



MITCHELL-LAMA RESIDENTS COALITION, INC.

P. O. Box 20414, Park West Finance Station, New York, NY 10025
Voice Mail: (212) 465-2619 ♦ Fax: (212) 289-5336 ♦ Website: www.mitchell-lama.org

TESTIMONY

Parks & Recreations Committee

September 16, 2008

Representing:

1199 Housing Corp.
Bethune Towers
Castleton Park
Central Park Gardens
Clayton House
Coalition to Save
Affordable Housing
of Co-op City
Concerned Tenants of
Sea Park East
Concourse Village
Dennis Lane
Esplanade Gardens
Fordham Towers
Jamie Towers
Jefferson Towers
Knickerbocker Plaza
Lincoln-Amsterdam House
Linden Plaza
Manhattan Plaza
Masaryk Towers
Meadow Manor
Michelangelo
Parkside
Pratt Towers
Promenade Apts.
RNA House
Riverbend Houses
River Terrace
Ryerson Towers
Skyview Towers
Southbridge Towers
Starrett City
Stryckers Bay
Tivoli Towers
Tower West
Trinity House
Village East Towers
Washington Square
Southeast Apts.
Westview Apts.
West Village Houses
Woodstock Terrace

Officers:

Chairs:

Lee Chong
Leanora Nelson
Treasurer:
Carmen Ithier

Financial Secretary:

Bernice Lorde

Recording Secretary:

Sonja Maxwell

Corresponding Secretary:

Katy Bordonaro

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Parks and Recreations Committee. My name is Lee Chong and I am a co-chair of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition.

We are an organization, more than thirty years old, of residents and community members advocating for the maintenance of affordable, secure and decent housing for low, moderate and middle income New Yorkers. We are the only Mitchell-Lama group representing both Co-ops and rental buildings in Albany, Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Westchester County. We are recognized by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR); and New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) as one of the premier organizations knowledgeable of the regulations, procedures and laws governing the Mitchell-Lama program

The Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition (MLRC) would like to request that the City Council support and approve three streets within Manhattan CB 7 be renamed to honor three long time advocates for affordable housing, specifically the preservation of Mitchell-Lama housing, not only in Community Board 7 (which at one time had the largest concentration of Mitchell-Lama developments) but for the entire State of New York.

They are **Robert Woolis**, co-founder along with Congressman Charles Rangel of MLRC, who lived for many years at Columbus House, a rental located at 95 West 95th Street and passed away on December 15, 2006; **Doris Rosenblum**, a co-chair of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition and former District Manager of CB 7 who lived at Stryckers Bay Apartments, a co-op located at 66 West 94th Street and passed away on August 1996; and **James Garst**, a founding member of the Mitchell-Lama Council who lived for many years at Columbus Park, a co-op located at 100 West 94th Street, and passed away on December 8, 2006.

On March 4, 2008 the full board of Community Board 7 passed the Resolution of the Transportation Committee approving the secondary street namings. At the Transportation Committee, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer spoke passionately in support of the street namings, as did many local

residents. At the full board meeting, staff of local officials representing Congressman Jerrold Nadler and State Senator Eric Schneiderman, as well as Council woman Gale A. Brewer spoke in support of the street namings.

The exact locations for the renamed streets are as follows:

Robert Woolis Way on the Northeast side of West 95th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West.

Doris Rosenblum Way on the Southeast side of West 94th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West

James Garst Way on the Southwest side of West 94th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.

Below are the biographies of these exceptional individuals.

ROBERT WOOLIS
May 1924 - December 2006

Bob Woolis passed away at home on December 15, 2006.

Bob was a long time resident of the Upper West Side via the Bronx. He was one of the original tenants at Columbus House, a pre-74 Mitchell-Lama development. He was an active resident serving on and off for many years on Columbus House's tenants association, often as its President.

In 1972 Bob co-founded the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition (MLRC) with Congressman Charles Rangel. MLRC became the foremost advocate for affordable housing throughout the state.

As co-chair of the MLRC, Bob was a prolific writer and speaker, and oftentimes wrote articles for the MLRC newsletter covering topics as diverse as the link between milk prices and rent to his position on pending legislation and certain politicians. As an experienced economist, Bob reviewed and often defeated dozens of rent increase requests. At times, his sharp analysis resulted in rent decreases for the grateful residents. One of his most successful challenges was Bedford Gardens, a 647 HPD/HUD supervised rental in Brooklyn. With Bob's leadership and tenacity the tenants association was able to get the HUD Inspector General to investigate the rent increase and operations of the landlord after both HPD and HUD had granted the increase. Needless to say, there was no rent increase and the owner was forced to relinquish control of the development and required to remain in the Mitchell-Lama program for a long time in lieu of prison time. There are thousands of Mitchell-Lama residents who have benefited from his commitment to affordable housing and his dedication to social justice.

His close work with politicians meant that Bob frequently picked up the phone to propose or comment on legislation and to help struggling tenant groups make important connections. Bob was often interviewed by news reporters and quoted as an expert on the Mitchell-Lama program. One quote from the *New York Times*, February 23, 1986 is an example of Bob's passion: "The landlords are saying 'We built these buildings because in 20 years, we thought we would be able to take them over,' But at best, the law doesn't set up a contract. Instead it is unwritten, is more sacred. The Mitchell-Lama law was a promise to the people – that they could have affordable housing. That to me, because it is unwritten, is more sacred."

