

# Community Demands

- 1 Stop RAD and the privatization of public housing.** Elected officials must instruct HUD to place a moratorium on the RAD/ PACT program and cease the privatization of public housing more generally. The privatization of public housing has led to an erosion of rights and protections for tenants. A moratorium must be issued immediately and remain in place until additional demands are met.
- 2 Study the effects of RAD and public housing.** HUD must analyze housing stocks throughout the country to determine the operating costs, and ensure Congress, and state and local governments are meeting the operational cost needs of each housing authority, and that tenants' rights and protections are being enforced under either model.
- 3 Issue a national state of emergency for Section 9 housing.** The conditions in public housing are deplorable and violate our human rights while compromising our physical and mental health. In order to expedite adequate fiscal allocations and ensure that federal oversight leads to real change for tenants, a state of emergency must be issued for all Section 9 public housing. Physical and mental health assessments and support must be provided as a part of the emergency response.
- 4 Instate federal and tenant oversight of public housing authorities.** HUD has demonstrated their inability to assess and remediate hazards public housing tenants face. The US Department of Health must step in and FEMA should allocate resources immediately. A robust governing body of resident leaders must be created to oversee and directly inform decisions.
- 5 Allocate \$100B to Section 9 for rehabilitation immediately and create a framework to increase funding to \$180B by 2025.** The Housing Act of 1937 made Congress financially responsible for funding Section 9. Their failure to do so has turned 970,000 units into slums. Between 1980 and 1988 Congress slashed investments in Section 9 in half. This trend must be reversed. Privatization is not a viable solution; fund Section 9 now and in perpetuity.
- 6 Restore the Section 9 housing stock to 1999 numbers and work to fully repeal the Faircloth Act by 2025.** Since the establishment of the Faircloth Act, we have lost Section 9 units to disrepair stemming from government neglect. We must restore the stock to allowable limits and expand the Section 9 housing stock by repealing the Faircloth Amendment. This is key to addressing the national housing crisis. We also must uncouple the repeal of Faircloth and RAD, which is a giveaway to the private sector that will only lead to more harm for tenants, the loss of public land, the further concentration of wealth and worsening political inequality.

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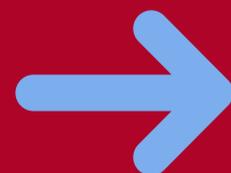
**7 Support the sustainable and resilient rehabilitation of public housing campuses and units.** Components of the Green New Deal for Public Housing must be incorporated into any legislation addressing the conditions within public housing; this plan envisions a long-term, sustainable and resilient future for public housing that also strengthens Section 3 and NYCHA’s commitment to providing jobs for residents.

**8 Ensure that racist and derogatory beliefs surrounding public housing do not continue to impact policy making.** We reject the racist and classist language in the former Build Back Better bill that suggests our communities do not “function”. We are resilient, hard-working communities that have overcome the obstacles created by bad policy decisions like those that further the privatization and financialization of public housing. We oppose any programming that would undermine our vibrant communities.

The above demands are part of a national set of demands that are being adopted by groups across the country. Our ninth demand is specific to New York City.

**9 Public officials must take a more active role in overseeing NYCHA and bringing the agency back on track.** Specifically, we demand that a forensic audit of NYCHA be conducted, that a new organizational plan for managing our homes be devised – one that does not include private partners or a new quasi-public financial institution, and that Greg Russ, and that NYCHA’s current Chair and CEO be removed and be replaced with someone who is interested is committed to preserving Section 9 public housing

We are asking elected officials to take a pledge committing themselves and the resources of their office to pursuing these demands.



# A PLEDGE FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVES

I, [Name], [Office], of [District], hereby commit myself and the resources of my office to pursuing and upholding the community demands put forth by Neighbors Helping Neighbors in the Rockaways.

- 1. Stop RAD.** Instruct HUD to place a moratorium on privatizations via RAD/ PACT and Section 18.
- 2. Study the effects of RAD vs Section 9.** Conduct a thorough and comparative impact study of all project-based Section 8 privatizations, and determine the cost of operation per unit nationally.
- 3. Issue a national state of emergency for Section 9 housing.**
- 4. Instate federal and tenant oversight of public housing authorities.**
- 5. Fund Section 9.** Allocate \$100B to Section 9 for rehabilitation immediately and create a framework to increase funding to \$180B by 2025.
- 6. Expand Section 9.** Restore the Section 9 housing stock to 1999 numbers and work to fully repeal the Faircloth Act by 2025.
- 7. Rehabilitate our homes.** Support the sustainable and resilient rehabilitation of public housing campuses and units.
- 8. Strike racist language from any legislation.** Ensure that racist and derogatory beliefs surrounding public housing do not continue to impact policy making.
- 9. Take actionable steps to hold NYCHA accountable and get the agency back on track.**