



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING

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Ms. Shola Olatoye  
Chair and CEO  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Olatoye:

The approximately 400,000 New Yorkers who call our city's public housing their home are facing a serious, ongoing crisis. The New York City Housing Authority has failed to provide them with adequate heat and hot water, and has allowed temporary fixes that do not provide adequate and reliable service to become permanent.

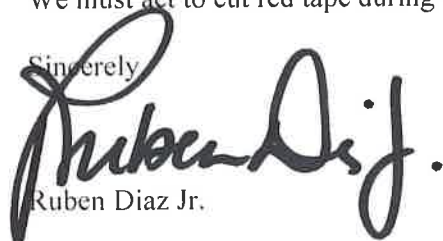
It is time for your agency to act and approve an emergency declaration to cut through the red tape to expedite the replacement of out-of-service boilers in NYCHA developments.

NYCHA has allowed an insufficient temporary solution to last forever. Mobile boilers seem to never go away. The Administration is even planning to replace insufficient temporary boilers with new temporary boilers, while claiming that manpower, funding and procurement inefficiencies prevent them from fixing the problem. I write today with a proposed fix for those inefficiencies: a declaration of emergency that imposes an efficient and expeditious procurement process.

The process to replace boilers in NYCHA developments takes far too long, and does not reflect the urgent need for these critical repairs. For example, the Patterson Houses in The Bronx have been forced to subsist using inadequate temporary boilers since 2011. NYCHA has not even begun the RFP process to replace these boilers, which means that even in a best-case scenario new boilers will be years away. The recent extreme weather event showed us just how vulnerable mobile boilers are to very low temperatures, and we have no reason not to expect similar extreme weather in the future. NYCHA tenants should not have to wait a decade for the basic human right of reliable heat and hot water.

Right now, nearly half of all NYCHA boilers citywide need to be replaced. NYCHA has told me that their hands are tied by the procurement process. That is no comfort to a family forced to live in a frigid apartment on the coldest days of the year.

We must act to cut red tape during this time of severe crisis. An emergency declaration must be made.

Sincerely,  
  
Ruben Diaz Jr.