



**Nydia Velázquez**  
United States Congress



**Harvey Epstein**  
New York State Assembly  
**Brian Kavanagh**  
New York State Senate



**Carlina Rivera**  
New York City Council

August 3rd, 2020

Gregory Russ  
Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

VIA EMAIL

Dear Chairman Russ:

As you know, the residents of Samuel Gompers Houses, located in our respective districts, had no cooking gas for a period of 7 months from late September 2019 to mid-May 2020, including during many cultural and religious holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Lunar New Years. With limited means to prepare home cooked meals, families in the 474 unit complex were forced to spend money on takeout, which presented a significant hardship.

As the representatives of these residents, we write on their behalf to seek a retroactive 20 percent rent abatement for each month they were without gas. We write to you today, because it was the negligence of the construction management crew hired by NYCHA that forced Con Edison to shut down the gas lines to the Gompers Houses in order to ensure residents' safety. Therefore, we feel, the abatement should be deducted from residents' future rent payments to NYCHA and be prorated for any tenant (including those whose tenancies ended during the outage) who were not in place for the entire 7 months without gas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would like to receive a response by August 15, 2020 so we can have closure on this issue. If you or your staff would like to discuss this proposal, please feel free to contact any of us directly or via Jackson Fischer-Ward in Assemblymember Epstein's office at 212-979-9696, Greer Mayhew in Senator Kavanagh's office at 212-298-5565, Pedro Carrillo in Councilmember Rivera's office at 212-677-1077, or Iris Quinoñes in Congresswoman Velázquez's office at 212-619-2606.

Sincerely,



Harvey Epstein  
Assemblymember  
District 74



Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress  
District 7



Brian Kavanagh  
State Senator  
District 26



Carlina Rivera  
Councilmember  
District 3