

**STATEMENT OF THE CITY-WIDE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS AND AT-RISK
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE
BETWEEN NYCHA, THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND THE US ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE**

Background. The US Attorney's Office (USAO) recently announced they had completed a three year investigation into NYCHA and found a massive amount of issues including, but not limited to, lying to the federal government, lead paint and toxic mold not fixed, mice, insects and other vermin, non-working elevators and other security issues. All told they determined that NYCHA has a culture of corruption and dishonesty and needs to be fixed.

The Proposed Consent Decree. In response, the USAO filed a complaint against NYCHA in federal court. Then the parties (USAO, NYCHA and the City) negotiated the proposed Consent Decree (Decree) which, if signed, would allow for the hiring of a federal monitor with power to make changes at NYCHA. **The federal judge has allowed for a comment period where people have the right to submit written comments to the judge about the Decree.**

Why We Are Opposed to the Decree As Written. CCOP and At-Risk are opposed to the Decree for a number of reasons. Here are the biggest ones:

It does not include the residents in any meaningful way. When the Decree was made, no one came to the residents and asked what was needed. They were completely ignored. *We feel that in order to make sure that the residents are protected, CCOP is added as a fourth party to the agreement.* If they have a seat at the table, they can make sure true change is made. **We encourage anyone who will be putting comments in to make sure they list this as the single most important issue.**

No one at NYCHA is being punished or even fired. The Decree leaves everything the same at NYCHA from management to resident engagement to workers. There are no changes being made so it's going to be same old, same old at NYCHA after the Decree.

Everything is going to take years to fix. All of NYCHA's regular procurement rules will be the same. This means that it might take years for them to hire contractors to fix boilers/elevators and clean up the mold and lead paint. So we could be facing 2 or 3 more years of freezing winters with no heat.

There is no third party oversight. The monitor will be relying only on information and data he/she receives from NYCHA. The compliance department is going to be created by NYCHA with a chief compliance office being hired by NYCHA. Therefore, NYCHA will be policing itself. They have been lying to the government for years. Why are they being allowed to be in charge of their compliance? We believe that third parties must be added as part of the compliance department to ensure the residents are protected.

To see a copy of the consent decree, as well as instructions on how to send in your comments, please visit our website at www.atriskcommunityservices.org or email your comments to citywidecouncilofpresidentinc@gmail.com