TESTIMONY FROM NYCHA'S VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATIONS CAROLYN JASPER

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN NYCHA COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019 – 10:00 AM COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEW YORK, NY

Chairs Alicka Ampry-Samuel and Donovan Richards, members of the Committees on Public Housing and Public Safety, and other distinguished members of the City Council: good morning. I am Carolyn Jasper, NYCHA's Vice President of Public Housing Operations. I am pleased to be joined by Raymond Rodriguez, Director of the Office of Safety and Security, and other members of NYCHA's team. We also appreciate having our partners from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) and the NYPD with us today.

In my role, I advise on the overall management of NYCHA's properties and directly oversee property management at approximately half of the Authority's portfolio. As a landlord, we know that good maintenance of our buildings and other infrastructure correlates to crime deterrence. Mr. Rodriguez's team at the Office of Safety and Security is responsible for protecting the Authority's properties, employees, and residents.

Thank you for convening a hearing on this very important topic, and for the opportunity to provide you with an overview of our efforts to enhance the safety and security of NYCHA developments. As a landlord, our top priority is ensuring safe and secure homes for the nearly 400,000 New Yorkers we serve. That aim is at the forefront of our mission, and the focus of many elements of our work. Our approach to fostering safe communities is centered on:

- Investing in infrastructure that enhances building security, such as cameras, exterior lighting, and layered access controls;
- Collaborating with the nation's premier law enforcement agency the
 NYPD as well as MOCJ and other organizations; and
- Partnering with residents and connecting them to opportunity.

Physical Security Enhancements at Our Buildings

Recognizing the important role of security cameras and other security enhancements in making residents feel safe, we have been working hard to put these measures in place, and obtain the funding to do so. Over the past two decades, NYCHA has installed nearly 16,600 security cameras at over 200 developments, benefitting more than 310,000 residents. Since 2014, we've invested approximately 200 million dollars in cameras and other security enhancements – funding that's generously provided by City Council members and other elected officials as well as through programs like the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety and the Manhattan District Attorney.

Since 2014, we've installed nearly 8,000 exterior lights at 78 developments – a 101 million-dollar investment in total. Our partners at the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York also installed more than 6 million dollars of lighting at 13 locations in the past two years. In addition, we've put up 586 light towers to disrupt criminal activity at targeted locations and improve residents' quality of life.

In the past six years, we've also installed layered access controls – new intercoms and front-door key fobs and hardware – at 425 buildings across 76 developments.

I'd like to thank the Council for funding many of these security enhancements, which improve the quality of life for residents across the city.

Collaborating with Safety and Security Experts

Ensuring safety is everyone's responsibility, and that is why we collaborate with our stakeholders to address safety and security issues. Our partners at the NYPD are crime-fighting experts, and we work with them on the placement of security cameras and exterior lighting, relocating cameras as needed. To help the NYPD solve crimes, we share security camera footage with them – in the middle of the

night, if necessary. Since the beginning of the year, we've provided the NYPD with over 6,500 video recordings, and provided other law enforcement agencies with nearly 2,000 video recordings.

We are in constant communication with the NYPD; they regularly provide us with crime reports and valuable intel and statistics. For instance, we coordinate with the NYPD on all our summer Family Days at our developments – they provide police presence as well as any information that's relevant to ensuring the community's safety. And the NYPD's Neighborhood Coordination Officers work closely on the ground with NYCHA property managers, as well as residents – it's truly a productive relationship.

Led by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the 140 million-dollar Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP) brings together residents and a range of City agencies to reduce crime at 15 NYCHA sites with historically high crime rates. Its holistic approach of physical improvements (such as exterior lighting), expanded programming (including job training), and strengthened police/resident engagement is making a difference for residents. For example, the "NeighborhoodStat" initiative brings together City government and resident leaders, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders for periodic meetings to address public safety issues specific to each MAP development. We continue to meet regularly with our partners at MOCJ to build upon the progress we're making through the Mayor's Action Plan.

Partnering with Residents to Foster Safe Communities

Of course, residents are a key partner in our work to make our developments safer. For about half a century, thousands of residents have volunteered their time as Resident Watch members, patrolling their developments and fostering safety, security, and community pride in collaboration with property management staff.

To give our youth a safe, productive place to go, we are working with MOCJ and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to keep 119 community centers at NYCHA developments open until at least 11 p.m. this summer. Over the last several summers, an average of about 250 participants per site benefitted from these extended hours.

As part of our work to support the community, I'm proud to say that NYCHA has facilitated more than 15,000 job placements since 2014. That's being accomplished through a variety of workforce development programs, from Jobs Plus to the NYCHA Resident Training Academy. Our Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability will continue to help residents launch and advance their careers and open doors to additional opportunities for themselves and their families.

Conclusion

Through NYCHA 2.0, our long-term strategic plan, we are working hard to improve our residents' quality of life, from completing repairs faster through skilled trades and maintenance work order blitzes to implementing seven-days-aweek janitorial services at our developments with Alternative Work Schedules. The latter means more boots on the ground and eyes on the street – earlier in the day, later in the evening, and on weekends. A family's sense of safety is integral to their quality of life, and that basic tenet drives so much of the work that we do.

We appreciate the support of our partners, including the NYPD, MOCJ, DYCD, and the City Council, as we work with our residents to foster safe communities at NYCHA. We are especially thankful for funding from Council Members for security enhancements such as cameras and exterior lights, and hope that you will continue to partner with us on these efforts. We need funding to not only install this infrastructure, but also to continue to maintain it.

Although we commit all available resources and work with our partners to ensure the safety of NYCHA communities, there is always more that can and must be done. Thank you for your support as we continue to make progress for our residents. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

New York City Council Hearing Committee on Public Housing and Committee on Public Safety Safety and Security in NYCHA Oversight Hearing Testimony submitted by Renita Francois, Executive Director, Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice June 6, 2019

Good morning, Chairperson Ampry-Samuel, Chairperson Richards, members of the Public Housing and Public Safety Committees, and residents of the great City we serve. My name is Renita Francois and I am the Executive Director of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety ("MAP"), which is overseen by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice ("MOCJ"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and thank you to Council, the District Attorney's office and the Mayor for your investment in MAP. I am joined today by Carolyn Jasper from NYCHA, and Chief James Secreto from the City of New York Police Department.

I stand before you having witnessed what happens when everyday people are in the driver seat of a vehicle designed to drive change. For decades crime has concentrated in Black and Brown neighborhoods where poverty, unemployment, negative health outcomes and insufficient resources also existed. This reality, as we know, not only impacted the wellbeing of the residents who lived in those neighborhoods, but also their safety, which is inextricably connected. There have always been people in community working to change this, unfortunately, government hasn't always done enough to be the partner and supporter residents deserve. Confronting this legacy requires acknowledgment that public safety demands a team effort and that residents must be at the heart of it. It is not just about crime and policing. Handcuffs and jail cells will not solve our problems. As the City endeavors to reduce the jail population and lighten the touch of enforcement, we must work hand in hand with residents to build the resource infrastructure that will stop the flow of our young people into the criminal justice system. It calls for acting on the decades of experience and research demonstrating that safety is the organic result of access to learning, work, and play, along with revitalized physical environments that bring people together and promote civic engagement.

When we started MAP in 2014 we set out to tackle this injustice in 15 disenfranchised communities head on with the support of NYCHA, the NYPD, and City agency partners by connecting the City's resources on the ground, expanding opportunities for work and play and increased health and wellbeing, investing in the built environment, and ultimately, by building a space where residents and government could come together to solve problems. Residents of underserved communities have gone for too long without a say in how to best increase safety in their neighborhoods, but as once was powerfully said to me, "residents don't need a voice for the voiceless. They need the mic". NeighborhoodStat was designed to be a platform for the

City and Neighborhoods to work together. It is designed to amplify community voice. It was designed for residents to lead.

To support resident leadership, we have contracted with our partners at the Center for Court Innovation to support residents in building their capacity, and hired organizers called MAP engagement coordinators for each development. Resident teams that consists of 3 youth, 9 adults and 3 seniors, receive trainings in methodologies like Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and \$50,000 per team to implement projects that address a physical space vulnerability using the methodology with the support of NYCHA. Since its launch, NeighborhoodStat has brought together hundreds of residents, agency partners and CBOs to strategize around the priority areas residents are telling us will make them feel safe. We have a responsibility to listen and to respond as well contribute the knowledge and perspective that government agencies bring. What I have heard from residents in the MAP communities is not that they want something extra. They want what we all want: equity and fairness.

Through NeighborhoodStat residents have told us:

- They want equitable access to and investment in their spaces. They have taken the first steps in several communities, with the support of NYCHA, using their CPTED project funds to
 - Activate an underutilized site on the campus to transform it into an outdoor community space with shipping container, ground mural, inflatable tents, temporary stage, and temporary lighting coupled with additional social programming at Wagner houses
 - O Support Culturally-relevant revitalization, interactive space activation and informational social programming at three critical hotspots: Dr. Green Playground, P.S 125 Playground (aka "Shadyside") and a NYCHA outdoor communal space (aka "the Middle") in order to improve perceptions of safety and encourage pro-social activity at Brownsville houses.
 - o activate an existing computer lab at St. Nicholas to train out of school out of work youth to create a tech platform for connecting residents to resources
 - Address gun violence through a music mentorship program for mid to high risk youth ages 16-24 that supports young adults in addressing social service needs and developing a civic project that focuses on anti-violence messaging developed in weekly workshops and hot spot activations at Tompkins Houses
 - 3 such events are happening tomorrow at Wagner, Butler and Brownsville Houses. We welcome you to experience it for yourselves.
- They want to work with their local precincts and PSAs to bridge the gap and build relationships between officers and a wider cross section of community members. This will ensure a two way line of communication like in Castle Hill where officers are working together with residents to reclaim 530 Olmstead and turn the surrounding

green space, once known for its troubled reputation, into Unity Park. It will also ensure they are treated fairly and justly in their interactions with law enforcement. With NCOs participating regularly in the Nstat stakeholder team meetings there is space for dialogue and sharing to occur

- They want access to job training, skill building and employment opportunities. We are
 working with our partners at DYCD, WorkDev, Green City Force, Jobs Plus, NYCHA REES,
 and private partners to understand the gaps residents have identified and the steps
 necessary to fill them
- They want support for community wellness and mental health resources. We are
 working with our partners at DOHMH to connect the teams that deal with the issues
 residents raised in their priority areas including substance and alcohol abuse, mental
 health, and health disparities

To understand how we arrive at these priorities and solutions, we brought an example from the Castle Hill Houses to help illuminate the NeighborhoodStat process (Nstat video)

The consistency of asks from neighborhoods across the City indicate a need to develop system level responses to these challenges. Beyond providing access to resources in general, it is MAP's goal to be guided by residents to develop and deliver the right resources to the right places at the right time. That is the true opportunity that MAP provides, a coordinated effort to support communities to prevent crime by following their guidance on how to invest in the wellbeing of their neighborhood. A healthy neighborhood is a safe neighborhood.

By traditional measures, MAP sites have seen a 9% overall reduction in total index crime, with violent crime falling 8% from 2014 to 2018, outpacing the 4% decline throughout the city's public housing developments during the same period. YTD MAP sites are down 14% in index crimes and 15% in violent crime, out pacing the City's 8% reduction in both categories YTD and the rest of NYCHA's 2 and 4% respectively. We are currently in the middle of an evaluation that will tell us more about our impact on safety in MAP communities and resident perceptions of that impact. In the interim, what we do know about this model, which is being held up nationally and internationally as a model for government and community partnership, is that residents are voting with their feet. Since the NeighborhoodStat's full rollout more than 21,000 people have been engaged in this process through public outreach, meetings, and events with 220 residents taking an active leadership role in resident stakeholder teams.

Development	# Public	Subtotal: #	# of	Subtotal: #	# Cycles	Subtotal: #	Total # of
	Outreach,	of	Action	of	of	of	Attendees

	Events and Meetings	Attendees	Plan Events	Attendees	LocalStat	Attendees	
Boulevard	37	2004	2	600	1 · · ·	89	2693
Brownsville	28	449	0	0	1	80	529
Bushwick	25	340	Ò	0	1	65	405
Butler	55	1644	1	120	1	98	1862
Castle Hill	42	788	0	0	1 .	30	818
Ingersoll	31	1740	0	0	1	70	1810
Patterson	48	3616	0	0	1	75	3691
Polo Grounds	14	307	0	0	1	25	332
Queensbridge	29	802	0	0	1	100	902
Red Hook	17	624	0	0	1	40	664
St. Nic	54	810	0	0	2	172	982
Stapleton	13	173	1	200	1	65	438
Tompkins	54	1986	1	300	1	62	2348
Van Dyke	46	1185	2	140	1	45	1370
Wagner	-80	2261	0	0	1	74	2335
Totals:	573	18729	6	1160	16	1020	21179

To sustain this momentum and repair decades of mistrust with neighborhoods that have been neglected, it's critical that we, the City partners, continue to show up in this process and follow-through on our commitments. Continued engagement from agencies and leveraging civic participation is paramount and we remain steadfast in our commitments with our agency partners both present at this table and our other sister agencies.



TESTIMONY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENDER SERVICE

before the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING
jointly with
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

IN RELATION TO

Oversight - Safety and Security in NYCHA

by

Emily Ponder Williams Supervising Attorney, Civil Defense Practice

June 6, 2019

Testimony of Emily Ponder Williams

Introduction

I am Emily Ponder Williams, Supervising Attorney in the Civil Defense Practice at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS). NDS is a community-based public defender office that provides high-quality legal services to residents of Northern Manhattan. Since 1990, NDS has been working to improve the quality and depth of criminal and civil defense representation for those unable to afford an attorney through holistic, cross-practice representation.

