



December 13, 2011

Caswell F. Holloway, Deputy Mayor for Operations
Robert K. Steel, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Holloway and Deputy Mayor Steel,

We write regarding the administration of Police Service Areas (PSAs), the New York Police Department (NYPD) units that are specifically tasked with protecting New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) complexes for which NYCHA pays over seventy millions dollars a year to the NYPD.

The 1994 "Memorandum of Understanding between the New York City Housing Authority and The City of New York on Merger of The New York City Housing Authority Police Department and The New York City Police Department" requires that NYCHA provide funds to the NYPD. In return, NYPD must provide ongoing law enforcement to NYCHA residents through Police Service Areas. In 1994, NYCHA provided just over fifty eight million dollars to NYPD; payments have risen with inflation, resulting in NYCHA currently paying over seventy million dollars a year to the NYPD for "special police services." Furthermore, it is our understanding that a predetermined number of Housing Bureau Police Officers were transferred from PSAs and assigned as "Dedicated Housing Teams" to NYPD precincts in order to serve the smaller public housing developments that were previously neglected. These officers fall under the NYPD jurisdiction as opposed to the jurisdiction of the PSAs.

However, many PSA officers are regularly redeployed to non-NYCHA related operations. For example, the recent Occupy Wall Street protests caused a significant strain on NYPD resources. To what extent have officers been directed to take part in police action related to Occupy Wall Street? What other operations require the use of PSA officers? What effect does Occupy Wall Street and other non-NYCHA related operations have on force strength in PSAs?

These non-NYCHA related operations also raise questions about "Dedicated Housing Teams." How many Housing Bureau Police Officers have been transferred from PSAs and assigned as Dedicated Housing Teams? How does NYPD track whether they are in fact working on housing issues?

Of course, when there is a citywide emergency that warrants the response of a large number of uniformed officers to a particular situation, NYPD must call on whatever resources it can. My understanding is NYCHA is not compensated when PSA officers are pulled from their home command in such a situation; if this is case, why is NYCHA not compensated?

There are many, we included, who are concerned that NYCHA is the only residential landlord in the city that is required to pay NYPD for police protection. But as long as NYCHA is required to pay, it should be compensated when officers are taken away from their responsibilities at public housing developments and the PSAs are required to operate on less than full force strength.

We look forward to your responses to our questions above.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Nydia Velázquez
Congresswoman

Brian Kavanagh
Assemblymember

Scott Stringer
Manhattan Borough President

Rosie Mendez
City Councilmember