

# The Park West Tenant

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The Newsletter of the Park West Village Tenants' Association

info@pwvta.org

September 2010

*Columbus Avenue buildings...*

## **BUILDING MEETINGS THURSDAY SEPT 30th**

*Alert notice on page 4* — Your participation will be critical to our success in sustaining the good Park West Village neighborhood that brought us all here together!

*Report on Columbus Square Labor from Norman Ross...*

## **NON-UNION LABOR USED?**

You may have seen the small picket lines in front of 808 Columbus recently, and/or heard the chanting and banging on drums. I walked over to discuss the issues with someone on the line and spoke with James Taylor, an organizer for 32BJ of the SEIU.

Taylor told me that the building had [predictably] hired all non-union staff for porters, concierges, etc., but that the union had obtained enough petition signatures to oblige management to recognize the union as representing the workers.

But [predictably] management said, "screw you," obliging the union to petition a ruling from the NLRB. Such rulings can take a long time, and management will use every trick to delay unionization appeals, etc.

If they are ever forced to recognize the union, they could, I think, even fire the entire staff and start over, although that would be illegal. These are nasty greedy people.

I find the note at the bottom of the union's flier a bit disappointing. "This is not a request to cease deliveries or services." As you probably noticed when the carpenters' union was picketing against the non-union staffing of the construction on the new buildings, other unions did not honor the picket lines. Years (and years) ago, no union teamster would

NON-UNION LABOR continued on page 2

## **SPEAK OUT NOW FOR PWV!**

*Dear Park West Village Neighbors:*

*You are invited to speak out on Tuesday October 5th at the full board meeting of Community Board 7 at Jewish Home Lifecare (JHL) at 120 West 106th Street.*

We are opposed to JHL's building a 24-story nursing home on 100th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues on the PWV parking lot that serves neighbors in 792 Columbus Avenue.

The October 5th meeting coincides with National Nursing Home Residents' Rights Week, October 3rd through 9th. Opposition to JHL's plans stems from the fact that the proposal is equally detrimental to residents of the nursing home and to residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

Our speakers will wear buttons that say:

***Respect  
Residents'  
Rights!***

and will speak to JHL's plans:

1. Disrespect for the rule of law,
2. Disrespect for the rights of older New Yorkers who should live in a less restrictive environment that promotes movement, going outside with ease and maintaining vital connections with their neighborhood, and
3. Disrespect for the quality of life of the people who live on and near 100th Street, on the most congested residential block on the Upper West Side.

In cities and towns across the country, observance of National Nursing Home Residents' Rights Week will take many forms.

We believe that citizens feel powerless to improve nursing homes nationally. But when we become involved in a nursing home in individual neighborhoods, we will discover them to be a microcosm of a much bigger picture that affects all citizens — those who live within

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their walls and those who live outside.

In this instance, JHL prefers to accept “tens of millions of dollars” that developer Chetrit pledged if they would give him their spacious property on 106th Street and relocate on a far smaller parcel on 100th Street. If this goes through, they would be in violation of the State Hospital Code that stipulates that a nursing home or hospital must have its own private road for trucks delivering supplies, trucks carting waste, ambulances, over twenty vans per day for adult day programs, visitors’ and staff vehicles, etc. instead of their appropriating the driveway that the PWV tenants use to enter their parking lot and for cabs, delivery trucks and the many ways we all need direct vehicular access to our buildings.

Also, JHL would be confining frail elderly people to high floors which, with elevators calibrated to slow speeds to accommodate people using walkers, would mean that most would be unable to move about or get outside with ease.

Elderly residents would be marooned on islands of misery, precisely when, because of chronic illness, it’s important to be able to walk or wheel to different locations for the exercise and change of scenery all people need, and to be able to get outside.

If this goes through, people who already endure double-parked cars on both sides of 100th Street would have their quality of life even further jeopardized — facing loading docks, noisy trucks delivering supplies and carting waste, twenty-plus idling vans for one hundred daycare slots, and tremendous traffic from visitors’ and staff’s vehicles, noise from shift changes, etc.

***This is NOT A NIMBY NEIGHBORHOOD!***  
We have warmly welcomed other non-profit organizations into the neighborhood. It is the civic right and responsibility of individuals, families and neighborhood groups to protect ourselves from destructive encroachment and from the “transformative overdevelopment” that this proposal would impose.

