

# Elmhurst United Newsletter

## Contact Us

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The mission of Elmhurst United is to support Elmhurst residents in their efforts to decrease and eventually eliminate its homeless shelters through transitioning the homeless from shelters to homes while protecting the rights of the constituents and preserving the integrity of the Elmhurst community.



## PAN AM HOMELESS SHELTER RE-SUBMITS CONTRACT TO CITY

Here we go again...Pan Am Homeless Shelter operator, Samaritan Village re-submits long term five year contract to the City.

On June 12, 2015, Samaritan Village re-submitted its \$42 Million –five year contract to house the homeless at the former Pan Am hotel to the City Comptroller, Scott Stringer. The Contract was originally rejected by the Comptroller after numerous violations, including rodent and pest infestations, multiple fire safety violations, lack of cooking facilities (to name a few), were found at the shelter. Scott Stringer again has 30 days to register or reject the contract.

Elmhurst United is working relentlessly to inform the public and our elected officials as to why the Pan Am shelter, including its vendor Samaritan Village is not suitable for the Elmhurst community. They include (to name a few):

***Lack of cooking facility in each residential unit violating both New York State and City Law***

School District 24 is the most overcrowded school system in the City. How can we absorb more students w/o impacting the quality of education necessary for all children to succeed?

Essential services (Police, Fire, EMT) stretched too thin because the City did not prepare the area for this significant influx of people

The Dept of Homeless Services does not screen for pedophiles or for any other criminal history, how safe is it to live in and around the Pan Am?

At a cost of \$3,700 per room per month, how can anyone say this is not a waste of taxpayers funds? Apts can be found across the area for half that...and they have kitchens!!!

The Pan Am has a severe Class 1 Façade violation (Class 1 is the most serious violation given by DOB, which requires immediate action).

***Lack of Child Care facility at the site is another disregard of New York State Law***

Complaints about raw sewage accumulation, bed bugs, roaches, lack of running water and no heat throughout the shelter litter HPD's & DOB's websites.

Samaritan Village owes the State almost \$1 million in inappropriate and questionable expenses, State Comptroller also raised concerns about Samaritan Village entering contracts without going through a competitive bidding process

***Numerous serious FDNY fire code violations endangering the homeless residents and its neighbors.***

Complaints on the lack of fire coded doors in the shelter's long hall way and insufficient number of fire sprinklers

***Multiple Boiler Violations***

\$42 million is a lot of money for Samaritan Village and its slum lord to leave on the table. They are not going to walk away from this kind of money. You can expect a continued fight by area residents to get this resolved. ***Until then, do your part by contacting your public officials (see pg 2 for names & contact) to let them know how you feel. Remember, Mr. Stringer has until July 11, 2015 to either register or reject the Contract.***

Everyone should care about what happens in their neighborhood. Speak up now before it is too late. Once the contract is signed, it becomes a much harder fight.

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Mayor Bill de Blasio Office of the Mayor City Hall New York, NY 10007	311 (ask to be connected to Mayor's office. 311 will take a message)	<a href="http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/">http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/</a>
Scott Stringer (City Comptroller) Office of the Comptroller City of New York One Centre Street New York, NY 10007	(212 ) 669-3916	<a href="http://comptroller.nyc.gov/">http://comptroller.nyc.gov/</a>
Daniel Dromm (City Council) 37-32 75th Street Jackson Heights New York 11372	(718) 803-6373	<a href="http://danieldromm.com/">http://danieldromm.com/</a>
Grace Meng (Congress member) 1317 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515	(718) 445-7860	<a href="http://meng.house.gov/">http://meng.house.gov/</a>
Toby Ann Stavisky (State Senator) 142-29 37th Ave Suite 1 Flushing, NY 11354	(718) 445-0004	<a href="http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/toby-ann-stavisky/contact">http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/toby-ann-stavisky/contact</a>
Francisco Moya (Assembly person) 82-11 37th Avenue Suite 607 Jackson Heights, NY 11372	(718) 458-5367	<a href="http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Francisco-P-Moya/">http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Francisco-P-Moya/</a>
Jeff Aubry (Assembly person) 98-09 Northern Boulevard Corona, NY 11368	(718) 457-3615	<a href="http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Jeffrion-L-Aubry/">http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Jeffrion-L-Aubry/</a>
Melinda Katz (Qns Boro President) Office of the Borough President 120-55 Queens Blvd. Kew Gardens, NY 11424	(718) 286-3000	<a href="http://melindakatz.com/">http://melindakatz.com/</a>



<u>Rating</u>	<u>Politician</u>	<u>What have they done for you lately:</u>
↓	Assemblyman F. Moya	Failed to follow-up on commitments made to the Elmhurst Community
↓	Assemblyman J. Aubry	From Day 1 Aubry—Never supported community
↓	Councilman D. Dromm	No longer supports local residents who protest the Pan Am shelter and has not done much to assist the Elmhurst Community
↔	Congress Member G. Meng	Co-signed letter with Senator Stavisky asking Comptroller Stringer to reject Pan Am Contract.
↑	State Senator T. Stavisky	Wrote several letters to Comptroller Stinger to reject Pan Am Contract.
↑	State Senator T. Avella (represents- Bayside Flushing)	Supported EU in its efforts to expose the shelter as a waste of tax payer funds and urged the City to reject the Pan Am contract
↓	Borough President M. Katz	Refused to re-appoint Elmhurst resident, J. Chu to Community Board 4 and declined to justify her decision to her constituents

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**Elmhurstunited@gmail.com**  
 Please provide your name, address, EMAIL, telephone.



**V**ote. If you've not done so yet, register to vote. Elected officials who have done nothing to support your cause and have not earned your vote should not remain in office. If you need to register, sign up at [www.elections.ny.gov/](http://www.elections.ny.gov/). Help this cause by exercising your right to VOTE.