

**Affordability Working Team  
Chinatown Working Group  
April 9, 2009**

**Meeting Minutes**

Location: 49 Chambers Street, Room 709

Time: 11:00AM to 12:30pm

In Attendance: Mae Lee (Chinese Progressive Association); Brian Cho (Asian Americans for Equality); Rob Hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Donna Chiu (MFY Legal Services); Margaret Chin; Richard Lee (Asian Americans for Equality);

Conference Call: Victor Papa (Two Bridges)

Elected Officials/Representatives in Attendance: Sandra Ung (NYC Comptroller); Karen He (Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver)

Media: Jacky Wong (Sing Tao Daily)

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1. First Agenda Item – Acting Chair Richard Lee recapped from the last meeting of next steps in determining affordability and reiterated the group's tentative guiding principles:

I. To determine and use an Area Median Income figure that truly represents the residents of the area to determine affordability of housing.

II. To preserve the existing affordable housing stock.

III. To protect the rights of tenants, particularly the vulnerable residents of rent regulated housing.

IV. To create equitable housing that will truly be affordable to those of our community.

V. To explore the possibility of an affordable home ownership program outreach program.

2. Second Agenda Item – The group discussed possibly combining this group with zoning and immigrant affairs, so that the zoning committee will address affordability and immigrant affairs will include housing issues. Margaret Chin mentioned that the affordability working team should also look beyond just housing, and include areas like small business and economic affordability. Participants noted that there is still a need for a group to address affordability and that zoning will need to at least change principles to address affordability, if indeed they are merged. It was suggested that this group can help define the scope of zoning, and Victor Papa suggested perhaps a task force within the

zoning committee to address affordability if the groups were to merge. Richard Lee also noted there is a need for an advocacy component of the CWG, so that the community can provide more input and be more involved. A combined group with immigrant affairs may address this, but Mae Lee noted that they would have to address other issues like worker wage and language access as well. Discussion will continue to determine whether or not to combine groups, but for the mean time the affordability group will continue with its proposed guiding principles, first by defining affordability levels for housing for the zoning committee who can then work with our recommendation before we move forward in a proposed combining of groups.

3. The group discussed bringing in professionals in the industry to the next meeting in order to help us define affordability. Proposed as of now is somebody to discuss affordable home ownership options and community groups who has helped define affordability in other rezonings in the city, such as Williamsburg and Hudson Yards. The next Affordability Working Team meeting will be held on May 7th, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM at 49 Chambers Street, Room 709.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.