

WVTF *Newsletter*

May 2014

➤ **PRIVATIZATION UPDATE**

Task Force Representatives met with Assembly member Micah Kellner and RIOC Chairperson Charlene Indelicato to present the facts regarding our impasse with building owners on a fair negotiated agreement . Assembly member Kellner, though not planning to run for another term, is knowledgeable about our dilemma and continues to advise us to pursue achievement of a fair deal through contacts with Richmond McCurnin, assistant commissioner of NYS Housing and Community Renewal (HCR).

We have pursued that contact and have learned that the building owners have justified their request for an immediate 26-37% rent increase on the basis of “equalization” of rents with Island House. We strongly disagree with the building owner’s logic on that matter and have asked HCR to obtain clarification from the owner’s representative on the basis for equalization.

Note: Island House tenants , now no longer covered by Mitchell Lama rules regarding rent increases have had a 15% rent increase since withdrawing from Mitchell Lama. The “Red Herring” proposal for the Island House Conversion to a rental/coop continues to be the subject of lengthy negotiations between the building owners and The NYS Attorney General’s office.

Ms. Indelicato has stated that RIOC will not intervene in our negotiations.

Over 1200 letters asking for help were signed by tenants and sent to Governor Cuomo, Senator Schumer, Representative Maloney, Mayor Di Blasio, Senator Serrano, incoming Assembly member Kallos and outgoing Assembly member Kellner. Only Mr. Kellner has met with us on our efforts.

➤ **POOL CLOSING**

We were informed by RY management that the Westview pool should open within two weeks.

➤ **OTHER MATTERS**

Robberies via unlocked apartment doors are a growing problem. The Task Force has established a committee to address all security matters. We urge all tenants to keep the doors locked all the time, do not use any other exits doors of the building except main lobby in 625 and most importantly - do not allow anyone to enter the building at 575 Main street (one of the suspected perps has entered the building that way).