

About | Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Formation

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

I am pleased to inform you that I have formed a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) as required by the January 31 Agreement. The CAC will consist of invited stakeholders who will provide input on my achieving the purpose of the Agreement that appointed me as the federal Monitor over NYCHA.

The stakeholders who will sit on the CAC will be drawn from NYCHA residents, community organizations, advocacy groups, NYCHA employees and their representatives, elected officials, and others who have a common interest in helping to improve the conditions and services at NYCHA. Instead of meeting quarterly, as suggested by the Agreement, I will convene a CAC meeting every other month and at least once in each borough every 12 months.

CAC meetings will be open to the public and when the day's agenda concludes all attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of its members.

There are a wide variety of requirements in the Agreement that NYCHA itself will need to meet, and which I am working to see met, all to achieve a singular goal – to improve the living conditions for NYCHA residents and ensure that it can achieve sustained compliance. To that end, the Agreement requires me to convene a CAC whose purpose is to solicit input from the stakeholders regarding the achievement of the Agreement's purpose. This is why I look forward to hearing from all of you about how we can work together to achieve that goal.

I am continuing to organize conference calls with resident leaders, visit individual developments and attend resident association meetings and meetings with community organizations, for the same purpose as that of the CAC – to solicit feedback and input. So far, my team and I have visited over two dozen developments in all five boroughs and spoke to over 100 Resident Association Presidents, and we will continue to do so throughout the monitorship until we visit every development and speak to every single Association President.

The first CAC meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm** at the Ingersoll Community Center, 177 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn.

Bart M. Schwartz



Federal Monitor appointed pursuant to Agreement dated January 31, 2019

CAC Members | as of February 27, 2024

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator for Region II**
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Prevention, Recovery, and Oversight in the Office of Field Operations**
Jeff Evans
- **Council Member, District 38 and New York City Committee on Public Housing Chair**
Alexa Avilés
- **NYCHA Special Counsel**
Mehrnoosh Torbatnejad
- **NYCHA Manager of Resident Participation & Civic Engagement**
Samantha Rogers
- **Manhattan District Attorney, Community Partnerships Unit Director**
Estelle Strykers-Santiago
- **Fire Department of the City of New York Battalion Chief**
Michael J. Thomson
- **New York City Police Department Deputy Inspector**
Howard Gottesman
- **Policy Analyst for United Neighborhood Houses**
J.T. Falcone
- **The Brownsville Partnership Director**
Noelle Meyers-Powell
- **Citywide Council of Presidents Inc., President**
Danny Barber
- **Citywide Council of Presidents Inc., Treasurer**
Lilith Lozano
- **Williams Plaza Resident Association President**
Joel Gross (Brooklyn)
- **Gun Hill Houses Resident Association President**
Robert Hall (Bronx)
- **Vladeck Houses Resident Association President**
Nancy Ortiz (Manhattan)
- **South Jamaica Resident Association President**
Manny Martinez (Queens)
- **West Brighton Resident Association President**
Shekina Butler (Staten Island)
- **Federal Monitor**
Bart M. Schwartz
- **Deputy Federal Monitor**
Dan Brownell
- **Community and Resident Engagement**
Asha Muldro, Edna Handy and Floretta Hudson
- **ADVISORY MEMBER**
Pomonok Houses Resident Association President
Tamika Williams-Moore (Queens)

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary: February 21, 2024 | Final Meeting

On Wednesday, February 21, 2024, NYCHA Federal Monitor, Bart M. Schwartz, and Resident Engagement Team Leader for the Federal Monitor, Asha Muldro, hosted a Community Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Muldro opened the meeting by welcoming meeting participants whether they were joining from around the table or virtually. She also went over the agenda.