No nursing home is a private corporation. Largely supported by tax dollars, each is a public trust, fully accountable to the American people for how it serves elders, and for its stewardship of the people’s money.

This speak-out is sponsored by a Working Group of local organizations representing thousands of residents of our upper west side neighborhood.

Please come to show your opposition to the plan and speak out for respect for residents’ rights.

***Cathy Unsino***

*Concerned Park West Village resident*

have made deliveries to such a construction site. Those days of “Solidarity Forever” are over.

I will look for Taylor again in front of 808 to talk further. They intend to keep returning and hope to organize a big demonstration with local politicians, etc. I think a lot of people would come out in support.

We need keep informed. Meanwhile, it will be helpful to join the line from time to time.

***Norman A. Ross*** norman@rosspub.com  
*Active PWV resident*

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***From Katie Goldstein, Tenants and Neighbors***

The rent laws are up for renewal in 2011 and we expect that there will be a renewed media attack on rent regulation. We’re sick of the media trying to undermine rent regulation!

Tenants & Neighbors is launching “***Don’t Evict New York,***” a public education campaign about why New York needs rent regulation.

Our message is that rent regulation is one of the main reasons that New York is such a racially and economically diverse, dynamic, vibrant, exciting place. We want to make sure people understand that that rent regulation benefits all New Yorkers, whether or not you live in a rent regulated apartment, and that we all need to join together to defend, strengthen, and expand New York’s supply of rent regulated housing.

***Please join us for a party to celebrate the launch of this campaign*** and help us raise the funds we need for it to be a success! Admission: \$5–15 suggested donation, sliding scale. Snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar. There will also be entertainment, interactive activities, and a raffle with excellent prizes!

***Katie Goldstein, Tenants and Neighbors***  
KGoldstein@tandn.org  
212-608-4320 ext. 400

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**MEETING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Next Predatory Equity Working Group**  
meeting on Monday, October 4th at 7:00 pm  
at the Tenants & Neighbors office - 236  
W. 27th Street, 4th floor. Please call  
Katie Goldstein, Tenants and Neighbors  
212-608-4320 ext. 400



# Park West Village Tenants' Association

## 784, 788, 792 Columbus Avenue

**BUILDING MEETING THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30th**

**LOBBY 784: 8pm 788: 7:30pm 792: 7pm**

Informational meeting on the proposed building of the Jewish Home Lifecare nursing home — a 24-story facility — on the Park West Village parking lot in front of 792 Columbus Avenue and parallel to 788 Columbus Avenue.

- *hear about neighborhood concerns regarding this project*
- *ask questions and voice your opinion*
- *learn how we as a community can exercise our civic rights.*

Please download, print, and post the flyer for the meeting in your building lobby this Thursday, September 30th:  
[www.PWVTA.org/MEETING\\_FLYER.doc](http://www.PWVTA.org/MEETING_FLYER.doc)

Produced by the PWVTA Communications Committee.  
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The PWVTA Executive Board regularly meets on the third Tuesday of the month, except in July and August (Special EB meeting was held July 20th — see PWVTA.org for info). The next Executive Board meeting will be held Tuesday, September 21st, 7:30pm at the Ryan Health Center downstairs (110 W. 97th Street). Doors open at 7pm for cookies and community. PWVTA members and associate members are welcome to attend.

### JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS — RENEW NOW!

**PLEASE RETURN THIS MEMBERSHIP / ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP COUPON TO YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE OR MAIL TO:**

Park West Village Tenants' Association  
P.O. Box 20339, Park West Finance Station, New York, NY 10025-0339

Name: ..... Building: ..... Apt.: ..... Phone: .....

Rent-stabilized tenant  Market-rate tenant  Renting from private owner  Owner Email: .....

Check for **2010 membership dues** enclosed, payable to PWVTA  \$40.  Other\*: \$ .....

[Condo owner] Check for **2010 associate membership dues** enclosed, payable to PWVTA  \$35 ..

Check includes additional contribution to Legal fund. Amount: .....  Check for MCI Legal Fund only: .....

☆ If you cannot make full \$40 payment of your annual dues, please pay what you can.

Your membership card will be delivered to you.