

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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Monday, June 24, 2024
Start: 1:15 p.m.
Recess: 2:20 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Chris Banks, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Darlene Mealy
Chi A. Ossé
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Julie Won

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Eva Trimble,
Chief Operating Officer of New York City Housing
Authority (NYCHA)

Brian Honan,
Executive Vice President of Intergovernmental
Affairs at
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Joe Terranova,
Director of Fire Safety at
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Siobhan Watson,
Senior Director of Sustainability at
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Alejandro Grajales,
Los Deliveristas Unidos with the Workers Justice
Project

Christopher Leon Johnson,
Representing Himself

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING
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2 SERGEANT AT MEDICI: This is a microphone check
3 for the Committee on Public Housing. Today's date is
4 June 24, 2024; located in the Chambers, recording is
5 done by Rocco Medici (phonetic).

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon, and welcome to
7 today's remote New York City Hearing the Committee on
8 Public Housing. At this time, please place all
9 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode to
10 minimize disruptions throughout the hearing.

11 If you have testimony that you wish to submit for
12 the record, you may do so via email at
13 testimony@council.nyc.gov, once again that is
14 testimony@council.nyc.gov.

15 At any time throughout the hearing, do not
16 approach the dais. We thank for your kind
17 cooperation.

18 Chair, we are ready to begin.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: (GAVELING IN)

20 This meeting is being called to order. Good
21 afternoon, everyone, I am Council Member Chris Banks,
22 Chair of the Committee on Public Housing. And I am
23 glad to be joined by my colleague Council Member
24 Mealy who is on Zoom.
25

1
2 As chair of this committee, I know just how
3 important it is for government to make policy that
4 addresses the needs of citizens. NYCHA is responsible
5 for the needs of hundreds of thousands of tenants,
6 and at today's hearing we are looking at a policy
7 that directly impacts residents' health and safety,
8 and while also showing how NYCHA can be responsive
9 and listen to tenants when making policy.

10 Today we are examining NYCHA's rules on the
11 micromobility devices. Everyone in our city has been
12 more than... More of these bikes and e-scooters are
13 on the streets and in our buildings. These devices
14 can be tremendously helpful for New Yorkers for
15 expanding job opportunities or providing an easy and
16 quicker way to commute. Studies have long shown the
17 impact of shorter commutes on upward social mobility
18 and overall well-being. So, it is no surprise that e-
19 bikes and E-scooters have become so popular so
20 quickly. Unfortunately, we have also consequently
21 witnessed far too many tragedies in fast moving and
22 dangerous batter fires.

23 The lithium batteries in some of these e-bikes
24 and e-scooters are unsafe --rendered dangerous by
25 factors including improper storage practices or

1
2 improper manufacturing practices or both. These
3 batteries can suddenly combust without warning
4 resulting in especially fast moving and volatile
5 fires.

6 Which such stakes in mind, I am that much more
7 eager to hear about NYCHA's preparations for the
8 newly revised electric mobility policy. I am aware
9 and glad that this policy was the result of
10 incorporated resident feedback and concerns over
11 prior vision of the policy. With that being said, I
12 remain curious on the critical aspects of this
13 policy, its outreach, enforcement, and follow-up.

14 With my colleagues, I am looking forward to
15 hearing from NYCHA about these crucial details today.
16 I want to know what is being done for outreach around
17 this new micromobility policy. I want to know how
18 NYCHA is taking measures to ensure proper enforcement
19 of this policy, and I want to know who is following
20 through in making sure that the new policy is being
21 comprehended and proactively implemented at the NYCHA
22 buildings instead of reacting after another tragedy
23 strikes. As I have mentioned before, I appreciate
24 that this new policy came about as the culmination of
25 public outreach and feedback. But, with this, how

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2 many e-bikes, e-scooters, and other such devices are
3 out there, including at NYCHA developments? The
4 importance of following through to meet the needs of
5 our residents is that much more pronounced.

6 I would like to thank my staff Michael Lambert,
7 along with the Public Housing Committee staff Jose
8 Conde, Connor Mealey, Dan Kroop, Nicholas Montalbano,
9 Christopher Zawora, and Charles Kim for all the work
10 that was put into this hearing.

11 Now we will open up and allow the testimony from
12 our NYCHA partners.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: So, if you can raise your
14 right hand, Do you affirm to tell the truth, the
15 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, before this
16 committee, and to respond honestly to council member
17 questions?

18 PANEL: Affirms

19 CITY COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If you all could just
20 identify yourselves and your title as you... for the
21 record, that would be great.

22 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: (NO MIC) Brian Honan,
23 Executive Vice President of Intergovernmental
24 Relations.

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2 COO TRIMBLE: Eva Trimble, Chief Operating
3 Officer.

4 DIRECTOR TERRANOVA: Joseph Terranova Director of
5 Fire Safety.

6 DIRECTOR WATSON: Siobhan Watson, Senior Director
7 of Sustainability.

8 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Chris
9 Banks, members of the Committee on Public Housing,
10 NYCHA residents, community advocates, and members of
11 the public, good afternoon. I am Eva Trimble, NYCHA's
12 Chief Operating Officer. I am pleased to be joined by
13 Brian Honan, Executive Vice President of
14 Intergovernmental Affairs, and Joe Terranova,
15 Director of Fire Safety, and Siobhan Watson, Senior
16 Director of Sustainability.

17 I would like to note that Mr. Terranova is
18 NYCHA's first-ever Director of Fire Safety - he was
19 brought on to oversee our fire safety team, which, as
20 part of recent organizational and operational
21 enhancements, is now a standalone unit dedicated to
22 improving fire safety standards at the Authority's
23 developments. NYCHA's transformation is guided by our
24 mandate to strengthen the Authority and improve
25 residents' quality of life. At the heart of these

1
2 efforts are resident engagement and economic
3 opportunities, as well as resident health and safety.

4 Thank you for this opportunity to discuss today an
5 important demonstration of this work in action -
6 NYCHA's implementation of an electric micromobility
7 policy that was shaped extensively by input from our
8 stakeholders, including residents, advocates, other
9 members of the public, and the City Council.

10 Residents' quality of life is central to
11 everything we do. To that end, we endeavored to craft
12 an electric micromobility policy that balances the
13 safety of the NYCHA community with the economic needs
14 of residents who rely on these devices for work and
15 for transportation, especially in transit deserts
16 around many of our city's public housing
17 developments. NYCHA's mission is to foster
18 opportunities for residents, and we realize that e-
19 micromobility is a vital tool for economic
20 advancement.

