

Mr. Allen Twitchell  
Mr. George Raymond  
Mr. Michael Rayyana *Rapuzano*  
Mr. Leo A. Novick  
Mr. Ralph Eberlin  
Bruna Norsa  
Sylvia W. Stark

July 14, 1950

Mr. Henry S. Churchill  
19 West 44th Street  
New York 18, New York

Dear Henry:

There is disagreement among experts, and much confusion in the public mind, on two separate problems in large-scale housing. One deals with the maximum number of families in any project, particularly where land costs are low. The other is whether or not it is desirable or advantageous to build tall buildings, from the point of view of suitability for family living. Admittedly, the two subjects often must be discussed together.

The issues were highlighted recently when the New York City Housing Authority announced new projects on land costing 15¢ and 21¢ per square foot, and by a series of articles by Lewis Mumford in the New Yorker. Mr. Mumford's articles, in my opinion, presented only one side of the case.

These issues were brought to the attention of the City Planning Commission by CHPC at a recent public hearing. The Commission is definitely interested in studies of the subject and in the views of official and unofficial agencies. Chairman Finkelstein appointed Commissioners Rodgers and Blaustein to make a special study of the problems. At the same time, CHPC decided to attempt to formulate a policy statement.

A carefully selected group of experts, representing different points of view, is being invited to meet here for lunch on Tuesday, July 25th, 1950, from 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. I believe that the work can be tackled in a manner that will not require more than three meetings before a report is rendered in the fall.

I know that the summer is a difficult time to assemble a group of experts. Nevertheless, I hope you will attend whenever you can conveniently do so.

Will you return the enclosed card promptly? Needless to say, we will appreciate your participation in this important task.

Cordially yours,

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Encl.

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