Right now, I like to spend my free time playing soccer, basketball, and reading.

I love reading the newspaper. Last fall, I started to read a lot about NYCHA's budget issues and problems in the newspaper, and also saw it on TV. Hearing about NYCHA's budget motivated me to join the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) in my area. I joined because I think I can better my community by advocating for things that we need.

I would like to see NYCHA become a more welcoming community. I would like to see restoration, less violence, and more unity. Thank you for your time today.

City Council Committee on Public Housing Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony of Rahnell Texsara

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Rahnell Texsara. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today.

I have lived in the Van Dyke Houses at NYCHA for twelve years. I play football at my high school, and when I am older, my goal is to join the NFL and have a family with my girlfriend.

I have served on the Youth Leadership Council for two years. I am on the Youth Council because I want to make my community look and feel decent. Our top advocacy priority is beautification. I want people to be able to plant and garden in the spaces around our building.

Growing up, I used to help my uncle with his vegetable garden at his house. I would love to see NYCHA residents be able to grow their own healthy vegetables and spend time outside together. I think gardening is something healthy for people to do together while also taking pride in our community.

To me and my family, NYCHA is made up of people who want to improve our environment. I hope one-day NYCHA residents are able to spend more time gardening outside, to improve health and pride in our community.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

City Council Committee on Public Housing Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony of Shanice Meade

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Shanice Meade and I have lived in the Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn for the last 13 years. I got to meet Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel last Thanksgiving when we volunteered together at the Senior Center. It is good to see you again and thank you for having me here.

To me, NYCHA means stable housing and community. My favorite things to do when I am home are reading, writing, drawing, and just hanging out. When I am older, I am going to become a famous pastry chef and a famous author.

This past year I started serving on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) and my favorite thing to do with the YLC is volunteering with seniors at the Community Center.

I serve on the Youth Leadership Council because I want to make my community a better place to live. Lately on the news, I have been hearing about money and funding limitations for NYCHA. I hope that this can get figured out, because I would like to see NYCHA have better apartments, buildings, and parks. I would also like to see less health issues and violence, and more gardening and employment opportunities.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

City Council Committee on Public Housing Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony of Zachary Rumnit

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Good afternoon, my name is Zachary Rumnit. I live in Van Dyke Houses, and I have lived there for 15 years. I play basketball and football. I am an entrepreneur, I sing, I dance, I rap, model, and am a Nike Youth Ambassador. I am focused on keeping my music and clothing businesses going so I can continue to be my own boss.

I am the current Youth Leadership Council President for NYCHA Zone 7. I am a youth leader because I want to make my community a better place. I have always lived in NYCHA, so it is our home, our place, and where I am from. I would love to see an updated environment, with cleaner hallways and courtyards, better sidewalks, and other improvements. I would also like to see more programs and jobs put into the community.

I would like to thank Chairwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuels for hosting the event for seniors last Thanksgiving. Thank you all for having me here today.

Lincoln Center

Chairwoman Ampry-Samuel, Members of the Committee on Public Housing:

My name is K'idar Miller, and I am the Senior Manager of Community Engagement at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, a member of the Cultural Institutions Group. On behalf of Lincoln Center and the Cultural Institutions Group, I want to express our continuing gratitude for the Council's longstanding leadership and support.

I'm grateful to be here seeking this Committee's support of arts in public housing spaces, including Lincoln Center's \$ 15,000 Speaker/Initiative request for our work with people facing housing insecurity. Also, on behalf of the Cultural Institutions Group, we request that in FY19, the council baseline the \$10 million received by the CIG in FY18, and allocate an additional \$20 million to be split between the CIG and local program groups, providing a clear means of supporting the implementation of the NYC Cultural Plan.

Guiding Lincoln Center's partnerships with public housing sites like NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses and transitional housing sites like the Women in Need Shelter network, there is an ever-enduring truth: the arts are for the many, not for the privileged few. And now more than ever our work with these public housing spaces stand in solidarity with the NYC Cultural Plan to advance equity by ensuring access to affordable, high-quality artistic experiences, especially in the context of community arts with those in public housing and those facing housing insecurity.

The Lincoln Center Community Artist Residency Program facilitates meaningful collaboration between artists and community members across New York City. Artists from various backgrounds come to the public housing spaces people call home not only to teach the skills of their artform but also to use art as a means of building an open community among diverse neighborhoods.

This creative exchange is the foundation of building a community within public and transitional housing. These art spaces foster opportunities for individuals and families to connect with each other, expressing their hopes, dreams, and fears, facilitated by the world's leading artists and without regard to socio-economic circumstance.

Neighbors are able to become more than strangers passing in hallways. And the rich cultural vibrancy of NYC is brought into the creation of art that can travel the world over, showcasing the beauty and undeniable value of each and every one of us.

In partnership with our CBO partners, the Community Arts Residency Program offers weekly workshop sessions at identified Community Artist Residency sites, including studio time, community art visits, and recruitment presentations, field trips to world-class live performances in dance, music, or theater at Lincoln Center and throughout NYC, and culminating performance events at each Residency site, as well as at Lincoln Center.

And as our concurrent exploration into the efficacy of our methods continue, Lincoln Center Education will contribute research to the field that formalizes a model for implementing responsive community arts programming in environments in which people have experienced housing-related and more generalized trauma.

By providing this platform for these individuals truly where they live, Lincoln Center and its partnering artists and organizations can engage community residents in a new conversation around the role of the arts in the lives of all New Yorkers, a conversation significantly enhanced and expedited with your backing.

