

**Testimony of Paul Belliveau  
Director of Apprenticeship & Training  
District Council No. 9  
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades  
for the  
New York City Council Public Housing Subcommittee Hearing on  
The Department of Resident Employment Services of NYCHA**

**April 14, 2005  
250 Broadway, New York, NY**

Hello. My name is Paul Belliveau and I am here today testifying, as a member of the T.R.A.D.E.S. Coalition and on behalf of District Council No. 9 – the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. I have been the Director of Apprenticeship and Training at the Painters for the past \_\_\_ years and in that position, I have had the opportunity to see lots of young people entering the field.

In the past \_\_\_ years, we have had a number of young people join the apprenticeship program who are NYCHA residents. Its not necessarily an easy fit to join a union apprenticeship program from public housing. Its hard and not everyone will make it. [insert more here about the difficulties]

At the same time, it's a wonderful opportunity. It's an opportunity to earn a great wage and have a steady job for life. [insert more on benefits of becoming a painter].

I am very excited about the potential for CM Build to really bring in more public housing residents into the Painters and all the building trades. CM Build represents a great opportunity, both in terms of hiring responsible contractors and also a great career opportunity for NYCHA residents. I really want to thank NYCHA for their commitment to making the CM Build program a success.

In order for CM Build to be a success, and be a model for other housing authorities around the world, it is critical that Resident Employment Services take a leading role. I would request two things from Resident Employment Services at NYCHA.

First, that they make a commitment to actively recruit for CM Build. This is a great opportunity and we need as many NYCHA residents as possible to know about the program.

Second, to the extent possible, I would ask that Resident Employment Services provide the support that public housing residents will need during the pre-apprenticeship program. Its difficult to make it as an apprentice and the more support that can be provided to residents during the pre-apprenticeship program, the better. [insert details – what type of support]

Thank you for your time.