21 Due to fire safety concerns, in 2022 NYCHA sought
22 public comment and engagement on a potential ban on
23 e-micromobility devices, including e-bikes, at our
24 developments. We listened closely to the feedback we
25 received and, based on this input, revised the

1
2 proposed policy, evolving it from a total ban to a
3 restriction - the amended version was presented for
4 public comment in November 2023.

5 In response to the feedback received from our
6 stakeholders during this second comment period, NYCHA
7 adopted guidelines addressing the use of electric
8 micromobility devices in NYCHA buildings and
9 apartments, which are intended to reduce fire risks
10 and better educate the community on good practices,
11 while ensuring that residents can safely store and
12 charge these devices.

13 This policy went into effect on March 1, 2024. It
14 allows residents to keep or charge e-bikes and e-
15 scooters that are legal to operate in NYC bike lanes
16 in their apartments. Those devices that cannot be
17 operated legally in a NYC bike lane or that require
18 DMV registration or a driver's license to operate,
19 are prohibited in NYCHA buildings. The policy also
20 includes the following safety guidelines:

21 • Only one e-bike, e-scooter, or battery may be
22 charged at a time in a NYCHA apartment;

23 • An adult must be present and awake in the
24 apartment during charging;

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2 • Extension cords cannot be used for charging,
3 and charging can't take place near radiators and
4 other heat sources or apartment doors and other
5 exits;

6 • Lithium-ion batteries that have been banned by
7 NYC law are prohibited;

8 • Charging and storage are not allowed in
9 building common areas.

10 In addition to posting this new policy on our
11 website, NYCHA also notified residents through an
12 email blast, development postings, The NYCHA Journal,
13 and rent inserts, among other outreach.

14 Promoting sustainability is also a critical
15 element of NYCHA's transformation, and we recognize
16 that electric micromobility helps advance NYCHA's,
17 and the City's, sustainability agenda.

18 Since 2022, NYCHA has participated in the Adams
19 administration's Interagency Electric Micromobility
20 Task Force, which brings together a variety of City
21 agencies to develop and apply the City's
22 Micromobility Action Plan; the task force promotes
23 safe electric micromobility while addressing the
24 City's fire and street safety priorities by
25 collaboratively developing and deploying a range of

1 comprehensive resources. NYCHA also continues to work
2 closely with partners such as the NYC Fire Department
3 and NYC Department of Transportation on best
4 practices and the best way forward in terms of fire
5 safety and electric micromobility.
6

7 In March 2023, Mayor Adams announced the "Charge
8 Safe, Ride Safe Electric Mobility Action Plan," which
9 employs a multifaceted approach to reduce fires and
10 promote safe usage of micromobility devices. Included
11 in the plan was a pilot program between NYCHA and Con
12 Edison to install outdoor charging and storage areas
13 for micromobility devices at four developments:

14 Queensbridge North and Queensbridge South in Queens,
15 De Hostos in Manhattan, and Van Dyke 1 in Brooklyn.

16 We expect that the contract will be executed this
17 summer, and installation is anticipated to begin in
18 early 2025.

19 NYCHA was also awarded a \$25 million grant from
20 the U.S. Department of Transportation to expand
21 micromobility charging and storage facilities to 53
22 more campuses. We are currently working with our City
23 partners to implement this RAISE grant, and look
24 forward to providing an update on this initiative in
25 the coming months.

1 Residents' health, safety, and well-being guide
2 every aspect of our work. We believe we have struck
3 the right balance for promoting safety while
4 fostering economic empowerment, transportation
5 alternatives, and quality of life through our
6 guidelines on the use of e-micromobility devices. We
7 are also creating a safe charging environment for the
8 community by investing in charging stations at our
9 developments.
10

11 As always, we appreciate your input, and we look
12 forward to our continued collaboration in service to
13 NYCHA residents.

14 Thank you. We are happy to answer any questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you for your statement.
16 We will begin by first asking, how would you describe
17 NYCHA's current approach to enforcing the
18 micromobility policy? And is it primary reactive or
19 is it a primary proactive in conducting the
20 inspections at the apartments?

21 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you for that question, Council
22 Member. It is definitely a combination of proactive
23 and reactive tactics. It is at its core a see
24 something say something policy. We have instructed
25 all property management staff on the legal devices

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2 that are allowed and that they could expect to see in
3 apartments and those that they should not see in
4 apartments.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

6 COO TRIMBLE: We have instructed particularly
7 maintenance workers who are going into apartments to
8 do work that if they see the device that is not
9 appropriate, or if they see anything that violates
10 the policy - multiple devices charging at once,
11 devices charging near the radiator or by the door, on
12 an extension cord, that they need to report that
13 directly to the property manager in order for us to
14 call in the resident for a conference.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And when it comes to training,
16 what training has NYCHA property management staff
17 received about the... how to determine if the e-bikes
18 or the e-bike batteries... When it comes to
19 complaints or new rules?

20 COO TRIMBLE: So, we have shared pictures of the
21 allowable devices and descriptions of what is
22 permitted in the apartments versus what is not
23 permitted with all property management staff. In
24 addition, I have issued a guidance on the
25 enforcement, and that guidance was reviewed at what

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2 we call our muster meetings in the morning, where the
3 staff gather to get their assignments for the day.

4 The assistant super or superintendent have reviewed
5 all of that with the maintenance and the other staff.

6 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: All right. Has any other staff
7 at NYCHA been trained about the new rules outside of
8 management?

9 COO TRIMBLE: We started with the property
10 management staff since that's the primary staff, uh,
11 caretakes and maintenance workers. However, we plan
12 to share the guidance with other skilled trades and
13 other staff that will be entering apartments.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, excellent. What unit in
15 NYCHA has the responsibility for enforcing this new
16 rule?

17 COO TRIMBLE: Our Property Management Department
18 is charged with enforcing this rule through the
19 Property Management offices.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

21 COO TRIMBLE: Uh, so if a device or an infraction
22 is seen the worker will report it to the property
23 management and property management will send a letter
24 to the resident asking for a conference calling them
25 down to the management office to discuss the

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2 infraction. And the manager will work with the
3 resident to ,you know, cure the issue. We of course
4 want to maintain everybody in a safe and healthy
5 standard, so we went to explain what we saw and ask
6 them to correct the condition.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you.

8 Before I proceed to my next question, we have
9 been joined by Council Member Rafael Salamanca.

10 What public education campaign or outreach has
11 been done by NYCHA for tenants about the new policy
12 and about the e-bike or e-bike battery safety in
13 general?

14 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: Thank you, Council Member.
15 I will start, and then I will hand it off to my
16 colleague, Joe.

