

# ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE

*A Public Interest Organization*



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June 14, 2021

By Email (c/o [evelyn.sanchez@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:evelyn.sanchez@nycha.nyc.gov))

Greg Russ  
Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
NYC Housing Authority  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Walsh v Russ 21 Civ. 4872 (Pauley, J)  
Pausing RAD/PACT Program While Federal  
Capital Funds Are Being Budgeted In Congress

Dear Chairman Russ:

I am sure that you are aware that I am representing 12 Harlem River Houses tenants in a lawsuit to stop the progress of the PACT/RAD program at Harlem River Houses. We contend that the PACT/RAD program causes a loss of property rights, and that proceeding in the face of Congress' imminent passage of a \$40 billion capital grant to NYCHA is arbitrary and capricious. We exchanged letter about this in April. Since then Senator Schumer has publicly expressed his support for our request that the PACT/RAD program at Harlem River be put on hold, and he has done so on several occasions.

A number of my clients received letters telling them that they had to sign leases today. One such letter is enclosed. Tenants in this development continue to be harassed and cajoled, daily, to sign new leases with PACT participant and C&C Apartment Management. Their records have already been transferred to C&C.

There is no question that these leases do not contain the guarantees or rights that NYCHA tenants have in NYCHA leases, both statutory and those involved in the HUD Consent Decree, or the Baez Consent Decree, are similarly destroyed by PACT.

We request that you tell C&C to back off pending this litigation. If you won't do that we will be asking Judge Pauley for a Preliminary Injunction accomplishing the same. And, I should

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Chairman Greg Russ

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note, that tenants at Harlem River have commenced a rent strike over this issue; their rent will be held by my office in escrow.

Very truly yours,

*Arthur Z. Schwartz*

Arthur Z. Schwartz

AZS:dr

cc: C&C Management, LLC - by facsimile 212-348-3670  
Senator Charles Schumer  
Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Congressman Adriano Espaillat