

William F. Kuntz  
Chairman

Otto I Gonzalez  
Vice Chairman

Anna C. Gonzalez  
Secretary

Edith Phipps  
Corresponding Secretary

Laura Meeks  
Treasurer

# Polo Grounds Community Association

Mailing Address: Mrs. E. Phipps 259 W. 153 Street New York, N.Y. 10039

July 1, 1964

*See*

Emergency Committee of the Citizens Housing  
and Planning Council of New York, Inc.  
20 West 40 Street  
New York, New York 10018

**Attention:** Mr. Paul T. O'Keefe, Chairman

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

The above named organization, a non ethnic group, was formed due to the drastic need for civic representation in this community.

The aims of this organization are as follows:

1. To organize responsible elements of the community.
2. To improve living standards of the community.
  - a. Our first project is the Polo Grounds site, where the City is planning to erect a 30-story, 4-building, low income project. We are endeavoring to uplift the housing situation in this area, and have therefore gone on record with the New York City Housing Authority opposing their present plan. (See copy of letter enclosed.)
  - b. A ghetto is being perpetuated in this community -- and Harlem will become known as a welfare area if low income housing continues to prevail.
  - c. To improve the present and future educational standards of our neighborhood schools. This will enable our children to compete with students from schools located in a higher income area. Education is the power to succeed.
3. To prevent the increase of crime and narcotic addiction in the youth of our neighborhood.

These are our aims, and we are certain that you can appreciate them. Our success depends on your cooperation, and we are asking for your support in this cause.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
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Mailing Address: Mrs. E. Phipps 259 W. 153 Street New York, N.Y. 10039

June 18, 1964

Mr. William A. Reid, Chairman  
New York City Housing Authority  
250 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Reid:

The above named organization, which represents a community of registered voters from the 42nd A.D., is going on record in opposing your agency's plan to build a 30-story, 4-building, low income project on the Polo Grounds site.

## Our reasons?

1. A ghetto is being perpetuated.
2. Harlem will be known as a welfare station.
3. More substandard schools will materialize.
4. Prominent leadership will diminish.
5. We do not want this area to become a "dumping ground" for the City's urban renewal cases.

## We are requesting from you the following information:

1. Why are more low income houses being built in Harlem -- especially a 30-story building, where the City knows it will not be integrated?
2. Why is the community not being taken into your agency's confidence with a project of this size? It is known that the St. Nicholas and Milbank areas were notified of plans for housing in those particular areas.
3. Why is prime land being used for this experimental project? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What methods are being used in the selection of prospective tenants?
5. Who is sponsoring the Community Center?
6. What provision is being made for lobby maintenance?
7. What will the cost per apartment be?

We, as residents of this community, have the right to be informed and also to have a voice and an opinion in the City's plans for the Polo Grounds site.

Mr. William A. Reid

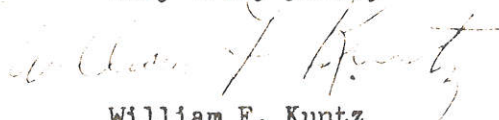
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June 18, 1964

We also want to go on record as NOT being opposed to low income projects. However, why must this particular site be used for one -- and if such a project is deemed necessary, why not part middle income?

A prompt reply would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,



William F. Kuntz  
Chairman

WFK/acg

cc: Mr. C. A. Pleasants, Chairman  
Colonial Park Tenants Association

Please Direct Reply To: Mrs. E. Phipps  
259 West 153 Street  
New York, N. Y. 10039