Bob's life has been one of rich and diverse experiences and careers. Housing was only one of Bob's many interests. Beginning his working career as a merchant seaman, he traveled the world, and served in the Navy Air Corps during World War II. He was a union organizer in Arkansas and Tennessee. He went to college, with the help of the GI bill. Years later, he went back to the New School for his PhD in political science, and then went on to teach economics and statistics at Brooklyn College for a decade. He worked in the peace movement and even was a controller for EJ Korvettes!

His passion for jazz led him to have his own jazz and folk shows on WKRC and WBAI; where he interviewed scores of musicians and their publishers. He authored a book on traditional jazz and blues and produced jazz recordings. His love and passion for Paul Robeson was undeniable: both for the man's music and his politics. Bob had wanted for the longest time to have one of the Central Park Transverses named after Paul Robeson.

Bob was born May 13, 1924 in New York City. His marriage to Amy Godes ended in divorce but remained a good friendship that lasted until his death. Their daughter Nina unfortunately died of ALS in 1994, a passing that Bob mourned until his own death. Bob is survived by Ms. Godes, her daughter Cynthia and her family, an older brother. He will be missed by his many friends, appreciative tenants, and colleagues at the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition. A memorial was held on January 20, 2007 at Goddard Riverside Community Center.

DORIS ROSENBLUM
June 1925 – August 1996

Doris Koppelman was born on the Lower East Side at home on June 30, 1925. Her family moved to the southeast Bronx, where Doris grew up and attended Theodore Roosevelt High School. She was the younger of two children of Austrian Jewish immigrants who came to the United States in 1913.

She met her husband, Paul Rosenblum, another Bronx native via 6 months in Brooklyn, in Manhattan. They married on March 18th, 1956 and first set up house in the Lower East Side. They moved to the Upper West Side in 1959 when Doris was pregnant with their second child Beth. When Stryckers Bay Apartments opened in 1968, Doris and Paul and

their young children, Peter and Beth, moved to their home within the West Side Urban Renewal Area. Doris lived in the same apartment until her death on August 29, 1996.

Doris dedicated over thirty-five years to community service through improving the quality of life in the Upper West Side: from education to affordable housing to community gardens.

She joined the Parents Association of PS 75, her children's school, the year before her son entered and was elected delegate to the United Parents Association. She turned the social organization into an advocacy organization for the children and the teachers. She later helped organize West Side High School as a community-based alternative school. Doris acted as the school's administrator from 1972 until 1979.

Doris served as president of the Stryckers Bay Neighborhood Council, a community-based housing organization supporting the preservation of affordable housing and the return of many westsiders who were displaced by urban removal. She was a leader of the successful Site 30 "squatters" movement for affordable housing which was upheld by the New York State courts. She was one of the original members of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition and from 1990 until 1996 was co-chair of the organization. As many who remember Doris and her male counterpart, Bob Woolis – they were a team – Doris playing "good cop" to Bob's "bad cop" at numerous hearings before various housing bureaucracies. And many have said, Doris kept Bob "in check."

In their Mitchell-Lama cooperative, Stryckers Bay Apartments, she served for many years on the Board of Directors. She initially introduced the concept of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) to the board. Today, it has one of the more active NORCs on the Upper West Side.

During the 70s, Doris was on the negotiating committee that created the Westside Community Garden, working to get the Trust for Public Land to support the project. Doris also served on Community Board 7, from 1971 until 1983 when she became the District Manager. She served as the District Manager until 1990 when she decided to retire to devote her full energies to help other community organizations. But retirement from official life was short-lived, as then Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger appointed her the official historian for the Borough of Manhattan. She served as the borough historian until her death.

Her skills as a mediator and organizer were legendary. At the time of her death, she told a fellow member of Tenants and Neighbors that she was running 13 coalitions out of her home. Among the many West Side organizations she served was as President of the Friends and Relatives of the Jewish Home and Hospital and as board member of the Shadow Box Theatre.

Today she is survived by her husband Paul, her daughter Beth, her brother Frank, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Their son, Peter, died tragically in an automobile accident 27 years ago.

JAMES D. GARST
May 1926- December 2006

Jim Garst, an important advocate for Mitchell-Lama and other affordable housing programs and a crucial resource for those of us who try to understand the ins and outs of subsidized housing, died December 8 after a brief struggle with cancer. He was 80.

A founder of New York State Tenants & Neighbors Coalition and a long-time board member of the Mitchell-Lama Council, Mr. Garst was for many years the Albany lobbyist for both organizations. In that capacity he worked on bills dealing with housing finance, rent regulation, Mitchell-Lama, neighborhood preservation, and tenants' rights.

James D. Garst was born May 31, 1926 in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and southern California. From 1944 to 1946 he served in the U.S. merchant marine. He earned his BA degree in Political Science from University of California at Los Angeles in 1950.

Jim came to New York City in 1950 to attend Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. After graduation he was a reporter at Wall Street Journal from 1951 to 1953. From 1953 to 1959 he was a research assistant and then research director at District Council 37, representing employees of the City of New York.

