



Harlem East Block Association &lt;harlemeastblock@gmail.com&gt;

## OMH Please Hold Lantern Organization Accountable

1 message

**Harlem East Block Association** <harlemeastblock@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 3:16 AM

To: "Wilson, Tracey (OMH)" &lt;Tracey.Wilson@omh.ny.gov&gt;

Cc: Agnes Slye <agnesslye@gmail.com>, Pat Martin <martin.pat713@gmail.com>, "Reed, Jazz" <jareed@council.nyc.gov>, Diana Barros <dianabarros@aol.com>, Catherine Sondra Daley <cdaley66@gmail.com>, Sarah Noda <essie.macdonald@gmail.com>, Jenny Scobel <jennyscobel@gmail.com>, Jane Murphy <jmurphy729@gmail.com>, Janene Outlaws <loveoutlaws@gmail.com>, Lydia Butler <lydia.butler26@gmail.com>, Yvette Green <ytgreen@aol.com>, Steve Travis <stravis163@yahoo.com>, Helene Thorup-Hayes <thoruphayes@gmail.com>, Kioka Jackson <koco922@gmail.com>, Sharase DeBouse <sdebouse@twulocal100.org>, District Leader William Smith <smith4nys@gmail.com>, Dimitri Gatanas <dimitri@urbangardennyc.com>, Jason Cruz <acruzj@nyassembly.gov>, Eddie Gibbs <gibbse@nyassembly.gov>, Xavier Santiago <chair@cb11m.org>

Bcc: Nick Garber &lt;nick.garber@patch.com&gt;

Hi Tracey,

We are writing to OMH about our concern of the Lantern Organization, which has been contracted by OMH to manage two supportive housing, Prospero Hall at 111 E 118th St and Shafer Hall at 117 E 118th Street.

Residents in Prospero Hall complained of rampant drug use and drug dealing inside the building, driven by mismanagement of the building. Residents complained of rapid staff turnover, incompetent security guards, unattended needles in public, unresponsive management team, and reluctance to cooperate with police investigations. Some residents and their friends use drugs in the trash chute area and drug induced disruption are frequent inside the hallways of the building. Users of the adjacent garden complain of needles strewed on garden beds. As neighbors living near the two buildings, we see drug dealers or people engaged in open-air drug use in the neighborhood walking in and out of the building.

Clearly, action must be taken to stabilize the two buildings.

So, it is unintuitive that the City and OMH are planning to award a bigger contract to this organization in the planned project Timbale Terrace. Neighbors from the block association have been complaining about this development for more than a year now to numerous parties, but it seems no real progress has been made yet. (see our past complaints here).

Over this weekend, we were surprised to see on Patch Reporting that the Timbale Terrace project continues to progress through the city's approval process despite our repeated complaints.

Here, we would like to understand what can be done to hold Lantern Organization accountable? The block association has a list of suggestions on our website that we would like to discuss with you.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to a swift response from OMH. If you are not the right contact, we appreciate your help to introduce us to the right person in your organization.

Best regards,

Eva  
(415) 215 2035

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Harlem East Block Association** <harlemeastblock@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 1:32 AM

Subject: STOP the contract for Lantern Organization

To: Hailey Nolasco <nolascoh@dss.nyc.gov>, Tiffany Brown <TiBrown@cityhall.nyc.gov>, Leilani Irvin <irvinlei@dss.nyc.gov>

Cc: Jenny Scobel <jennyscobel@gmail.com>, Diana Barros <dianabarros@aol.com>, Yvette Green <ytgreen@aol.com>, Jane Murphy <jmurphy729@gmail.com>, Lydia Butler <lydia.butler26@gmail.com>, Sarah Noda <essie.macdonald@gmail.com>, Reed, Jazz <JaReed@council.nyc.gov>, Pat Martin <martin.pat713@gmail.com>, Collin Clarke <cjclarke1961@outlook.com>, Kioka Jackson <koco922@gmail.com>, District Leader William Smith <smith4nys@gmail.com>, Sharase DeBouse <sdebouse@twulocal100.org>, Steve Travis <stravis163@yahoo.com>, Janene Outlaws <loveoutlaws@gmail.com>, Catherine Sondra Daley <cdaley66@gmail.com>, Kim Barrajanos <kbarrajanos@gmail.com>, Dimitri Gatanas <dimitri@urbangardennyc.com>, Martinez, Connor <CMartinez@cityhall.nyc.gov>, Erica Dean <ERICAD@dhs.nyc.gov>, Scott Mcfadden <scott-mcfaddenm@dss.nyc.gov>, Diane Collier <dcoll1880@gmail.com>