Policing NYCHA Residents - Termination of Tenancy

As part of NDS's commitment to addressing the range of issues faced by its clients, the Civil Defense Practice regularly represents New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") residents facing the termination of their leases and loss of their homes due to contact with the criminal justice system. Through this representation, it has become clear that the symbiotic relationship between NYCHA and the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") and NYCHA's policies surrounding termination of tenancies do not serve its most vulnerable residents. Instead, current practices reveal overbroad enforcement and termination procedures centered on an adversarial rather than reconciliatory system. As a result, reentry efforts are stymied, families are separated, and NYCHA's community suffers.

A Case Example - Overbroad Enforcement

For example, last year NDS represented a 58 year-old resident, Ms. Smith,* whose 24 year-old grandson Thomas was arrested in the lobby of her building. When asked whether he knew anyone living there, Thomas stated that his grandmother did even though he did not. The NYPD proceeded to charge Thomas with trespassing in his grandmother's building. However, the NYPD also forwarded information of the arrest to NYCHA, which accused Ms. Smith of allowing Thomas to live with her without obtaining permission, and began termination of tenancy proceedings based on this accusation and the fact of Thomas's arrest. When Ms. Smith first appeared for the termination proceeding without an attorney, she was told she could either agree to permanently exclude Thomas, or go to a hearing and face the termination of her tenancy and certain homelessness. Only after NDS took on her case and pointed out the weak evidence that connected Thomas to the apartment and Ms. Smith to the alleged illegal activity was she able to enter a more favorable agreement that did not involve permanent exclusion, which would have barred Thomas from even visiting her apartment. Without an attorney, Ms. Smith, like many others, would have chosen to avoid the risk of losing her incredibly valuable NYCHA tenancy by permanently excluding her grandson from her home and, effectively, her life.

^{*}Names changed throughout to protect client confidentiality.

A Case Example - An Adversarial System

Ms. Miller, another NDS client with a 30-year addiction history, faced the termination of her tenancy based on her arrest for possessing controlled substances in her home. She was identified as a candidate for the Manhattan Drug Court program, which allowed her to defer any criminal sentencing, provided she complete an extensive inpatient and outpatient drug rehabilitation program. Rather than staying the termination of tenancy proceedings to give Ms. Miller an opportunity to reap the benefits of the rehabilitation program, NYCHA moved forward with its hearing proceedings. Thanks to hours of work from our staff, Ms. Miller successfully fought these proceedings and was able to stay in her home. But countless others are victims of the adversarial approach that pushes residents toward termination hearings even when they are actively engaged in a pretrial diversion program meant to promote rehabilitation and reentry. As a result, they are deprived of a stable home that would allow them to continue their recovery upon completion. Yet, evicting residents who have been rehabilitated through a court-sanctioned diversion program does not make NYCHA any safer.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The NYPD's practice of reporting arrests of loosely connected family members and NYCHA's practice of pursuing termination and resorting quickly to permanent exclusion with minimal justification do not lead to a safer community. Instead, these practices destabilize families, frustrate rehabilitation and reentry, and lead to homelessness – all factors that have been found to increase recidivism and reduce community safety. NDS acknowledges and applauds efforts like the Family Reentry Pilot to reduce some of these barriers. However, the Family Reentry Pilot is extremely limited in scope, and few NDS clients qualify. Instead, NDS believes that the NYCHA community will be better served by reforming the practices related to termination of tenancy proceedings. Specifically, NYCHA should reduce the use of stipulations of settlement that include permanent exclusion, particularly in instances where the family member does not reside in the apartment or can provide evidence of rehabilitation. Additionally, NYCHA should decline to pursue termination of tenancy proceedings where residents are engaged in or have successfully completed alternative to incarceration programs. These measures will ensure that families remain together, the most vulnerable remain housed, and the rehabilitative effects of the criminal justice system are realized, all while maintaining the safety of the NYCHA community.

How A Sealed Arrest Can Get You Arrested In New York

by Fred Mogul, WNYC in News on Jun 5, 2019 4:35 am



(Clarissa Sosin / Gothamist / WNYC)

Rosetta Cochran isn't sure how long she was in the pitch-dark police van on a January night five years ago. It was cold and rainy, and she and the others taken into custody shouted and pounded on the walls of the van, trying to get answers. One neighbor started having a panic attack.

"I told her, 'Just close your eyes, and don't open them," Cochran recalled. "Because if you're in the dark, and you open your eyes, you're gonna strain to try to see, and that'll make it worse.' And that seemed to help her."

Cochran had been roused out of bed by the sound of police banging on the doors of apartments all around her. Peering through her peephole, she felt bad for the neighbors being busted—but glad she wasn't one of them. Then, as she was walking back to her bedroom, her door got a knock too.

A plainclothes officer asked for her son. He wasn't there. He asked for Rosetta Cochran. She said that was her, and she opened the door. Before she knew what was happening, she was in the hallway, under arrest and handcuffed to the handle of the garbage chute outside her front door. The officer didn't search her apartment, though. She assumes he didn't have a search warrant.

An officer transferred Cochran to the police van which drove her to the 77th Precinct stationhouse, a quartermile away. She estimates 40 or so people filled the station that morning. Officers slowly processed everyone, releasing all but the 12 people they charged, including Cochran.

"They told me I was one of the people not going home, and I started losing it," Cochran said. She asked what she was being held for, and, as she recalls, an officer told her only that it had to do with drugs.

"Drugs?" she recalled indignantly asking the officer. "Never in my life have I had a record or been arrested for anything!"

But Cochran, a 51-year-old mother of seven, was forgetting something.

Every year, the New York Police Department arrests or issues criminal summonses to hundreds of thousands of people, the <u>vast majority of them to people of color</u>. Most are for misdemeanors or criminal violations, and a high proportion of them involve marijuana possession—even as New York state and city have reduced potrelated arrests and summonses and the penalties associated with these offenses.

Some cases still lead to convictions, but many are dismissed for a variety of reasons. Increasingly, offenses that used to be misdemeanors are treated like violations and punished with fines.

Listen to Fred Mogul's report on WNYC:

Regardless, these encounters all create records, though those records are sealed if the case is dismissed or the person is acquitted. That means, in theory, no one in the public can discover even the existence of such a record, and that law enforcement authorities can locate the files but not access its contents without a court order.

Here are some of the things those records can contain: arrest charges, location of arrests, fingerprints, photographs, detailed physical descriptions, Social Security numbers, date and place of birth, residence and contact information, occupation, known associates and family members and their contact information.

"Once you generate records about someone, especially in our digital era, the records come to have a life of their own—often a very long and unintended life, beyond the function that they were generated for," said Issa Kohler-Hausmann, a professor at Yale Law School and the author of *Misdemeanorland*.

"They can circulate in the public sphere. They can circulate for employers or landlords," she said. "They can get in the hands of private vendors and get on a website like mugshots.com."

And the problem isn't only the public sphere, Kohler-Hausmann said. It's also inside the criminal justice system, where police frequently use sealed records for investigations.

"There are a lot of cases where people were arrested or faced prosecution, and they were innocent," said Jenn Rolnick Borchetta, from the Bronx Defenders. "We need to protect them, and we need to protect our values that people should be presumed innocent, and they shouldn't face the consequences [of an allegation], unless it's been proven in a court of law."

Borchetta has filed a class-action lawsuit against the New York Police Department. She's challenging its longstanding practice of downloading sealed records into the same databases populated by unsealed records. There, officers can access all records without distinction, whether sitting in the precinct at a laptop or in their cruisers with a smartphone.

As Democratic lawmakers and criminal justice advocates drafted a marijuana legalization bill earlier this year, they looked at what other states have done with the records of people arrested or convicted under laws that would now be repealed.

They decided sealing records wasn't good enough.

"I prefer expungement," said State Sen. Jamaal Bailey (D-Bronx), chairman of the Codes Committee. "People deserve to have their lives restored to before they were arrested for something that was effectively legal in other communities."

And the bill authors decided the marijuana bill provided an opportunity to revamp record sealing much more broadly, too. So, they have proposed expunging all records that would otherwise be sealed, for all crimes, whether marijuana-related or otherwise.

"If you really want to prevent records from being used against people, then you need to expunge them," Borchetta said.

Rosetta Cochran's case shows the long shadow dismissed arrests can cast.

On January 30th, 2014, the morning after she was arrested, Police Commissioner William Bratton <u>praised</u> the "yearlong investigation that dismantled a drug dealing network that peddled crack cocaine less than a block from a middle school and instilled fear in local residents in and around the Sterling community."

It would take Cochran and her attorneys two and a half years to get this charge dismissed, and she would eventually win a false arrest settlement.

Her landlord, the New York City Housing Authority, still evicted her—though she still lives there while her eviction is under appeal. An agent from NYCHA accused her of harboring drugs.

"They said I was running a stash house," Cochran said. "I could just cry."

NYCHA has its own court system, with a lower burden of proof than criminal courts. During the proceedings, it emerged how Cochran came to be targeted in the drug bust. She'd been arrested two years earlier, she says, after her mother allowed a police officer into their home who was "looking for somebody who wasn't on the lease," and he conducted a search and found painkillers in a medicine cabinet that he determined were suspicious.

Cochran had recently been in an accident, and the case was quickly dismissed and the arrest sealed.

But not completely.

"The law says that anything from that case should be sealed," said Anca Grigore, Cochran's attorney, from Brooklyn Defenders. "Photographs were supposed to be destroyed or returned back to the defendant or her attorney."

Cochran's photograph was not returned, a failure that criminal defense lawyers say occurs frequently.

During eviction hearings, Narcotics Detective James Rivera testified about how that photograph surfaced—and helped ensnare Cochran.

He coordinated the investigation leading up to the big Sterling Place takedown with an undercover officer—listed only as "C0098." He used the picture in an array, or photo lineup, to identify Cochran as the woman who purchased cocaine from him as part of the sting.

"I accessed the New York City Police Department records for 1506 Sterling Place to show me if anyone at that location has been arrested," he testified. "I took some photos of females that had been arrested from that building and put them together to show the undercover C0098."

Officer C0098 picked out Cochran's image.

But key details from C0098 didn't match what was on the arrest warrant, including the location of the apartment

within the building. He also described purchasing cocaine from a woman who was 50 pounds heavier than Cochran.

Rivera appears to have used the database information on Cochran in his arrest warrant for her, not what C0098 found in the field.

According to a Gothamist report earlier this year, Rivera has been sued more than all but a handful of NYPD officers, and the \$1.4 million in taxpayer-funded payouts to plaintiffs is the most of any active officer.



(Office of State Sen. Jamaal Bailey)

Under New York law, the records from arrests that are eventually decided "in favor of the accused"—basically, dismissals and acquittals—are sealed. This law is among the most protective of its kind in the country, at least on paper. When it was passed in 1976, Governor Hugh Carey wrote in his approval memorandum that "no individual should suffer adverse consequences merely on the basis of an accusation, unless the charges were ultimately sustained in a court of law."

In recommending the measure to Carey for approval, the state Division of Human Rights wrote that expansively sealing arrest records would reduce the "unjust" and "disproportionately burdensome effect" of these records on "racial minorities."

As written, the law has an almost metaphysical quality. Once records are sealed, it says, "the arrest and prosecution shall be deemed a nullity, and the accused shall be restored, in contemplation of law, to the status he occupied before the arrest and prosecution."

Prior to the digital era, the law also had a very physical quality, too. "Sealing" was quite literal. Files would be taped shut and were often kept in locked cabinets in locked record rooms. Few people had keys, and officers and prosecutors needed to apply to a judge to unseal files.

In practice, however, the NYPD—one of the country's largest and most influential police forces—interprets the law very differently.

Responding to the Bronx Defenders class-action suit, the city's Corporation Counsel Zachary Carter argued that state criminal records law "does not prohibit access to or use of sealed records by a court, a police agency, or a prosecutor's office when the sealed records are maintained in their own files." Therefore, he wrote, it can freely use sealed records "internally," for investigations, without consulting a judge.

Borchetta estimates that more than 400,000 arrests between 2014 and 2016 would have been subject to sealing law and many are likely in NYPD databases.

Justice Alexander Tisch, in Federal court in Manhattan, decided against the NYPD. In rejecting Carter's Motion to Dismiss, Tisch ruled that "to access and use sealed arrest information, the NYPD would have to 'apply to a judge for permission' and demonstrate to the court 'that justice requires that such records be made available."

The ruling allows the lawsuit to proceed to discovery, during which Borchetta hopes to get a more complete picture of how many sealed records fill NYPD databases. The case could take years.

Legalizing marijuana has been one of the most ambitious goals for New York Democrats in the 2019 legislative session, now in its waning days. Governor Andrew Cuomo and lawmakers say the landmark shift would reduce the criminal justice system's persecution of people of color, who use marijuana at roughly the same rate as whites but are arrested, prosecuted, fined and imprisoned much more often.

Within this context, "expunging" past convictions and arrest reports sounds much more thorough and reassuring than merely "sealing" them.

To expunge, according to most dictionaries, is to destroy, delete, erase or purge. It comes from the Latin word to prick, and by some accounts, refers to a process of pricking paper to physically excise an offending or inaccurate word or passage.

In contrast, though, New York's proposed record-expunging law would largely be the same as the 1976 record-sealing law, except that where records once were "sealed and not made available to any person or public or private agency," they now will be "marked as expunged."

Photographs and fingerprints will still be required to be destroyed, as they have been, and retina scans and DNA material would be added to that list.

Emma Goodman, the Legal Aid attorney who helped draft the legislation, said there's nothing in it that more explicitly limits police access to "expunged" files than to "sealed" ones. For political reasons, she and fellow advocates didn't want to rack up even more objections from the law enforcement community to marijuana legalization than they already had.

