



“It is a crime to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Speech to striking sanitation workers,
Memphis, March 18, 1968

Thirty-seven years ago, Dr. King said social justice could not be achieved without economic justice. Today, more than 130 religious, community and political leaders are calling on the real estate industry to provide security officers with good paying jobs for our communities.

Open Letter to the Real Estate Board of New York

Steven Spinola
President, Real Estate Board of New York
570 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Spinola,

Every day thousands of hard-working families in our communities struggle to make ends meet. We rely on good jobs to support vital neighborhood businesses, churches and local institutions that are the backbone of a healthy community.

One of the key sources of employment for our community is working as a security officer protecting New York City real estate. There are over 60,000 security officers in New York City, and most of these men and women live in working-class communities of color. However, most of these jobs pay wages as low as \$6.75/hr, with little or no benefits, inadequate training, and few opportunities for career advancement. These wages stand in stark contrast to the real challenges faced by security officers and the resources of the real estate industry.

Since 9/11, the role of security officers has expanded dramatically. Officers are the first line of defense for New York’s tenants, visitors and buildings, yet they are not given the training they need to do their job effectively, and the low wage and benefit standards lead to constant turnover.

New York’s real estate industry is the wealthiest in the world and owners are recording record profits.

The New York real estate industry has the resources and the moral obligation to transform this industry. Doing so will make New York safer and will turn low wage jobs into good jobs—jobs that can support families and uplift communities of color.

As president of the Real Estate Board of New York, you have a critical role to play in this effort. We call on you to publicly support the campaign to raise the wage, benefit, and training standards of security officers in New York City.

Sincerely,

**Eric Adams, Co-Founder,
100 Blacks in Law Enforcement**

**Reverend Dr. Herbert Daughtry, Pastor,
The House of the Lord Church***

**The Honorable David N. Dinkins,
106th Mayor, New York City**

**Hazel Dukes, President,
NAACP New York State Conference**

**Reverend Dr. Phillip Charles Joubert Sr., President,
Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater NY and Vicinity**

**Bertha Lewis, Executive Director,
NY ACORN**

**The Honorable Charles Rangel,
U.S. House of Representatives**

**Reverend Al Sharpton,
National Action Network**

**Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson, Senior Pastor,
Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn**

**Reverend Nicholas Tweed,
Macedonia A.M.E. Church**

**Reverend Canon Frederick B. Williams, Chairman,
Harlem Congregation for Community Improvement, Inc.**

Reverend Abisi Ackaah, St. Simeon’s Church
Stuart Appelbaum, President, Retail/Wholesale Department Store Union
Ana Maria Archila, Executive Director, Latin American Integration Center
Bishop Owen Augustin, Crown Heights Interagency Council on Aging
Father Luis Barrios, St. Mary’s Church
Raquel Batista, Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Reverend Henry Benack, Saint Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church
Jon Bloom, Executive Director, Workers Defense League
Reverend Paul E. Blork, Transfiguration Lutheran Church
Reverend Leon Blunt Jr., Mt. Zion Christian Church
Lilas Bogle, Senior Warden, Trinity Episcopal Church of Morrisania*
Aldrin R. Bonilla, CUNY in the Heights*
Reverend James E. Booker, Jr., St. John A.M.E. Church*
Barbara Bowen, President, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY
Bishop Randolph A. Bowen, Guiding Light Pentecostal Assemblies, Inc.*
Reverend Canon Percy Brathwait, Grace Episcopal Church
Reverend Theodora N. Brooks, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church*
Patricia L. Bryant, Director, St. Margaret’s After School Program —Summer Day Camp Program*
Anita Burson, Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Baptist Church*
Reverend Dennis Campbell, United Community Baptist Church*
Dan Cantor, Executive Director, Working Families Party
Reverend Demetrius S. Carolover, First Central Baptist Church
Paul Cetsos, Director, Community Voices Heard
May Y. Chen, Vice President, UNITE HERE!
Reverend Noel Chin, Butler Memorial Methodist Church*
Noris Colon, President, Housing Options and Geriatric Association and Resources, Inc.
Elder Avery Comithiera, Elijah Church*
Reverend Amy Cortez, Cross Road Tabernacle*
Santos Crespo, Vice President, D.C. 37 AFSCME
Mireya Cruz, Dominican Women’s Development Center*
Reverend Leo W. Curry, Fordham United Methodist Church*