17 We have briefed the CCOP (Citywide Council of
18 Presidents), we have been to many, uhm, Tenant
19 Association meetings where invited; there have been
20 articles in the NYCHA Journal; there were notices in
21 rent inserts, and also as part of the work that Fire
22 Safety does, they have also done a lot of outreach as
23 well. So, Joe, maybe I can pass that off to you as
24 well.

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2 DIRECTOR TERRANOVA: Thank you, Brian, and thank
3 you for that question, Council Member.

4 Last October, Fire Safety held their first ever
5 annual Fire Safety Symposium down at the New York
6 City Fire Museum. This was an education program for
7 the resident association leadership. It was in
8 partnership with not only with NYCHA fire safety but
9 with the FDNY, multiple divisions of that New York
10 City Fire Museum and a few private partners. We have
11 a two and a half hour lesson on fire safety, and we
12 included a very long section in regard to lithium-ion
13 battery safety that was headed up by Chief Dan Flynn
14 and Supervising Fire Marshall John Orlando.

15 Now, moving forward we have six of these fire
16 safety symposiums planned this year. The first one
17 will be in the Bronx on July 15th, similar event, we
18 are trying to bring it more at a local level. We are
19 stressing fire safety, and of course there is a
20 module including lithium-ion battery safety and
21 basically all of the knowledge that we have gained
22 over the past year. We will be introducing the
23 policy, or I should say reinforcing the policy at
24 that point. We will be discussing some of the
25 previous events citywide to include some of the

1 events that happened at NYCHA. Obviously there are
2 some expert level folks from the Fire Department
3 Bureau of Fire Investigation and from the FDNY
4 education unit, and they are going to be transmitting
5 the same message. We are trying to have unified
6 message citywide to all of our resident association
7 leaders.
8

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: I know partially, I had a
10 conversation with a TA president from Pink Houses,
11 and they were quite dismayed at the fact that they
12 did not get any information, they were not included
13 earlier on in the development of this policy, and
14 that was something that they had stressed to me -
15 that they want to be involved when these policies are
16 being created. So, hopefully you can have that
17 conversation again and hopefully can get to the TA at
18 the Pink Houses so that they can know what is going
19 on. I mean, it is kind of after the fact, because the
20 policy has already been released. And I think it is
21 important that we constantly grabble with NYCHA with
22 making sure that there is resident engagement on
23 polices that are going to effect their lives. You
24 know, these folks live there, you don't. So, we want
25 to make sure, again, and I want to reiterate that

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2 ,you know, going forth that we are constantly
3 engaging the TA's on this so that they can be engaged
4 in this process. And with that being said, I will
5 turn it over to my colleague, Council Member Rafael
6 Salamanca, who has a question.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 Good afternoon, I am actually happy that we are
9 having this hearing on micromobility. It is a concern
10 that I have when I speak to my tenants, my
11 constituents, I have the third largest NYCHA
12 portfolio in the city of New York, and they fear...
13 There are many concerns - safety, uh, their
14 intercom's not working, leaky roofs, and, hey, does
15 my neighbor have an e-bike, which he may be charging,
16 which I am scared that will create a fire on my
17 floor.

18 I see here that NYCHA put out a policy to... in
19 which they must conform to. What enforcement
20 mechanism is there to ensure that tenants are
21 actually complying with your policy?

22 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you, Council Member. So, all
23 of our... Our main primary property management staff,
24 maintenance workers, and caretakers have been trained
25 on the policy, so they are on the lookout for devices

1 that are not allowable in apartments, particularly
2 for maintenance workers who are going into apartments
3 to make repairs. If they see a device that is not
4 allowable, or again if they see multiple batteries
5 charging at once, not in the right location, attached
6 to an extension cord, any of those factors, they
7 report it directly to the property manager who will
8 then call the resident in for a conference in order
9 to discuss the situation.
10

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: What is there is no
12 compliance from the tenant? How far is NYCHA going to
13 go to ensure compliance?

14 COO TRIMBLE: This is in House Rules now and will
15 also be a violation of the lease if they fail to
16 comply. So, worst case scenario, NYCHA will proceed
17 with an administrative termination. However, our goal
18 is to keep people housed and to keep our residents
19 safe in the process. So, we hope it would never come
20 to that, that we could bring about compliance with
21 the resident through education. However, we would go
22 to administrative termination, we have the ability to
23 do that, because it is a violation of our lease. And
24 then if we do find for administrative termination, we
25 could also proceed with a legal eviction case.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Are you posting these
3 polices visible (TIMER CHIMES) in the hallways and in
4 the elevators? But ,you know, not too wordy,
5 something that can catch their attention?

6 COO TRIMBLE: Yes, the policy, when it was
7 released was posted, it was also shared in rent
8 inserts. In addition, as part of the House Rules, the
9 resident, uh, all residents have to affirm that they
10 have read the house rules as part of their annul
11 recertification. So, every year when they go back to
12 renew and recertify, they have to review the House
13 Rules and certify that they have read it. So, it is
14 all part of the House Rules now as well.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: And this is bilingual,
16 correct? You... (CROSS-TALK)

17 COO TRIMBLE: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: have this available in
19 different languages?

20 Mr. Chair, I have (INAUDIBLE) two more questions
21 (INAUDIBLE)?

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: No, you may, do have any
23 more... (CROSS-TALK)

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.
25

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2 Now, does NYCHA require the tenants to register
3 ether e-bikes with NYCHA?

4 COO TRIMBLE: No, we do not require registration
5 of the e-bike?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Why... I would highly
7 recommend you would require them, so that you can
8 keep track of who actually has an e-bike or not. It's
9 just a recommendation.

10 Then, finally, I see here that you got a grant, a
11 \$25 million grant from The Department of
12 Transportation to expand your charging stations. I,
13 maybe a couple of months ago, we got... There was
14 someone who came who had... it was a starter business
15 on e-bikes kind of that you could rent them. And his
16 business, he was very proud of the fact that he could
17 take batteries for charging and put them into this
18 container where should there... where a fire... If
19 one of those batteries were to catch fire, they would
20 get extinguished. I see throughout my district that
21 Amazon has these kinds of containers where you can
22 pick up your packages in front of the buildings.
23 Would you not consider having something similar to
24 that in front of the NYCHA developments so that

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2 individuals who have to charge their batteries, they
3 can charge them in a safe space?