But Goodman said there are other good reasons for the word-change.

Marking a record "expunged," by itself, might not repel the NYPD—though, she said, "It's possible that police and others would understand the significance of expungement more than sealing and try to abide by the law more carefully."

But the word "expunge" does, apparently, make the FBI sit up and take notice, constraining the bureau's ability to place arrest reports and other records in searchable databases, where prospective employers or landlords can find them.

"Calling these records expunged does bring the sealing law into the 21st Century, in terms of using terminology other states and federal authorities understand," Goodman said. "And ultimately, we're talking about a psychological benefit, too. It does mean something of value for people to be able to say their record is expunged and not just sealed."



(Clarissa Sosin / Gothamist / WNYC)

Cochran has lived in the Sterling Place Rehabs since the 1980s. The five-building complex blends into other low-rise pre-war buildings on two back-to-back blocks of Crown Heights. It's not what many people picture as public housing: the scale is human and neighborhood-oriented, not bleak and stand-alone.

"It was a great place to raise children," she said, sitting in the kitchen of her first-floor apartment, gesturing to the back door out to a large courtyard. "I could watch my kids from the window any time they wanted to play. They were safe."

She has two sons still at home, ages 17 and 22, and five other adult children who live either nearby or upstate, where two of her brothers settled. As a single mother, she had help from family members and neighbors, but she often struggled. She's held various jobs over the years, from housekeeper to "bus matron" for the developmentally disabled.

Her child-rearing years also coincided with the NYPD's aggressive "Broken Windows" policing of the Giuliani and Bloomberg eras. It landed especially hard on her teenage sons. Police regularly combed through the complex. And since her apartment is not only adjacent to the courtyard but also sits on the entrance lobby—which frequently has front and rear doors with broken locks—she and her family were on the front lines.

"I have a bunch of boys, and they had friends, and [the police] basically labeled all of them," she said. "They could just be standing out front, and the cops would throw everybody up against the walls to search them."

Cochran never expected to stay in NYCHA housing for more than three decades, but even before gentrification began sweeping through Crown Heights, there were few options for housing a family her size.

"It's almost \$2,000 a month, maybe a little more," to find a comparable apartment, she said. "That's very expensive.

Cochran currently pays \$463 a month and says she's setting aside money for a future with higher rents.

The floor is sinking in some areas, some of the interior doors are broken, and NYCHA owes the unit a fresh coat of paint. But while the eviction is proceeding. Cochran tries not to raise much of a fuss.

"Every day I think about getting put out," she said. "I'll be scared when I see a number from my lawyer calling me. I pray that it's not [NYCHA] saying I've got to pack up and leave."

<u>Fred Mogul</u> is the Albany and politics reporter for WNYC. You can follow him on Twitter <u>@fredmogul</u>.



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Greg Berman . Director

Center for Court Innovation Testimony New York City Council Committee on Public Housing and Committee on Public Safety Safety and Security in NYCHA Oversight Hearing June 6, 2019

Good Afternoon Chairperson Ampry-Samuel, Chairperson Richards, and members of the Public Housing and Public Safety Committees. I thank you for the opportunity to speak here, today. My name is Erica Mateo and I am the Project Director of Neighborhood Safety Initiatives, a project of the Center for Court Innovation (the Center). The Center for Court Innovation is a non-profit organization that promotes new thinking about how to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice.

I am here to provide brief context on the Center's work facilitating NeighborhoodStat, a program of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), which aims to discourage crime and create access to opportunity by engaging and empowering residents in community problem-solving efforts. Today, you will hear from residents who are leading this important work in 15 NYCHA developments.

The Center started work on NeighborhoodStat in July 2017, and currently, oversees its' direct implementation. Through NeighborhoodStat, the Center provides tools that residents use to (re)define safety, and work toward more vibrant, thriving communities. Helping to pushing this work forward, are Engagement Coordinators, hired by the Center, who are experienced organizers and project managers dedicated to each MAP site. Engagement Coordinators recruit and train resident teams to facilitate the development of safety priorities; execute Crime

OPERATING PROGRAMS

Prevention through Environmental Design projects and action plans; and, organize concerns that require responses from city agencies through regular stakeholder meetings.

Lastly, the Center believes strong partnerships with residents is key to responding to public safety challenges and creating thriving neighborhoods. The Center's neighborhood-based operating projects have a successful track record of executing community organizing, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and placemaking projects. We also work to empower New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents by providing them access to a holistic menu of programs and justice-related diversion and supportive services. All of these programs ultimately lead to improvements in public safety within NYCHA developments. We have provided more information on these efforts in appendix A.

The Center is committed to using our expertise to improve safety within NYCHA through NeigborhoodStat and our other established operating programs throughout New York City, which exist in neighborhoods like Brownsville, Harlem, and Red Hook. We look forward to a continued conversation and additional investment in this work.



TESTIMONY OF:

Anca Grigore - Supervising Attorney, Civil Justice Practice

Presented before:
The New York City Council Committee on Public Housing
Jointly With Committee on Public Safety

In relation to

Oversight-Safety and Security in NYCHA

June 6, 2019

My name is Anca Grigore and I am a supervising attorney of the Civil Justice Practice at Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS). BDS provides multi-disciplinary and client-centered criminal, family, and immigration defense, as well as civil legal services, social work support and advocacy, for over 35,000 clients in Brooklyn every year.

BDS' Civil Justice Practice (CJP) aims to reduce the civil collateral consequences for our clients who have had interaction with the criminal, family or immigration justice systems. Through legal advocacy in court and at various agencies, CJP helps people remain in their homes, maintain their public benefits, stay in school, keep their jobs, and protects their consumer rights. We also provide advice and technical support to our criminal and family defense attorneys and clients aimed at minimizing potential civil ramifications of involvement with these systems. In this work, we routinely assist clients in a wide range of interactions with NYCHA including defending residents facing the termination of their tenancies due to allegations of criminal conduct by a household member or guest of the family, advocating for family court involved clients to be approved for NYCHA housing to facilitate reunification, and lobbying for the safety transfers or repairs necessary to ensure our client's homes are safe for their children to live in.

I thank the Council for the opportunity to testify today about safety and security in NYCHA developments and to share the stories of some of our clients who have been caught up in the housing authority's efforts to make public housing safer. You will hear from one client in particular, Rosetta Cochran, a 30 year-NYCHA resident with no criminal record, who is anxious to tell her story of how over-policing in NYCHA and flawed policies and enforcement led to the eventual termination of her tenancy for "non-desirability" despite still having **no criminal record.**

Introduction

Yesterday, Gothamist published an article about Ms. Cochran's false arrest and the devastating systemic failures that ultimately led to her current termination proceedings for her NYCHA apartment. This is noteworthy because typically when crime and public safety in NYCHA are covered in the media it is usually spurred by something extraordinary, tragic or large-scale. These sensational cases, while newsworthy, in reality are few and far between. Much more common are cases and stories such as Ms. Cochran's. Many of the policies our clients are adversely affected by on a daily basis are created in the wake of rare and isolated incidents rather than informed by the common experiences of those residing in NYCHA developments. Families and communities with minor law enforcement contact feel the real impact of these policies so we are grateful for the opportunity to share some of their stories with you today.

Termination of Tenancy Proceedings are Punitive Rather than Preventative

NYCHA has a practice of rapidly pursuing termination of tenancy before a criminal case can be resolved in a tenant's favor. The pretext for this is the importance of getting these "dangerous" tenants out of public housing. The real reason is that once a criminal case ends favorably the arrest records are sealed and cannot be used in a termination proceeding. While a case is pending, however, they are fair game. NYCHA can proceed with "non-desirability" allegations and make full use of all the arrest records as well as NYPD testimony in a forum that has a lower burden of proof than criminal court and allows an entire case to be based on hearsay. While this is "legal" it results in unnecessary evictions and does not serve the stated purpose of promoting safety and security of NYCHA residents.

Over-Policing and Overly Aggressive Enforcement are Interconnected

This problem begins on NYCHA grounds with the over-policing of NYCHA residents and their guests and NYCHA's willingness to defer to, and trust, any allegations made by law enforcement, even when the allegations contradict everything they know about a long-term tenant with an unblemished record. Rather than examine whether an arrest was warranted or whether the allegations indicate a tenant may be a risk to the safety of other residents, NYCHA's current practice is to pursue termination in nearly all cases. It is important to recognize that NYCHA justifies terminations of tenancy with its mandate to promote the safety and security of all residents. This mandate should be meant as a preventative remedy, not a punitive or retributive one.

If the focus is on predicting future risk, the tenant's history and their relationship with their community and management office should be a primary focus of any investigation. Instead, this is ignored completely and the entire process is handed to the law department as soon as an arrest occurs. The law department then pursues criminal non-desirability cases on a strict liability theory where proof of the alleged conduct is *prima facie* proof of future risk. We have yet to see a case where effort was put into investigating why a client's continued tenancy might pose a threat to their fellow residents. Instead, agency attorneys and hearing officers alike handle these cases as if there is a strict liability standard requiring eviction for any criminal activity regardless of the severity of the allegations and regardless of the outcome of the criminal case.

We routinely see NYCHA termination cases with incredible allegations in arrest records that prosecutors are unable to rely upon; cases built entirely on the alleged statements of confidential informants or on incriminating statements allegedly made at the time of arrest that tenant's

vehemently deny making. Even in instances the DA declines to prosecute a particular allegation, NYCHA hearing officers routinely allow inflammatory and irrelevant testimony about the scourge of drugs and gangs in termination proceedings uninvolved tenants. In these cases, residents with no prior criminal record and no subsequent police contact after the alleged hearsay event face eviction and often lose their homes.

NYCHA Attorneys Abuse, or Refuse to Use, Their Discretion

In our experience in Brooklyn, prosecutors in the district attorney's office are far more aware of the realities our clients face than the NYCHA attorneys who pursue these termination cases. DAs are often willing to work with clients to pursue programs that will allow for non-criminal dispositions. NYCHA, on the other hand, seems to believe any police contact is a guilty verdict that warrants eviction. While NYCHA will pursue termination even if a criminal case ends favorably, in our experience, they never use their discretion to discontinue their own termination case until they have proof a criminal case was resolved. Even when a NYCHA attorney will admit a particular case seems unjust or that eviction seems unwarranted, they wait to ensure no criminal conviction (and thus an easy win) is forthcoming.

Client Stories

Ms. A was arrested on her way to the bodega across from her development. She is severely developmentally delayed and resides with her adult sister, who gives her a few dollars each day to go and buy candy. On the day of her arrest, a man came up to her and grabbed her money out of her hand. She ran after him until the man ran into an NYPD officer. The arresting officer found drugs on the man in question, and rather than return the money to our client, he arrested her for drug sale alleging he must have run off with the drugs before paying her. She was charged with possession with intent to sell. Once the case was arraigned, the DA realized the ridiculousness of the charge but refused to dismiss it on the own motion, instead letting the case to be dismissed by speedy trial laws after 90 days. In the meantime, NYCHA, aware of our client's disabilities, brought termination proceedings against her. When we appeared with evidence of our client's mental health issues and developmental delays, as well as an explanation of what actually happened, the NYCHA attorney was concerned that the DA had not yet dismissed the case. Our attorney asked if NYCHA would be dismissing their case, but the NYCHA attorney decided to wait 90 days to make it was dismissed, despite knowing the allegations were false.

In the above case, our client was at least aware of the alleged basis for her termination. This is not always the case:

Ms. G had not spoken to her son, Mr. F, for several years since he had moved to Georgia. When he moved out, she had taken him off her household composition immediately, as NYCHA requires. Several years later, he was arrested over three miles away from Ms. G's apartment for allegations of a crime committed in his car. Ms. G did not even know that he had recently moved to New Jersey. She was also unaware her address was still on her son's driver's license. As a result, the NYPD immediately faxed his arrest report for his car-related arrest to NYCHA, who began termination of tenancy proceedings against Ms. G for "allowing" this criminal activity, despite their recognition that nothing occurred in, or anywhere near, her home. Mr. F's criminal case ended up being

dismissed, but still NYCHA refused to dismiss the case. It was only after our office began representing Ms. G and proved to NYCHA that Mr. F did not live with her that NYCHA was convinced to withdraw the case. Without an attorney, Ms. G could have lost her home, or put her tenancy at risk through probation or permanent exclusion.

This is just one example of the many ways in which NYCHA blindly relies upon the NYPD and goes forward on any case transmitted to them without independent determination of the merits of a case or review of whether or not NYCHA has jurisdiction over the matter.

While NYCHA will not use their discretion to give clients the benefit of the doubt, they routinely use their discretion to try and evict tenants who have won their criminal cases. Such was the case for Ms. Cochran.

Ms. Cochran is a 56-year-old grandmother who raised her children in NYCHA over the course of her 30-year tenancy. She has always had a great reputation in the community and with her management office and is well known in the neighborhood; most people who know her just call her "Ma". She got this nickname because the loves to feed anyone who comes by the house and because she is known for scolding the neighborhood kids to behave and stay away from drugs. This is why everyone was shocked when, in January 2014, she got caught up in a raid where almost 40 people from her development arrested. She was charged as a result of this raid, despite the fact that the allegations used against her described a different apartment and a different person. Ms. Cochran had no criminal record and the criminal case against her was eventually dismissed. Despite this favorable result, NYCHA went forward with termination of tenancy proceedings. NYCHA, as is the common practice, took the word of the NYPD over the evidence that had been presented to them over a 30-year tenancy. Ms. Cochran's housing manager, who had known her for over a decade, knew that Ms. Cochran could not have been involved in what she was being accused of, and was even willing to testify on her behalf. NYCHA attorneys were not interested; they were only interested in the NYPD allegations. Despite being found innocent of this arrest, and no history or indication that Ms. Cochran poses any threat to NYCHA tenants or property, Ms. Cochran's tenancy was terminated after a hearing, and she is currently appealing this decision.

