



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

RUBEN DIAZ JR.  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TEL. 718-590-3500  
FAX. 718-590-3537  
E-MAIL: rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov

March 18, 2019

Ms. Kathryn Garcia, Interim Chair & CEO  
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)  
250 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Ms. Kathryn Garcia

I write to inquire about the case of Mr. Bienvenido Martinez, a 72-year-old constituent of mine who through the apparent negligence of the New York City Housing Authority has lost both his apartment and all of his worldly possessions.

Mr. Martinez was a resident of NYCHA's Union Avenue Consolidation, 950 Union Avenue, #7E, Bronx, New York, 10459. In May 2018 Mr. Martinez, who has no immediate family, was admitted to the Beth Abraham Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing for temporary rehabilitative care following a medical emergency. Several months later, In August 2018, NYCHA informed Mr. Martinez that he was being evicted from his apartment, for failure to pay back rent of \$816.00.

In October 2018, caseworkers at Beth Abraham told NYCHA to cease its eviction proceedings against Mr. Martinez, informing your agency that he was in temporary care and would be returning to his home upon the completion of his care. Despite this, NYCHA removed Mr. Martinez from his apartment in December 2018, believing it to be abandoned.

Mr. Martinez was not ever served personally with his eviction papers, since he had not been able to return to his apartment while undergoing rehabilitation. To add insult to injury, in December 2018 NYCHA disposed of Mr. Martinez's possessions in the garbage, rather than place them in storage as is required by law. Items included in NYCHA's heartless purge include Mr. Martinez's state identification, birth certificate and Social Security card and other difficult documents to replace.

Mr. Martinez now has no home, nor any possessions, thanks to your agency's cruel and thoughtless treatment. While I can certainly understand that NYCHA cannot allow residents to live rent free, one would think that your agency would be able to exhibit some level of discretion when it comes to the eviction of a senior citizen facing a medical emergency. Mr. Martinez needs a new apartment, and must be compensated for the loss of his possessions.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter at greater length.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruben Diaz Jr.', written over a printed name.

Ruben Diaz Jr.