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Council Convenes Housing Task Force; Seeks 21st Century Mitchell-Lama Plan

by Brooklyn Eagle (edit@brooklyneagle.net), published online 04-29-2008

A new housing Task force, comprised of affordable housing advocates and developers, met for the first time Monday.

Convened by Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and chaired by former HPD Commissioner Felice Michetti and former HUD Assistant Deputy Secretary Maxine Griffith, the task force is charged with creating housing that is permanently affordable for middle-income New Yorkers,

"The lack of affordable housing is one of the major challenges facing New York City," said Speaker Christine Quinn. "Before we lose more of our middle-class, the people that have made this city what it is today, we need to come up with workable solutions that we can implement immediately. We need a 21st century Mitchell-Lama that is permanently affordable. I want to thank all the members of the Housing Task Force for taking the time to find those solutions. I look forward with great optimism to all that we can accomplish together."

Said Griffith, "Over many years as an urban planner and a public official, I've seen first-hand how important it is to bring together a variety of perspectives and experiences when addressing a complex and multi-dimensional issue like affordable housing."

Other members of the task force include Adrienne Holder, Legal Aid Society; Brad Lander, Pratt Center for Community Development; Steve Spinola, REBNY; Robert Yaro, Regional Planning Association; Jerilyn Perine, City Housing and Planning Council; Kathleen Dunn, Community Preservation Corporation; Rapael Cesteros, The Enterprise Foundation; Vicki Been, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy; Emily Youssouf, JP Morgan; Denise Scott, Local Initiatives Support Corporation; The Rev. Reginald Williams; Ed Ott, NYC Central Labor Council; Ben Dulchin, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development; Chuck Brass, Atlantic Development Group; Martin Siroka, Bingham; Dick Anderson, NY Building Congress; Bernie Carr, New York State Association for Affordable Housing; William Rapfogel, Met Council; Carol Lamberg, NY Housing Conference; Rosalie Genevro, Architectural League of NY; Ismene Speliotis, ACORN Housing Corp.; and Amy Chan, Tenants and Neighbors.

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