

NYCHA REAL TALK:



COMMUNITY ACTION + RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT (CARE) SUMMIT PROGRAM



Saturday, May 31st 2025

CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

HOSTED BY:



**TAKEROOT
JUSTICE**

CO-SPONSORED WITH:



Justice for All Coalition
(United we Stand for LIC & Astoria)



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Letter from the Organizer:

Dear NYCHA Residents,

My heart is full because you made it here today--because you realize the importance of community leadership and you realize your power. We are part of a legacy of community organizers before us who fought for civil rights, housing justice, and freedom. Whether an OG or a young person new to community organizing, everyone is welcome here. Everyone is equal here. We are all NYCHA residents here to learn from one another, empower each other, and to grow together.

Today, may we come together with open ears, open minds, and open hearts to remember the past and envision a new future. We are descendants of Kings and Queens, sharecroppers and farmers. Our lives and histories are all intertwined by this place we call home-public housing. We don't own the land, but we belong to the land. We are the spirit, backbone, and rhythm of New York City. A city within a city, we have the community power to move mountains and part oceans. We are the ones we've been waiting for. Let us remember our power today, together.

Special thanks to the CUNY School of Law for providing space for our gathering, particularly Karyn Manocchia and Karina Rosario from the School's Events Department and Professors Babe Howell and Erin Tomlinson for coordinating. Thank you to all of the summit advisory board members: Serena Chandler, Saundrea Coleman, Kimberly Comes, Dana Elden, Kimberly Elliot, Robert Hall, Renee Keitt, Vernell Robinson, La Keesha Taylor, and Carol Wilkins. Lastly, deep thanks to all the leaders, here and departed, who teach us what community power looks like every day.

Sincerely,

Christina Chaise, TakeRoot Justice

Breakfast	9:00AM	Continental Breakfast
	- 9:45AM	Community Wall Activity TakeRoot Justice Table: Rent Calculation 1-on-1 s
Opening & Morning Panel	10:00AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Remarks by Dana Elden, St. Mary's Park TA President Panel: <i>"Organizing for Resident Power in Public Housing"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saundrea Coleman, Holmes-Isaacs Coalition Vernell Robinson, Rockaway Neighbors Helping Neighbors (RNHN) Kimberly Comes, Redfern Houses Resident Council President & RNHN Manny Martinez, South Jamaica Houses TA President La Keesha Taylor, Holmes-Isaacs Coalition Zulay Velazquez, Jacob Riis Houses TA President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Christina Chaise, TakeRoot Justice
	- 11:45AM	
Lunch	12:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch Keynote Speaker: Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Teachers College, Columbia University
	- 12:45PM	
Workshop Session 1	1:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"NYCHA Families Matter: Legal Advocacy Groups for Our Communities"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center for Family Representation (CFR) New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) TakeRoot Justice (TRJ) <i>"NYCHA Real Talk: Community Safety & Policing in NYCHA"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marquis Jenkins
	- 1:45PM	

Workshop Session 2

2:00PM

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2:45PM

- *"NYCHA Real Talk: What is RAD/PACT & the Preservation Trust?"*
 - **Dana Elden**, Residents to Preserve Public Housing (RPPH)
 - **Robert Hall**, Gunhill Houses TA President
- *"Infill, Rezoning, & Demolition?: Protecting Public Housing, One Tenant at a Time"*
 - **Kimberly Elliot**, Justice For All Coalition (JFAC)
 - **Renee Keitt**, Elliot-Chelsea Houses TA President & Fulton and Elliot Chelsea Tenants Against Demolition
 - **Christina Chaise**, JFAC

Reception

3:00PM

-

4:00PM

- Closing Reception – Network Hour



Fulton and Elliot Chelsea Tenants Against
Demolition

THE RESIDENTS
TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HOUSING

To request a NYCHA Real Talk workshop for your community, contact TakeRoot Justice:
equitableneighborhoods@takerootjustice.org

TakeRoot maintains <https://nycharealtalk.org/>, where you can see information about proposals and approvals for major changes to NYCHA properties, and learn about ways to get involved in shaping the future of NYC's public housing.