4 DIRECTOR WATSON: Thank you for that question,
5 Council Member. So, NYCHA has been looking at how we
6 can respond to the need for new types of
7 infrastructure now that e-micromobility devices have
8 become to prevalent. So, we have been working to do
9 that in a couple different ways. Number one, we have
10 been working with ConEd on installing four pilot
11 charging and storage stations at four developments
12 Queensbridge North and South, De Hostos, and VanDyke.
13 Number two, we have secured a \$25 million grant from
14 the federal government to expand microbiology
15 charging and storage access to 53 more developments,
16 and we are working to finalize that grant award. Uh,
17 in terms of the specific types of infrastructure that
18 we would install, I think ,you know, we are open to
19 suggestions of what is the most convenient way to
20 serve residents' need to charge safely. So, our ConEd
21 program actually is within their demonstration
22 program and specifically geared to kind of find out
23 as much we can about how useful the infrastructure
24 is, what are the barriers to use, and how we can best
25 serve residents. In terms of the specific technology

1 that you mentioned, I believe one of them is a
2 battery swapping technology. And we will have to get
3 back to you with more details, because this is a DOT
4 program, but there is a battery swapping program that
5 is expanding throughout the City. And then the other
6 one, uh, the Amazon... You said the Amazon locker-
7 type system?
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Yes.

10 DIRECTOR WATSON: There are a number of different
11 proposals out there about how we might combine
12 micromobility charging with other necessary
13 infrastructure. So, we are keeping a close eye on
14 what the options are and how best to serve residents.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you. I just ask
16 that as you are moving forward, and you are... in
17 terms of location or NYCHA developments, please don't
18 forget the South Bronx.

19 COO TRIMBLE: Mm-hmm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Please. And I highly
21 recommend that you look into ensuring that these e-
22 bikes are registered through NYCHA. I am a big
23 proponent, you know, this is an industry, this is how
24 they make their living, I want to support it, but I
25 want to ensure that, like, we all do, safety for our

1 tenants and our constituents first. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, Council Member
4 Salamanca.

5 We are going to move on. Does this policy... Or
6 how is this policy applied to the RAD/PACT?
7

8 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: For the developments moving
9 forward that will be closing, they will be under the
10 policy, the NYCHA policy for the developments that
11 closed before the policy went into effect, each
12 development does have their own individual policy.
13 However, they have all been informed of our policy
14 and have been encouraged to come up with something
15 similar.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. That makes sense. So,
17 are going to give them some leeway, uh, those
18 particular RADs that were converted prior to the
19 policy and... (CROSS-TALK)

20 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: That's right. So, moving
21 forward, all of the new ones will be under the NYCHA
22 policy.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: All right. How does NYCHA keep
24 track of the micromobility devices at the NYCHA
25 campuses?

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2 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you, Council Member. We are
3 not currently tracking comprehensively the devices
4 that we find. It is something that we record within
5 an individual resident's file, but we don't have the
6 ability right now to track overall how many e-bikes
7 or other micromobility devices we are seeing across
8 the campus... (CROSS-TALK)

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So the residents are not
10 required to notify NYCHA?

11 COO TRIMBLE: No, that is.. As we explained to
12 Council Member Salamanca, we are not requiring
13 registration at this time, so we have no single
14 source for how many may exist.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Well, then, I am trying to
16 understand the enforcement response. How does that
17 work? Can you...

18 COO TRIMBLE: Again, it's... If we see something,
19 we follow up on it. So, if a maintenance worker is in
20 an apartment and sees a device that is not permitted,
21 or again, a charging infraction, then we are able to
22 follow up with the resident.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, how does it, I guess maybe
24 you can create a scenario for me where a complaint
25 comes in, whether it is from management or if it

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2 comes from, uhm, a tenant, I mean, how is that
3 complaint received? Is there ,you know, is there an
4 investigation done? This is kind of unchartered
5 territory. And also, if it is an immediate situation
6 where there is an immediate danger, is law
7 enforcement called? Fire Department called? I mean,
8 who ,you know, it's unchartered. So, I am trying to
9 understand, if you can expound a little more on how
10 the enforcement will look.

11 COO TRIMBLE: Sure, thank you, Council Member for
12 that question. Of course, I want to be clear for any
13 residents that are listening right now, that if they
14 ever feel unsafe or if they feel like they are
15 witnessing an unsafe situation, to absolutely call
16 the appropriate authorities, call 911, call the fire
17 department if they think they are in a dangerous
18 situation or seeing a dangerous situation, that
19 should absolutely be their first stop. Complaints can
20 come in in various ways to us. They can come in from
21 neighbors, through the Property Management Office, we
22 have an anonymous tipline that residents could call.
23 Again, it could be from our own staff witnessing
24 maybe someone taking a device in and out of the
25 building. So, there are many ways that we can get the

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2 information. What happens next is again that the
3 property manager will call the resident in for a
4 conference to discuss the situation with them and
5 hopefully explain the safety hazards, make sure they
6 understand the violations of the lease that could
7 exist, and bring about compliance. Our goal is to,
8 through education, bring about compliance with the
9 policy.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Are the property managers
11 empowered to siege a bike or a battery?

12 COO TRIMBLE: No, they we cannot ,you know, touch
13 private property in that way. If, again, if our
14 property manager sees something that they feel is
15 severely unsafe, we could also call the fire
16 department, but our goal is to work with the resident
17 to bring about compliance.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: As is there like a three
19 strikes and you're out approach to this, or basically
20 on a first violation the tenant can be dragged into
21 court for termination?

22 COO TRIMBLE: So, yes, we have about three
23 conferences before we proceed with administrative
24 termination. And then once, uh, if we are successful
25 with the administrative termination process, then we

1
2 can further proceed with through legal action through
3 housing court.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Does NYCHA know or have any
5 estimation of how many NYCHA residents have
6 micromobility devices?

7 COO TRIMBLE: We do not.

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. Before I move onto the
9 next question, I just want to recognize that we have
10 been joined by Council Member Bottcher. Do you have
11 any questions, Council Member?

12 Okay, how quickly does NYCHA respond to a
13 complaint in regards to a tenant who may be violating
14 this particular policy?

15 COO TRIMBLE: I don't have an exact timeframe for
16 this just yet. But if ,you know, upon receiving the
17 information, the property manager will call the
18 resident down for a conference. So, it works ,you
19 know, as far as their convenience of meeting together
20 with the property manager. We try to meet with the
21 resident in person to explain the situation.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: How is this complaint
23 registered with NYCHA?

24 COO TRIMBLE: It depends on the way the complaint
25 comes in. Residents can call the CCC (Customer

1
2 Contact Center) and put in a complaint through the
3 CCC, and then it would be tracked there. We do have
4 an anonymous tipline that residents can call and
5 submit information on their neighbors or something
6 they are seeing in a development, or a resident can
7 just call the property management office and speak to
8 a housing assistant or the property manager
9 themselves and issue the complaint.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Do we have any active
11 complaints that have been registered by a tenant or
12 management currently? Because, I mean the policy has
13 been out since March.

14 COO TRIMBLE: I would have to check, I don't have
15 that data with us today.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And we have established that
17 PD or the fire department can be called by
18 management?