At the same time that NYCHA was focusing on her eviction, tenants in her building were complaining that the back door of the building had no lock, allowing anyone to walk in or out. There were also either no, or very dull, lights surrounding the building. NYCHA took many years to fix the lights, and maintain there is nothing they can do about the unlocked door. Residents sometimes take it upon themselves to sit at the door and sign people in and out in order to feel safer. While NYCHA is focusing on evicting people known to be good tenants that have been found innocent of any wrongdoing, they continue to ignore complaints of low lighting, unlocked doors, and police harassment that actually make residents feel unsafe. Ms. Cochran's story was recently feature in a piece on Gothamist and WNYC:

(http://gothamist.com/2019/06/05/sealed arrest nyc nycha.php).

NYCHA's Trespass List

Many communities, particularly people of color, find interactions with law enforcement to be a regular occurrence, despite no wrongdoing. This is especially true in public housing, where

police officers regularly question residents' right to be in their own buildings, to hang out with friends, and to visit their families. In another attempt to increase the perception of public safety or of being tough on crime, NYCHA and the NYPD created the "trespass" or "not wanted" list. It is NYCHA's policy that anyone with a "felony drug sale" arrest on NYCHA property is put on a list whereby they are considered banned and can be arrested for trespass for being on NYCHA property at any point in the future. This is true even if they live there.

This has created what many view as the new "stop and frisk," as the NYPD uses this policy as an excuse to stop anyone on NYCHA property, often interrogating them and sometimes searching them, under the premise that they need to check to see if they are on the "Not Wanted" list.

While NYCHA praises this policy as protecting residents from "felony drug sales," the reality is that NYCHA blindly accepts the NYPD's determination of arrest charges in placing someone on this list. It is not amended if a prosecutor determines that no felony occurred, if what was actually occurred was mere possession, or even if it is clear nothing happened at all.

Mr. H was arrested for misdemeanor drug possession and placed on the "Not Wanted" list despite never being charged with a felony or intent to sell. The NYPD alleged felony drug sale on his arrest report, with zero evidence in support it, and sent it directly to NYCHA so he could be added to the list. Arrests for being on this list are common; we have seen clients arrested for trespass over a dozen times just for walking home to their NYCHA apartments. That said, most people do not know they are on the list after an initial arrest until they are eventually stopped and charged with trespassing. They are given no notice or opportunity to contest the designation at the time it is made.

For Mr. H, and the vast majority of these clients, the arrest that landed them on the list ends up dismissed and sealed. NYCHA never follows up on these arrests, meaning that tenants found innocent of NYPD charges and protected by the sealing laws continue to suffer adverse consequences of those sealed arrests unless they can find a lawyer to affirmatively apply to NYCHA to be removed from the list. It is then their burden to prove that there was never a felony drug arrest, or that the arrest was dismissed and sealed, before they can be removed from this list.

Recommendations: Prioritize NYCHA Residents

At a time when the city is engaged in one of the largest and most rapid expansions of civil legal services for vulnerable tenants in the nation's history, in the form of the universal access to counsel program, many of the city's most vulnerable tenants are unable to find the help they need or the support they deserve. Even though landlords are being held accountable like never before due to new to legal services funding, anti-harassment measures, and public awareness campaigns - the city's largest landlord, NYCHA, faces no such accountability.

While we applaud the creation of programs like the MAP and the re-entry pilot, these programs do not seem to be accompanied by a similar shift in attitude towards residents by NYCHA employees. Every day, tenants try in vain to enforce their rights against a landlord who makes it clear to them that they do not matter. This attitude is evident in just about every interaction we have with NYCHA personnel; from administrative staff in development management offices to the attorneys who handle cases in housing court or administrative hearings.

Some areas that could be improved include:

- Require a new approach to policing and termination of tenancy proceedings. The goal of NYCHA's reentry project is commendable. Promoting rehabilitation through access to stable housing and supportive family members is commendable. Yet NYCHA's ability to reach these conclusions in this context is difficult to reconcile with nearly every other policy related to resident arrests and convictions. We have numerous clients whose termination cases are still being litigated four or five years after an alleged criminal act took place. Not only do we believe the termination to be unjustified after that much time has elapsed with no further criminal activity, but it is also clear that these same tenants would be eligible as new applicants, as family members asking to have their permanent exclusion lifted. In that context, NYCHA would be unable to rely on their prior arrest or conviction. For tenants, however, they can, and do, still pursue non-desirability with a single allegation from half a decade prior. This must end.
- Promote necessary services and community building rather than prosecutions. NYCHA could offer lesser penalties or to not pursue termination at all. They could assign social workers to work with residents or to require enrollment in programs where necessary. NYCHA might say it is not their job to rehabilitate people. But it is their job to promote the safety of their residents. We have seen that increased policing, permanent exclusions, and terminations do not make residents any safer. If some of those resources were put towards community programs and even social services in more difficult cases, it could go a long way towards restoring trust and rebuilding communities and eliminating some of the factors leading to arrests in the first place.

Conclusion

At a time when egregious conditions, lack of funding, and delays for repairs are common news, NYCHA's primary approach to promoting resident safety remains policing their residents and aggressively pursuing eviction for the most insignificant and unsubstantiated criminal allegations. NYCHA's motives and methods aside, there is no evidence or indication that increasing evictions—and exacerbating our City's homelessness crisis—improves public safety. We know that stable housing is essential to overcoming many of the challenges or barriers that may have lead to prior contact with the criminal justice system; it is essential to educational continuity, finding and keeping jobs, adhering to physical and mental health care regimens, and accessing critical services including drug rehabilitation and therapy.

Many NYCHA residents have understandable concerns about safety in their developments. As community leaders, Council Members are well positioned to facilitate an honest conversation about evidence-based approaches to public safety.

We thank the City Council for your attention and care regarding these issues. We hope you consider BDS a resource as we continue to work toward improving public housing.

If you have any question about this testimony, please contact Daniel Ball at dball@bds.org or (347) 592-2579.

6-6-19 Good morning committee on public public housing and Committee on public Safety. Thank you for having this oversight hearing on Safety & Security in NYCHA. My name is Crystal Glover and I'am a resident of Washington houses. I saw on the lanoon news, a month ago, about a man stealing a Kios machine from a NYCHA management office on 1st Ave. The kios is where the yearly resident affidavit is put information is put. It was mentioned once and they pulled the report probably because they don't want the resident to know the truthybut wait, it gets worse. A few weeks ago, I come into my building at 9pm. I look into my mailbox and remove a letter. At 11:30 pm my son comes home and thanks me for finding & putting his ID in the mailbox. He said it must have fallen from off his neck

when he was going down the Stairs that day.

I told him it wasn't me that put it in
the mailbox & the postal people don't
deliver mail that later to the buildings.

So the next day I decided to put my key in other boxes, to see if it would fit and sure enough 1 other box opened I was shocked! I have proof & I have witnesses. Temailed my property manager. She replied and Said the mailbox issue has been bought to the attention of the PSA & she notified the maintenance Supervisors & that they are looking into the matter. I also spoke to her by phone and she expressed how sen'ous a matter this is. I have not heard from I went to the post office to have my mail stopped and to make arrangements to be able to pick my mail up there because I don't trust it coming to my box. that says the mail would be saved from that afford a P.O. Box. Thank God I had him write me a letter to confirm our conversation. Guess what? The mail didn't stop and It's Still coming to my mailbox.

I want the world to know, especially NYCHA residents that anybody can get into your mail box and NYCHA don't give a damn. Anybody can also get into your apartment? One day I Came home, put my key in the door but the L did notice a person running past while the elevator door was opening. It's criminal, it's - Sent emails to the borough office, & Diana Ayla, my city council rep. and every the public advocate, as well as Monica Marales from pix Il news about the mailbox situation. None of them have gotten back to me. I also want you to know that the MCHA! Monitory Bart M. Schwartz formed an advisory committee. He gave an advisory board meeting open to WCHA residents. The meets he was in Brooklyn. I went.
Mr. Schwartz promised me openly, after I Slipped him my greation, that he would be willing to come to Washington houses. I haven't heard from him yet.

This issue with themailbox & apartment doors, the fact that anybody can get into my box &
my home is very troubling and I
want to know what is going to be done
about it. NICHA & the city looks at it's residents as poor, welfare-refired-disabled-working poor as garbage. And the fact that we the residents don't raise enough hell gives them the right to walk all over us. They put smoke free policies together 1st. and then ask what our opinion is later. I know because I was on the resident panel. I got on the panal after a call I made complaining about the Cigerattee Smoke Coming nto my apartment. Residents, my email address is gcrystal2234@gmailin Criminals, politics are going to have our butts in the streets if we don't get busy. Thanks for allowing me to speak.



FOR THE RECORD

EQUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

Written Testimony Submitted to the Public Safety and Public Housing Committees of the New York City Council by L. Charlie Oliver, Chair of the Equitable Infrastructure Group June 6, 2019

The Equitable Infrastructure Group (EIG) is pleased to respond to the long awaited discussion on safety and security within New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. This is a vital issue throughout the world that has been placed in low priority status as evidenced in planning and funding allocation.

We respect that measures such as LED placement, CCTV and facade improvements are ongoing at a handful of developments. However, fundamental needs are lacking such as state of the art locks on doors of developments, security personnel and 21st century security technology. Moreover, the recent report shared by the Office of the Comptroller stated, "Between July and August 2018, auditors visited 299 NYCHA developments and observed the conditions of exterior doors. There auditors observed 4,551 doors in development in five boroughs." The investigation found that 194 housing developments citywide were without secured doors and over 1,000 entrance, side, and rear doors were propped open with ropes and chains, had broken latches and missing parts, or were otherwise in unsecured conditions. Recent reports are sharing numbers which would indicate that the aforementioned measures are not having significant impact on crime and a sense of security of NYCHA residents.

It is also glaring that there is limited information on safety and security measures and impact within NYCHA developments. While most of EIG's research and meetings surrounding NYCHA serve to review and educate overlooked stakeholders on the privatization of NYCHA sites (a.k.a. Pubic Private Partnerships), the surge in crime including murders within NYCHA buildings coupled with the lack of security has prompted us to reach out to key members of the security industry to form a think-tank seeking the best possible approaches within the current structure. While you do your part, we will do ours and submit our findings.

Page 2 Written Testimony Submitted to: Public Safety and Public Housing Committees, New York City Council June 6, 2019

We appreciate this forum to address the prolonged safety and security issues within NYCHA. Please reach out to us if you would like to discuss this matter in further detail. In addition, please let us know what we can do to further assist.

Thank yo.

The Equitable Infrastructure Group (EIG) is a private entity formed for the public good. Our mission is to serve as advocate for and curator of global economic, development, resilience and ensure equitable delivery.

Our vision is to increase our partners understanding and participation in diverse markets and sectors where all stakeholders goals are respected and met. We address the lack of affordable housing, wealth and security disparities, the climate emergency, failing infrastructure and shifting needs, and thoughtless zoning practices which spur rapid gentrification.



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Greg Berman. Director

Testimony of the Center for Court Innovation

New York City Council

Committee on Public Safety and Committee on Public Housing

Safety and Security in NYCHA

June 6, 2019

The Center for Court Innovation has established operating programs throughout New York City, including such neighborhoods as Brownsville, Harlem, and Red Hook. Through this work, the Center empowers New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents by providing them access to a holistic menu of programs and justice-related diversion and supportive services. These programs also support coordinated enhancements and improvement to physical spaces — also known as placemaking. All of these programs ultimately lead to improvements in public safety within NYCHA developments.

Researchers note that deactivated spaces and vacant lots "are not only eyesores but have also been linked to higher rates for violent crime". ¹² Community Justice Centers, such as the one in Brownsville and that proposed in Far Rockaway, promote residents taking ownership of these spaces by building the relationships and growing the resources necessary to address the underlying needs of the space in question.

¹ Healthy Brownsville; A Report for Brooklyn Community Board 16. 2016, www1.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdf/community/healthy-brownsville.pdf.

² Charles C. Branas, "A difference-in-Differences; Analysis of Health, Safety and Greening Vacant Urban Space," American Journal of Epidemiology 174, no. 11 (December 1, 2011): 1296 - 1306

By way of example, the Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC) rests in a community where one in four residents live in NYCHA residences.³ Through BCJC, residents have spearheaded several projects to increase public safety at locations they have identified as centers of crime and where they have felt most vulnerable. Near the Langston Hughes Houses, residents identified Osborn Plaza as such a site. Residents responded by developing the space into a community gathering spot featuring murals, greenery, plaza furniture, trash cans, solar plug-in benches and WiFi (appendix 1). Near Brownsville Houses, residents drove the rehabilitation of the Dr. Greene Playground (appendix 2). Residents also spearheaded the conversion of a vacant lot into the Marcus Garvey Youth Clubhouse where exciting local programming now takes places (appendix 3). The Clubhouse was cited as a case study in the Urban Institute's research report entitled 'Creative Placemaking and Community Safety' where the project was found to increase four public safety indicators including reduction of interpersonal violence and repairing blight.⁴

Community Courts also provide NYCHA residents pro-social programming while addressing other needs that may be driving criminal behavior. The result is safer NYCHA communities. For example, the Red Hook Community Justice Center is a multi-jurisdictional court that permits a judge to adjudicate a single defendant's housing, criminal, and family case. This holistic approach links NYCHA residents to specialized programming intended to assist them with various needs. In 2017, of the 1,000 new NYCHA-related filings before Red Hook Community Justice Center, Red Hook Community Justice Center's Housing Resource Center prevented the need for legal resolution of filings for over half of the households within the

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³ Semuels, Alana (May 19, 2015). "New York City's Public-Housing Crisis". The Atlantic. Retrieved October 6, 2016.