Hailey, Tiffany,

It is really disappointing to see that despite our repeated complaints made about Lantern Organization (see our website), the city continues to want to move ahead with the Timbale Terrace project as is. It appears, from the Patch article that the Timbale Terrace project continues to progress through the city's approval process. <https://patch.com/new-york/harlem/affordable-housing-church-be-bulldozed-east-harlem-developments>

As you have heard, residents in existing building in Prospero Hall complain of gross mismanagement, rampant drug use and drug dealing inside the building. It is unacceptable for the city to consider awarding an even bigger contract to this failed organization. Action must be taken to first stabilize the two existing buildings, Prospero Hall at 111 E 118th St and Shafer Hall at 117 E 118th Street, before discussing awarding this organization new contract.

The block association has listed our requests on our website. Please help take needed action.

Thank you.

Eva  
(415) 215 2035

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 2:09 AM Harlem East Block Association <harlemeastblock@gmail.com> wrote:

Hailey,

Hope this finds you well. I wanted to follow up with you on the following requests, related to contacts at supportive housing, upcoming landuse review, and Wards Island task force.

Many thanks!!

Eva

5) **Contacts for nearby supportive housing:** Establish email contact for the block association with the supportive housing near us that seemed to bring in troubled individuals near the catchment area of the block association, so we can file our complaints to them with a paper trail.

- Shafer Hall by Lantern Org: <https://lanterncommunity.org/about-us/buildings/schafer-hall/> - ( 117 E 118th St)
- Prospero Hall by Lantern Org: <https://lanterncommunity.org/about-us/buildings/prospero-hall/> ( 100 E 118th St)
- Veteran's center by Volunteers of Americas on 119th Street: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Volunteers+of+America+Gny+Inc/@40.8020472,-73.9440382,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x14123dd75c624bd6!8m2!3d40.8020674!4d-73.9440236> ( 22 E 119th St)
- Lately, drug deals are also taking place in the Ogla Mendez Apartment. It seems that the criminal elements break into the backyard and management is unable to stop the breakins. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Senator+Olga+Mendez+Apartments/@40.79996,->

73.9436251,18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x89c2f60f3ff464bf:0x4f732fb192dc5986!8m2!3d40.800083!4d-73.9432407 (1652 Park Ave)

--> HRA will provide contact --> (Hailey/Leilani)

**6) Oversaturation of supportive housing on Park Ave:** Holistically review the over-concentration of existing social programs near our block and to refrain from adding more supportive housing and encourage more mixed income housing going forward. As requested, I added more links to presentations from the city government and CB11's websites reflecting the upcoming 4 developments. In some of these links, you will see that recordings of community board meetings reflected the objections from the nearby neighbors but CB11 approved these developments nevertheless, understandably due to its focus on helping the vulnerable population and preventing displacement of East Harlem's residents.

1. Fortune Society at 111 E 123rd Street (100% of 81 units) - 81 units of supportive housing for formerly incarcerated individuals
  1. zoning portal link,
  2. 13 Oct 2021 CB11 youtube recording of presentation with attached minutes where we raised multiple concerns,
  3. 26 Oct 2021 CB11 full board approved this development]
2. Timbale Terrace development (120 E 119th st) by Lantern Organization (82% of 333 units) - 99 units of supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals and 174 units of housing for 30-50 AMI
  1. 19 Jan 2022 CB11 presentation with youtube recording of presentation at Community Board 11 where community members raised numerous objections
  2. Aug 2021 Letter from block association with objections and no response
  2. Objection from Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez
3. La Racias at 1767 Park Avenue (48% of 52 units) - 8 units of supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals and 17 units of housing for 30-50 AMI
  1. zoning portal link
  2. 7 July 2021 CB11
  3. 7 July 2021 CB11 presentation. and video of the meeting where community members raised objections
4. Fox House Transitional Housing for Women Proposal - Still early stage exploration
  1. 1st June 2021 CB11 presentation of Fox House II by Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation (meeting minutes attached, youtube video where a member objected is here)

--> Hailey will help find a contact

**11)\_Redevelop Wards Island's congregate shelters, which are not a humane way to house people. Invest in affordable housing there. Improve public transportation that can reach Wards Island**

---> Block association asked Mayor to form a Wards Island task force. Hailey said this is a topic that is getting quite a lot of attention. (Hailey will revert)

11/8/22, 3:15 PM

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