

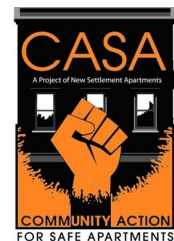
Contact us!

New to CASA?
Call Enrique at
718-716-8000 ext 122

Our Offices
35 Marcy Place (on the
corner of Walton)

Mailing Address
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Bronx, NY 10452

CASA News



www.casapower.org

January-March 2018

Upcoming dates

APR 17 6-8PM	Housing Court Meeting @ 35 Marcy Place
APR 19 6-8PM	CASA General Meeting @ 1501 Jerome Ave
APR 21 2:30-7PM	Basketball Tournament @ 1501 Jerome Ave
APR 25 6-8PM	No More MCIs Coalition @ 1514 Townsend
APR 26 6-8PM	Preliminary Vote—RGB @ 7 E. 7th Street
APR 27 11AM-2PM	Workshop Leases @ 35 Marcy Place
MAY 3 6-8PM	Rezoning Meeting @ 1501 Jerome Ave
MAY 15 6-8PM	Housing Court Meeting @ 35 Marcy Place
MAY 17 6-8PM	CASA General Meeting @ 1501 Jerome Ave
MAY 23	No More MCI Coalition @ 1514 Townsend
MAY 26 11AM-2PM	Workshop Getting Repairs @ 35 Marcy Place
JUN 7 6-8PM	Rezoning Meeting @ 1501 Jerome Ave
JUN 11 5-10PM	Bronx RGB Hearing @ Hostos College

Tenants Disrupt Yes-Vote on Jerome Ave Rezoning



Disrupting Vote on Jerome Ave

City Council Votes Yes

On March 22nd, the City Council unanimously voted to approve the Jerome Avenue rezoning plan. Even after the vote was rescheduled twice, tenants filled City Hall chambers and disrupted the vote demanding City Councilmembers vote NO to the plan because it does not benefit the people of the Bronx! Tenants chanted during the vote and were kicked out of City Hall for making our voices heard!

Not a Plan for Us

After years of developing a comprehensive community vision, the Mayor's plan is simply not enough. The plan will lead to the

Our Monthly Rezoning Meeting



displacement of current residents and businesses and will not create the good paying jobs we need. This is unacceptable!

The commitments made by NYC to preserve 2,500 units of affordable housing is largely coming from work HPD is already doing! To date, 1,500 units have already been preserved.

Small businesses will be directly displaced by the plan and the City did not meet our demand to reduce the number of businesses affected by the rezoning. The auto businesses will receive a modest fund to relocate but their future is in still in jeopardy.

The 4,000 apartments that will be built will primarily be for people making \$60,000 a year according to the Mayor's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Policy—that is almost double the median income in our area! In the City's best case scenario, only about 200 of the new apartments—5% of the total—will be affordable for families making \$25,000 or less even though almost half of the families in the area make below that amount. Who is the city building for, if not us?

The plan could increase the number of jobs along Jerome Ave but there is no policy in place that requires these jobs go to local residents. With the likely increases in rent due to the new development, it

will be harder for local residents to stay. We deserve stronger protections.

Our Campaign's Successes

While the plan falls well short of our neighborhood needs to preserve and build real affordable housing, protect against displacement and create career track jobs for residents, through our fight we have won historic victories including passing the Right to Counsel, a citywide Certificate of No Harass-



City Council Vote press conference

ment policy, worker safety legislation, and we have pushed HPD to consider deeper affordability. The parts of the plan that will truly protect tenants, preserve affordable housing and protect workers were won because Bronx residents like us organized, demanded, and won them!

The Fight Ahead

We know that we must continue to organize, form Tenant Associations, and educate our neighbors against landlord harassment. Join us every first Thursday of the month to help us plan for the future of our Bronx! CASA POWER.

Contact Sheila 718-716-8000 ext 125 or s.garcia@newsettlement.org

Tenant Association (TA) Highlights

16 Elliot TA organizes despite harassment

Emboldened by their experiences of harassment and intimidation, tenants have organized a strong TA and being involved beyond their building by helping to make calls and facilitate at CASA workshops. The TA is in the midst of taking action against their landlord for failure to provide repairs and basic services!

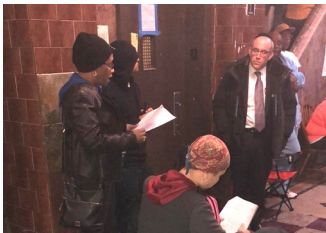


Over 50 Tenants File for Rent Reduction

Tenants at 1188 Grand Concourse came together to get repairs and to reinforce their rights as rent stabilized tenants. In the month of February over 55 tenants signed up for a building wide rent reduction for decreased services in the common areas and they are currently in the process of taking legal action by filing an HP case in Housing Court!

1072 Woodycrest Tenants Fight Gas Shutoff

After meeting with their landlord to address lack of building-wide gas and repairs, and sending the New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR) a building wide rent reduction, the Tenant Association has decided to take legal actions against their landlord in housing court by filing a HP case in partnership with Legal Services of New York (LSNY) to assure that their rights and dignity tenants are respected!



Ballin' Against Gentrification

On Saturday, April 21st, CASA will host our second Basketball Tournament fundraiser for Our Bronx! The tournament will feature games of 3-on-3, audience participation led by members and local artists, and will help us keep fighting for #OurBronx. Sign up for a team today to show off your skills. Donations also welcome.



Contact Becca 718-716-8000 ext 225 or b.asaki@newsettlement.org to get involved!

No More MCI's Coalition Wins Commitments from DHCR

Members of CASA and the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition that form the No More MCI's Tenant Coalition met yet again with the New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR) executive staff (including the Commissioner Ruth Anne Visnauskas) to make policy recommendations to the MCI process and won policy changes!

At the March 1st meeting, DHCR agreed to:
- increase the time allotted for tenants to respond or request an extension from 30 days to 45 days,

- release a frequently asked questions (FAQ) guide on the DHCR website and committed to translate FAQ into 6 top NYC languages
- published an Operational Bulletin that increases scrutiny for landlords applying for MCI to prove the costs of the work
- form a small working groups including coalition members to update and revise informational materials on how to oppose MCIs

DHCR is continuing to consider many other recommenda-



No More MCIs Tenant Coalition

tions that include excluding bathroom and kitchen renovations from qualifying as MCI's. The Coalition is expanding city-wide to continue to pressure DHCR to meet our other demands for real changes and ultimately, abolish MCI's!!!

Contact Pablo 718-716-8000 ext 243 or p.estupinan@newsettlement.org to get involved!

Leadership Spotlight



CASA Members Take the Lead!

So many CASA members have already stepped up to take leadership this year that we want to shout out some of those who have made calls, handed out flyers, made banners, facilitated at a workshop, spoke at press conferences and hearings and inspired others to fight for housing justice!

- ◇ Angie Rivera
- ◇ Anita Long
- ◇ Antoinette Rose
- ◇ Amelia Luna
- ◇ Carolyn Wilson
- ◇ Cassandra Adams
- ◇ Guadalupe Hernandez
- ◇ Heriberto Altrache
- ◇ Jim Fairbanks
- ◇ Joslyn Taylor
- ◇ Lucy Arroyo
- ◇ Marilyn Mullins
- ◇ Raisa Marcial
- ◇ Robert Gumms
- ◇ Sandra Mitchell
- ◇ Sneferu Boatwright

Thank you to our amazing members for all your leadership and support in building CASA POWER!

Social Media Corner

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