⁴ Creative Placemaking and Community Safety; Synthesizing Cross-Cutting Themes. Urban Institute, 2018, Creative Placemaking and Community Safety; Synthesizing Cross-Cutting Themes, www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99037/synthesis - creative placemaking.pdf.

jurisdiction of the court. Every day Harlem Community Justice Center and Red Hook
Community Justice Center staff are assisting in maintaining housing renewals, which promotes
housing security and further promotes community stability and safety. Moreover, in East
Harlem, where one-third of the neighborhood's rental apartments are NYCHA housing,⁵ the
Harlem Community Justice Center's programs provide supportive services that contribute to
public safety. For example, one in four participants in Harlem Community Justice Center's
Reentry Court are NYCHA residents, and this program has been evaluated to decrease criminal
behavior compared to traditional reentry process.⁶

The Center for Court Innovation is committed to improving safety at NYCHA complexes through tested models such as those in Brownsville, Harlem, Red Hook, and as proposed in Far Rockaway, and looks forward to a continued partnership with Council in this work.

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⁵ Office of the New York State Comptroller, December 2017, Report 9-2018. https://www.osc.state.ny.us/osdc/rpt9-2018.pdf

⁶ Lama Hassoun Ayoub, Tia Pooler; Coming Home to Harlem, A Randomized Controlled Trial of the Harlem Parole Reentry Court. October 2015.

https://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/Harlem%20Final%20Report%20-%20June.pdf

Appendix 1



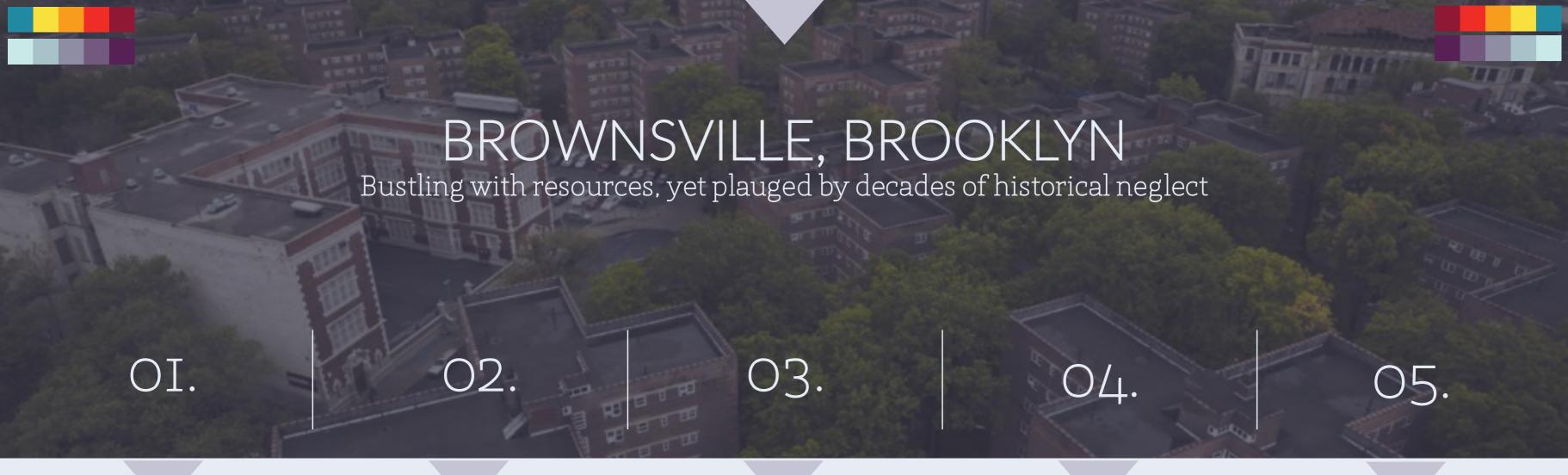


Brownsville Community Justice Center

BELMONT

Revitalization Project: Established 2014

In conjunction with our individual youth-focused social service work, the Justice Center looks to take on large scale community-based projects that solve issues negatively affecting public safety. The Belmont Revitalization Project is a part of the Justice Center's efforts to restore a crime-ridden retail corridor into a striving business district that promotes positive pedestrian activity and strong community.



Housing

Highest concentration of public housing in the country.



Poverty

46.6% of Brownsville's children live in poverty.



Education

Similarly, 46% do not graduate high school.



Safety

Murder capital of NYC.

More violent crimes per
capita than any other NYC
neighborhood



Incarceration

In 2009, 290 adults were admitted to prison at a cost of \$30,613,440



BELMONTAVENUE

Dismantled by anti pushcart legislation, neglect, negative narratives, lack of localy owned businesses and poverty



Comp Stat criminal activity data, shooting maps, and resident anecdotes identify corridor as "hot spot"



34 commercial properties, many vacancies, facade improvement needs, businesses under marketed



Not currently supported by Merchant Association or BID



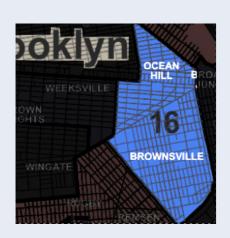
Will soon attract additional 1,800 new residents via impending Prospect Plaza Apartments

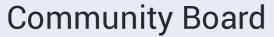


Purchase opportunity in C1-3 commercial overlay lots and buildings dip as low as 242k



Team







Brownsville Partnership



Made in Brownsville



3 Black Cats















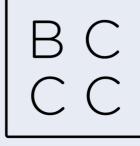




Central Brooklyn **Economic Development** Corporation



Brownsville **Community Justice** Center

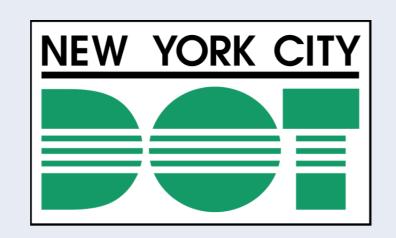


BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY **CULINARY CENTER**

Brownsville Community **Culinary Center**

The BEL VIONT Team







COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS





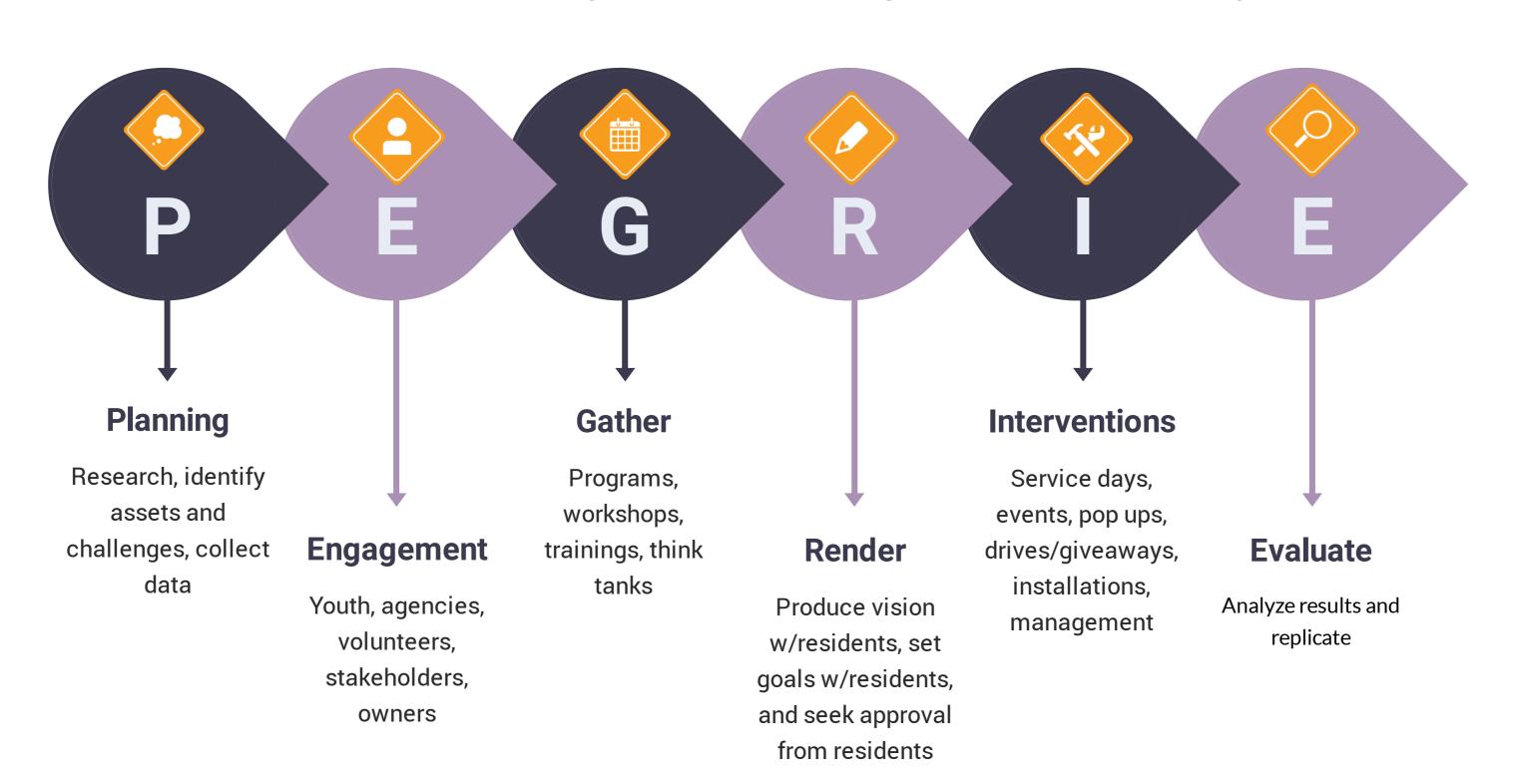




Additional partners include, NYC Departments of Parks & Recreation, Sanitation, Municipal Arts Society; NYC Housing Authority; New York Restoration Project; Partnership for Parks; School of Visual Arts Design for Social Innovation; 73rd Precinct Community Affairs; and various Belmont Avenue business owners, property owners, and resident groups.

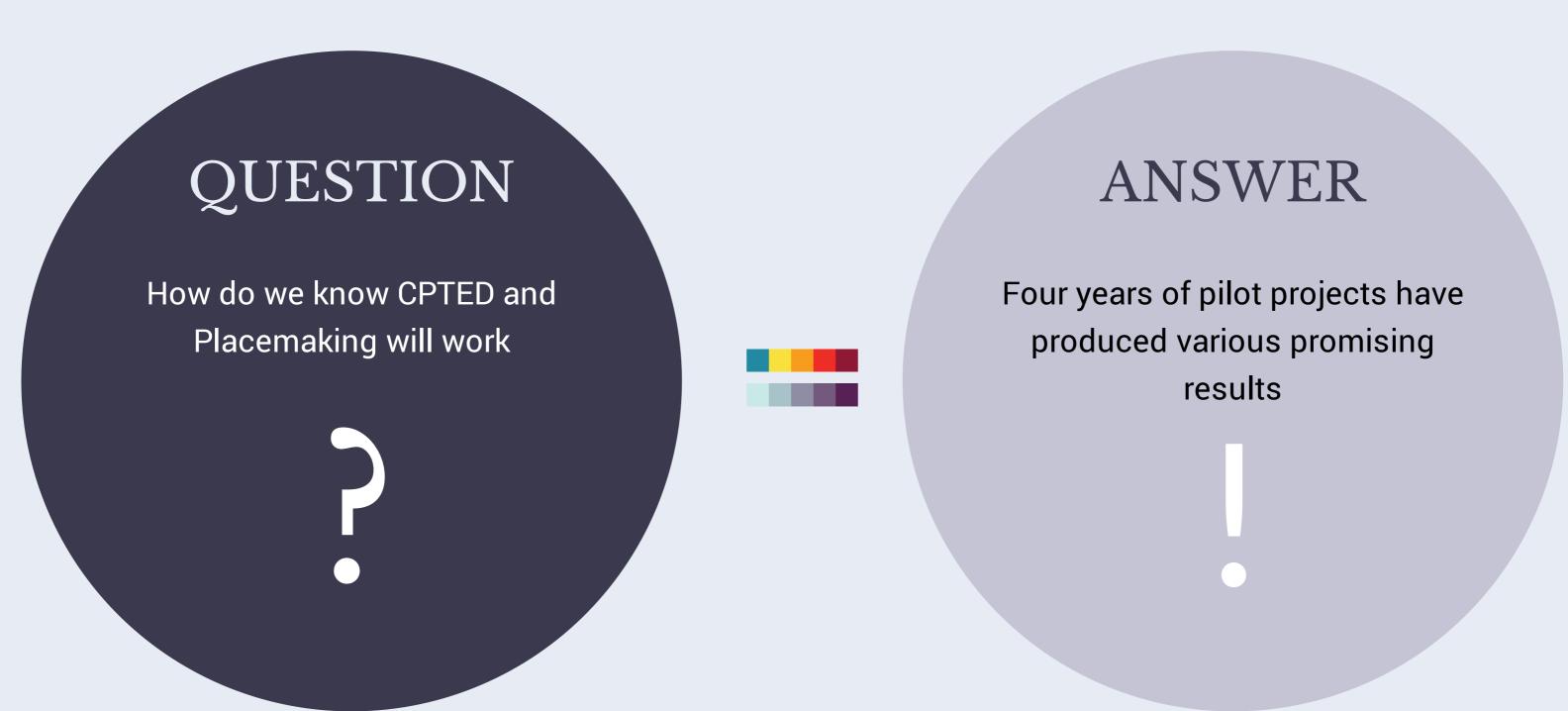
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Placemaking



EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT

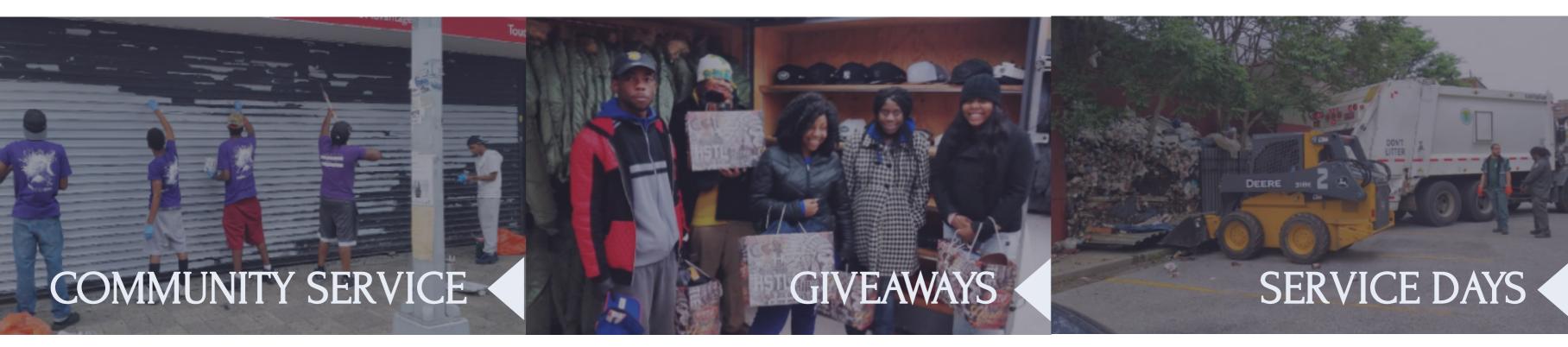
Small, visible, tangible wins, short term goals, long term design plans, long term managment



IN SERVICE OF ...

BELVONT

Leveraging resources, programs, and realationships



- Graffiti Removal
- Street Sweeping
- Greening
- Tree Pit Maintenance
- Storm Drain Maintenance
- Surveying

- Holiday Giveaways
- Back To School Giveaways
- Seasonal Giveaways

- Community Engagement
- Agency Coordination
- Connecting Business Owners to Service
- Public Art
- Pedestrian Activities



OSBORN PLAZA AT

BELMONT

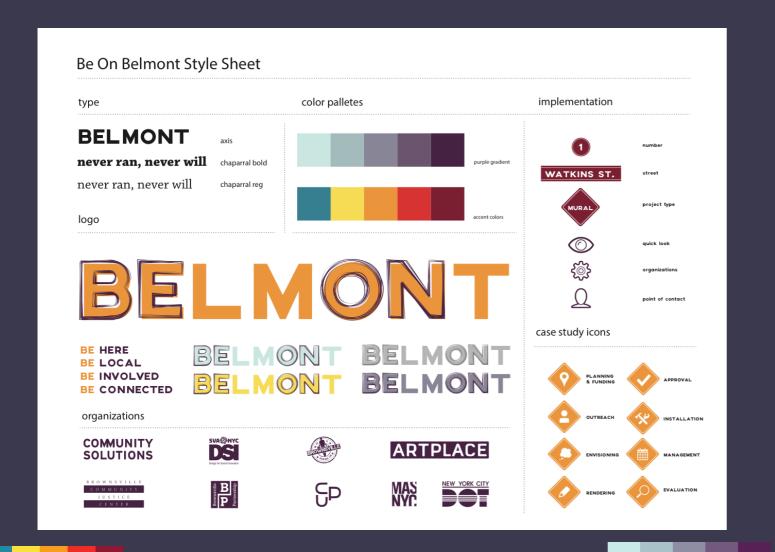
Cutting edge youth developed plaza equipped with mural, greenery, plaza furniture, big belly trash cans, solar plug-in benches and WiFi





BE ON BELMONT

Street Festival - Marketing Campaign - Increased Foot Traffic - Live Music - Rides





BELMONT



Supporting Entrepreneurship

Incubation Space - Pop Ups
- Media - Contracting - Driving
Resident Traffic - Technical
Assistance - Staffing Referrals



Kwesi J. Founder SCTR 7

"Support from the Justice Center has been vital to growing my business. Coaching, equiptment, business plans, marketing...everything".

Entrepreneurship and the Return of Historical Market Traditions



Jere U. Founder SPREADLUV

"It's easy to hop on a train and go downton, but it's a different feeling when you can shop in your neighborhood and promote businesses that started there."

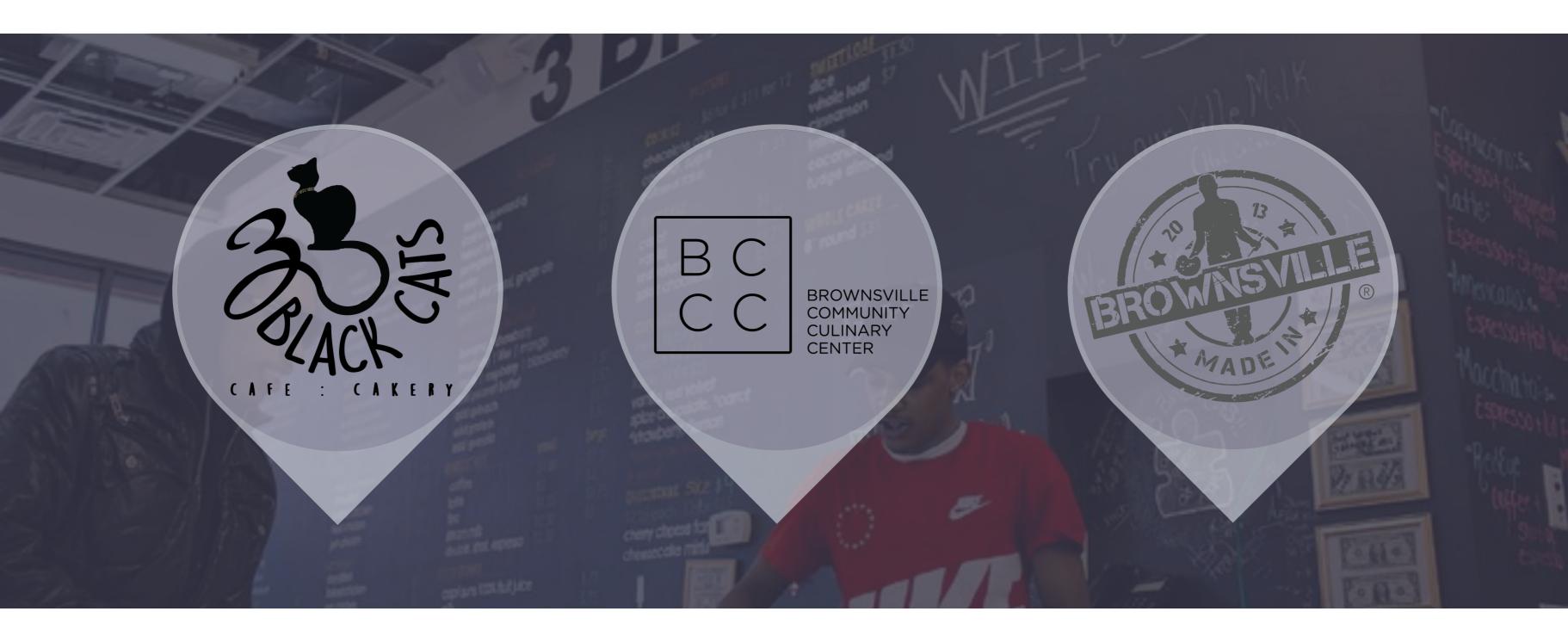


Flea Market

18 Vendors, over 7k in sales and contracts, 175+ attendees over two days, intensive data collection

BACK IN BUSINESS ON

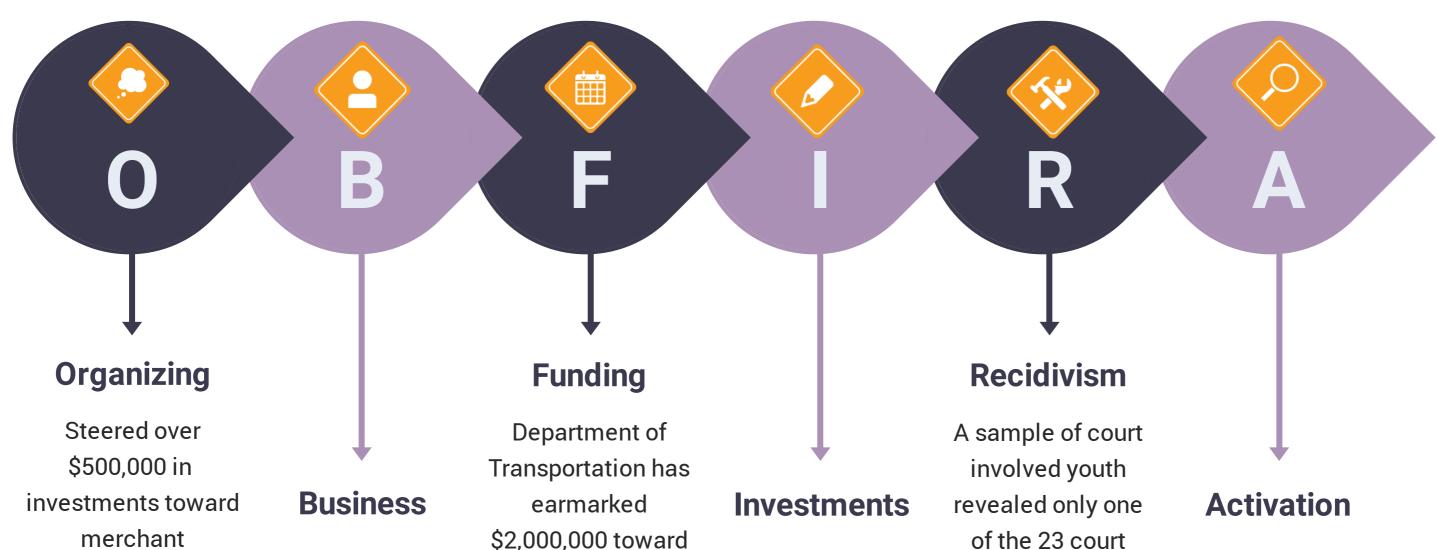




A sign of economic development and investment, businesses have begun returning to the corridor

THE RESULTS ARE?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Placemaking



Steered over
\$500,000 in
investments toward
merchant
organizing,
activation and
maintenance from
private foundations
and city agencies

Four new social enterprises and the Justice Center have moved onto the corridor

earmarked \$2,000,000 toward capital reconstruction of Osborn Plaza

MOTI has chosen
the corridor to be
the first
Neighborhood
Innovation Lab, a
\$140,000
investment

Over 23 public events, over 1,700 attendess annually, seasonal series (game days), and daily maintenance

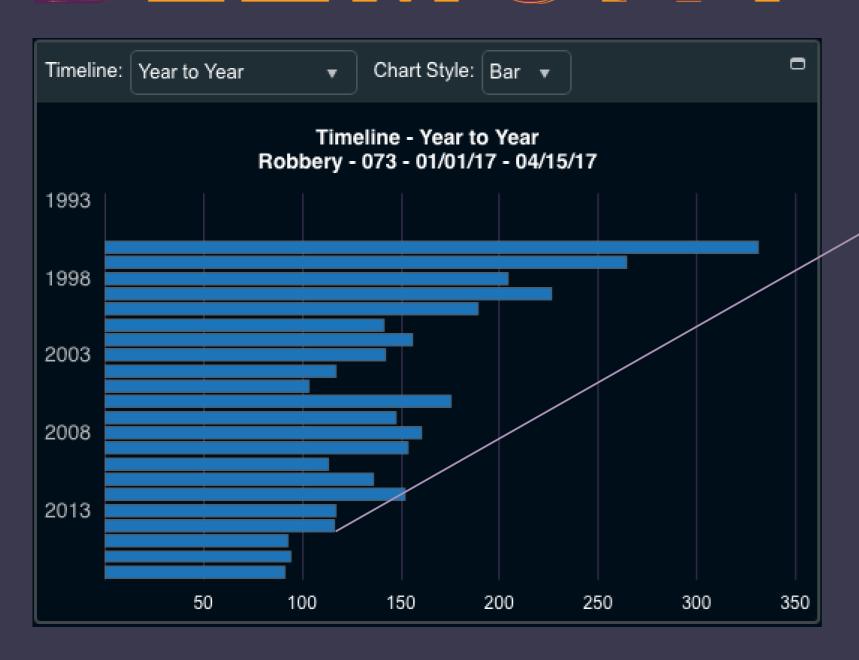
involved youth who

developed the Flea

Market have been

rearrested

BELMONT



PUBLIC SAFETY

Many researchers and theorists hypothesize the cause of NYC's drop in crime.

With the Brownsville Community
Justice Center serving as a
"community quarterback", is it a
coincidence that a sharp decline in
robberies occurs as the Belmont
Revitilzation Project gets underway
in 2014?

BELMONTAVENUE

So what's still needed? ALOT.



