

# INDEPENDENCE PLAZA NORTH TENANTS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 14, 2007 [IPNTA.ORG](http://IPNTA.ORG) - website

### **J-51 UPDATE:**

Under the court's guidelines, a decision on the J-51 motion should be released within 120 days from date 2/13/07, the date of the filing of the final reply brief on the matter. The decision therefore is due by the middle of June, but, may be issued sooner. When we receive it, it will be posted on our web site and a bulletin will be distributed explaining the decision. Please don't depend on rumors. We will absolutely let the tenants know asap.

### **LAP LEASE RENEWALS**

LAP lease tenants should go to the management office to sign their renewal right away. This will not waive your rent stabilization rights stemming from the J-51, if we win our case. If you have not signed yet, we suggest signing a one year renewal with a 4.25% increase effective 7/1/07, rather than a two year renewal with a 7.25% increase. Based on the Rent Guidelines Board's pattern of annual rent increases and the recently proposed tentative range of increases of 2 to 4.5% on one year lease renewals and 4 to 7.5% on two year renewals, starting between 10/1/07 to 9/30/08, a one year renewal seems the more economical choice. Also, be sure to check that the AC charges have been deducted from your current rent prior to the calculation of the new rent.

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

You will be receiving an envelope and a form for your 2007 membership. Those of you who have already joined, thanks. Those of you who didn't ---????????!!!!!! In order to vote in the upcoming IPNTA election at the end of June, you need to be a paid member. (The nominating committee, headed up by Elizabeth Saenger, is convening now to arrange the election). Your membership is needed for us to continue our work as volunteers. For approximately 2.00 a month – you are represented! You gotta be in it to win it folks!

### **REVIEWING & RENEWING HPD-update**

Tenants have had issues with HPD since our Mitchell Lama days. Recently, after meeting with the Borough President Scott Stringer and his staff, we listed all of our grievances. These include: Tenants who made innocent mistakes and were threatened with loss of vouchers without remedy; constant missing papers; wrong math; waiting hours at HPD; never getting anyone on the phone; etc.

Stringer, along with Assembly-member Deborah Glick met with Commissioner of HPD, Sean Donovan last week on our behalf. The quick phone update was that Commissioner Donovan and his assistants now understand there are major problems for tenants of which they were previously unaware. This is a work in progress, but we have already seen some results – including a smooth recertification day. They will continue dialogue and we won't stop pushing. One interesting bit of news that Donovan said, to the great shock of elected officials and their staff (and us), is that in tenant/owner disputes, HPD can send a representative to advocate for the tenant. We never heard that before. We are exploring this further and assume it only refers to voucher tenants now.

Additionally, we were able to get coverage for those tenants who were threatened by voucher loss. Some of their vouchers were cut BEFORE their HPD informal hearing. Now, their vouchers continue until the hearing. We gave our list of tenants who needed assistance to the Borough President whose staff is working on each case. Recently, a tenant who called HPD was told "Your President and Vice Presidents have caused an upheaval here." That's good news to our ears. If you are experiencing a problem, let us know. You will need to update us at each step to keep us in the loop or we cannot help. Note in tenants box or email: [Info@IPNTA.Org](mailto:Info@IPNTA.Org).

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- **Marnee May (VP at large) and her team: Doris Denizard and June Grancio** for helping voucher recertification day go very smoothly because of their dedicated work. Also, HPD heard us and sent efficient people this year. Thanks for that long day and your help with many tenants before-hand. (Others, like Ed Rosner, were ready to help)
- **Manuel Cabrero, VP Townhouses**, for meeting with the Tribeca Film Festival folks as our liaison once again to help lessen the impact the Street Fair has on the neighborhood. He also ensures that garage users are informed in advance of any changes.

### **PAYING FOR ELECTRICITY:**

**VOUCHER TENANTS:** If you didn't see our flyer (removed the next day by ?) HPD has agreed to raise the rebate for voucher tenants starting with your first bill. You will pay less for the submetering charge than was posted previously. Additionally, you won't be billed until July and will see that bill on your September statement.

**LAP TENANTS:** We spoke to a DHCR rep, who said they are working on adjusting their rates as well. We spoke to Stellar and they agreed that LAP tenants would benefit from these adjustments when they are made. We hope to be able to influence and push DHCR to hurry up. Free market tenants pay according to their lease. Stay tuned.

