

3/23/2021

For Immediate Release:

People of Harlem River Houses Oppose Privatization Under the RAD Program

Residents of Harlem River Houses will present a petition opposing privatization, signed by close to 200 households of Harlem River Houses. We invite friends, supporters, and members of the press to meet with us to discuss the situation at Harlem River Houses.

Residents are presenting this petition to Harlem River Preservation LLC, the consortium taking over Harlem River Houses from the New York City Housing Authority. Recipients of the petition will include Settlement Housing Fund, the lead non-profit facilitating privatization, specifically, CEO Alexa Sewell; Board President Charles Warren; as well as the members of the board of directors: Gary Jacob (*Glenwood Management Corporation*) Frances Levenson, Esq., David G. Richardson, Esq. (*KPMG LLP*), Mathew Wambua (*Richmac Funding, Merchants Capital*), Charles Brass (*Forsyth Street*), Marvin Markus (*Goldman Sachs*), Juan Barahona (*SMJ Development*), Jennifer M. Carucci-Waters (*TD Bank, The Deutsch Group*), Robert Francis Goldrich (*Leon Levy Foundation*), Rachel Grossman (*JPMorgan Chase & Co*), Jeffrey Gural (*GFP Real Estate*), Judy Kessler (*Vornado Realty Trust*), Sheryl Simon (*Republic Bank*), Joan T. Tally (*Morgan Stanley*), Sarah M. Ward, Esq. (*Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*), Bradford Winston, and Sue Heller.

We will also announce plans to deliver our petition to elected politicians and city leaders, including the “privatization czar” Greg Russ, CEO of New York City Housing Authority; Mayor Bill De Blasio, and Assemblyman Al Taylor of District 71.

The vast majority of Harlem River Tenants did not ask for RAD, did not approve RAD, and will fight back against this attempt to destabilize and displace working class families. We plan to unite with others facing RAD takeovers and similar schemes across the city and throughout the country. We will not be bullied into signing new leases designed to allow private companies to raise rents and make windfall profits.

NYCHA wants to sell us out. Greg Russ is working hard to do it. Politicians are giving away our neighborhoods to banks and developers. We say no! For information about our upcoming public event, please contact us.

The People Of Harlem River Houses
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HR RESIDENTS PETITION

We, the Residents of Harlem River Housing, oppose NYCHA’s turning over management of Harlem River Housing to a private corporation to generate capital needed for outstanding repairs. We believe this action would have negative consequences on our ability to maintain our residence. Particularly, we are concerned about being displaced, experiencing rent hikes, and disinformation about the process of turning over management and our rights as it concerns the process.

Moreover, we are aware of the recent illegal mishandling of private tenant documents at Harlem River Housing. We received no explanation and neither learned whether there has been accountability. We need answers.

We refuse to be pressured and bullied into signing a new lease under the RAD program that we have not collectively agreed to or been properly consulted on.