Increased connectivity between merchants and residents through corridor narrative, marketing, special deals and events



Evening operating hours for increased business opportunity



Dedicated staff: Placemaking/Plaza Manager,
Merchant Association, and BID to produce consistent
funding, market analysis, maintenance, and activation



Lighting installations for increased pedestrian traffic



Support for current and rising local business owners in the form of financial literacy, office space, brand strategy, equiptment, and technical assistance



BELMONT

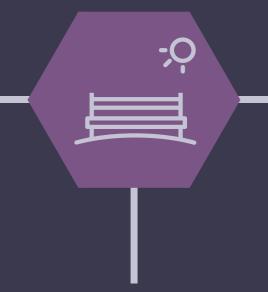
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CORRIDOR?

Make Music NYC

Bringing in the summer solstice with a day of live music!

ShapeUp NYC

Kickboxing, Yoga, Aerobics, calisthetics, and fitness in the plaza











Be On Belmont 2018

Return of the tri-annual block party

Ville - Luminate the Block

Lighting intervention to increase nighttime pedestrian traffic and activity

Working Group

Vested stakeholders convene to strengthen Belmont's future

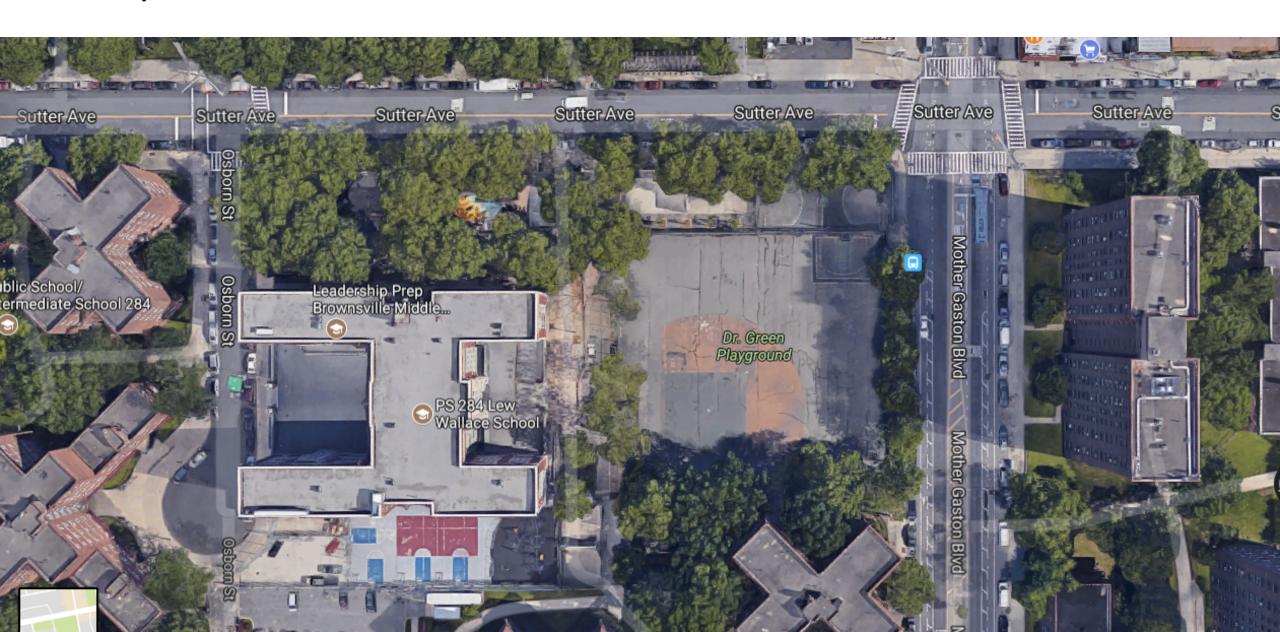


Appendix 2

Dr. Green Playground

A Healing Justice Project

The Space





Crime Data



Felony Crimes 2015-2016



Shootings 2015-2016

The Opportunity

- Dr. Green Playground at the corner of Sutter Ave. + Mother Gaston Blvd., known as The Four, is a hub of activity, some positive and some associated with violence and disinvestment.
- Many youth spend large portions of their free time in this space playing basketball or just hanging out. The playground area is also very active with younger children.
- It is also an area of high police activity with a mobile command stationed there.
- The park has a large area that is under-utilized
- Young people are already invested in the space
- Young people associate space with trauma

B Live: Youth Led Social Enterprise

social enterprise- applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being





[B] LIVE worked to promote positive interaction, healing, and redefinition of possibility in a space that has become limited by negative associations.

B Live Program Model

intensive training:

social enterprise goals, community engagement, political education



financial capacity building: receives financial education, bank account, and savings and credit building support



onsite internship:

works as a part of B
Live on community
projects and events,
builds skills in a
marketable field with
an open economy



worker's collective:

joins worker collective of alumni in skill area and receives gigs while staying connected to all support services

individual support

educational support

work readiness

Social Enterprise as Community Healing



Entrepreneurship is an effective tool to build economic power and remove barriers to economic sufficiency.

Building individual and community economic power are key aspects of community healing.

Arts and cultural programming are an effective engagement tool, allow youth to build transferable skills, and build spaces for self-expression, cultural connection, and the development of new narratives which promote youth resilience and healing.

Civic engagement builds youth leadership, and supports youth voice and power within the community. It also promotes community ties, intergenerational relationships, and youth ownership. Community power and voice build community resilience.

Strengthening socio-cultural ties by rebuilding social relationships, supporting space for expression and connection to cultural identity, and supporting youth voice and power around community issues are proven strategies to promote resilience and community healing.

The Process

- Engage youth in intensive training around community healing principles
- Support youth to re-envisioning the space and re-imagining what can occur in the space
- Support youth to work towards creating that vision
- Gain Dept. of Parks buy in
- 6 weeks of work in the park with youth, community partners, and volunteers
- Culminate in a community arts and cultural festival focused on community healing
- Vision next steps



The Work











Physical Transformation

- 60 benches repainted
- full and half basketball court repainted and new rims and nets installed
- baseball field redesigned and repainted
- tree beds replanted
- children's sprinkler area repainted
- weekly clean ups of park area









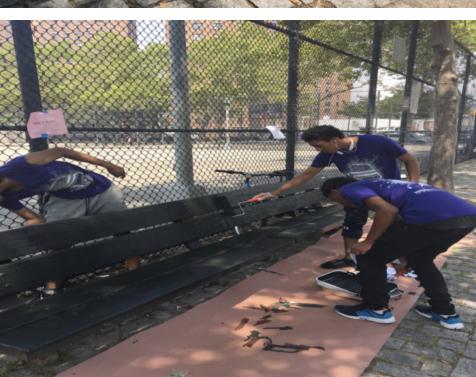












Healing Justice: B Live Music & Arts Festival



Healing Justice

a holistic response to generational and systemic trauma and violence utilizing a collective, community centered, and transformative approach



Cultural Production
Music
Arts production
Political education
Space activation
Cultural affirmation
Intergenerational gathering
Celebration



Healing Circle- space at the B Live event where community members could access their own healing potential as well as free access to healers practicing reiki, energy re-alignment, Economic opportunity

Cypher

Food

Appendix 3



NEIGHBORHOODS ▼ NEWS ▼

FEATURES *



 $i \quad \mathsf{Q} \quad {}_{\mathsf{SEARCH}} \quad {}_{\mathsf{EAST}} \quad {}_{\mathsf{NEW}} \quad {}_{\mathsf{YORK}} \\ \& \quad \mathsf{BROWNSVILLE} \left(//\mathsf{www.dnainfo.com/new-york/brooklyn/east-new-york-brownsville} \right)$

Education (//www.dnainfo.com/new-york/topics/education) Real Estate (//www.dnainfo.com/new-york/topics/real-estate)

Youth Clubhouse Opens in Brownsville Lot To Provide Safe Community Space

 $By \ Camille \ Bautista \ (//www.dnainfo.com/about-us/our-team/editorial-team/camille-bautista) \ | \ October \ 18, \ 2016 \ 4:58pm \ | \ October \ 18, \ 2016 \ 4:58pm \ | \ October \ 18, \ 2016 \ | \ October \ 2016 \$ ■ @CamBautista (http://twitter.com/CamBautista)





A youth and community clubhouse made from re-designed shipping containers takes over a vacant lot on Chester Street and Dumont Avenue in Brownsville and debuts on Oct. 19.

BROWNSVILLE - A new gathering space for Brownsville residents that's made of shipping containers will debut on Wednesday as part of a local effort to help make the community safer, according to organizers.

The youth and community clubhouse from the Brownsville Community Justice Center (http://www.courtinnovation.org/project/brownsville-community-justicecenter) (BCJC) and L+M Development Partners takes over an empty lot at Chester Street near Dumont Avenue at the Marcus Garvey Apartments, a rental complex spanning 10 blocks in the area.

"It's place-making meets community engagement to make a community safer," said James Brodick, director of Brooklyn Justice Centers for the Center for Court Innovation, which operates BCJC.

Real estate developer L+M (https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/tags/l-mdevelopment-partners) partnered with BCJC in 2015 to connect court-involved youth at the apartment complex to educational services and other resources.



"It's really a crime prevention tool," Brodick said of working with participants and transforming the vacant, 5,300-square-foot lot into a new space.

"What we love the most about this is working with young people most likely to touch the system, and to address an issue about safety in an area that felt most vulnerable. I think this is a model for the rest of the city."



NEIGHBORHOODS - NEWS -

FEATURES -

After surveying Marcus Garvey residents on their neighborhood needs, L+M w-york/| NEW YORK Y found that locals' top priorities included nutrition and fitness, workforce and youth development.

Participants also discussed where they felt safe and unsafe, Brodick said, and crafted the idea of activating an area where the community could meet.

i Q SEARCH to gather outside of school," said Raquiba LaBrie, director of community investment for L+M Development Partners (http://lmdevpartners.com/).

"Because of perceived and real dividing lines in the community, sometimes you don't travel far distances within the neighborhood. They came up with the vision for this and it's amazing to see it come from an idea to reality."

Brownsville's incarceration rate ranked the second-highest in the city in 2015, according to city data, and the neighborhood's injury assault rate came in at number one with 180 non-fatal assault hospitalizations per every 100,000 Brownsville residents.

The clubhouse, which is made of redesigned shipping containers, will double as a workshop and meeting place for BCJC participants, along with a space for holiday events and gatherings for Marcus Garvey Apartments' residents, according to Brodick.

Organizers also look to host movie nights and provide multimedia sessions for youth on everything from coding to music production.

During the planning process, BCJC participants helped survey neighborhood lots and worked with Columbia University experts and city planners on design, eventually seeing their work come to fruition by building out benches and other parts of the clubhouse.

"It was good insight and motivation," said Saquan Livingston, 24, who helped in the project and attended an urban design conference during the planning stages.

 $\hbox{``I feel like}$ anything is possible. That's our work right there."

L+M Development Partners hopes to evolve the clubhouse into a larger community space based on resident engagement.

"We want to have it be both a safe place for people to gather and a place for them to learn about the existing assets in Brownsville, and to be a space where they can engage and exercise." LaBrie said.

"We want to have it be a space where they can re-imagine a Brownsville that they want to really see continue to grow and the kind of Brownsville they want to live in."













PROSPECT HEIGHTS » (HTTPS://WWW.DNAINFO.COM/NEW-YORK/BROOKLYN/CROWN-HEIGHTS-PROSPECT-HEIGHTS-PROSPECT-LEFFERTS

 $Neighbors \ Rally to \ Speed \ Recovery of Prospect Heights \ Cafe \ Damaged in Fire \ (https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20160726/prospect-heights/neighbors-rally-speed-recovery-of-prospect-heights-cafe-damaged-fire)$

PARK SLOPE » (HTTPS://WWW.DNAINFO.COM/NEW-YORK/BROOKLYN/PARK-SLOPE-WINDSOR-TERRACE-GOWANUS)

Prospect Ave. R Train Station to Close for Renovations Next Month (https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170525/park-slope/prospect-ave-r-train-subway-close-enhanced-station-initiative)

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Councilmember Ampry-Samuel, Councilmember Richards, and members of the Committees on Public Housing and Public Safety,

I respectfully submit this testimony on the issue of safety, security, and human dignity in NYCHA housing as discussed at your Joint Committee hearing on June 6, 2019.

This hearing comes at a crucial time in the long arc of New York City's history on these issues. The organization I lead, JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA), is at a critical juncture in the #CLOSErikers campaign that we have led for the past several years.

As the City moves forward in the process to shut down Rikers Island and build four boroughbased facilities needed to address the smaller population of people who remain detained after closure, we anticipate enormous cost savings as a consequence of that transition. We have demanded, from the outset of this campaign, that the more-than \$1 billion¹ generated by closing Rikers be invested directly into the communities that have been most harmed by New York's criminal legal system. One key area in which those investments must occur is in safe, secure, fully accessible NYCHA housing.

One principle that must be made clear from the outset is that "safe and secure" cannot become synonymous with exclusionary. NYCHA is renowned for barring access to housing for people with arrest or conviction records, tearing communities apart by forcing families - already strained by a lack of resources in Black and brown communities - to search elsewhere for this basic human need. While we share a broader concern for safety and security, we also know that those terms must be defined for and by the people most impacted by violence, trauma, and harm, including people who have been incarcerated or otherwise impacted by the criminal legal system.

As it stands today, NYCHA is barring people from access to housing due to their having a criminal record, even when that record is unproven, sealed, dismissed, or otherwise wholly addressed.

This issue of exclusion is not an abstract concern. This is a palpable nightmare for people like Rosetta Cochran, whose story was recently profiled in *The Gothamist*.² Ms. Cochran had an arrest record that had been sealed, but that record led to her being ensnared in a raid that itself led to her eviction from NYCHA housing. Her story is not an aberration. In a system that serves almost 400,000 people,3 Ms. Cochran's story is too often the norm that Black, brown, and poor people are forced to confront. This must end.

