



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 22, 2014

Ms. Nancy Clifford, Administrator
Saint Joseph Residences
425 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

Re: Saint Joseph Immigrant House rent increase

Dear Ms. Clifford,

Thank you very much for attending the Housing Health and Human Services (HHHS) committee meeting of Community Board 4 meeting in April. The Board is very interested in working with you and the tenants of the St. Joseph's Immigrant Home. We appreciate your efforts to work with the tenants who may be struggling with the rent increases, and we want to assist you in any way we can.

The tenants are, understandably, very anxious about the rent increase. At our HHHS committee meeting in May, thirteen (13) tenants attended the meeting. They are concerned that they may not be able to remain at the St. Joseph's. where some have resided for 20 years. Finding comparable housing in the neighborhood would be next to impossible for many of the tenants.

Community Board 4 requests that you meet with the tenants and their representatives from Housing Conservation Coordinators and Goddard Riverside SRO Law Project and together to find a compromise that both allows current residents to remain in the building and helps to address any financial concerns. As we discussed, we also urge you to look at existing programs, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program to defray building expenses and explore rental subsidies to address operating deficiencies. To that end, we urge you to meet with not-for-profit organizations such as Clinton Housing Development Co., or others familiar with potential subsidies.

In the meantime, we ask that you defer the rent increases scheduled to go into effect on June 1, until such time that you have met with the tenants and that a plan can be implemented to keep current residents in their homes. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance. Thank you again for your assistance and patience.

Sincerely,

[signed 5/21/2014]

Barbara Davis, Co-Chair
Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

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

Christine Berthet
Chair
Community Board 4

CC: Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblymember
Jerrold Nadler, Congressman

Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember
Mother Mary Jennifer, Mother General