

**WE ARE BEING DENIED THE QUALITY OF LIFE  
THAT WE PAY FOR!  
WE NEED DEMOCRACY THAT WORKS FOR US!**

**Our politicians are negotiating our removal from this community, handing it to wealthy landlords and developers. We have to come together—the old residents and the new. We can't let them divid us! This is our city!**

Our community is over 90% renters (the lowest home ownership in Manhattan), and we're also paying more of our income to rent than anyone else in Manhattan. Our politicians need to fight for us—against landlords and developers!



In the 2006 elections, only about 20,000 people voted for our City and State representatives and 90% of those votes went to incumbents: Robert Jackson for City Council and Herman "Denny" Farrell for State Assembly. Denny was so confident he'd win, that we didn't even see him campaigning or bothering to make promises—but they don't! The evidence is Harlem: take a look at what's happening there!

**WHEN THERE IS NO CHOICE  
THERE IS NO ACCOUNTABILITY AND NO DEMOCRACY!**

**Some of the Quality Of Life issues we focus on:**

- Quality affordable housing
- Safety, crime and responsible police
- Sanitation services
- Noise problems
- Water and air quality

**To accomplish any of this, we need accountability from our political representatives!**

**Neighbors,**

**Don't carry your worries alone—you have neighbors who care and are willing to help. We need to come together to get what we deserve! Send us an email or give us a call!**



**South Washington Heights and North Harlem Residents Association**

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# Northern Manhattan

## JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> “TOWN MEETING” WITH STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER HERMAN “DENNY” FARRELL & CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT JACKSON: THEY’RE SELLING US OUT!

They organized the meeting to talk, once again, about Veritas’ proposed development of a drug treatment facility on W. 159<sup>th</sup> St. But Farrell and Jackson spent the first 20 minutes lecturing us about their efforts to spend BILLIONS OF DOLLARS of our money for businesses and wealthy people downtown: a new Upper East Side subway line, a new East Side LIRR station, and a new subway to the Javits Convention Center.

Discussing the Mayor’s ‘Congestion Pricing’ plans, Farrell noted that cars and buses aren’t to blame for Northern Manhattan’s outrageously high asthma rates—he said the problem is pollution from our buildings like heating oil. This is ridiculous: compared to lower Manhattan we have fewer buildings, but Asthma is 4 times as common up here. Northern Manhattan has 6 out of the 8 MTA bus depots in the borough as well as all the GW Bridge traffic—together they are making us sicker than folks downtown. Bloomberg’s ‘Congestion Pricing’ won’t clear the congestion in our lungs, but Farrell isn’t looking out for our health either, since Congestion Pricing isn’t designed to reduce traffic up here.

Regarding the Veritas development, neither Farrell nor Jackson had much new to say. The community doesn’t want the drug treatment facility on 159<sup>th</sup> st: we don’t want it right next to an elementary school and on a play-street where all the neighborhood children go.

We asked the same questions we asked in May and again in June: What is the status of the development? Has the land even been sold to Veritas yet? Is the proposal fully approved? They didn’t know. It has now been over 3 months since they said they would get more information for us, but they clearly aren’t planning on it.

As legislators, they vote on Veritas’ funding (roughly 46% of its funds from the City & about the same from the State), but both Farrell and Jackson refuse to use that power to force Veritas to respect our community. The only thing Farrell said he’d do is write a letter to Veritas, and Jackson said he’d speak with Veritas and the Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) regarding other possible locations for the development.

Frustrated, the audience asked, if they don’t know anything and they can’t do anything, how are they representing us? After a resident of 159<sup>th</sup> St. voiced an opinion that Farrell object to, Farrell responded aggressively. When he continued to target the resident, calling him an “idiot”, the whole audience stood and walked out. We won’t take this lack of support and disrespect from the people we pay to represent us!

## OUR NEXT MEETING: FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SAT. SEPTEMBER 8TH 12-2PM

525 W. 155TH ST (NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO SOON: [WWW.SWHNH.ORG](http://WWW.SWHNH.ORG)

**Who’s paying for it?** Many developers get millions of dollars in tax breaks and don’t have to include any ‘affordable housing’ at all. Our taxes are subsidizing their luxury developments: they take all the profit and we only get a few crumbs! Politicians say they’re helping us when they give tax ‘incentives’ to billionaire developers—helping them take even more of our paychecks. But if you are trying to help our community, protect the tenants, not the landlord!

**Affordable for who?** In the City’s housing plan, which includes the ‘421-a tax relief’, about 2/3 of the new units will be affordable for families making Manhattan’s Area Median Income (about \$50,000 per year), but only the top 1/4 of our community could even afford that!

**Who’s the law protecting?** With the possibility of huge profits from sky-rocketing rents, landlords have every incentive to push out rent-regulated tenants any way they can. Often their tactics are illegal, but even the legal processes aren’t fair. Our laws are protecting developers and landlords from being accountable to our communities!

**HPD: Worst landlord in town!** Many of the HPD programs that are supposed to help low-income people don’t work. In fact, many say they are designed to fail, turning valuable public buildings over to private so-called ‘not-for-profits’.