

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes for the Housing and Human Services Community Meeting
November 3, 2016 – CB12 Conference Room 530 West 166th Street – 6 th Floor
New York, NY 10032 .

Welcome and Introduction – Ayisha Oglivie, Chair

Comments of the meeting:

- The committee recapped the previous meeting in which we highlighted and submitted the committee's priorities. In the last meeting, we also suggested to the HDFC group to wait for its turn since they were trying to make their piece first and most important.

- Ayisha recapped the importance of quorum and the importance of people showing up to meetings. Because of low attendance, we were not able to have quorums at the budget hearing and the general board meetings. Ayisha also stated the reasons why the Arden and Amsterdam buildings were pushed up as the top priority of the committee. Families of these two buildings should have a place to live, and in this community, we cannot afford to have two affordable housing buildings unoccupied. At the general board meeting, some of the previous residents of these buildings were thankful and appreciated the fact that these buildings were highlighted and prioritized.

- Some of the community board members ask the meaning of HDFC (Housing Development Fund Corporation).

- Ayisha mentioned how the tax exemption required by law to HDFC buildings that last 40 years is about to expire. Because of claims that there have been management issues with some of these buildings, roughly 25 percent, the city is looking to renew the same tax exemption or create a new one.

- The committee will request an emergency meeting with HDFC to take a look at the drafted resolution. Also, the committee will file a freedom of information request, (FOIL), to obtain all the details of the new tax exemption that can go in front of the city council as early as December.

2. 2016 Worst Landlords (CB12)

- Leticia James, the public advocate, released the worst landlords list of 2016. Although the website help tenants identify these worst landlords, the committee believes the website can be better organized and could have a better user interface with more details.
- HPD found 50 apartments being used as warehouse on Cabrini Boulevard. The committee will reach Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez's office to find out how these apartments were discovered and what is being done to find additional apartments being used illegally.
- Some of the committee members have noticed apartments being used as a warehouse in their neighborhoods.
- The committee believes the city should take possession of the buildings owned by the worst landlords and give them to organizations to make them permanently affordable housing.
- The committee agreed to invite someone from Dyckman Houses or NYCHA to speak and answer some of our questions regarding the problems and issues these buildings are facing. The committee would also like to find additional information about privatization of Dyckman projects.
- Ayisha noticed NYCHA public member, Christina Burdis, has not been participating in our meetings since last year.
- The committee will contact the tenant association of every housing project in our neighborhoods.

3. Airbnb

- Airbnb filed a lawsuit against the state. People posting the advertising to offer their apartments are protected under free speech.
- A state legislation is preventing people from posting some of these advertisements and making Airbnb responsible for these posting.
- Airbnb believes they are just promoting free speech and not illegal renting.

4. MTA Low Income Metrocard Discount Proposal

- MTA will review a proposal that will give a fifty percent discount to low-income New Yorkers.
- Some of the people who currently get discount benefits include: Seniors, people with disabilities, students and even middle class and wealthy people get discounts through pre-tax benefit.

5. Manhattan Legal Services

- Karla Diaz, a legal aid at MLS, gave a presentation about they offer to residents free of charge. Some the services they provide include but not limited to housing and tenant's rights, immigration, bankruptcy, elders law and others. More information can be found on their website: legalservicesnyc.org