From 1959 to 1964 he lived in London where he was managing editor of Trade Union Affairs, a quarterly journal about trade union issues with trans-Atlantic circulation. He was also an instructor at the Chelsea College of Science and Technology, London.

Returning to New York City in 1964, he was again employed at District Council 37 and then the American Nurse's Association, where he conducted economic and labor research and analysis.

In the mid 1950s he and his wife Rina lived in Lincoln Square on the west side of Manhattan, where they were active in the fight to prevent the demolition of 3,000 apartments to make way for Lincoln Center and Fordham University. The lot where their apartment building stood became a tennis court for Fordham.

In 1967 the Garsts moved into the newly-constructed Columbus Park, a limited equity coop on the upper west side created under the Mitchell-Lama program. Jim became active in the Mitchell-Lama Council in 1969, and was a prominent board member of the Council from then until his death. The Council represents Mitchell-Lama coops.

He was one of the founders of the New York State Tenants & Neighbors Coalition in 1974. Tenants & Neighbors is a statewide umbrella organization that advocates and lobbies for tenant rights and affordable housing. He was a board member of Tenants & Neighbors for many years.

Jim Garst was one of the most knowledgeable persons in the state about Mitchell-Lama and other government-assisted housing programs. He was a staunch defender of the Mitchell-Lama program.

In 1987 a majority of cooperators at Columbus Park voted to buy out of Mitchell-Lama, a move that was prevented by a restriction in the land disposition agreement that required the building remain affordable for 40 years. The Garsts were leaders of the opposition to the buyout. Columbus Park is once again in buyout mode, the restriction having now expired. As before, the Garsts have been among the minority opposed to leaving Mitchell-Lama.

Jim Garst was also expert in utility industry regulation and deregulation issues. In the 1970s he was active in POWER, People Outraged With Energy Rates, a coalition that promoted public ownership of Con Edison. He was also active in the Coordinating Council of Cooperatives.

He is survived by his wife Rina.

WEST SIDE MANOR TENANTS ASSOCIATION
70 West 95th Street, New York, NY 10025

September 16, 2008

MEMO

To: New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

From: The West Side Manor Tenants Association

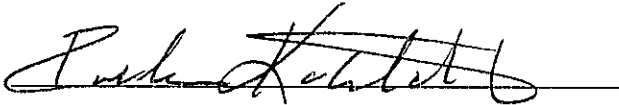
The West Side Manor Tenants Association, representing 246 apartments at 70 West 95 Street (on Columbus Avenue between 94th and 95th Streets), wishes to express its wholehearted support for the proposal to name three West-Side Manhattan streets in our immediate neighborhood after three recently deceased community housing advocates: Jim Garst, Doris Rosenblum and Bob Woolis.

Each of these three advocates played an important role in helping to preserve affordable housing in New York City. Doris Rosenblum and Bob Woolis were leaders of the Mitchell-Lama Tenants Association, of which our building was an active member during the 30-plus years of its existence as a Mitchell-Lama building. As such Bob and Doris advised us of our rights under the Mitchell-Lama Law, counseled us in our long-standing efforts to keep our building in the M-L Program, spoke to our tenants and helped us navigate within the several governmental agencies which regulated us over the years. Indeed in the last years of Bob Woolis' life, our Tenants' Association voted to make Bob a life-time member of our group, even though he was resident in another M-L building. This speaks to our collective affection for Bob and the good work he did to help us. Similarly after Doris' sudden and unexpected death, dozens of building residents attended her memorial service.

Jim Garst, as leader of the Tenants and Neighbors organization, also actively advised our association leaders of our rights as tenants and counseled us on how to proceed during the years-long struggles we had to keep our building in the Mitchell-Lama Program. Also many of our tenants joined with Jim on his many bus trips to Albany to lobby for help

from the New York State Legislature in protecting our rights and extending the life of the Mitchell-Lama housing program. Finally Jim helped us and other M-L tenants associations by researching City and State housing laws and thereby making sure that all the laws affecting and protecting M-L tenants were known to us and enforced by the relevant government agencies.

We miss the community contributions of all three of these housing advocates. We feel proud that our building, which straddles 94th and 95th Streets on Columbus, would be the situated between two of the three streets named after these community stalwarts, if this proposal is passed. We strongly urge this Committee and later the New York City Council to approve these three street namings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronda Kotelchuck", written over a horizontal line.

Ronda Kotelchuck, Acting President

West Side Manor Tenants Association

9/16/08

Hello,

My name is Maureen Remacle and I am the president of the 6th Precinct Community Council. I am here today to ask for your vote to rename the corners of Sullivan and Bleecker Streets for the 2 slain unarmed auxiliary police officers from the 6th precinct, Eugene Marshalik and Nicholas Pekearo.

