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SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
20TH SENATE DISTRICT

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Chairman Gregory Russ
New York City Housing Authority
250 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10007

October 4, 2019

Dear Chairman Russ:

As you know, October 1, 2019 marked the beginning of New York City's [Heat Season](#). This period, which runs through the end of May, requires the provision of heat in every apartment -- including New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") units -- when the temperature outside drops below 55 degrees.

October 1st also marked a significant deadline established by NYCHA's agreement ("Agreement") with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York ("U.S. Attorney's Office"), and New York City Law Department ("Law Department").

Paragraph 8 of Exhibit B in the Agreement states, in relevant part, that by October 1, 2019, NYCHA *shall*:

“[E]stablish an Action Plan that identifies, for each development, how NYCHA will respond to heating outages, taking into account resident populations, historical data about prior outages, the availability of on-site and remote maintenance personnel, and response times. The plan shall include provisions for alternative heated community spaces for heating outages that are expected to last for a substantial duration.”

The Agreement further reads in the same paragraph that the plan “shall be made available to the residents and posted online.”

I am writing today, on October 4, 2019, because the plan has not been made available nor posted online. As a member of the New York State Senate's Housing Committee and representative of over 23 NYCHA developments, this delay is a source of incredible concern for me and my community and I am hoping that you can provide clarity.

For years, inclement weather has vexed NYCHA's aging infrastructure and thrown tenants into despair. This past summer, residents -- including seniors and children utilizing “cooling centers” -- [suffered in a brutal heat wave](#) due to lack of air conditioning in NYCHA facilities. And last winter, a startling [87 percent of NYCHA units](#) experienced heat and hot water outages. Everyone agrees that such conditions are unfair, unsatisfactory, and unacceptable.

The Agreement was a promise to find a solution. We are still waiting for that promise to be fulfilled.

As we approach the winter, it is my hope that under new leadership, NYCHA will not repeat the old mistakes of failed initiatives and empty promises. Our tenants deserve better. The Action Plan to keep our communities in safe and habitable homes has the potential to give our tenants some assurances that for once, their voices have been heard. I believe that you are endeavoring to make their voices heard as well.

Please let us know when NYCHA plans to release the Action Plan. Our residents are counting on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zellnor Y. Myrie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zellnor" being the most prominent part.

New York State Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
District 20