

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York 12224

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, New York 12224

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio:

We respectfully ask that you work together to restore decent and safe living conditions for all public housing residents. NYCHA's capital repair needs, estimated at \$25 billion, deserve a long-term commitment from both New York State and New York City in the amount of \$1 billion annually over 10 years: a commitment designed to address NYCHA's most pressing infrastructure needs

The undersigned organizations, given the emergency nature of the conditions residents are suffering, urge you to make an immediate joint commitment of \$500 million, representing the first, partial installment in this 10-year plan. The City has already promised \$200 million. We understand that agreeing on a City-State capital plan will require time but waiting is not a luxury that residents can afford. This down payment on capital repairs is feasible from both a budgetary and political perspective. With your political will, it is within reach by April 1<sup>st</sup>, the NY State FY2019 budget deadline.

Safe and decent living conditions for public housing residents is a pressing social justice issue that can no longer be ignored. It is unacceptable that more than 300,000 NYCHA residents, have endured heat outages this winter. With public housing under direct fire by the President of the United States in his budget request to Congress, which calls for the defunding of capital repairs and more than 35% in cuts to the operating fund, NYCHA residents and New Yorkers as a whole need to know that their City and State elected officials can cooperate to provide a long-term solution. Working together, you are each in a position to achieve this.

In recent years, significant investments have been made by both New York State and New York City for needed capital improvements and they are appreciated but they are not enough. We believe that a long-term City-State investment strategy, in addition to increased federal appropriations, is necessary for NYCHA to tackle their aging building infrastructure.

There are so many reasons to act right now: the health of children needlessly suffering from mold-related asthma due to leaking roofs; the elderly perilously vulnerable to both heat outages and elevator breakdowns; the indignity of residents paying rent but living in substandard conditions; the enormous demand for affordable housing represented by 257,143 families on the waitlist.

Working together, we know that we have the resources in New York City and New York State to help restore public housing. We ask that you collaborate to make this a reality for 400,000 New Yorkers who deserve better.

Sincerely,



CC: NYS Senate Majority Leader Flanagan  
NYS Assembly Speaker Heastie  
NYS Senator Klein  
NYC Council Speaker Johnson