



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10035
TEL: 212-831-8929
FAX: 212-369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

Housing Committee January 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Community Board Office

*** Minutes ***

Present: John Green, Erica Jones (Vice Chair), Jean-Pierre Kamwa, Xavier Santiago, Jeremiah Schlotman (Chair), Shawn Smith, Angel Mescain (staff)

Excused: Henry Flores

Absent: Emily Grajales, La Shawn Henry, Jemar Ward

Guests: none

1. Call to Order – Adoption of Agenda: Meeting began at 6:15pm. Quorum was attained at 6:40pm and a motion was made by Xavier Santiago to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by John Green and passed unanimously.
2. Informational Updates
3. Presentations & Discussions

- a. Review and vote on resolution calling for dedicated funding for tenant group representation:

The chair distributed a draft resolution to the committee members calling on the City to continue funding representation for tenant groups. The committee reviewed the draft and discussed its contents but held over final edits and a vote to the February Housing Committee meeting to enable more thorough review of the draft resolution. The committee anticipates finalizing the edits prior to the February committee meeting so that there is a final review and vote as expeditiously and efficiently as possible.

The committee is encouraged by the large influx of City funding for expanded legal services for tenants; however, the committee is of the opinion that failure to continue funding for representation of groups of tenants would deprive lower-income tenants of a vital tool to combat accelerated displacement forces in the increasingly inequitable New York City real estate market.

- b. Discussion of settlement of class action lawsuit brought by The Legal Aid Society and Hughes, Hubbard & Reed against New York State, which resulted in changes to subsidies

for low-income tenants effective 01/01/18 (creation of the Family Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (“FHEPS”) and consequent modification of the Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (“FEPS”) and elimination of the City Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (“CityFEPS”)):

The committee discussed the increased rent arrears and monthly rent caps for the newest FHEPS program, which is available to families facing eviction, foreclosure, or currently homeless due to eviction. The committee will work to make information regarding the new program available with board materials within the next couple of months.

c. Discussion of committee goals for 2018:

The committee’s discussion resulted in three major goals for 2018, which are (1) having a hybrid community presentation-workshop in approximately May 2018 (the presentation will tentatively cover the Certificate of No Harassment pilot program and related issues, followed by consultations with tenant attorneys); (2) deepening the committee’s connection with the various tenants’ associations at the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) developments in East Harlem, as well as the relationship with NYCHA itself; and (3) updating CB11’s page containing housing resources.

4. Old Business

a. Continuing discussion on Capital and Expense Budget Requests

5. New Business

6. Announcements

- a. Angel Mescaïn updated the committee on the Sendero Verde project, specifically with respect to the positive development of increased number of permanently affordable units, including at levels truly affordable for current East Harlem residents.
- b. Angel Mescaïn noted that the Points of Agreement for the East Harlem rezoning proposal identifies four public sites that could be developed but which do not currently have plans for their development. This presents an opportunity for the community to take initiative and create a vision for what should be done on those public sites.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Shawn Smith at 7:51pm, seconded by Erica Jones and passed unanimously.