



**Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.**

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**NEXT *MVUT* GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 1, 2016 - 7:00 PM  
MVUT OFFICE - 2 GRAMATAN AVE. - SUITE 304**

**MVUT Annual Meeting**

We held our *Annual Meeting* on Tuesday October 18. We reviewed the numerous successes we've had over the past year:

- Over One hundred and fifty (150+) evictions prevented!
- Over twenty-five (25+) families re-housed.
- Nearly two-dozen (24) buildings assisted with organizing help, including the *Plaza Buildings* (4) in downtown which filed statewide rent-reduction complaints, one (1) of which has already received a rent-reduction *Order*, the other three (3) are currently being processed – all currently receiving new re-investments in long-delayed service issues!
- *MVUT's* participation/leadership in various coalition efforts on a City, County, State and Federal level that focus on housing and other low-income issues.
- We also elected three tenants to our Board of Directors:
  - Deborah Carter Jenkins – 300 Gramatan Avenue
  - Deborah Ramsey – 40 East Sidney Avenue
  - Georgia McDowell – 50 South 2<sup>nd</sup> AvenueAnd an alternate
  - Kia Carrier – 439 South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Congratulations to all four (4) and we look forward to your contributions in helping MVUT to continue to meet its goals!!

**Other Annual Meetings**

It's that time of year when many organizations hold their Annual Meetings/Conferences. Two organizations that *MVUT* participates in held their events in the Fall:

**Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State (NPC/NYS)**

Dennis attended their Conference in Albany from 10/13-14. Dennis serves on their Board of Directors (Secretary) and he moderated one (1) of the workshops at the Conference.

**Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS)**

Dennis serves as the Chairperson of *HANNYS*. Their Annual Meeting will be held on November 28 in New York City with a fundraiser that evening with Assembly members Marcos Crespo and Linda Rosenthal.

**(SEE OVER)**

## Westchester County Budget

MVUT had received County funding for the last twenty-five (25) years – before last year. Last year we were cut out of the County Budget severely limiting our service delivery. We had already spoken with our County Legislator, Lyndon Johnson, explaining the problems that that caused, urging him to do whatever he has to do to get *MVUT* reinstated in the County Budget – and hopefully at an increased level! A very strong argument can be made that the County dollars granted to *MVUT* (between \$40,000 to \$ 60,000) accomplish more than **any** other County investment anywhere. Just look at some of our successes! To be cost effective, *MVUT* would just have to prevent one (1) to two (2) families/individuals from entering the *Emergency Shelter System*. **We are unquestionably the BEST investment the County makes!**

We're asking our members and friends to do a couple of things – call Mt. Vernon's County Legislator Lyndon Williams at (914) 995-2837 and tell him to get *MVUT* funded in the upcoming budget process at the highest possible amount. Also, call Mike Kaplowitz, the Chairman of the *County Board of Legislators* at (914) 995-2848 and tell him the great things that *MVUT* does for tenants in Mt. Vernon and throughout the County and how it's essential that *MVUT's* County Funding be restored.

Secondly, we're asking that you come to one (1) or more of the three County Budget Hearings. They are:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Tuesday November 22 at 7pm     | - New Rochelle City Hall                    |
| 2) Wednesday November 30 at 7 pm  | - Armonk                                    |
| 3) Wednesday December 7 at 7 pm   | - <i>Westchester Board of Legislators</i> , |
| 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains. |   |

We're trying to get a big turnout for the New Rochelle Hearing on November 22. We'd like a number of people to speak at the Hearing and/or just come in support of *MVUT*. We're organizing transportation to and from the Hearing. If you can help, let us know. Call the office at (915) 699-1114, ext.303, if you or others you know can come to Hearing(s).

## Ossining ETPA Campaign

We're enclosing a copy of an Oct. 14 *Journal News* article on the campaign to get the Village of Ossining to adopt the *Emergency Tenant Protection Act (ETPA)* *MVUT* has been a key part of the Campaign, testifying at various Meetings/Hearings and helping with the organizing with *Community Voices Heard (CVH)*. We were unable to be at the press conference on October 13 as we were in Albany at the *NPC/NYS Annual Meeting and Conference*. We'll let our members/friends know of upcoming events.

## Yonkers Organizing

NYS Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer has secured state funding for *MVUT* to assist tenants in the *Crestwood Lake Apartments* in organizing. This is the largest *ETPA* complex in Westchester and its varied ethnicities has made organizing difficult in the past

## \$ For MVUT

As always, we ask our members and friends to financially support us. Many of you continue to do so. Thanks so much! How about the rest of you? Look at the great things we're doing – and think about how much more we can do with your support!

**Support Tenants' Rights!**

**Support Affordable Housing!!**

**Support *MVUT*!!!**