

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

NEWS FROM
Gale A. Brewer
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

For Immediate Release: Sent Sunday, September 27, 2020

Aries Dela Cruz | adelacruz@manhattanbp.nyc.gov | 917.960.1187

UWS Open Hearts, elected officials and advocates call on Mayor de Blasio to halt relocation of Project Renewal clients from Lucerne Hotel

NEW YORK -- UWS Open Hearts, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Da Homeless Hero and Larry Thomas, residents of the Lucerne Hotel, were joined by local residents and other elected officials today in front of the hotel to call on Mayor de Blasio to halt his order to relocate Project Renewal clients from their home at Lucerne Hotel. The relocation of 240 clients to another hotel downtown marks the third or fourth such move for many of the residents since April.

Corinne Low, co-founder of the UWS Open Hearts Initiative said "With his decision to force the displacement of Black New Yorkers at the demand of a mostly white community, the mayor is siding with and emboldening segregationists. It's time to be honest about what this move is about: keeping this community homogenous. Because while Westside Community Organization has publicly packaged their message as being about access to services, their President told the Today show in a segment that aired on September 7th that: 'there is no level of staff and services that they would find suitable; they want a date for this program to end.' That is who the Mayor capitulated to. History will forget Bill de Blasio, but we will be repairing the enormous harm of his cowardice for years to come."

Lucerne resident "da Homeless Hero" said: "After two weeks of indecision, the Mayor caved in to the pressure from those Upper Westsiders who claimed to want safer streets, but who felt that it was time form militias to get the "scum"

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

community-provided services and a destabilizing interruption of Project Renewal's services. As a direct result, substance use will rise, stress and trauma will increase, mental illness will be intensified, and there is the potential that lives will be lost. I am asking the Mayor to come to the Lucerne himself and apologize for his hurtful words and actions, and begin a conversation rooted in dignity and respect."

"Mayor de Blasio talks about addressing inequality, but when the community provides solutions, as in what was proposed for the men of Project Renewal being provided recreational space and services that would make a real difference in their lives, his answer has been 'No', and to order them to be relocated in the midst of a horrible pandemic and religious holidays," said Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. "This ill-advised and poorly planned decision is not in anybody's best interest. All this move will do is create more trauma and reinforce the false notion that homeless men are toxic in whatever community they are placed."

"I am deeply saddened and disgusted by the utter lack of disregard and humanity with which the City has repeatedly treated a group of vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, said Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF). Homeless men and women are not human chess pieces, or cattle to be herded from neighborhood to neighborhood. The men at the Lucerne will suffer untold damage through these capricious and politically motivated actions by uprooting their lives once again. The Mayor must heed the community's call and do what is right and decent for the men living at the Lucerne."

"Any thoughtful homeless policy has stability as a guiding principle," said Council Member Helen Rosenthal. "The mayor has demonstrated that he doesn't have a homeless policy by responding to Randy Mastro's request with no regard to the instability he is causing. I encourage the Mayor to visit The Lucerne and hear from the men. He'll hear from people who need stability and are intent on bettering themselves."

The relocation of Lucerne Hotel clients, like the other relocations, is being done on a very accelerated basis and with no planning process for the new site. Project Renewal is being told that the move must happen by October 5, which is in the middle of Jewish holidays. The abrupt relocation, to occur in the midst of a pandemic and religious observations, was announced by Mayor de Blasio's

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

tremendous show of responsiveness to community concerns. Such opportunities for comprehensive services and recreational space are rare and need to be taken advantage of. Moreover, Project Renewal has said that the support of the UWS Open Hearts Initiative for Lucerne clients should serve as a model for community shelter relationships. Moving the clients will deprive them of this support, and the stability they deserve and need for their continued recovery.

#



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Office of the Manhattan Borough President · 1 Centre Street · 19th Floor South · New York, NY 10007 · USA