

Good morning, Tenant Services Committee members, TCHC management, and tenants:

I will focus on Empowering Tenant Representation:

On page 2 of the document Item 12 B, in the Tenant Leadership Survey, the Recommendation Number 2 focuses on “Empowering Tenant Representation”

It is very important for the tenant representatives to be empowered by the management to achieve their promise to the tenants, and achieve the engagement goals of TCHC.

What we see is the opposite, we see disempowerment instead of empowerment. The drug dealers and the gangsters are very powerful and in full control in our buildings, and some superintendents empower the gangsters against the tenant representatives. The superintendents, who are employees in TCHC, have excellent relationship with the illegal activities in the buildings, and they refuse to communicate with the representatives in any matter.

The drug dealers and the gangster’s threat every tenant who want to participate in the engagement activities in the building, and they threat the tenants to communicate with the representatives who is leading the engagement on the ground.

When we complain to the Engagement coordinator about the obstacles that the gangsters are putting in front of us in order to prevent the engagement, the coordinator denies our claims, and support them, and ultimately the engagement become less. Is this empowerment and engagement!

When we talk to the CSU about the power of the drug dealers, CSU has no power. Whose job to bring law and order to our communities, the CSU, I believe.

When we talk to the police, the police refer us to TCHC. They don’t involve, and no action from them.

When we request items through the Tenants Action Funds (TAF), it takes long time, one year to one year and a half to see the items. We the representatives, are not requesting the items for ourselves, we are requesting it to facilitate the engagement in our buildings. Is this long time waiting an empowerment!

Community engagement is very important because it empower the tenants, foster the resiliency of the community, involve tenants in community engagement, lift up their souls, increase the feeling of safety, and strengthen the connectivity among tenants, introduce government resources to tenants, and the main person in all this engagement system at the local level is the tenant representative, so please help us in our work and prevent the gangsters from discouraging the tenants from participation In the engagement activities in our buildings and neighborhoods.