

Lenox Terrace Association of Concerned Tenants Spring 2017 Newsletter

LT-ACT, supporting a better quality of life, one tenant at a time.

A Call To Action

"I became involved in the Southern Freedom Movement, not merely because I was angry about injustice, but because I love the idea of justice. So it's where you begin your conversation. So most people begin their conversation with "I hate this" — but they never talk about what it is they love. And so I think that we have to begin to have a conversation that incorporates a vision of love with a vision of outrage."

—Activist Ruby Sales, Sept. 15, 2016,
On Being Interview

No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, the 2016 U.S. Presidential election highlighted an indisputable fact about our current social and political reality: Citizens across the United States overwhelmingly believe that many of our elected officials are no longer acting in the interests of ordinary Americans.

People across the political spectrum feel angry, betrayed, and at times, despairing about the increasing constraints put on them to easily access affordable and safe housing; quality education; food for their families; and jobs and careers that maintain the cost of living in our cities and towns.

When called to action, it is very easy in this age of social media and information overdrive, to feel overwhelmed about where to start. The problems of our country and the world can produce fear, despair, panic, and dread in us, resulting in self-protective responses of apathy and disengagement to get through the day. There's another way.

If you find yourself overwhelmed about where to begin your activism, consider channeling your efforts *locally*. As opposed to national politics, local politics is where you as an individual, working with other committed people and organizations, have the most influence to productively shape policies that directly impact you, your family, your neighbors, and your surrounding communities.

To that end, here are 5 concrete steps you can take today to become more actively involved in the social and political life of our neighborhood, city, and state:

1. Join LT-ACT—Advocate for tenants' rights

LT-ACT advocates for your rental rights, including: rental overcharges, issues with renewal leases, and right of succession procedures. And, in partnership with larger organizations, lobby state and local officials for renters' rights.

2. Attend Monthly Community 10 Board Meetings

Community Board 10 Meetings occur the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6pm, at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building: 163 West 125th St., 2nd Floor Art Gallery.

Community Boards in New York City are municipal governing bodies set up to have your voice heard about matters in your community.

3. Volunteer and/or Donate to Organizations Doing Work You Support

What are the issues that you care about? Volunteer and/or donate on a regular basis to a community-and issue-based organization where you live to support the important work that they do for social justice

4. Write/Call Your Elected Representatives

Call or write the office of your local, state, and national representatives about the issues and concerns that you have. Contacting your elected representatives directly is one of *the most* effective ways of getting your elected representative to hear your concerns.

5. Vote in Every Election!

We often only think to get motivated about politics and Election Day in relation to Presidential, Senate, and Gubernatorial races. However, your vote is equally as important with regard to who represents you locally. Vote! For more information on voting in NYC go to the NYC Board of Elections website:

<http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/home/home-shtml>

Your activism matters!

Contributor: M. Dayson



Lenox Terrace Association of Concerned Tenants Spring 2017 Newsletter

LT-ACT, supporting a better quality of life, one tenant at a time.

Federal Elected Officials Contact Info

Rep. Charles Schumer

NY State Senator

New York City Office: 212-486-4430
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Albany Office: 518-431-4070
Leo O'Brien Building, Room 420
Albany, NY 12207

Kristen Gillibrand

NY State Senator

New York City Office: 212-688-6262
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601,
New York, NY 10017

Albany Office: 518-431-0120
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building
11A Clinton Avenue, Room 821
Albany, NY 12207

Adriano Espaillat

District 13 Congressman

Harlem Office: 212-663-3900
163 West 125th Street
Harlem State Office Building, NYC 10027

Washington, DC Office: 202-225-4365
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Important Voter Dates

August 18th: Last day to register to vote in time for the 2017 Primary and General Election.

September 5th: Last day to postmark Absentee Voting application for primary ballot.

October 13th: Last day Voter Registration application must be received by board of elections to be eligible to vote in general election.

State & Local Elected Officials Contact Info

Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mayor, City of New York
City Hall, New York, NY 10007
Tel. (212) 788-7585
Fax (212) 406-3587
<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/index.page>

Bill Perkins

City Council Rep.

District Office

Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
State Office Bldg.
163 W. 125th St. Rm 729
New York, NY 10027
212-678-4505 phone
212-662-4441 fax

Legislative Office

250 Broadway Ste. 1821
New York, NY 10007
212-788-7397 phone

Inez Dickens

State Assembly Rep.

District Office

163 West 125th Street
Suite 911
New York, NY 10027
212-866-5809

Albany Office

LOB 819
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4793

Brian Benjamin

State Senator

District Office

163 West 125th Street
Harlem State Office
Bldg., Suite 912
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-222-7315
Fax: 212-678-0001
bbenjamin@nysenate.gov

Albany Office

188 State Street Room
517, Legislative Office
Building
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-2441
Fax: 518-426-6809

Honorable Letitia James

Public Advocate for New York City

Municipal Building, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Tel. (212) 669-7200

