

WELCOME GUESTS  
AND  
RESIDENTS

to the  
PT Barnum Residents' Breakfast Forum





THANK YOU



# Some Background on Low-Income Public Housing in Bridgeport

- The Bridgeport Housing Authority is called Park City Communities and known as PCC.
- PCC operates under HUD - the Department of Housing and Urban Development – with HUD regulations, paid by your taxes.
- PT Barnum Apartments is the largest public housing complex in Connecticut with 18 buildings and 360 units.



# WHO LIVES IN PT BARNUM APARTMENTS?



- PT Barnum Apartments is the largest public housing complex in Connecticut with 18 buildings and 360 units.
- The 1200+ residents live at or below 30% our area median income.
- 90% of leases are held by single mothers of minor children.
- From **PCC data**: 50% identify as Black, 60%+ Latina, with a small portion as White and Other.

# HUD and PCC STATED MISSION:

- “Park City Communities is committed to providing quality housing of choice, empowering residents to their highest level of self-sufficiency, and forming public and private partnerships to help revitalize our neighborhoods.”
- They say they do this through values of strengthening community, sustaining livability, empowering people, and increasing stability.

**We want them to live up to this promise!**



# QUALITY OF LIFE: MAILBOXES



- Residents have spent years with broken and unsafe mailboxes.
- Many residents can't get their mail - even their rent statements.
- PCC decided to spend \$40,000 to install new mailboxes without talking to residents or thinking about reasonable access.
- 12 months later the new mailboxes are not up and working.

# SAFETY: MOLD



In late spring 2019, seven buildings were canvassed for mold

- Residents in each of the **seven buildings** had apartments with mold.
- 6 out of the 7 buildings had 50%+ people **reporting mold** in their home (of those who answered the door).
- When a ventilation system was installed to help underlying issues, there was **no plan** to fix the mold that was already there.

# SAFETY: PARKING

- PCC lacks a comprehensive and effective parking policy.
- Residents compete for spaces.
- Safety concerns have been raised.
- Residents want to be able to park one car in an assigned parking place near their apartment.
- Resident voices have been ignored despite proposing a plan.





# MAINTENANCE



- Three units assigned to two trash receptacles.
- Trash cans regularly overflow and garbage blows around property.
- Maintenance staff is not adequate for the level of work to be done.
- Maintenance staff is not trained or licensed for some work - like mold remediation.

# ACCESS TO PCC POLICIES/ RESTRICTING RESIDENT VOICES



- Residents are regularly blindsided with fees attached to their rent and with little explanation.
- Most PCC policies are impossible to find and when asked to produce them, PCC often can't.
- Policies should be public domain and easily accessible for residents.
- Meetings are regularly rescheduled and made impossible for residents to know about or attend.
- Residents have been told they can't come in and/or speak.

# QUALITY OF LIFE: MAINTENANCE



- Residents are no longer able to complete written workorders for maintenance problems. All work orders are on the phone; disallowing a written record of the numerous times a resident has to call for repairs.
- Residents are ignored with no accountability.



# RESIDENT-LED SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORTS BLOCKED OR REMOVED:

- Partnership with Community Policing Division: **Blocked**
- Clothing Closet and Food Pantry: **Removed**
- Girl Scouts: **Removed**
- Resident Leadership Program: **Removed**
- Resident-Led Organization **Evicted** from All PCC Properties with no resident input or knowledge.

# RESIDENT VOICE/ LEADERSHIP



- HUD **requires** resident voice and representation in PCC decisions.
- The appointed past Resident Council President never held a meeting with residents in 1.5 years in office.

(Yet, she was invited to every RAB meeting and went to New Orleans for a housing conference at the price tag of over \$1500 of resident council funds. No information from this expensive trip was shared with residents. No resident knew or approved this trip.)

- On Tuesday, a **Resident Council** was finally duly **ELECTED!**
- We must make sure PCC supports them!

# HISTORY OF GARY CROOKS MEMORIAL CENTER



- The Gary Crooks Memorial Center was deeded to the Housing Authority specifically for resident use.
- The building was named for a child who died in an adjacent sewer treatment plant.
- It was to be a community center for PT Barnum residents.
- The deed states Gary Crooks was not to be used for administrative purposes.

# WHO IS PT PARTNERS? IT'S YOU!



- PT Partners (PTP), a grassroots, resident-led, community organizing non-profit, aims to rebuild community in PT Barnum Apartments.
- Promote resident voice and systemically support residents.
- Develop partnerships with community leaders and organizations.
- Attract the funding and resources necessary to enable PT Barnum Apartment residents to proactively engage in making their neighborhood a healthy and safe place to live.
- PT Partners' vision is to recreate a PT Barnum community who works together where resident leaders are empowered to actively drive change to break down systemic and institutional oppression in their lives, their neighborhood, and the greater Bridgeport community.



# So What?

- This is how systemic oppression has suppressed collective voices and power.
- Today is about making sure that all residents of PCC have access to safe and affordable housing that fulfills their own promise of “empowering residents to their highest level of self-sufficiency, and forming public and private partnerships to help revitalize our neighborhoods.”





THANK YOU



# Audience

- ❑ text VANESSALILES134 to 22333 to join the session
- ❑ then text a question for the panel