**ENERGY SAVINGS!** There are a few types of efficient lighting. The most commonly used are compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which save 75% on lighting costs (taking into account both initial replacement and electricity costs). And, CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. One CFL can save \$50 - \$75 over its life. From the luminance (brightness) ratings on light bulbs, the new "compact florescent" type puts out about 4x the light of regular incandescent bulbs. They last about 5x longer as well. The newer versions of these CFLs have a warmer color and no longer flicker like those of years ago. (web info)

**REPORT MAINTENANCE ISSUES:**

First, call Maintenance, make a report & get a job number. If you cannot resolve it, contact the IPNTA for help. You must put your issue in writing for us to help you, and include contact numbers/email. Anonymous notes are discarded. **NUMBERS:** Management (212) 962-3530 – Maintenance (212) 233-1163 Security & After Hours Emergency: (212) 376-4161

**WELCOME NEW TENANTS**

Tribeca is an exciting and wonderful neighborhood. The other good news is that we are a real community. Original IP tenants moved in during the 1970's – all at the same time, so bonds were formed. That laid the foundation for having neighbors who become friends. They worked hard to create this incredible area. Lots of history. Summer is coming and you will enjoy the fruits of the labor by volunteers from Friends of Greenwich Street. Those folks garden along Greenwich Street and many are tenants of IP. The "Greening of Greenwich Street" took place in the year 2000. What a difference the trees and plants make!

Your tenant association is here for you. If you need help with issues that cannot be resolved, or to ask questions, please contact our website or drop your name and number in the tenant box in the lobby. (Not the box for rent collection!) Please introduce yourselves and again, welcome.

For more history of Tribeca and Independence Plaza, go to these websites: Tribecatrib.com and downtownexpress.com. Also – visit our website for a lot of info: IPNTA.org

**TERRACE WORK AND REBATE DISCUSSION**

Sorry this has taken longer than desired. There have been quite a bit of important issues to deal with. Ofer Shaul, CEO of Stellar Management, asked us how many tenants had to wait an extremely long time to have their terraces completed before he could discuss rebates. We are asking you to fill out this survey and return it to us. Use the form below or a separate paper with all info. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Return to tenant box in lobby.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BLDG/APT: \_\_\_\_\_

TERRACE FLOOR WAS REDONE:

Within 2 weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ Longer: (List weeks): \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (here & back or attach note): \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAMPAIGN! IPN'S SUPPORT IS REQUESTED & NEEDED!**

Join with us to: - Repeal vacancy decontrol - Preserve Mitchell-Lama and Section 8 housing - Stop unfair rent increases and harassment - Ensure adequate State and City funding for public housing - Limit rental payments for all people living with AIDS to 30% of income.

**MARCH AND RALLY**

Weds. May 23rd, 2007 - 5 pm- Stuyvesant Town & Peter Cooper Village (1st Ave and Avenue C from 23rd to 14th Streets)

A united effort of housing groups, NYC Central Labor Council, & the Working Families Party

Seniors – if the J-51 comes through, you will be able to apply for SCRIE or DRIE.

**IMPORTANT!!! DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEALTH REGISTRY**

Months ago, the New York City Department of Health sent a follow-up 9/11/01 health survey to tenants at IPN who were in the original registry. Unfortunately, many tenants did not fill out the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey. We cannot stress how important it is for the Department of Health to know how IPN tenants are doing. Only those enrolled in the Registry have been sent a follow-up survey. If you have misplaced yours, contact the Registry at wtchr@health.nyc.gov, (212) 442-1585 or **Toll-free Phone Number** (866) 692-9827. Finally, the DOH encourages everyone to visit the Registry's website (www.wtcregistry.org) for news, information, resource guides, clinical guidelines, scientific articles, and more. Diane Lapson is on the Community panel representing IPN and downtown tenants.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

The wood being put up in front of the old Management office at 40 Harrison is protection from the construction work. They are putting store front windows into the brick walls. We do not know yet if a health club will be put into that space, though that was the plan. The second-floor tenants at 40 Harrison were moved to other apartments at the complex to make way for whatever is coming into that space.

The street construction outside of the compactor rooms at 40 Harrison is a Con Edison site. Con Ed is making repairs over their transformers. We know it has been a long time, and if they don't finish it shortly we will speak to Con Edison. The barricades have been up for at least 2 months.

**IPNTA Board Members**

President: Diane Lapson; Treasurer: Jean Hartman; Secretary: Judy Bernstein  
VPs: Building 1 (80 N.M) Edmund Rosner; Building 3 (40 Harrison) Diane Stein; Building 9 (310 Greenwich): Kathleen McGovern; Townhouses: Manuel Cabrero; VPs at Large: John Lynch and Marnee May