#halfby2030

JustLeadershipUSA

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∰ justleadershupusa.org







JustLeadershipUSA



@JustLeadershipUSA

¹ A More Just New York City, Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, April 2017. Available at: https://www.morejustnyc.org/reports.

² How a Sealed Arrest Can Get You Arrested in New York, Fred Mogul, June 5, 2019. Available at: http://gothamist.com/2019/06/05/sealed arrest nvc nvcha.php.

³ NYCHA 2018 Fact Sheet, New York City Housing Authority, 2018. Available at: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nycha/downloads/pdf/NYCHA-Fact-Sheet 2018 Final.pdf.

The practice of targeting NYCHA developments for NYPD gang surveillance and raids is devastating families and communities. By the NYPD's own measure, over 1,000 people were arrested in 40 such raids in 2016 alone. These arrests are often made in public housing and other surrounding communities of color and are based largely on loose associations, which authorities describe as "gang" membership. While the police department's gang strategy targets poor communities of color, they often work closely with federal immigration officials like ICE's Homeland Security Investigations division.

JLUSA recommends that the Council support and join advocates in speaking out against gang raids, and specifically address the way NYCHA communities have been harmed. Based on a recent report⁴ about the #Bronx120 raid which occurred at the Eastchester Houses, indictments were overbroad. There was a denial of pretrial release, lack of discovery, speedy trial waivers, and high sentence exposure demonstrating lack of fairness and accuracy of convictions. This cannot be tolerated. We further recommend providing Cure Violence resources, jobs, social services, and support to communities and individuals at risk rather than conducting year-long surveillance and executing mass takedowns in those communities. And we urge you to begin providing reparations for family members harmed and traumatized by the raids.

Moreover, NYCHA should be prevented from accessing and considering any records that do not result in a conviction - records that are often generated by these unjustifiable surveillance techniques and raids. Arrests and charges represent nothing more than unproven government suspicion. They should not even trigger an eviction proceeding, let alone a full eviction demand. There must be a presumption of expanding housing as widely as possible in this City, particularly for the nearly quarter of a million people who are targeted by the criminal legal system each year.⁵

However, there will be times when NYCHA and the community-at-large feel that a particular conviction raises concerns regarding tenancy. Even then, there must be a process in place to ensure that every single person has the fullest opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding their record, the reasons that the record should not be used to exclude them from housing, and the steps they have taken to address any lingering concerns about their record. Everyone is owed individualized due process, and a right to counsel and evidentiary protections should be also be built into that process whenever feasible.

The truth is, security and safety are not the product of stigmatizing, harming, and barring certain people from basic human needs. To the contrary, research and lived experience - from all corners of the United States - routinely show that safety and security are the inevitable outcomes in a system that seeks to lift people up and give them full access to the services they need, particularly after the criminal legal system has worked hard to push them down and hold them back.

In addition to this, the New York City Council can promote safe and secure NYCHA housing by making more units available. The #CLOSErikers campaign, through our #buildCOMMUNITIES platform,⁶ lays out a number of funding opportunities that this Council could seize to drastically

⁴ See: https://bronx120.report.

⁵ *Adult Arrests*, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Available at: https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/arrests/index.htm.

⁶ Available at: bit.ly/buildCOMMUNITIES.

transform and strengthen public housing resources and, in turn, safety in New York City. Some of those opportunities include:

- Invest in crucial improvements in NYCHA, including fixing elevators and lighting, upgrading heating equipment, and addressing lead contamination;
- Double the number of permanent affordable housing units set aside for homeless New Yorkers in the Mayor's Housing New York 2.0 Plan,⁷ from 15,000 to 30,000, with 24,000 of these units created through new construction;
- Expand construction of housing which is not owned by for-profit entities, and without restrictions that exclude people with prior convictions;
- Create a housing trust fund with a dedicated revenue stream to support the creation and preservation of permanently affordable housing for the lowest income New Yorkers;
- Mandate that every development, new or renovated, regardless of subsidies, should have a portion of low-income housing available; and
- Expand and improve services that help people to stay in their homes, such as representation in housing court, rental assistance and arrears programs, and programs to help property owners make repairs & prevent foreclosure.

Moreover, in advertising an increased availability of affordable housing in New York City, outreach efforts from the City should be particularly focused on people coming back from incarceration and their loved ones that are eager to welcome them home.

Maximizing the accessibility of safe, secure housing for all people will cost money, but that money is available. It is just tied up in the wrong resources right now. For far too long, we have seen that the primary investment into over-criminalized Black and brown communities is the investment we make in law enforcement. I urge you to take a significant portion of the \$7.3 billion routinely set aside for those system actors and invest that money into accessible public housing, instead. This is not only a moral obligation, but also a far more effective way to achieve the public safety goals that you and I share.

Finally, the public must be able to evaluate the impact of these reforms or policy proposals if and when they take hold. Safety and security require transparency and accountability. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to demand that NYCHA is collecting and disseminating data regarding safety, security, and accessibility - without violating personal confidentiality of any residents - and disaggregating that data by race, gender, age, and other key socioeconomic factors. Only then can we see how well this City is living up to the expectations that directly impacted people and families have made, and will continue to make, with respect to the services, resources, and support that our communities deserve.

⁷ Available at: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdf/about/hny-2.pdf.

I know that this will be a challenge. When serving as a Senior Policy Advisor at the United States Department of Justice, I was focused on building and supporting the community infrastructure that is necessary to welcome formerly incarcerated people back home. That work is never easy, but it always mattered. And it will continue to matter as this City continues to witness historic drops in crime and incarceration - drops made possible through the relentless advocacy of the same leaders and community members who now demand resources, such as safe, secure, and accessible public housing. I know that we can meet the call of this moment, and I look forward to working in partnership with you in this important work.

DeAnna HoskinsPresident & CEO
JustLeadershipUSA

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK			
THE CITT OF ILLY TORK			
Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No			
in favor in opposition			
Date:			
(PLEASE PRINT)			
Name: Dagwon Savage			
Address: Wagner houses			
I represent: Mayors Office Action Plan			
Address: Wagner Houese			
THE COUNCIL			
THE CURVE OF MENT MODIZ			
THE CITY OF NEW YORK			
Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No in favor in opposition			
Date! 6/6/10/9			
(PLEASE PRINT)			
Name: Isudy toque			
Address: 125 Frankling Ave Brong 19456			
I represent: English the Assistance of Assis			
Address:			

*	Appearance Card			
	speak on Int. No.		Vo	
	in favor in oppositi			
	Date: (PLEASE PRINT)			
Name: (own w	- Quinan			
Address: 840	column	/		
I represent:	4/1055 7	las	2	
Address:	8 de			
THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK				
	Appearance Card			
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	in favor in oppositi	on 0/6	12019	
	Date: (PLEASE PRINT)	0.0	70017	
Name: Keith	Ramsey			
Address: 3010	Yates Ale			
I represent: LAS+C	hester Garden	5		
Address: 3010	Yates ALD			
	THE COUNCIL			
THE	CITY OF NEW Y	ORK		
		VILIX		
	Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and a	peak on Int. No.	Res. N	0	
	in favor			
(PLEASE PRINT)				
Name: Greensy De than				
Address:				
I represent: 6-0	ne-Quan	Mud		
Address:	,			

Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date: 6/6/2619-
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Dall HACZ.
Address: 2931 8th Ave Apt 45. My MC.
I represent: Polo ground tower Map team.
Address: 2931 8 tue
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: 6 6 2019
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Helene REDD
Address: 2663 Heath AVE. BX. N.Y. 10463
I represent: Bailey Houses (Second Vicepresident)
Address:
THE COUNCIL
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: 6/6/2019
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Khonda Bennett
Address: 2979 8th Avenue
I represent: Polo Grounds Towers MAP/Residents

Appearance Card I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _ ☐ in favor in opposition (PLEASE PRINT) I represent: Address: Appearance Card I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. ____ in favor in opposition Address: I represent: NM 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) Address: I represent: Address:



Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No in favor in opposition
Date:
(DI FASE DDINT)
Name: Chief James Secreto
Address: NYPD
I represent:
Address:
THE COUNCIL Access lide THE CITY OF NEW YORK OPM
THE CITT OF IVEW TORK
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date: 6/6/14 (PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Louise Green
Address: 1260 horing one apt 7 D
I represent: PINK Houses Vice President
Address:
19885 WW
THE COUNCIL 2 PM pick
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date:
Name: MARY RIGHT
Address: 1260 20ring AVK
I represent: Pink 19045es
Address: 3100K/911, 119/1308
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

HAVE THE CITE OF INEW PORCE
Access RIDE Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 16-11 Res. No. 1
in favor in opposition
Date: 6-6-2019
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: LAREN CALDWCHY,
Address: 1260 HORING HUE TH
I represent: 20415 PINK HOUSES
Address: Sig ASYHBOVE 124DOCT GROFLE
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: Rosetta Cochran
Address:
I represent: NYCHA resident, Brooklyn Defender Services
Address:
The second secon
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: Anca Grigore
Address:
I represent: Brooklyn Defender Services
I represent: Brooklyn Defender Services Address: 177 Livingston, Brooklyn Defend
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

	Appearance Card		
I intend to appear and	speak on Int. No.	Res. No	
	in favor 🔲 in oppositi		
	Date:	0 6 17	
Masc	(PLEASE PRINT)	A 6	
Name: 499	rockawas	1	
her	self & heig	hbors	
I represent:			
Address:	And the second s	and the second s	
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	speak on Int. Noin favor in opposition		
, 	Date:	6-6-19	
Constitution	(PLEASE PRINT)	•	
Name:	a Gover	11-1000112005	
Address:	14 Shington	Houses	
I represent:	5.6/4		
Address:		,e-17	
and the second s	THE COUNCIL		
ТИГ	CITY OF NEW Y	/ORK	
	CITT OF NEW 1	VIII	
	Appearance Card		
I intend to appear and	speak on Int. No.	Res. No	
	in favor in oppositi	ion	
Date:			
Name: Emily Ponde	(PLEASE PRINT)		
Address: Nejon borhood Defender Service 317 lever, 10 \$1, MY 10077			
I represent:	,	4	
Address:	a.		

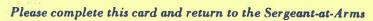
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	(PLEASE PRINT)	
Name: DUXA		
126 6	1	
Address:	Mrx.	
I represent:	HH G	
Address:	V 1	
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Address:	0 1	
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Address:		Tar the last
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THE	CITY OF NEW	IUII
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I intend to appear an	d speak on Int. No.	Res. No
	in favor in oppos	ition
	Date:	6-6-19
	(PLEASE PRINT)	
Name: IPRRY	Heard	1
Address: 140	8 Webster	Ave
P	utler Hou	585
I represent:	11)0hs/0p x	VI.
Address: 1400	as the ft	
Please compl	ete this card and return to th	e Sergeant-at-Arms

	Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and	speak on Int. No.	Res. I	No	
	in favor in oppositi			
	Date:			
21	(PLEASE PRINT)			
Name: 110 bin	WILDER			
Address: 1428.36	2 WEBSTER AV	E #62		
I represent: 54	lea Houses	-		
Address: 1408 Ws	belee AUE BX	Ny 1	0456	
THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK				
	Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and s	peak on Int. No.	Res N		
	in favor in oppositio		0.	
	Date:			
2001	(PLEASE PRINT)			
Name: RUCRE	12 Miles			
Address:	UShipil K Holis	285		
I represent:	aves bushior	K HO	USPS	
Address:		NStat	Seam	
THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK				
	Appearance Card			
I intend to appear and s	peak on Int. No.	Res. N	0.	
	n favor 🔲 in oppositio			
Date:				
(PLEASE PRINT)				
Name: David Grant				
Address:				
I represent: 105	ouves - Octetis	Dal	itation	
Address:				



	Appearance Card		
I intend to appear and sp	favor in oppositi	ion	No
Name: Christin	Date: (PLEASE PRINT) JE BROWN SHE HILL AVE	BRO	nx
I represent: MAP	CASTLE Hill		
Address:	5 Art		
	THE COUNCIL ITY OF NEW Y	YORK	
	Appearance Card		
I intend to appear and sp	eak on Int. No in opposit	ion	No
Name: Ratisan	(PLEASE PRINT)	/ 18/ \/	10027
Address:	Wicholas Four	6	
Address:		A	
THE C	THE COUNCIL ITY OF NEW Y	ORK	
-	Appearance Card		
I intend to appear and sp	favor in opposit	ion	No
Name: Adele Rid Address: 2410 8th	Avenue 21	TOY NY	10027 V 1002
I represent:	Winder 1	CLIP	/
	his card and return to the S	ierge ant-a t-,	Arms 4

Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date:
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Latrell Bayton
Address: 908 Boulevard Houses NStat From
I represent: Buland House NSACT Tram
Address:
Address:
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Annearon Cond
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date:
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Daguina Sivige
Address: Wagner Houses
I represent: Mayor's Office Action Plan
Address: Whomer Houses
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Appearance Card
Lintand to appear and analysis Test No.
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
Date:
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Dandra Tapa
Address: DOSHOCK DUSCS
I represent: 105 Suves Bustawick Houses WStat
Address:



Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
JCSCDb H: Date: (65)19
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Occupant Street
Address:
I represent: MAP (Castle Hill)
Address:
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
THE CHI OF NEW TORK
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
in favor in opposition
Date:
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Navasia Kobinson
Address: 2310 Stavenue SE
I represent: Mayors Other Action Ylan
Address: Magner Houles
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: 6 C
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: CVCI (1 1 / CCT)
Address: 20 841 AVE DU 1018
I represent: Center for (14) hnovation
Address: