

Development (HUD), the agency that administers Section 8 vouchers; and

Whereas, The Associated Press reported that the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers help “nearly 2 million families through some 2,500 local agencies;” and

Whereas, There are more than 90,500 households that receive Section 8 vouchers in New York City, housing approximately 229,000 individuals; and

Whereas, In its Fiscal Year 2004 budget, Congress took measures to sustain full funding of Section 8 vouchers; and

Whereas, In a way inconsistent with Congressional intent, HUD changed the formula for funding allocations on April 22, 2004 in Notice PIH 2004-7, putting the Section 8 program in jeopardy of inadequate funding; and

Whereas, Public housing authorities across the nation, including the New York City Housing Authority, had allocated vouchers during Fiscal Year 2004 before Notice PIH 2004-7 changed the formula retroactively, thereby creating a shortfall; and

Whereas, Notice PIH 2004-7 notified public housing authorities that Section 8 vouchers would be funded at the level of August 1, 2003, adjusted for rental inflation according to a formula set by HUD; and

Whereas, In some areas, voucher costs have risen faster than inflation; and

Whereas, Existing vouchers have never before been cut in the almost thirty-year history of the Section 8 program; and

Whereas, Public Housing Authorities may be forced to resort to reducing the value of existing vouchers, restricting eligibility, or cutting the number of available vouchers, among other tactics; and

Whereas, The two agencies in New York City that administer Section 8 vouchers, the New York City Housing Authority and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development estimate their funding shortfalls for Fiscal Year 2004 at \$40 million and \$15.5 million, respectively; and

Whereas, The New York Times has called the cuts “ill-advised” and called HUD’s approach “hostile;” and

Whereas, H.R. 4263, introduced by Rep. Barney Frank, would rectify the immediate 2004 funding shortfall; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon President Bush and the United States Congress to eliminate the shortfall in funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and to restore full funding for Fiscal Year 2004.

LS #1147/1165
SJM

