

RIDGEWOOD BUSHWICK SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL, INC. ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE FIRST MULTIFAMILY PASSIVE HOUSE IN THE NATION

BUSHWICK, BROOKLYN, November 21st, 2014: Today, Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, Inc. (RBSCC), joined by financing partners New York State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), Enterprise Community Partners, and Chase Bank; and development team Chris Benedict, RA, Goldstein Hall, and Galaxy General Contracting announced the opening of Knickerbocker Commons, the first multifamily apartment building designed to Passive House standards in the country.

Passive House is a rigorous design standard that utilizes intense insulating, energy recovery, and air-sealing strategies to achieve buildings with superior energy performance. This translates into structures with smaller carbon footprints that offer more comfortable and affordable spaces for occupants. Through incorporating Passive House standards, Knickerbocker Commons is estimated to use as little as 10% of the energy of a typical NYC building. Perhaps most impressively, it was built for the same cost per square foot as typical affordable housing projects in the City.

“With buildings producing the majority of greenhouse gases in the city, we cannot meet the challenges presented by global climate change without radically rethinking the way we build buildings, and Knickerbocker Commons is one such radical building,” said RBSCC Housing Director Scott Short. “This building is a testament to what New Yorkers can accomplish when we put our collective talents and efforts towards developing innovative solutions to problems. We would like to thank all of our partners in the public and private sectors for supporting this groundbreaking project. It is our hope that this building becomes a new benchmark for affordable housing in New York and beyond.”

HCR QUOTE

HPD QUOTE

"Not only are we achieving additional needed affordable housing in Bushwick with the opening of Knickerbocker Commons, this building has been designed to a green standard that is furthering Brooklyn's commitment to advancing sustainability and environmental consciousness," said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. "I applaud the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, and their partners on this effort, for the achievement we get to celebrate today."

Knickerbocker Commons provides 24 units of affordable housing, including 12 units affordable to those earning less than 60% of Area Median Income (AMI), 5 units affordable to those earning less than 50% of AMI, and 6 units affordable to those earning less than 30% of AMI. 6 units are also set aside for physically disabled occupants. The \$10M development includes a ground floor community facility that is leased to a local childcare provider. The childcare facility will be opening in early 2015.

CONTACT:

Scott Short
Housing Director

RBSCC, Inc.

sshort@rbcc.org