



September 12, 2019

Vicki Been  
Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development  
Mayor's Office  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Gregory Russ  
Chair  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Been and Chair Russ:

Our offices, Manhattan Community Board 4 and residents of Fulton, Chelsea, Chelsea Addition and Elliot Houses have all offered to come to the table to partner with the administration to develop a resident-led, consensus-driven plan to fund the necessary repairs at these developments. On July 23, 2019, we proposed a Working Group to facilitate that conversation and provide a forum to work collaboratively on a solution.

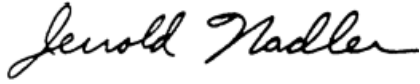
We were extremely disappointed to read accounts of Deputy Mayor Been's comments at the Crain's New York Business Forum Tuesday, which took a very different tone than the more open collaborative one the administration has had thus far in discussions about forming a Working Group. Real Estate Weekly reports that at the forum, Deputy Mayor Been said: "What we can't do is delay. It's demolition by neglect. End the analysis paralysis. End the hand-wringing about how bad NYCHA is. If you ask questions, we're all ears, but unless you have a realistic, immediately actionable plan, don't ask for one more delay for more analysis."

Until Tuesday's comments, we believed the administration was receptive to working with us. However, Deputy Mayor Been's comments, as reported, would be an about-face. To be clear, NYCHA has not yet released a final proposal, or answered important questions such as its expected financial structure.

Based on what we do know, we cannot support the plan in its current form. The largely black and Latino community in Fulton Houses is worth more than the real estate it occupies and forcing the relocation of 72 low income families to build luxury towers is unacceptable. We also have serious concerns that, as currently envisioned, the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) portion of the plan does not directly generate new revenue and is being applied in a far broader way than necessary, resulting in undermined tenant rights in the developments without corollary benefits.

We call on the administration to put aside its commitment to its plan and approach, and instead work with the residents and our offices to be partners in this process instead of adversaries.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President



Corey Johnson  
NYC Council Speaker



Brad Hoylman  
NYS Senator



Robert Jackson  
NYS Senator



Richard N. Gottfried  
NYS Assemblymember