To this end, we hope the Committee will support Lincoln Center's \$ 15,000 Speaker/Initiative request for our work with people facing housing crisis. And, again -- on behalf of the Cultural Institutions Group, we request that in FY19, the council baseline the \$10 million received by the CIG in FY18, and grant an additional \$20 million to be divided between the CIG and local program groups.

Thank you to the members of the Committee and the City at large, for your ongoing partnership.

Seen It?

3/14/2018

Testimony

New York City Council

ALFRED E. SMITH HOUSES RESIDENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.
史密斯居民協會通
ASOCIACIÓN DE RESIDENTES del residencial



17 Saint James Place - New York, NY 10038 AlfredESmith.TA@Gmail.com Fax/Phone:646-707-0995

ALFRED E. SMITH HOUSES RESIDENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.



史密斯居民協會通

ASOCIACIÓN DE RESIDENTES del residencial ALFRED E. SMITH, Inc.

Officers

Aixa Torres
President
Jerry Carter
Vice- President
Monique Harris
Secretary
Nancy Hecker
Treasurer
Candace Eng,
Sergeant-at-Arms
Maria Ines Quinones
Member -at -Large

March 14, 2018

New York City Council Budget Committee

Good afternoon:

On behalf of the Residents of Alfred E. Smith Houses, I am submitting my testimony. Smith Houses has been complaining to NYCHA for over 20 years about the broiler system and the problems we have with heating and the constancy of water leaks. The heating system is over 65 years old and probably in violation of several codes. The disinvestment of public housing by HUD has taken its toll on the infrastructure of the building where we live in.

There is a saying that says the water dripped until it broke the rock. The rock NYCHA has been broken. not because of this administration or their efforts but due the lack of disinvestment of infrastructure of NYCHA buildings as a whole for over twenty years there was no input or investment from the New York State Government or New York City in investing in NYCHA until now from Administration.

HUD has however allocated 300 Million dollars to flattening development like in Chicago to solve the problem. The total lack of funding (0%) for NYCHA by HUD as seen in table below tells the story of investment by this current government administration.

What this means for Alfred E. Smith Residents is a not having healthy or clean environment because we have roofs or pipes inside the walls that leak and need to be replaced not repaired or patchwork .

FY19 HUD Budget Request			
	Public Housing Capital Fund	Public Housing Operating Fund	Section 8 Voucher Renewals
HUD Funding (Requested)	\$0 100% (from \$1.922 billion)	\$2.675billion 37% decrease (Based on HUD 2018 Budget of \$4.245 billion)	Estimated 88.6% proration
NYCHA Funding (Estimate)	Loss of \$346 million	Loss of approximately \$330 to \$466 million based on FY19 Budget	Loss of 9,853 vouchers (\$124,380,351/annual shortfall)

While this administration has tried to address this problem in three-half years; it cannot fix the negligence of 20 years nor can NYCHA correct overnight or in 31/2 years especially without funds. In Smith Houses, we have had to prioritize the needs based on safety and the well-being of the residents, so our first priority was replacing gas pipes which were done under this administration because the previous administration held us hostage because we refused to sign off on the land lease.

Our priority now is acquiring funds for the pipe system and broilers in Smith Houses. We have families having to endure no heat or being over heated because of the broilers and pipes which are eroded. This problem begins to affect the health of residents especially the elderly and children including the residents that have cardiac or respiratory conditions.

Finally, our question today is what investment the City Council and New York State Legislators is are going to do in supporting Public Housing residents given the budget cuts from Washington, DC. to Public Housing in the City and State of New York. Our state and city government must invest in supporting our homes. We demand as tax payers and citizens of this country that you invest and support resident of public housing not by creating another system of oversight but properly funding NYCHA for the improvement of the infrastructure of every building in NYCHA as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Aixa Torres, President

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

2

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3-14-2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy Orby

Address: 330 Madison Street

I represent: Vladeck Houses

Address: Budget for NYCHA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vito Mustacchio

Address: Shota

I represent: Acting General Manager

Address: NYCHA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shota, Clontarf

Address: _____

I represent: Chair + CEO NYCHA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Goddard

Address: 100 Wall Street

I represent: VP of Finance Capital Projects

Address: NYCHA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tricia Roberts

Address: _____

I represent: VP of Finance

Address: NYCHA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Korin Jewell

Address: _____

I represent: EEVP Chief Admin Officer

Address: NYCHA

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: March 14 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alex Rodriguez

Address: 185 Nevins Street Brooklyn NY 11217

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Naomi Johnson

Address: 100 Glenmore Ave, BKlyn NY

I represent: Howard House

Address: 156 E NY Ave BKlyn NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: K'IDAR MILLER

Address: 630 MALCOLM X BLVD NY, NY 10037

I represent: LINCOLN CENTER

Address: 20 LINCOLN CENTER PLAZA
NY, NY 10023

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MUGGIE PETWAY

Address: 1149 E. 229th ST.

I represent: Edenwald Houses

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aixa Torres

Address: 19 St. James Pl # New York, NY 10058

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bahrell Texsara

Address: 383 Livonia Ave

I represent: South Leadership Council

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shanice Moore

Address: 180 Powell Street #418

I represent: Youth Leadership Council

Address: _____

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zachary Summit

Address: 374 Blake ave

I represent: nyc.h.a youth leadership

Address: _____

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Quel Perry Decamp

Address: 422 Blake Avenue

I represent: Youth Leadership Council

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/14/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARRIE Gadsden

Address: PO Box 2632 11222

I represent: Foree (personal aptiv)

Address: 388 ATLANTIC AVE

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms