



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0105-2022, **Version:** *

Res. No. 105

Resolution calling on the New York State legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.1866/S.1603, in relation to enacting the NYCHA Utility Accountability Act.

By Council Members Avilés, Won, Stevens, Farías, Krishnan, Cabán, Schulman, Hanif, De La Rosa, Brooks-Powers, Velázquez, Barron, Richardson Jordan, Hudson, Rivera, Bottcher, Williams and Yeger

Whereas, The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) serves 358,675 residents who reside in 285 developments within the public housing program; and

Whereas, For the past decade, there have been numerous articles that have reported on the frequent service interruptions to heat and hot water, and to gas services at NYCHA developments; and

Whereas, On January 2019, federal and city officials agreed to the appointment of a federal monitor to help address the history of maintenance issues that have created health and safety hazards at NYCHA; and

Whereas, The federal monitor has been charged with approving action plans that require NYCHA to meet certain benchmarks to promptly resolve utility outages; and

Whereas, However, according to media reports, tenants are still struggling with outages stemming from damages that occurred during Superstorm Sandy back in 2012, as well as, reoccurring utility outages throughout the NYCHA portfolio; and

Whereas, Tenants pay rent to NYCHA with a reasonable expectation for habitability and the provision of basic utility services, and NYCHA should be accountable to tenants when it fails to make repairs or perform the necessary maintenance to prevent utility outages; and

Whereas, A.1866, sponsored by Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson in the New York State Assembly

and companion bill S.1603, sponsored by State Senator Michael Gianaris in the New York State Senate, would require NYCHA to give a prorated rent reduction to tenants who suffer interruptions to their utility services; and

Whereas, NYCHA has a legal and moral obligation to keep the utility systems functioning properly, the passage of A.1866/S.1603 would hold NYCHA accountable when it fails to deliver on its commitments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.1866/S.1603, in relation to enacting the NYCHA Utility Accountability Act.

JLC
LS 7404
03/15/2022