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February 19, 2015

Shola Olatoye  
Chair and CEO  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Olatoye:

I am writing in regards to several quality of life and security concerns at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Jacob Riis Houses, located between East 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, Avenue D and the F.D.R. Drive, that came to light during a recent tour of the grounds by several of my constituents. Notably, there is a severe rodent infestation and inconsistent lighting that contributes to residents feeling unsafe on the grounds at night.

Residents have grown increasingly concerned about the proliferation of rodents in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Since the hurricane and the associated flooding, residents have reported seeing a significant increase in the number, size and visibility of rodents. Contributing to the proliferation are piles of garbage on the grounds due to the lack of garbage cans in public areas. I strongly urge the agency to increase its rodent abatement efforts, including installing rodent-resistant garbage cans.

Residents have also expressed concern regarding the inconsistent street and sidewalk lighting throughout the complex. Burned out, non-functioning and poorly spaced lighting creates dark spots in which tenants feel particularly vulnerable. I request that the agency ensures that all sidewalks and pathways meet New York City Department of Transportation standards for illumination.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,

*Brad Hoylman*

Brad Hoylman  
New York State Senate  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District

cc: Brian Honan, NYCHA  
cc: Mercedes Harvell, Riis Houses Tenant Association  
cc: Gigi Li, Community Board 3