



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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Resolution to Support Reform of NYCHA's Repair Process

The Community and Citywide Education Councils (CCECs) are composed of parents who have been elected or appointed to serve as stakeholders of NYC School Community Districts, and specific cohorts of students, representing NYC public school students and their families.

Approved on October 25, 2022, the following resolution offers CEC 15's position to support reform of NYCHA's repair process:

WHEREAS, per the White Paper “How the Other Half Lives in Public Housing”:

- *The New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) is home to over 535,686 New Yorkers residing within its public housing, Section 8, and Permanent Affordability Commitment Together/Rental Assistance Demonstration (“PACT/RAD”) programs;*
- *Despite years of promises and decades of varying plans, NYCHA’s housing stock has continued to decline, even under the watchful eye of a federal monitor and the leadership of several appointed Chairs of the NYCHA Board¹;*

WHEREAS, 130,000 of New York City Public School students reside in NYCHA public housing which is fundamentally uninhabitable and unsafe;

WHEREAS, many New York City Public School students who live in NYCHA residences are forced to bath in bathrooms filled with *Stachybotrys chartarum*, otherwise known as black mold, which exacerbates already high instances of asthma in low income communities of color;

WHEREAS, many New York City Public School students live with clogged ventilation, peeling paint and rodents which can be found throughout apartments and contribute to poor health outcomes such as respiratory issues, cognitive delays and various illnesses;

¹ <https://advocate.nyc.gov/reports/how-other-half-lives-public-housing/#introduction>

WHEREAS, these health issues will lead to chronic absenteeism from school^{2 3};

WHEREAS, New York City Public School parents are often forced to feed their children without access to cooking gas, often for months at a time;

WHEREAS, New York City Public School families living in NYCHA residences are forced to live with cracked and/or broken windows during brutal winter months, causing families to resort to huddling together without heat or hot water and forced to use potentially dangerous space heaters;

WHEREAS, children cannot learn in school when they are impacted by extraordinary circumstances like these at home;

WHEREAS, children and families that suffer in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions will inevitably miss days, weeks and, in some cases, months of class time and work days, widening achievement gaps and creating the conditions for school drop out for our children and unemployment for their parents;

WHEREAS, there are advocates for better housing conditions and intersectional educational policy that supports the whole child and family in all five boroughs calling for urgent attention to funding and management issues in NYCHA Housing;

WHEREAS, families residing in NYCHA Residences should not be subjected to hazardous, unhealthy living conditions;

WHEREAS, Brooklyn North CECs (CEC13, CEC14, CEC15, CEC16, CEC19, CEC23 & CEC32) have come together to elevate, advocate for and prioritize the needs, health, and safety of NYCHA Residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Brooklyn North CECs support the passage of the following legislative measures:

- **Amending Local Law 55-2018, the Healthy Homes Act, to include NYCHA.**
- **Amending Local Law 127-2021 to mandate automatic inspections by NYC inspectors and the issuance of any building or housing code violations; and work**

² <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/chron-absent.pdf>

³ <https://www.naesp.org/resource/six-causes-and-solutions-for-chronic-absenteeism/> #3 cause illness, #6 cause food and housing

together to supply resources including the funds needed to support New Yorkers living in public housing.

- **Approval by the NYC Office of Management and Budget to allow NYCHA to utilize the Job Order Contract (JOC) for certain capital eligible projects that will assist in fast tracking much needed capital work so it is not subject to the long delays that are inherent in the federal procurement process.**

- **Mandating that NYCHA, in advance of a resident meeting, provide one month's notice and proof thereof, that states the date and time when it will present at a Resident Association meeting on its upcoming capital work in that development.**

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Calendar Meeting held on October 25, 2022 by a vote of members present including: Camille Casaretti, Nancy Randall, Vanessa Ueoka Gonzalez, Joe Alexander, Nana-Poku Agyekum, Alfred DeIngeniis, Tia Schellstede, Vincent Lu and Ivan Banda

The Resolution was voted YES by 9 members.