

Women's Shelter...

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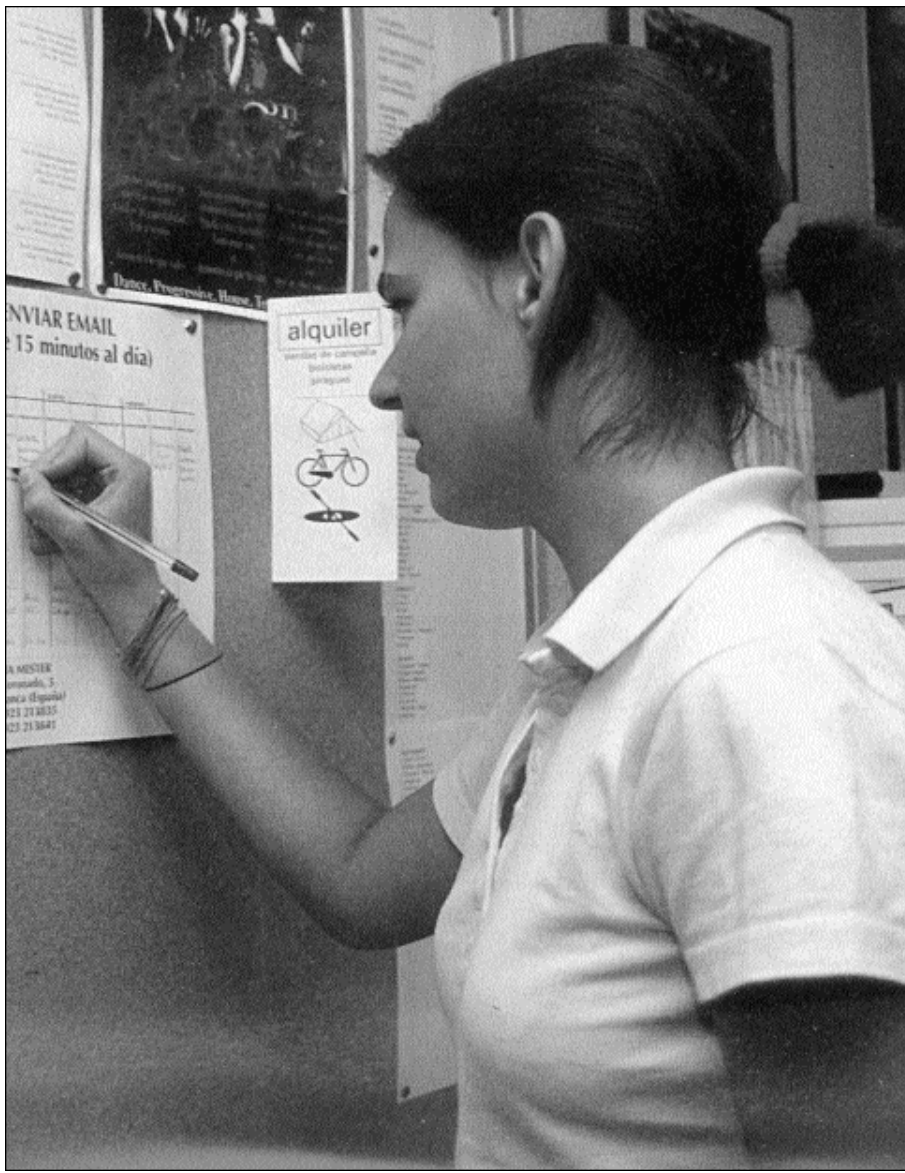


PHOTO: FILE

Given the nature of the renovations, residents will have to be moved out of their apartments for a while. Although this project is still in its planning stage, according to the NYCHA, 487 families have already been relocated

they do not have a budget because the charity is waiting for an answer from the NYC Department of Homeless Services before drawing up a budget.

Community board members, as well as other community leaders made it clear that the fact that they do not support this project does not mean that they are not concerned about the homeless situation in our community. "Women's homelessness is on the rise," said elected official Dr. Fairbanks, "and we all have to share the burden of it, but we have very strong reasons to oppose this project."

But CHTZCLC defends its position. "We never had any problems at the Kingsbridge Armory. We would be beneficial to this community by providing jobs for the residents and help fight against homelessness," said Ms. Becker, executive director of Care for The Homeless. According to her, job positions such as security guard, maintenance, and social worker positions would be offered to the residents of the community.

Moreover, Sister Margaret said, "We are a very good organization, but if people don't want us in this community, there is nothing we can do about it."

Meanwhile, District Manager MarySol Rodriguez gave an update on the University Avenue Consolidation Project.

The University Avenue Consolidation is

a plan to renovate 15 low income buildings (754 public housing units); the development of open space, including play and recreation areas; and the construction of a full service community center along University Avenue.

According to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the estimated cost of this project is approximately 16 million dollars. NYCHA expects renovation costs to be covered by a combination of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (4%), Bond Financing, NYCHA funds, and some private equity; this is called a Mixed-Finance development.

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Residents are relocated in other buildings on University Avenue or in other places, based on the resident's desires and the availability of new locations.

According to NYCHA, this renovation will not result on rent increases or on the permanent displacement of tenants.

In closing her report, District Manager Rodriguez said that NYCHA needs to address not only the physical aspect of University Avenue, but also the crime issue of the area.

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