On March 14, 2007 Eugene and Nicholas were on routine patrol of the Bleecker Street area. A crazed gunman, David Garvin, was running their way after having just shot bartender Alfredo Romero in DeMarco's restaurant at the corner of MacDougal and Houston streets. Police walkie-talkies spread the word about the incident. The two auxiliaries, Eugene and Nicholas confronted Garvin at the corner of Bleecker and Sullivan Streets. They confiscated the bag that he was carrying which contained a gun and spare rounds of ammunition. He fled up Sullivan Street with Eugene and Nicholas tracking him at what they thought was a safe distance from across the street, to identify him to police who, they knew were searching the area for the gunman. Unfortunately, Garvin crossed the street and came straight at them with another gun that he was carrying that he had just reloaded. Nicholas Pekearo was the first to be shot and killed as he crouched behind a car on the west side of Sullivan Street. The gunman chased across the street after Eugene Marshalik and shot him to death. At that point armed police officers hearing the gunshots, spotted Garvin, came down Sullivan Street and turned on to Bleecker street following him. Garvin ducked into a leather shop and came out shooting at the police who returned fire, killing him.

It was only after I heard how everything happened that I realized that the actions of Eugene and Nicholas may well have saved my life or the life of one of my friends. If Eugene and Nicholas hadn't stopped Garvin at the corner of Bleecker and Sullivan he may have continued up Bleecker Street until he reached my house, which is two blocks from the shooting. I had been out on the street walking with friends a few minutes before the shooting. We might have been among the people ducking for cover wherever we could find it. Maybe we would have been lucky. Maybe not. It was just fate and the actions of Eugene Marshalik and Nicholas Pekearo that kept me and my friends safe and alive that night.

Eugene Marshalik and Nicholas Pekearo are heroes to the people in my neighborhood. Seeing the amount of ammunition the gunman was carrying and the things that he did convince us all that he was on some sick, twisted killing spree. Maybe he would have continued down Bleecker Street towards my house. Maybe he would have gone to Washington Square Park and killed people there. We don't know. The people of Greenwich Village and the members of the 6th Precinct Community Council just know that two fine young men are dead and we are still alive. We believe that their actions and the actions of the other brave officers from the 6th Precinct kept us safe. That is what we pay our taxes for, for the police to keep us safe. But these 2 men didn't even get paid. They volunteered their time to keep Greenwich Village—a place that they loved—safe for all of the people who live in and love the wonderful place that we call home. That's enough for us to believe they deserve a street renamed in their honor.

I not only ask you to vote for this street renaming but I ask the members of the city council to vote for this unanimously. We can't give Nicholas and Eugene's families and friends back their loved ones, but we can honor their lives and their sacrifice with permanent signs showing that we will never forget their sacrifice for us. We don't have many heroes of this magnitude in our midst—let's show the world that we are grateful they were there for us when we needed them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

MAUREEN REMACLE
145 BLEECKER STREET #2F
NY, NY 10012
212-777-8034



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer's Mitchell-Lama Task Force
Statement at the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Hearing on the naming of thoroughfares and public places
September 16, 2008**

Thank you Chairman Foster for the opportunity to submit testimony at today's hearing. Manhattan Borough President Scott Striger's Mitchell-Lama Task Force endorses the proposal before the City Council for the following secondary street renamings: the Northeast side of West 95th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West to Robert Woolis Way; the Southwest side of West 94th Street between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenues to James Garst Way; and the Southeast side of West 94th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West to Dorris Rosenblum Way.

We note that Community Board 7 unanimously approved these proposed street changes on March 4, 2008.

Robert Woolis helped found the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition together with Congressman Charlie Rangel. He had a wealth of housing knowledge and was a sharp accountant. Robert was generous with his time and was always eager to help fellow tenants work through the details of their budgets and rent increases. In addition, Robert was an active member of the Manhattan Borough President's Mitchell Lama Task Force.

James Garst was an active member of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition and at one time served as their legislative coordinator. In addition, he represented Tenants & Neighbors and helped them pursue their legislative interests of in Albany. He had an encyclopedic mind for Mitchell-Lama issues and was an accessible mentor and guide for tenants with Mitchell-Lama questions. Jim was also an active member of the Manhattan Borough President's Mitchell Lama Task Force.

Doris Rosenblum was a Community Board 7 district leader and the former Manhattan Borough Historian. She also served as a co-chair of the Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition. Doris would go anywhere to help a tenant in need and she was well known for her energy and an impressive knowledge of housing issues. Doris was also an active member of the Manhattan Borough President's Mitchell Lama Task Force.

A decision by the City Council to rename these streets will re-affirm the important role that these concerned citizens and activists have played in shaping New York's neighborhoods. Renaming these streets also sends a signal to tomorrow's community leaders that positive change can be achieved through an impassioned belief in one's cause.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING 1 CENTRE STREET NEW YORK, NY 10007
PHONE (212) 669-8300 FAX (212) 669-4305
www.manhattanbp.org bp@manhattanbp.org

Knickerbocker Plaza Tenants' Association

Good day and thank you for the opportunity to testify before the City Council's Committee responsible for Street Naming. I am Rita Popper, President of the Knickerbocker Plaza Tenants' Association, a soon to be non Mitchell-Lama rental development located on Manhattan's upper east side.

Affordable housing is not a gift. It is the right of every person who lives in this great country. No one knew this unalienable right better than the three housing advocates we want to immortalize...Bob Woolis, Jim Garst and Doris Rosenblum.