During his opening remarks, Mr. Schwartz reminded attendees that the current monitoring team's term will end on February 27, 2024. He also reminisced on his first meeting with the Assistant U.S. Attorney at the beginning of the monitorship which included a discussion about the CAC, since there was no blueprint for the Committee.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator for Region II, Alicka Ampry-Samuel, thanked Guidepost for, "lifting the voices of the residents." She commended the team for continuing their communications through the pandemic, including the on-site field teams.

NYCHA, Chief Asset and Capital Management Officer, Shaan Mavani, and Advisor, Abigail Fradkin, gave a live demo of the Capital Tracker. They demonstrated the various ways to filter information and explained the new features added since the last version based on stakeholder feedback. A soft launch of the Capital Tracker is scheduled for next week.

NYC Council Member, District 38 Brooklyn, Alexa Avilés, announced that although she is no longer chairing the New York City Committee on Public Housing, she will continue as a committee member and work with residents to keep holding NYCHA accountable.

Ms. Muldro continued the meeting with highlights of the various milestones accomplished by the Monitoring Team's Community and Resident Engagement and CAC members: This includes:

- Developing the idea for a Capital Projects Tracker
- Working closely with NYCHA to revamp the recertification process
- Supporting the Resident Ambassador Program
- Leading the CAC Safety & Security Subcommittee
- Improving coordinated efforts between the New York City Fire Department and NYCHA
- Escalating COVID complaints
- Partnering with New York City Police Department Deputy Inspector, Howard Gottsman, and NYCHA's Vice President of Safety & Security, James Secreto, to tackle security issues
- Working with the NYPD, NYCHA, and residents at Metro North Houses to serve as a case study for safety and security improvements
- Helping to expedite community center repair work
- Holding boroughwide community meetings in each borough every year to hear issues first-hand from residents.
- Participating in the Resident Roundtable Subcommittees
- Providing critical feedback on NYCHA's new Organizational Plan

- Working with NYCHA on initiatives to provide mental health and suicide prevention services to residents
- Championing the rollout of 964 training
- Working with academia to develop community engagement models

The meeting continued with the following updates from CAC members:

- Vice President of NYCHA's Safety & Security, James Secreto, provided updates on NYCHA's Safety Plan and the process for conducting and reporting on safety and security checks at developments, including the homelessness outreach. He also explained the role of the new fire guards.
- Director of Fire Safety, Joseph Terranova, announced the expansion of the Fire Safety Team and the upcoming community symposiums on fire safety.
- Fire Department of the City of New York Battalion Chief, Michael Thomson, spoke about the successful collaboration with NYCHA's Fire Safety Team to solve issues and work on problems together.
- New York City Police Department Captain at Police Service Area 9, Andrew Ghibaudi, provided current crime statics from PSA 9 and his department's use of neighborhood coordination officers.
- NYCHA Special Counsel, Mehrnoosh Torbatnejad, noted that the comments and feedback provided by CAC members have been helpful and that NYCHA has experienced progress through the partnership with this Monitoring Team.
- NYCHA Manager for Resident Participation & Civic Engagement, Samantha Rogers, shared a storyboard created by the Resident Roundtables highlighting problems and proposed solutions for each subcommittee area. She also announced that NYCHA is seeking liaisons internally to participate on the roundtables for a consistent dialogue.

Ms. Muldro acknowledged all the resident leaders who participated in the CAC for their leadership to their residents and to the city. Citywide Council of Presidents Inc., Treasurer, Lilithe Lozano; Williams Plaza Resident Association President, Joel Gross (Brooklyn); Gun Hill Houses Resident Association President, Robert Hall (Bronx); Vladeck Houses Resident Association President, Nancy Ortiz (Manhattan); South Jamaica Resident Association President, Manny Martinez (Queens); and Pomonok Houses Resident Association President, Tamika Williams-Moore (Queens) provided parting comments.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Schwartz acknowledged all the accomplishments over the past five years and thanked the Monitoring Team and CAC members for always keeping the monitorship's mission – to improve residents' lives – top of mind, which made this monitorship a success.