19 COO TRIMBLE: If they see something that they
20 think is a severe situation, a severe hazard, yes, of
21 course, we would call the fire department or the
22 NYPD.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And we are empowering tenants
24 also to call reach out to management or to reach out
25 to law enforcement?

1
2 COO TRIMBLE: Whichever they feel is appropriate
3 based on what they are seeing. I would say an extreme
4 situation that would trigger a 911 call is if we do
5 see a resident who is maybe operating a bike or
6 battery shop out of their apartment...

7 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Right

8 COO TRIMBLE: That is ,you know, not a... We ban
9 businesses like that in our apartments, so that would
10 not be an allowable use. And so if they see someone
11 that has an extreme number in their apartment, that
12 they know that that activity is going on, they should
13 feel free to call the police department.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Is the property manager or
15 staff, are they allowed to do inspections?

16 COO TRIMBLE: We do our required annual
17 inspections of our apartments. In 2024 we are
18 required by HUD to inspect every single apartment.
19 So, again, as part of the inspections, staff are
20 trained to look for these situations as well.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, since the policy has been
22 initiated since March, have there been any
23 inspections authorized by NYCHA?

24

25

1
2 COO TRIMBLE: Yes, we have been doing inspections
3 as part of our regular, everyday (INAUDIBLE)...

4 (CROSS-TALK)

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: (INAUDIBLE) particularly for
6 this... (CROSS-TALK)

7 COO TRIMBLE: I can't... We have not issued any
8 specific micromobility device inspections. And I
9 don't have the data right now, I'm sorry, of any
10 devices that were found during an inspection.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Have there been any emergency
12 inspections undertaken since the new policy has been
13 put in place?

14 COO TRIMBLE: No, not yet.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Has NYCHA tracked the number
16 of residents who have violated the micromobility
17 policy since the implementation? Have there been any
18 violations?

19 COO TRIMBLE: Not that I am aware of, but we can
20 double check the data and get back to you.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. How closely are you
22 monitoring this, the violations that are coming in. I
23 mean, obviously this is new territory, uncharted
24 waters in a sense. When you have ,you know, with this

1
2 particular policy, how closely are you monitoring
3 this?

4 COO TRIMBLE: Right now, property managers, again,
5 will set... There are multiple steps in the process.
6 It is a progressive tenancy process. So ,you know,
7 property managers may be calling in a resident for
8 that first conference, and it may get resolved, they
9 may have to call back for a second conference. So, I
10 don't have the data on how many conferences are
11 happening specific to micromobility. We are not
12 tracking at that level, and we have not had to bring
13 a termination case yet for micromobility.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Can you walk us through the
15 steps of what would happen to a tenant if they are in
16 violation of the micromobility policy?

17 COO TRIMBLE: Sure. We would, again, proceed with
18 the initial conference, and if the condition is not
19 cured, we would have a second conference, and then a
20 third, and then we would proceed to administrative
21 termination. If we are successful in administrative
22 termination, then we would proceed to housing court
23 and seek an eviction of the resident for failure to
24 comply with their lease.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, uhm, so, I guess, would
3 NYCHA consider giving a tenant probation? I guess the
4 second and third would be considered a probation, and
5 then... Or would there just be...

6 COO TRIMBLE: It's just a progressive process...

7 (CROSS-TALK)

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Progressive... Okay... (CROSS-
9 TALK)

10 COO TRIMBLE: (INAUDIBLE) tenancy. I think it is
11 also important to remember that even if we go back to
12 the apartment and look, these devices are mobile, so
13 there may be in infraction when you are there one
14 time and not there another time.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Right.

16 COO TRIMBLE: It's very... It is an enforcement
17 challenge for us that we are, you know, the policy is
18 still new, we are looking to find the right balance
19 between residents' ability to have these devices and
20 the enforcement of them.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Does NYCHA offer any resources
22 to educate the residents about safe charging
23 practices for the micromobility devices?

24 COO TRIMBLE: (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

1
2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And how is this information
3 distributed?

4 COO TRIMBLE: I will hand it over to Mr. Terranova
5 to talk more about the fire safety education we have
6 been doing in general.

7 DIRECTOR TERRANOVA: Thank you, Council Member. I
8 apologize, could you repeat the question?

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Does NYCHA offer any resources
10 to educate residents about safe charging practices
11 for the micromobility devices? And how is this
12 information distributed?

13 DIRECTOR TERRANOVA: That is a very good question,
14 thank you.

15 So, first off I want to say a couple of things.
16 The best fire to have is the one that doesn't get
17 started in the first place. So, fire prevention,
18 especially with lithium-ion battery powered devices,
19 is to key to our success in this program. I would
20 also like to commend City Council for passing the
21 first in the nation law in regards to the sale of
22 only third-party certified devices, and it is nice to
23 be part of that program. Having said that, there is a
24 fairly extensive internal and external public
25 education program that we have there - starting with

1 a number of fire safety symposiums that we are
2 holding for our resident association leaders, one per
3 borough, and then we are going to have a final one in
4 October to wrap up the rest of the City that we
5 missed, uh, down at the Fire Museum for the city of
6 New York. We have Family Day coordination with the
7 FDNY Education Unit, they come and they help provide
8 the public education part, and they have direct
9 interaction with the residents during the Family Day
10 events. We have Fire Safety Week. We are now making
11 it Fire Safety Month, the Month of October, with the
12 anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire,
13 is Fire Safety Week. We promote that for an entire
14 month. Each week we have different topic that we
15 stress both in mailings, emails, on our website, and
16 that message goes out to all the residents and staff.
17 We have some internal staff training and
18 credentialing that goes along with this. This way
19 they can repeat the message. And we are trying to
20 have a uniform message along with our partners. We do
21 partner, collaborate, and coordinate with FDNY Bureau
22 of Fire Investigators, who are taking a lead on the
23 lithium-ion battery safety issue citywide. We
24 obviously have the Bureau of Fire Prevention involved
25

1
2 in this. We have a very strong partnership with the
3 FDNY Education Bureau under their FDNY Smart program.
4 We direct all of our residents to their webpage, and
5 we try to have a common safety message associated
6 with that, and those messages are available in
7 multiple languages. We also have partnership with the
8 Fire Museum of the city of New York. And we have
9 entry in to the Fire Museum for NYCHA residents. We
10 have our symposiums there, and we try to promote the
11 same message. So, yes, we have a fairly extensive
12 messaging program both online and in person for fire
13 safety.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, thank you.

15 Before I proceed, I am going to allow Council
16 Member Bottcher to move forward with his questions.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHE: Thank you, Chair.

18 This policy went into effect on March 1st across
19 the NYCHA portfolio. The policy that only one e-
20 mobility battery may be charged at a time, the adult
21 must be present and awake, extension cords cannot be
22 used, they can't charge near radiators, they must be
23 certified batteries that are allowed by law, and the
24 charging cannot happen in common areas.

1
2 I missed your answer before, have there been any
3 violations of the policy since March 1st in the NYCHA
4 portfolio?

5 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you, Council Member. So, I
6 don't have that exact data with me today, partially
7 because, uh, we don't really use the term violation.
8 However, it is possible that a property manager has
9 had that initial conference with a resident. But we
10 are not tracking that specially just yet. So, I can't
11 say for certain whether those conferences have or
12 have not happened.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHE: The reason I ask is that
14 we have quite a few tenants who are really concerned
15 for their safety. And I don't necessarily... I don't
16 blame them, because of the fires and the fatalities
17 that have happened. And we do want to make sure that
18 this policy is enforced. There is no shortage of
19 policies that NYCHA has that are not very well
20 enforced. And I am aware of the challenges of that
21 with the portfolio that you have and the scale of it,
22 but I look forward to working with my colleague,
23 Chair Banks, and all of you to ensure that this
24 policy is enforced and that people are kept safe.
25 Thank you.

1
2 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, Council Member
4 Bottcher.

5 I will move forward with my questions, how often
6 does NYCHA update residents when it comes to the
7 various housing polices? And I think I asked that
8 question already. What measures are in place to aid
9 with the community when it comes to continuity in the
10 outreach around the enforcement with this policy to
11 residents, building management, and other points of
12 communication? The outreach... Back to the outreach
13 when there are changes in the policy...

14 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: Sure, thank you, Council
15 Member.

16 I think a lot of the ways that we had mentioned
17 earlier ,you know, we promote it on our website,
18 through our Journal, through the events that Joe had
19 described before on fire safety. We also put out this
20 policy for public comment as well. So, we wanted to
21 make sure that NYCHA residents, advocates, and then
22 just members of the public ,you know, have the
23 opportunity to comment on the policy before it went
24 out, and tell us ,you know, if we are heading in the
25 right direction. And, so, this wasn't something that

1
2 we just ,you know, told folks, and then, uhm, it was
3 out for quite some time before, for at least 30 days,
4 before we put it into effect.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: What is the current status of
6 the four charging stations planned in partnership
7 with ConEd at Queensbridge North and South, and I
8 think the Hostos and VanDyke Houses?

9 DIRECTOR WATSON: Sure, thank you for that
10 question.

11 So, we have been working with ConEd to secure a
12 vender to install and maintain those stations. There
13 was an RFP put out that, uhm, received a response. We
14 have actually had the TA presidents from those four
15 developments were involved in the selection process
16 for the RFP, and we expect that the vendor will be
17 announced later this summer. After that point, ConEd
18 has to go to the Public Service Commission for
19 approvals since it is a program that requires their
20 approval. And we expect the installation will begin,
21 if that approval is secured, in early 2025.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Will these stations be open to
23 the general public or is it just strictly for NYCHA
24 residents?
25

1
2 DIRECTOR WATSON: These four pilot sites will be
3 NYCHA residents.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And how much does it cost to
5 create a designated charging station?

6 DIRECTOR WATSON: So, I don't have an exact number
7 for you on the price. Our goal with installing these
8 stations is to serve residents with this newly needed
9 infrastructure without impacting NYCHA's already
10 stretched budget. So, we are relying on partnerships
11 and grants for these installations. This one is
12 funded through ConEd, and I don't have the exact
13 budget number.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Will there be a fee?

15 DIRECTOR WATSON: Yes, there will be a fee for
16 them. We don't know exactly what the fee will be for
17 usage, but it will be set in a way that is designed
18 to encourage usage and not have it be a barrier.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, there will be a fee for
20 charging and storage?

21 DIRECTOR WATSON: Yes, that's right.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay. What is the current
23 status of the 53 charging stations funding by the
24 federal DOT grant?
25

1
2 DIRECTOR WATSON: Sure, so that grant was
3 announced in June of 2023, the award of the grant;
4 however, has not yet been finalized. So, we are
5 working closely with our fellow city partners on
6 finalizing the grant award and developing plans for
7 the implementation of that... (CROSS-TALK)

8 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Is there an environmental
9 review process? Has that completed?

10 DIRECTOR WATSON: Well, the environment review is
11 ongoing for them.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, and what is the bidding
13 or the construction, has that begun for the stations?

14 DIRECTOR WATSON: Construction procurement? No,
15 that has not begun yet.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay, has there been any
17 determination about where these charging stations
18 will be built?

19 DIRECTOR WATSON: About where within the
20 development they will be built?

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Yes, like, will they be in the
22 parking lot, will they be...

23 DIRECTOR WATSON: That is part of what we are
24 still determining along with our city partners.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Will the feedback from the
3 residents and the design and the placement, is that
4 also something that will be taken into consideration
5 in making these determinations?

6 DIRECTOR WATSON: Yes, absolutely. So, as I
7 mentioned ,you know, we did have a resident leader
8 participation in the vendor selection process for the
9 ConEd pilot, resident engagement in the process for
10 installing the future stations through the RAISE
11 grant is also very important to us. We did start
12 reaching out to resident leaders at the 53
13 developments that will be served, uh, back in July of
14 2023, and kind of got an initial read on feelings
15 about program and the stations, and did some further
16 follow up with resident leaders that were hesitant or
17 had more questions about the stations. And we will
18 continue that kind of engagement as we get down to
19 those details of exactly where the stations will be
20 located.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: So, this level of engagement
22 that is being done with the pilot, this is the model
23 that is going to be followed by the, uh, for the
24 other 50 or so sites or 47 sites?

1
2 DIRECTOR WATSON: Yes, I mean, we are working to
3 standardize resident engagement across all of our
4 capital projects in the Asset Capital Management
5 Division, make sure that we have touchpoints
6 throughout the kind of scoping design and
7 construction process for our capital projects. And we
8 definitely want to follow that model as we implement
9 the RAISE grant, uh, implementation...

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Will there be any, uh, any
11 townhall meetings of some sort when it comes to, uh,
12 educating the tenants or the residents on this
13 particular policy?

14 DIRECTOR WATSON: We have not planned the exact
15 form of engagement as we move forward with the grant
16 implementation, but we certainly want to make sure
17 that people understand what they are, how to use
18 them, and have opportunities to give input through
19 the design process.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Will there be signage placed
21 throughout the developments? And is there currently
22 signage being placed letting them know that this
23 policy is in place, uh, and is there any direct
24 consultation going on so that residents are aware?
25 Because, obviously, we know that ,you know, there's

1
2 frustration with NYCHA with a lot of residents saying
3 that they are not getting information, and not having
4 this information can definitely be harmful to the
5 tenants, especially those who have these particular
6 devices. As I said, it's part of... You have a lot of
7 tenants who are using these devices to put food on
8 their tables. So, is there ,you know, has NYCHA been
9 aggressive in making sure that the tenants understand
10 the importance of this particular policy and
11 understanding it so they don't, ,you know, they're
12 not in violation of their lease?

13 DIRECTOR WATSON: I will defer the policy
14 question. That's a question about the overall policy,
15 not the stations, right?

16 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Correct.

17 VICE PRESIDENT HONAN: Council Member, I think
18 ,you know, on this we did spend a lot of time ,you
19 know, number one, it was a concern that we heard from
20 residents about the safety issue. We had an initial
21 proposal that banned the devices altogether. And we
22 heard not only from this committee, but we heard from
23 residents, and we heard from many advocates, too,
24 that that was going a step too far. It is something
25 that we heard very loudly, it was something we heard

1 very clearly. We work very closely with this
2 committee in order to shape a policy that we thought
3 listened to residents' concerns, uh, that was a
4 reasonable compromise, that had safety in mind, but
5 also ,you know, kept in mind that people want to use
6 these devices for many different reasons - some of
7 them for economic reasons, some of them for good
8 transportation, some of them for just for fun. They
9 don't have to tell us why they use them, but they
10 wanted to make sure that they have the ability to do
11 so. So, I think this was something where we really
12 did learn a lot. We really did listen to a lot of
13 people, and we did really certainly heard from a lot
14 of people. You know, it is amazing to me how strong
15 the opinions are of people on this issue one way or
16 the other. But, this was something that we took a
17 long time, and we did make sure that the word was out
18 there. And we heard it last year's annual plan
19 meeting, I am sure an annual plan meeting that is
20 coming up on July 30th, we will be hearing from residents
21 again. So, it is out there.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you. When it comes to
24 registration again, what is... how is that going to
25 look, where are we at with exploring the possibility?

1
2 I think it is a good idea, and I am hoping that we
3 can get some clarification as to how that
4 registration is going to look.

5 COO TRIMBLE: Thank you, Council Member. It is
6 something that we are willing to explore more of. I
7 can't say anything specific on yet as we have to look
8 into it some more.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: And it makes sense, perfect
10 sense to in a sense of having a registration, because
11 it allows for tracking for these particular devices.
12 And I know the policy is just put in place as of
13 March, but it would be good if we can some clarity as
14 to determining how many of these devices are on NYCHA
15 developments. And I think it will help with education
16 the residents as to doing this in the proper, most
17 safe way and perform in compliance with the policy.

18 At this point, we do not have any more questions
19 for you. I appreciate you for coming and to give your
20 testimony. Thank you so much.

21 PANEL: Thank you

22 (PAUSE)

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: We are going to move to public
24 testimony now. Thank you.

25 (PAUSE)

1
2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: I am now opening the hearing
3 to public testimony. I remind members of the public
4 that this is a formal government proceeding and that
5 decorum shall be observed at all times. As such,
6 members of the public shall remain silent at all
7 times. The witness table is reserved for people who
8 wish to testify. No video recording or photography is
9 allowed from the witness table. Further, members of
10 the public may not present audio or video recordings
11 as testimony, but may submit transcripts of such
12 recordings to the Sergeant at Arms for inclusion in
13 the hearing record. If you wish to speak at today's
14 hearing, please fill out an appearance card with the
15 Sergeant at Arms and wait to be recognized. When
16 recognized, you will have two minutes to speak on
17 today's hearing topic: *Oversight - NYCHA's Electric*
18 *Micromobility Policy*.

19 If you have additional written testimony you wish
20 to submit to the record, please provide a copy to the
21 Sergeant at Arms. You may also email written
22 testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov within in 72
23 hours after the close of this hearing. Audio and
24 video recordings will not be accepted.

1
2 I would like to talk the first, our only, you can
3 come on up, that would be Alejandro Grajales.

4 MR. ALEJANDRO GRAJALES: Good afternoon, to thank
5 you to Council Member Bank Chair of the Committee on
6 Public Housing, and all the members of this committee
7 for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the
8 Worker's Justice Project and (SPEAKING FOREIGN
9 LANGUAGE) Los Deliveristas Unidos.

10 My name is Alejandra Grajales, I am a member of
11 the Worker's Justice Project and (SPEAKING FOREIGN
12 LANGUAGE) Los Deliveristas Unidos, to fight for
13 better workplace conditions for app-based delivery
14 workers in the gig economy. We are grateful to
15 testify today to this cause (INAUDIBLE) delivery
16 workers, the Council, NYCHA, and other partners in
17 city government can work together to develop a
18 comprehensive road map for micromobility.

19 As a deliverista and leader of Los Deliveristas
20 Unidos, I'm deeply concerned about the hazards and
21 fires caused by lithium batteries. As reported by the
22 city newspaper, the market has not yet adapted to the
23 law requiring stores to sell UL certified bikes and
24 batteries resulting in a significant supply gap.
25 That's why we were proud to stand with the Council to

1
2 pass a groundbreaking trading program for lithium
3 batteries and e-bikes last year to help low income
4 delivery workers unable to afford new equipment to
5 effectively transition to the new regulation. We hope
6 to see this program set up immediately.

7 We appreciate NYCHA's partnership and proactive
8 efforts to educate residents about proper battery
9 charging, as well as their commitment to build e-bike
10 battery charging stations across multiple NYCHA
11 developments.

12 We hope that NYCHA's battery charging stations
13 will be available for use to deliveristas who are
14 delivering food to NYCHA residents and build an
15 environment that is welcoming to deliveristas.

16 At (INAUDIBLE) Los Deliveristas Unidos, we look
17 forward to working with NYCHA, the City Council, and
18 other partners (TIMER CHIMES) in expanding e-bike
19 battery charging stations and deliverista hubs
20 throughout the city.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we
22 look forward to our continued collaboration.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you for your testimony.

24 MR. ALEJANDRO GRAJALES: Thank you
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Now we're going to move to our
3 virtual testimony, and the first person will be
4 Dana Elden.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

6 MS. DANA ELDEN: (INAUDIBLE) Okay, I'm having a
7 hard with this mic.

8 Good afternoon Chairman...

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Good afternoon...

10 MS. DANA ELDEN: and the rest of those in
11 attendance. My name is Dana Elder, I'm President of
12 St. Mary's Park Houses Resident Council. I come to
13 the Council today not only about the usage and
14 maintenance of lithium-ion battery usage and e-bikes
15 in NYCHA developments; but to also bring notice to
16 the Council and to NYCHA, that there is a growing
17 population of those like me, who are disabled and use
18 electric wheelchairs that use lithium batteries. My
19 chair uses 2 lithium batteries that must be recharged
20 almost daily in my apartment.

21 Although there is a concentration of charging
22 batteries safely within apartments with the adequate
23 charging policy measures are in place, there is a
24 concern from the residents regarding the possibility
25 of inadequate electricity needs that are not being

1 met. Electrical boxes in the apartment are also
2 important when charging these devices, as well as
3 mobility devices, such as electric wheelchairs and
4 scooters, that are needed by residents like me that
5 depend on these devices to go about their daily
6 needs.
7

8 In the past, NYCHA would send electricians to the
9 resident's apartments and charge the resident a \$75
10 fee to insert these boxes. Also, it has come to my
11 attention that in the NSPIRE inspection program from
12 HUD, many apartments with air conditioners are also
13 entitled to have these boxes in their apartments to
14 appropriate the electrical needs for those devices as
15 well.

16 I'm sure that this endeavor is colossal and the
17 needs of many can overwhelm NYCHA. But it is my
18 concern that this population (TIMER CHIMES) of
19 seniors and disabled residents have been overlooked.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time has expired.

21 MS. DANA ELDEN: of course... Of course the
22 (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: You can have another minute...
24 (CROSS-TALK)

1
2 MS. DANA ELDEN: Of course, the safety of all
3 regarding these mobility bikes is a top priority,
4 however, there is a population of residents that must
5 be acknowledged, and their usage of the electrical
6 infrastructure currently in place is paramount as
7 well.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Eldon. Before
10 you leave, Ms. Eldon, how do you currently charge
11 your particular battery?

12 MS. DANA ELDEN: Well, I paid \$75 years ago for
13 one of those boxes.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Okay.

15 MS. DANA ELDEN: But they put in my living room
16 for my air conditioner. I need to be able to charge
17 it in my bedroom. It is unbelievable what I have to
18 go through to get to my wheelchair every day -- and
19 to get to out of it to get to my bedroom. I need a
20 box in my bedroom as well. And, of course, that is
21 something that is not happening.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Right.

23 MS. DANA ELDEN: And I am not the only person. I
24 am quite sure I one of the few with a box. But there
25 are others that are in wheelchairs as well who are

1
2 plugging their wheelchairs in regular sockets and
3 plugging in air conditioners in regular sockets. And
4 we just had a fire not too long ago from that
5 happening. Someone plugged their air conditioner into
6 a regular bedroom socket, at which point it sparked,
7 caught onto the curtains. She was burnt out of her
8 apartment, and just recently, last week, able to
9 return after six months of being in the courtesy
10 apartment.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Yes, thank you for
12 enlightening us on this and really opening our eyes
13 to this. Because, there has just been a heavy focus
14 on just the e-bikes. I think definitely now this will
15 give us some food for thought ,you know, in our
16 conversation with NYCHA. So, I thank you so much for
17 your testimony.

18 MS. DANA ELDEN: Thank you, I appreciate it. And
19 please note that this population is growing.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Yes, so true.

21 MS. DANA ELDEN: Our seniors in NYCHA are a large
22 percentage now. So many of us that are disabled are
23 in wheelchairs or need electrical devices to assist
24 us -- like hospital beds --so NYCHA must pay
25 attention to this population. They have us list all

1 of our devices on our leases. When we do our
2 recertification, we must list all of our devices. If
3 that is the case, I have air pumps and other things
4 that must be used on my body. And those things are
5 registered on my lease. However, NYCHA has not
6 addressed the electrical needs that I need in my
7 apartment. And I am not alone in that. So, thank you
8 so much for hearing me out.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you, thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 Now we will move forward with testimony from
13 Christopher Leon Johnson.

14 MR. CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Hey, hello, Chair
15 Banks. It's Christopher Leon Johnson here, what's up
16 bro? Thank you for having me on.

17 So, I want to make this clear, right? We just saw
18 Alejandro from Los Deliveristas Unidos with the
19 Workers Justice Project speak about his organization.
20 Let me make this clear, Alejandro is not a
21 deliverista. He is a construction worker that is
22 acting like a deliverista. He's a fake deliverista,
23 and he is a lobbyist that is working for (INAUDIBLE)
24 and open plans and all these other organizations that
25 are against the safety for the NYCHA residents when

1
2 it comes to e-bike safety and electric micromobility.
3 Now, if Alejandro and everybody knows (BACKGROUND
4 NOISE) (INAUDIBLE) wrote that speech because
5 (BACKGROUND NOISE) Alejandro don't know English.
6 (INAUDIBLE) wrote that speech for him just like she
7 runs his, uhm, social media accounts and all the
8 accounts. If he really cared about the safety of
9 NYCHA residents when it comes to e-micromobility, he
10 should be advocating for Intro 606, that is
11 introduced by Council Member Bob Holden. But the
12 problem is, him and his people, like, (INAUDIBLE) and
13 (INAUDIBLE) and Antionio, they are against the bill.
14 Now, these guys, they came into today... The reason
15 they was out... They don't care about the NYCHA
16 development. They don't care about if NYCHA residents
17 die. They don't care. All they care about is their
18 deliveristas. And needs to start happening from
19 NYCHA, they need to start making sure if this happens
20 with the (INAUDIBLE) money to NYCHA for the e-
21 micromobility, what needs to start happening make
22 sure that only NYCHA residents are able to use those
23 charging devices. Only NYCHA residents. Not the
24 deliveristas. That's the only reason why they come
25 out here today, because all they are trying to make

1
2 sure that they are able to use those NYCHA charging
3 stations. They are able to drive all over the City,
4 breaking every law with their e-bikes and Mopeds, and
5 making sure they can go there and charge all their
6 stuff. Everybody knows what's going to happen, is the
7 deliveristas are going to hog those stations. The
8 NYCHA residents will not be able to hog those
9 stations. Now, this is a crisis in New York City.
10 These people like (INAUDIBLE) and (INAUDIBLE) and
11 Gustavo (TIMER CHIMES) they are totally against...

12 (CROSS-TALK)

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time is expired.

14 MR. CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: real safety
15 measures... Safety measures for citizens... (CROSS-
16 TALK)

17 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you for your testimony,
18 Mr. Johnson. Have a good day.

19 MR. CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: Thank you.

21 MR. CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Thank you, bro,
22 thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANKS: All right.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

That concludes today's testimony. We will now adjourn today's hearing. Thank you so much. (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 28, 2024