They were staunch advocates for the rights of people to live in decent and affordable housing. Affordable housing has become a socially relevant oxymoron. No one knew better about the need to preserve the right to live in decent housing more than the three people we honor today.

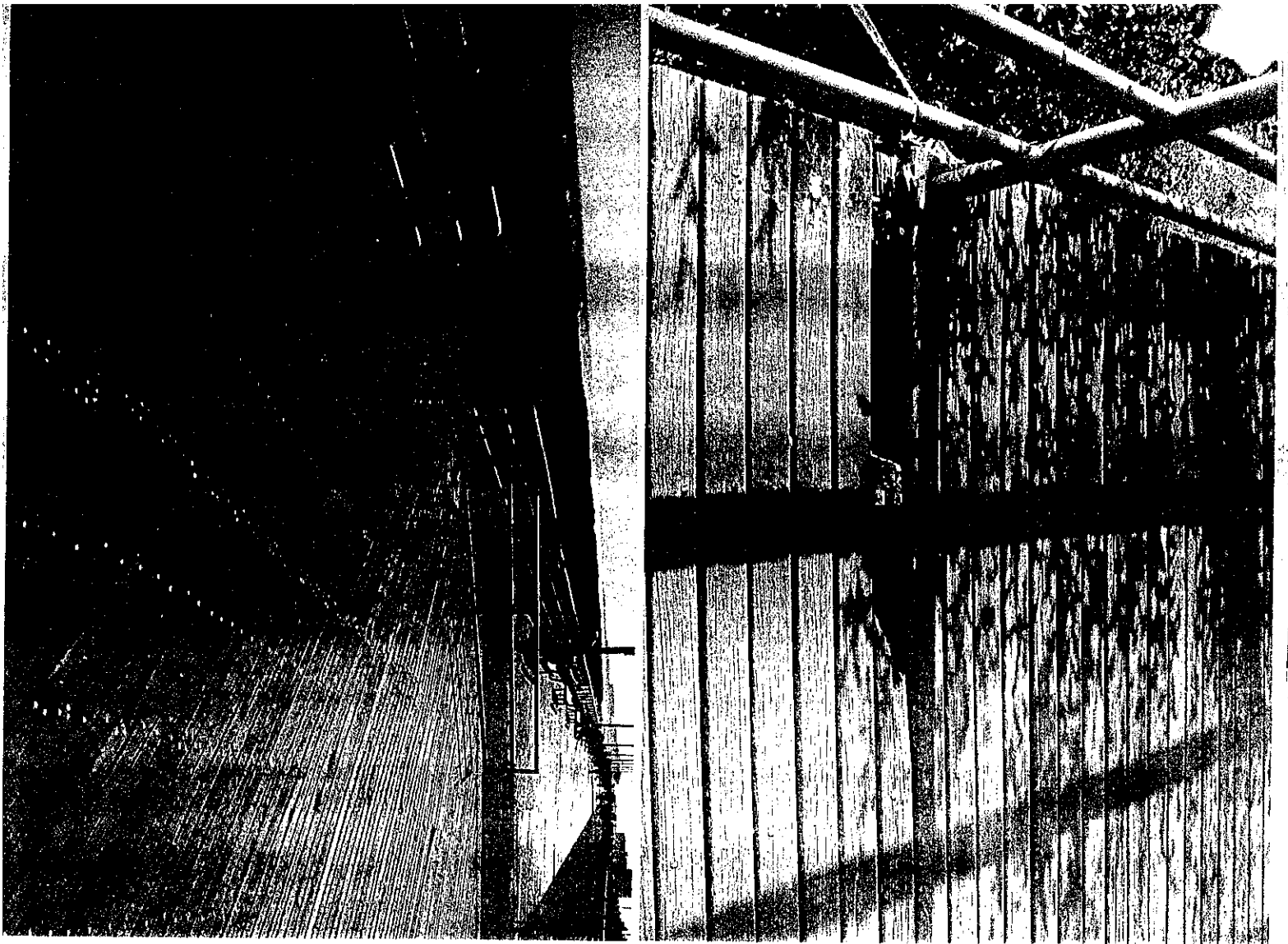
Excellence is never an accident. It takes dedicated people doing a superior job to effectuate great results. As a result of Bob, Doris and Jim's guidance and expertise, we have been able to keep the need for affordable housing in the spotlight. Bob, Jim and Doris served without compensation. When owners wanted rent increase and tenants could not afford an accountant Bob did the accounting for free. Jim knew the legislation and by-laws for co-ops to ensure that shareholders got the correct advice from their board of directors. Right before Jim's death he was working on legislation that would change the language of the governing agencies in New York, DHCR and HPD. The legislation would change all the current "May" terminology to "Shall." This may seem like

such a small change. It is not small. It is desperately needed. This word change forces the governing affordable housing agencies to be accountable for upholding their own laws. This is an important piece of legislation for tenants.

