



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

January 9, 2026

Hon. Jerry Nadler
United States Congress
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014

Hon. Tony Simone
New York State Assembly
214 West 29th Street, Suite 1401
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Letitia James
New York State Attorney General
163 West 125th Street, Suite 1324
New York, NY 10027

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal
New York State Senate
322 8th Avenue, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Zohran K. Mamdani
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Erik Bottcher
New York City Council
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President
The David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Jessica P. Tisch
Commissioner
New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Twyla Carter
Attorney-in-Chief
Chief Executive Officer

Ahmed Tigani
Acting Commissioner
New York City Department
of Housing
Development and Preservation
100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10038

The Legal Aid Society
199 Water Street
New York, NY 10038

Lisa Bova-Hiatt
Chief Executive Officer
New York City Housing Authority
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Chelsea NYCHA Relocation
Unnecessary NYPD Intervention**

Dear Elected Officials and City Agency Officials,

On November 6, 2025, at the regularly scheduled Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee (HHHS) meeting, the Committee discussed an incident at the Chelsea Addition at 427 West 27th Drive, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) senior building on the Fulton Elliott-Chelsea (FEC) campus.

This incident is regarding the New York Police Department (NYPD)'s 10th Precinct and PSA4 being called through a 911 call during the temporary relocation of a 76-year-old citizen, Mrs. Kwong, residing at the Chelsea Addition. The Chelsea Addition is a part of the proposed redevelopment plan of the NYCHA FEC campus through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) conversion. During her temporary relocation, Mrs. Kwong, who speaks limited English, stated she no longer wanted to relocate. When she changed her mind, she contacted her neighbors, who subsequently contacted FEC tenant advocates. Mrs. Kwong's neighbors, friends, and tenant advocates arrived at her apartment, where staff of Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU), the relocation agent for Related Companies, had already packed her belongings. HOU put in a 911 call to request for NYPD onsite. Councilmember Erik Bottcher's office confirmed that the caller was HOU.

At the November HHHS meeting, Mrs. Kwong's neighbors, friends, and FEC tenant advocates were in attendance to present on this matter: Mrs. Kwong's neighbors, Yu Story and Jane Rao; President of the Midtown South Community Council, John Mudd; Lydia Andre, representing Chelsea Neighbors Coalition and Chelsea Public Housing Coalition; Lizette Colon, representing Chelsea Public Housing Coalition; Wei Tam, Cantonese translator for Cantonese-speaking tenants; and Democratic District Leader for Assembly District 75, Layla Law-Gisiko.

Due to language barriers, the Board required Mrs. Kwong's friends or neighbors to effectively present this incident. Mrs. Kwong and her friends and neighbors asked Ms. Colon to present the incident to HHHS. The interactions between Mrs. Kwong, her neighbors, FEC tenant advocates, the NYPD, and HOU were also recorded via audio and video.¹

HHHS originally voted to approve an administrative letter on an emergency basis. However, as this letter makes new and specific recommendations, the letter was presented to the MCB4 Full Board. At its regularly scheduled Full Board meeting on December 3, 2025, MCB4 voted 38 in favor, 4 opposed, 5 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, to address the immediate concerns of poor management and coercive tactics used for the temporary relocation of Chelsea Addition tenants.

Description of Incident

The following is a summary of the powerful statements made by neighbors and neighborhood advocates. Please view the recording of the presentation at the November HHHS meeting for a clear presentation of this incident.²

Lizette Colon, Chelsea NYCHA tenant advocate, detailed the account of senior Chelsea Addition tenant, Mrs. Kwong's relocation incident.

On October 29, 2025, at approximately 12:30pm, several of Mrs. Kwong's neighbors and tenant advocates were notified that HOU staff were actively packing her belongings in apartment 9D. However, Mrs. Kwong stated that she wished to remain in her apartment.

When Mrs. Kwong's neighbors and tenant advocates arrived at apartment 9D, 14 boxes were already packed and assembled outside the unit. The group of neighbors and tenant advocates questioned the HOU staff regarding why Mrs. Kwong's belongings were being packed and repeatedly stated Mrs. Kwong's wish that she did not want to relocate.

¹ [Audio recording from October 29, 2025 shared at the November HHHS meeting.](#)

² [YouTube link of MCB4 November 2025 Housing Health and Human Services Committee.](#) Please see the presentation and committee discussion from 1:10:20 to 2:22:20.

Then, HOU put in a 911 call. Councilmember Erik Bottcher's office confirmed that the caller was HOU.

NYPD officers arrived at the unit and stated that they must comply with the directions of HOU staff members. When Ms. Colon requested to speak with the NYPD officer's supervisor, the NYPD lieutenant onsite stated that the building was no longer owned by NYCHA, was now privately owned, and that the building was being demolished. The information on the building status was provided to the NYPD by HOU staff members. That information that the building was sold to a private person was not accurate, as Ms. Colon noted.

Then, the NYPD brought Mrs. Kwong into her apartment, but did not permit any neighbors, tenant advocates, or Ms. Tam, Mrs. Kwong's friend and Cantonese interpreter. Instead, the NYPD provided a translator via phone for Mrs. Kwong.

After Mrs. Kwong, HOU staff members, and the NYPD came out of apartment 9D, the onsite NYPD lieutenant admitted that this tenant dispute was outside of the NYPD's jurisdiction, and that the NYPD should not have responded to this incident. At this point, the NYPD left the site.

Afterwards, Mrs. Kwong's grandson arrived onsite. Mrs. Kwong and her grandson were directed by HOU to visit a temporary relocation apartment in another building. Mrs. Kwong requested to be accompanied by her neighbors and tenant advocates, but HOU staff members denied this request. After their visit, when Mrs. Kwong returned to her original apartment, Mrs. Kwong stated that the unit was not suitable, as the manual elevator door was too heavy to operate, given her disability, and the relocation building smelled of urine. Again, Mrs. Kwong firmly stated that she did not wish to move from her current apartment. It was only then that HOU agreed that Mrs. Kwong could stay in her apartment until they resolved the issue. Due to space constraints, some of Mrs. Kwong's packed boxes remained outside of unit 9D.

Mrs. Kwong later stated that she signed a form but believed it was for her annual lease renewal and did not knowingly consent to her relocation or the packing of her belongings by HOU. HOU had stated that Mrs. Kwong's grandson had assisted her in signing the relocation agreement. However, neither Mrs. Kwong's grandson nor her children have Power of Attorney or legal guardianship for Mrs. Kwong.

In addition to this relocation incident on October 29, at the November HHHS meeting, Ms. Colon shared the following facts which heighten concern regarding the lack of due process and tenant harassment taking place at the Chelsea Addition:

- Names on the intercom directory have been erased since October 26, 2025.³
- HOU staff members have been informing tenants that “if you do not move, you will have no housing.”
- HOU staff members have been repeatedly knocking on tenants’ doors from the early morning until 8pm to discuss relocation.
- Chelsea Addition residents have been pressured to sign Section 8 leases without a comprehensive understanding of their rights, with the market rents left blank on their lease.

MCB4 Requests

The above account raises serious concerns about the poor management and coercive tactics used in the relocations from the Chelsea Addition which would be characterized as tenant harassment in any other situation. MCB4 requests that elected representatives, the AG’s office, The Legal Aid Society, and the NYPD take immediate action on the following requests.

- **Inform the NYPD of the current ownership status at the Chelsea Addition and the redevelopment timeline at the NYCHA FEC.**
 - Ensure that City and State agencies are in active communication to prevent jurisdictional errors and misinformation.
- **Establish a third-party legal advocate or monitor in the building every day, or on the days when a relocation is scheduled to take place.**
- **Inform Chelsea Addition tenants and all NYCHA FEC tenants of the judicial process through a fact sheet produced by the Office of the New York State Attorney General (AG).**

Conclusion

MCB4 requests effective coordination and communication between elected representatives, the AG’s office, the NYPD, and The Legal Aid Society to ensure that

³ Please see attachment A for photo captured by John Mudd, President of Midtown South Community Council

all tenants at the Chelsea Addition and the NYCHA FEC campus undergo due process in relocation and are not at risk of displacement.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia
Co-Chair
Housing, Health,
and Human Services
Committee



Maria Ortiz
Co-Chair
Housing, Health,
and Human Services
Committee

Cc:

Brent Meltzer, Chief, Housing Protection Unit, Office of the New York State Attorney General

Lucy Newman, Supervising Attorney, Public Housing Unit, The Legal Aid Society

Jeff Blau, Chief Executive Officer, Related Companies

Gregory Gushee, Executive Vice President, Related Companies

Jonathan Gouveia, Executive Vice President and Chief Real Estate Officer, NYCHA

Jamar Adams, Managing Principal, Essence Development

Layla Law-Gisiko, Democratic District Leader, Assembly District 75

Lydia Andre, Chelsea Neighbors Coalition, Chelsea Public Housing Coalition

Lizette Colon, Chelsea Public Housing Coalition

Renee Keitt, President, Elliott-Chelsea Houses Tenant Association

Susan Palmer Marshall, President, Council of Chelsea Block Associations

John Mudd, President, Midtown South Community Council

Deputy Inspector Kevon A. Sample, NYPD PSA 4

Deputy Inspector Alexander Brathwaite, NYPD 10th Pct

Attachment A

Photo of NYCHA FEC Chelsea Addition, Empty Directory

