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## Shining Light to Cut Crime at Stapleton Projects in S.I.

*RACHE CISTO*

One of the New York City Housing Authority's most dangerous complexes has received a boost in the form of a \$3.1-million safety-lighting project.

The project, part of Mayor de Blasio's Mayor's Action Plan, outfitted Stapleton Houses in Staten Island with 358 new, energy-efficient outdoor lights at entrances, walkways and parking areas.

### **'Tremendous Strides'**

Stapleton Houses is one of the 15 NYCHA development sites that accounted for 20 percent of all violent crime in public housing in 2014, according to a release from the city.

"We are making tremendous strides in increasing safety throughout public-housing communities, from significantly increasing security cameras to installing sustainable state-of-the-art lighting," said Mr. de Blasio. "Exterior safety lighting is one vital tool in the larger effort to decrease violence and illegal activity in public housing."

The MAP program has also provided for increased funding for outreach at Stapleton Houses designed to help residents with everything from finding a job to accessing public benefits, and legal and social services.

### **Union Wants More Cops**

However, Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd said Mr. de Blasio's actions don't go far enough. Many Local 237 members work for the Housing Authority.



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Mr. Floyd and Patrick J. Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, sent a letter to the Mayor in May, asking for additional officers to be sent to the NYPD's Housing Bureau.

"PBA and Local 237 members are responsible for different aspects of safety in the NYCHA developments, but our shared goal is to provide a safe and livable housing environment for every NYCHA resident," they wrote, saying that the high number of crimes in the developments were caused by inadequate NYPD staffing levels.

Mr. Floyd said the Mayor has not responded to the letter.

“You can’t just manage by press releases and photo-ops,” Mr. Floyd said in a statement. “There needs to be a comprehensive plan in place that thoroughly addresses all aspects of safety at NYCHA developments, and that plan must include increasing the number of police officers assigned daily.”

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