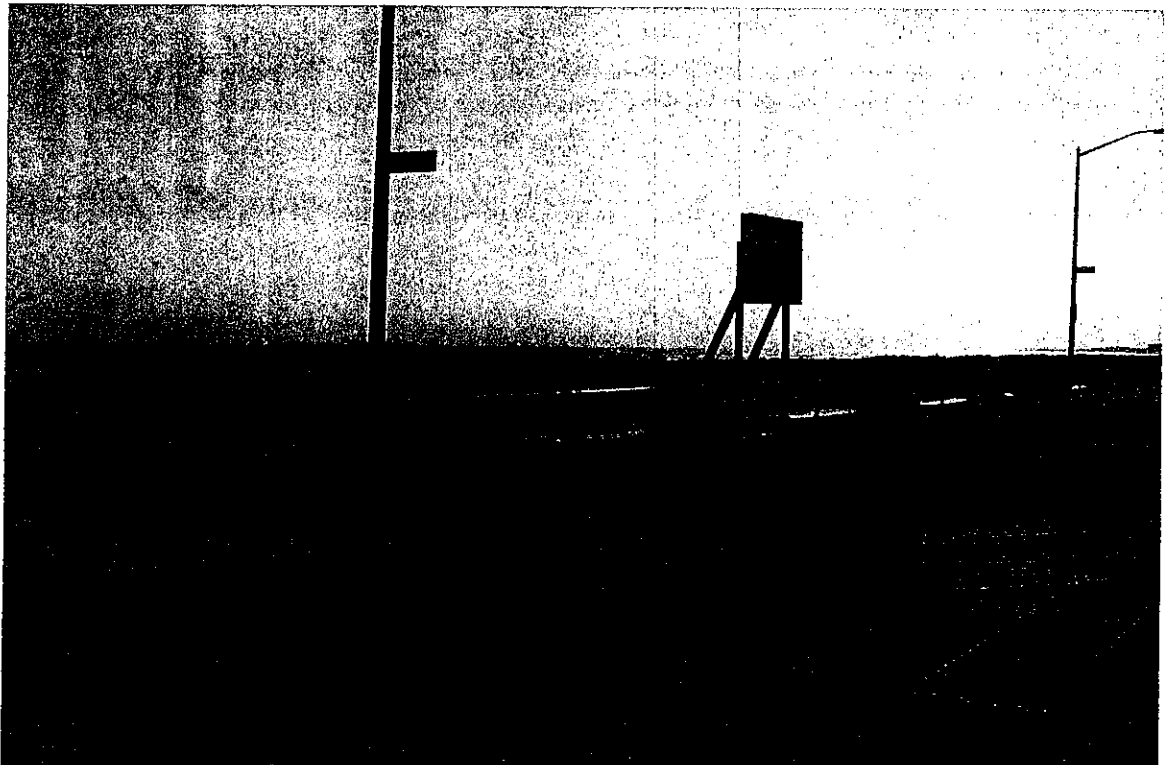
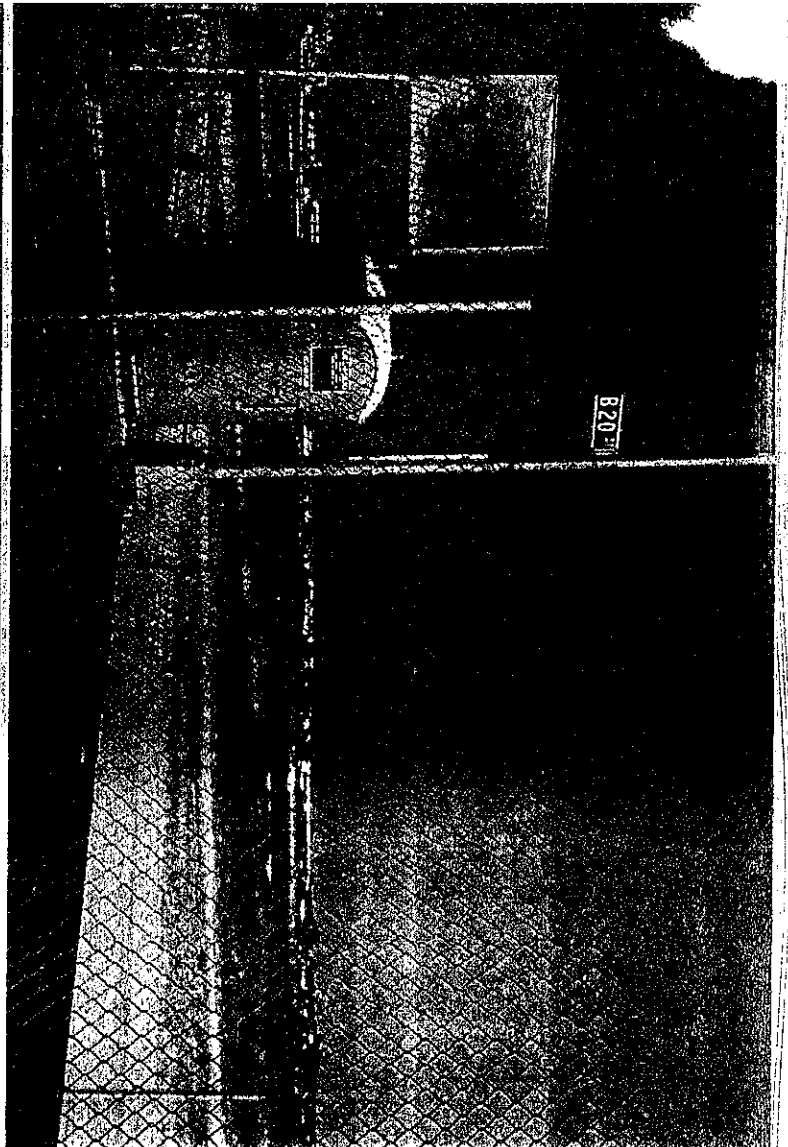
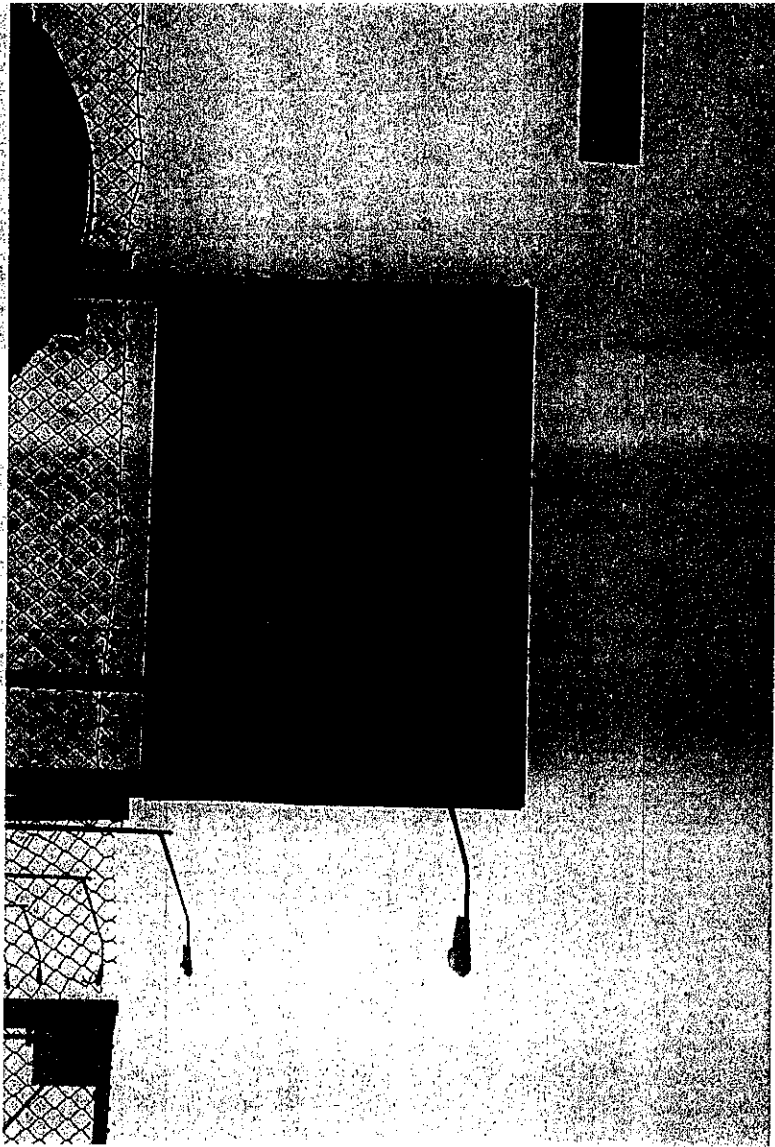
We all know that elected board of directors don't always hold the right of the shareholders in high regard. Doris was a maverick. She organized and helped others to organize. I never had the pleasure of meeting Doris. I am honored to say that I knew Bob and Jim. However, the stories I hear about Doris's unflagging energy helped preserve many of the still remaining Mitchell-Lama developments on Manhattan's upper west side.

