



April 20, 2018

Resident Council BANANA KELLY Community Organizing What's Going On!

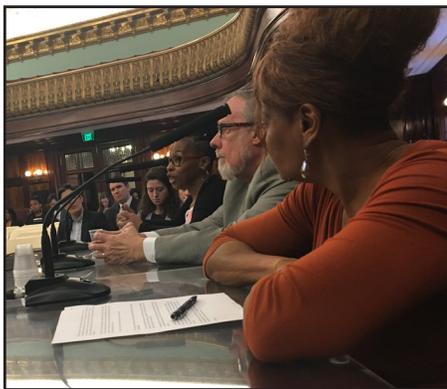
What We've Been Up To...

Know Your Rights Forum

On April 4 we hosted the Tenants Know Your Rights forum. Members of the Resident Council along with organizing staff facilitated the forum. We had more than 20 people attend, including a good mix of folks from Banana Kelly buildings and other buildings in the neighborhood. During the forum we went over basic terms and rights that all renters should know. At next month's forum we will review some terms and spend more time on the why and how of forming a TA. Date TBA.

Testifying at the City Council

On April 10, two Resident Council leaders and two Banana Kelly staff members testified before the City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings regarding Intro 607. This proposed legislation would require the City to ensure that affordable housing plans from the Mayor's office "affirmatively further fair housing" in line with the 1968 Fair Housing Act. Our concern is that language in the bill is so vague it could be read as encouraging integration via gentrification. Speaking as one panel at the hearing, Tahica,



Wanda, Gregory and Harry called for clear assurances against displacement of people of color. We definitely made an impact, evident from the responses from Council-members, HPD and other organizations.

New Organizing Staff Hired

Thanks to a joint effort by Resident Council and the Organizing Staff, we are pleased to announce we have hired a new organizer! Stay tuned for details.

Rezoning Strategy Meeting

This past Wednesday we held a rezoning strategy meeting, agreeing on holding up a big tent, and agreeing we want investments for the community, without increasing displacement pressures. We will present more details and discuss next steps at the next Resident Council Meeting on May 1.

Upcoming events...

Earth Day!

This Saturday, April 21 at Kelly Street Garden will be Earth Day. Event will run from 11AM to 4PM and include food, yoga, storytelling and a chance to get dirty digging, planting and getting the garden going for the season.

Citywide Rezoning Meeting

On Monday, April 23 from 3-5PM, there will be a strategy meeting in midtown with a funder and other groups who have been working on rezoning issues across the city. It's a good opportunity to learn from them, and members are invited to participate. If you are interested, please contact Gregory (gjost@bkcianyc.org x227) by Monday morning.

NYS Commemorates the Fair Housing Act

On Thursday April 26, from 9AM to 4:30PM, NYS Homes and Community Renewal and the NYS Division of Human Rights will be holding "Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going," an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Fair housing and civil rights experts (including our Director of Organizing, Gregory Jost) will speak about the Act's historical impact, current challenges and specific issues in fair housing. You can register at [this link](#).

RGB Preliminary Vote

On the evening of Thursday April 26, the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) will be holding their preliminary vote on rent increases for rent stabilized apartment in NYC. The vote will take place at 7PM at the Cooper Union Auditorium (7 East 7th Street at Third Avenue), and they will decide what the possible range of increases will be for both 1-year and 2-year leases. If you are interested in joining the turnout for this vote, please let us know. There will also be hearings in each borough to testify at. The Rent Justice Coalition is calling for a Rent Freeze!

Resident Council Meeting

Our next Resident Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 1 at 6PM at 1283 Westchester Ave. On the agenda: agreeing on our rezoning organizing core values, strategy and next steps, and reviewing our membership structure and by-laws.