Tenants’ Rights: Heat and Hot Water

You have the right to hot water and heat every day. From October 1st through May 31st.

If you are not getting adequate heat or hot water, contact your landlord by phone and/or by mail. Send your complaint in writing with your name, apartment number and the date and time of your call. If the problem persists, go to the next step. Write to the landlord and give them 30 days to fix the problem. If the problem is not fixed, you can ask the city to inspect your apartment.

The Future of Charas/El Bohío/PS64

At a Town Hall on October 12th, the Mayor unexpectedly announced his administration’s interest in “reacquiring” the old P.S. 64, formerly the site of CHARAS/El Bohío. In the 1970s CHARAS/El Bohío and its many social and cultural organizations were a hotbed of arts and activism on the LES. However, the city sold the building in 1998 to developer Gregg Singer who tried to turn a profit off the old P.S. 64, formerly the site of CHARAS/El Bohío. In the 1970s CHARAS/El Bohío and its many social and cultural organizations.

Since then, Mr. Singer has tried to turn a profit off the building, despite the fact that P.S. 64’s deed requires the space to be used for community, not private, interest. Activists and elected officials have long called for the space to be used for community, not private, interest. Activists and elected officials have long called for the space to be used for community, not private, interest.

The Mayor stated that: “To place that building in the hands of a private owner was a failed mistake. So I’m announcing tonight, the city’s interest in readquiring  that building.” As of yet, no further information about the “reacquisition” of the building has been made available, and the developer has stated that he has no intention of selling it.

However, local activists are cautiously optimistic that the Mayor’s announcement is a step in the long fight to ensure that CHARAS/El Bohío is returned to the LES community.
Good Union Jobs

In June, GOLES began partnering with Local 79, Construction and General Building Laborer’s union, to create a pathway for local residents to access union jobs. GOLES was able to help 25 candidates get through the highly-competitive lottery selection process. Half of these candidates have already passed the interview and completed the apprentice school and the rest are expected to do so in December.

One of these 25 candidates is Terrence, who enrolled in the program to make a better life for his daughter and himself. Terrence showed determination by completing an intensive eight week training program provided by Local 79 in partnership with GOLES to acquire the knowledge needed to join the construction trades. Terrence also completed a free 10-hour Occupational Safety Health Administration training (OSHA 10) offered by GOLES.

Utilizing the skills he learned, Terrence interviewed and received a seat in Local 79’s Mason Tenders apprenticeship program. Using the skills he learned, Terrence interviewed and completed the apprentice school and the rest of the process. Half of these candidates have already passed the interview and completed the apprentice school and the rest are expected to do so in December.

The next Local 79 Construction and Building Trades recruitment is scheduled for January 2018. For more information about this program, or about GOLES’ Workforce Development Program in general, please contact Robin Brown at robin@goles.org, or 212-533-2541 x 22.

Victoria of the Inquilinos

In October, the inquilinos with rent regulated in Loisaida, and in every neighborhood, celebrated a major victory when the notorious caseiro abusive Steven Croman was sentenced to a year of incarceration in Riker’s Island due to criminal charges. Croman has been called one of the city’s “Worst Landlords” and known for harm and harassment by Mr. Croman.

This victory is in large part due to the work of GOLES and the Stop Croman Coalition (SCC), who have been fighting tirelessly for years to bring Mr. Croman to justice.

Close to 200 local residents turned out to the meeting to support us, and the Land Use Committee voted to become part of our rezoning application. There’s still a long road ahead, but GOLES is excited to start implementing the community’s vision for the neighborhood and work to ensure that the LES remains a home to the low-income communities that built it.

To join us in this fight, please contact Jessie Ngok, Land Use Organizer at jessie@goles.org or 212-533-2541 ext 24.