The three people we want to honor with a street naming are not ordinary people. In their own way they are just like other honored mavericks...Martin Luther King, Raoul Wahlberg, and all the other men and woman who wanted to change the way people were treated and how they lived. Bob Woolis, Jim Garst and Doris Rosenblum effectuated change. Bob, Jim and Doris were preservationists. They worked for preserving a decent home for low and middle-income families. They are true heroes. Let's keep their memory alive and memorialize their legacy so that the next generation will be inspired to carry the torch for decent housing into the 21st Century. We are the beneficiaries of the dedication of Bob Woolis, Jim Garst and Doris Rosenblum. I urge you to pass and sign into legislation the right to change the street names where this incredible trio lived and worked for all of us.

Thank you.



Beach 22 to
Beach 32 Streets
Beach 40 to 59th
Why has Parks
Department not
closed these
Sections for public
safety?
My Personal Liberate
15 - CALIFORNIA
Liability Violation,



§ 15.00 Culpability; definitions of terms.

The following definitions are applicable to this chapter:

1. "Act" means a bodily movement.
2. "Voluntary act" means a bodily movement performed consciously as a result of effort or determination, and includes the possession of property if the actor was aware of his physical possession or control thereof for a sufficient period to have been able to terminate it.
3. "Omission" means a failure to perform an act as to which a duty of performance is imposed by law.
4. "Conduct" means an act or omission and its accompanying mental state.
5. "To act" means either to perform an act or to omit to perform an act.
6. "Culpable mental state" means "intentionally" or "knowingly" or "recklessly" or with "criminal negligence," as these terms are defined in section 15.05.