Nancy Daleney, La Resurreccion Methodist Church
Reverend Domingo De La Cruz, Church of God of Brooklyn
Domingo De La Cruz, Servicio de Educacion*
Michelle De La Uz, Executive Director, Fifth Avenue Committee Inc.*
Reverend Nicolas De Philines, Evangelical Crusade Church*
Paul de Vries, Ph.D., President, New York Divinity School*
Reverend Daniel Dupree, The Greater Universal Baptist Church
Reverend David W. Dyson, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church
Angelo Falcon, President, Institute For Puerto Rican Policy
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Executive Director, Greater NY Labor-Religion Coalition
Reverend Orlando Findlayter, Hope Christian Fellowship*
Reverend Billy Fonville, Seventh Day Adventist Church*
Reverend David Francis, Canaan Baptist Church of Christ
Omar Freilla, Executive Director, Green Worker Cooperatives
Andrew Friedman, Co-Director, Make The Road by Walking
Reverend Moise Gabriel, President, Haitian American Communities Center, Inc.*
Reverend Francisco Garemendia, St. Thomas Aquinas*
Shelley Goldman, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice*
Bill Granfield, President, UNITE HERE! Local 100
Reverend Mark Gregory, Crossway Christian Center Pentecostal*
Reverend Mark Hallinan, S.J., Society of Jesus New York Province*
Reverend Canon George A. Harding, St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church*
Minister Beverly Harris-Surgeon, Canaan Baptist Church of Christ*
Heidi Hynes, Executive Director, Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center*
Sonia Ivany, President, NYC Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Saru Jayaraman, Executive Director, Restaurant Opportunities Center of NY
Reverend Dr. Earl Edward Johnson, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church*
Reverend Fred Hoyer Johnson, Jr., Church of the Intercession*
Germain Johnson, Captain, The Salvation Army*
Reverend Johnny Johnson, Westchester United Methodist Church*

Father Brian Jordan, Church of St. Francis of Assisi*
Reverend Robert Jones Jr., Second Saint John Baptist Church*
Reverend Samuel Joubert Sr., Holy Trinity Baptist Church*
Reverend Harvey Kendrick, First Grace Baptist Church
Reverend Frank Knight, Mediator Episcopal Church*
Reverend Dr. Earl Kooperkamp, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
Brad Lander, Director, Pratt Center for Community Development
Dr. Rafael Lantigua, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University*
Minister Patricia Malcolm, Churches United to Save and Heal
Reverend Guillermo Martino, Tabernacle of God’s Glory*
Reverend C. Vernon Mason, Executive Director, Fund for Community Development Fund, Inc.
Michael McComiskey, The Federation of Catholic Teachers*
Lucille McEwens, President, Harlem Congregation for Community Improvement, Inc.
Reverend Thomas Mercer, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Reverend Jennifer Miller, First Grace Baptist Church
Reverend Vincent Miller, First Grace Baptist Church
Dr. Cheryl A. Mobley, President, Judah International
Reverend Connis M. Mobley, United Community Baptist Church
Reverend James D. Morrison, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church
Reverend Marshall D. Morton Sr., Greater Zion Baptist Church
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Reverend Barbara J. Mungin, Board Member, Mothers on the Move*
Manny Ness, Lower Eastside Community Labor Coalition*
Reverend James O’ Shea, Director, Churches United for Fair Housing
Reverend Martha Overall, St. Ann’s Church of Morrisania
Reverend Jo-Ann Owings, Bright Temple Church
Bryan Pu-Folkes, Executive Director, New Immigrant Community Empowerment
Reverend Betty S. Purkey, Instituto Latino de Cuidado Pastoral, Inc.*
Reverend Cheryl Pynch, Rutgers Presbyterian Church*
Sister Claire Regan, Sisters of Charity of New York*
Reverend Michael Relyea, St. Mark’s-in-the-Bowery Episcopal Church
Reverend Dr. Calvin Rice, New Jerusalem Baptist Church

José Richards, President, Sons and Daughters of Jamaica, Inc.
Dr. Adolph Roberts, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Luis M. Rodriguez, President, Community Action La Aurora Inc.
James Rogers, President, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys/UAW Local 2325
Rosita M. Romero, Executive Director, Dominican Women’s Development Center
Cathy Ruckelshaus, Litigation Director, National Employment Law Project*
Gouri Sathwani, Executive Director, The New York Civic Participation Project
Wanda Salamán, Executive Director, Mothers on the Move
Reverend Maria Isabel Santiviago, Misión San Juan Bautista
Rafael A. Sención, Secretary General, Congreso Nacional Dominicano
Norman Siegel, Civil Rights Attorney
Valentin Silverio, “La Voz Latina,” W.B.A.I.*
Minister Olevia S. Smith, Canaan Baptist Church of Christ*
Carlos Suarez, Executive Director, Dominico American Society
Amy Sugimori, National Employment Law Project*
Sean Sweeney, Director, Cornell Global Labor Institute
Reverend James Taylor, St. Paul Lutheran Church*
Luis Tejada, Executive Director, Mirabel Sisters Cultural and Community Center*
Alan Van Capelle, Executive Director, Empire State Pride Agenda
Reverend Lucy Vega, Christian Church John 3:16*
Reverend Willie Walker, Clergy Liaison, NYPD*
Keith Warren, Junior Warden, Trinity Episcopal Church of Morrisania*
Reverend Dr. Jerry B. West, Mt. Moriah Church*
Reverend Reginald Williams, Charity Baptist Church of Christ*
Reverend Vernon B. Williams, Perfect Peace Ministries*
Reverend Lorenzo C. Williamson, New Deeper Life Tabernacle*
Reverend James E. Wilson, Jr., First Union Baptist Church
Reverend Bennie Wright Jr., New Saint John Baptist Church

*Organization for Affiliation Purposes Only

We Support New York’s Security Officers. They Keep Us Safe & Secure.

For more information call: **STANDING UP FOR WORKER JUSTICE 212 388 3924**