City of New York Auto Acknowledgment Correspondence # 1-1-426458022

From: reply@customerservice.nyc.gov
To: NYCEXPEDITER@EARTHLINK.NET
Subject: City of New York Auto Acknowledgment Correspondence # 1-1-426458022
Date: Sep 11, 2008 4:37 PM

Dear PAUL SCUBERT:

Thank you for contacting the City of New York. Your message has been forwarded to the appropriate agency for review and handling.

For future reference, your service request number is 1-1-426458022.

Sincerely,

The City of New York

This is an auto-generated system message. Please do not reply to this message. Messages received through this address are not processed.

Thank you.

The information you have provided is as follows:

Form: Customer Comment

Topic: Employee Complaint

Name: PAUL SCUBERT

Street Address: 147 BEACH 113 STREET

City, State Zip: ROCKAWAY PARK, NY 11694

Country:

Email: NYCEXPEDITER@EARTHLINK.NET

Company:

Work Phone: (718) 318-1582

Message:

CALLER STS MS WEBER (ADMINISTRATOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION IS ALLOWING A PUBLIC SAFETY HAZZARD TO EXIST, HAZZARD BEING AS FOLLOWS THERE ARE 31 HOLES WITHIN THE BROADWALK OF THE AREA FROM BEACH 20 ST TO BEACH 28 ST IN FAR ROCKAWAY AND 24 BOARDS IN DANGEROUS

FRIEDA ZAMES (1932-2005)

Born in Brooklyn of working class, self-educated, immigrant parents, Frieda contracted polio at age two and a half. Hospitalized or in a convalescent home for years, not until she was twelve and a half did she return to her family. As was common for disabled children at the time, she received an unsatisfactory education until she was integrated into a regular class in high school, where she won the Math and Latin medals, as well as a New York State Scholarship, an award given to few students during this period. A graduate of Brooklyn College (Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude), Frieda put herself through New York University, earning M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mathematics, while working at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an actuary. Her work, beginning in the early 1970s, on the disability rights movement led her to champion other issues such as the rights of older people, women in poverty, universal access to health care, interracial books for children, workers' rights, and independent media. Frieda was a Mathematics Professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) for 27 years, where she played a pivotal role in making the NJIT campus accessible to persons with disabilities. She also received federal grants to develop a program to introduce pre-college students with disabilities to mathematics and the sciences, a program replicated nationwide.

Frieda co-authored *The Disability Rights Movement: From Charity to Confrontation* (Temple University Press, 2001) with her sister, Doris Zames Fleischer, Ph.D. This well-received book is used as a text in universities throughout the United States and abroad. In addition, Frieda published articles on disability rights in a variety of journals, as well as lecturing at universities and conferences throughout the country, including Harvard Law School and the Columbia University Disability Seminar. Frieda was a disability civil rights advocate/activist for over 30 years. Serving as president of Disabled in Action of Metropolitan (DIA) of New York City for three terms, as well as holding other officer positions, she initiated several DIA class action lawsuits, in collaboration with public interest lawyers, to establish the right of persons with disabilities to ride the city's public transportation system (buses, subways and paratransit), gain access to city polling sites, city health care facilities, and, through her initiation of the "one-step campaign," other places of public accommodation. Frieda worked with legislators to facilitate equal rights of persons with disabilities and testified at numerous federal, state and city public hearings. Having mentored many students and disability advocates, Frieda helped change not only the landscape of the city, but also the attitudes of policy makers and the general public.

Frieda played a role in every aspect of change in the city, from curb cuts (pedestrian ramps), to the Ferries Law, mandating accessibility of waterborne vessels, docks, piers, terminals, and to the DRIE (Disability Rent Increase Exemption) Law. Both laws were enacted in June 2005 by the New York City Council in Frieda's honor after her death. A recipient of many other honors and awards, Frieda received, posthumously, the first annual award given to a New York City resident with a disability who has fostered the civil rights of the disability population, an honor now known as "The Frieda Zames Award."



Frieda Zames (1932-2005)

Disabled by polio as a child, Frieda Zames spent her extraordinarily productive and active life fighting to ensure that all people, particularly those who were disenfranchised because of disability, age, or low income, would have access to adequate health care, transportation, education, employment, and housing, and inspiring others to work for these same goals.

To honor her passionate commitment to a just and caring society, her friends and neighbors are circulating a petition to have East 4th Street, between 1st Avenue and Avenue A, co-named Frieda Zames Way. Frieda was a longtime resident of the Village View Co-op on 60 First Avenue and played a vital and enduring role in improving the quality of life in her community.

**PLEASE SUPPORT EFFORTS TO RECOGNIZE HER
ACHIEVEMENTS
BY SIGNING THE PETITION
TO COMMUNITY BOARD 3 & THE NYC COUNCIL
TO MAKE THE NAME OF FRIEDA ZAMES A PERMANENT PART
OF THE NEW YORK CITY LANDSCAPE.**

Friends of Frieda Zames

Contact: 212-255-6619 (Carr); or 917-498-2399 or mannowood@gmail.com (Alexander)