

Draft: Index of Shootings in PHA Complexes in North Philadelphia and Lack of PHA Police Response

This is really long and not complete just a draft but i've been maintaining a list of shootings happening in PHA complexes in N. philly since the young lady was murdered in Harrison Plaza in February

PHA Has a Homicide Problem and PHA Police are an Unnecessary Burden on the Housing Budget

On April 17, 2020, 6 ABC news aired a segment about gun violence in Philadelphia. They stood in front of the 22nd Police District and reported that there were 31 more shootings and 9 more homicides in that district than there were at the same time last year (<https://6abc.com/crime-philly-philadelphia-police-department-coronavirus/6109520/>).

9 days earlier on April 8 two men were shot and one was killed in PHA's Raymond Rosen homes.

Two days after the segment in front of the 22nd District a 16 year old girl was shot in PHA's Richard Allen Homes (<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/04/19/north-philly-shooting-leaves-16-year-old-girl-critically-wounded-police/>).

Last year PHA Police spent 10's of thousands of dollars to stake out illegal dumpers in Sharswood. They had a press release and news segment to brag about doing that (<https://6abc.com/philadelphia-housing-authority-illegal-dumping/5258679/>). That same week 3 people were murdered in PHA housing projects in N. Philadelphia, including a grandmother going to get chinese food for her grandson (<https://6abc.com/philadelphia-news-shooting-deborah-mcclendon-killed/5306278/>). PHA and PHA Police Department remained silent as if they didn't even exist.

In 2017 a broad daylight shooting in front of St. Malachy school (<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/04/03/police-north-philadelphia-shooting/school>) led to PHA making a police substation in a community center on 10th and Thompson. The station is a decoy and multiple shootings have occurred either directly in front of it or within a block of it. Most recently on February 20, a beautiful 19 year old woman was murdered in a mass shooting that occurred in front of St. Malachy during let out (<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/gunman-shoots-4-people-near-north-philly-school/2300906/>).

The next day PHA held its monthly Board of Commissioners meeting. Ten PHA Police including Chief Joseph Marker and Deputy Chief Antoinette Eberhart and Kelvin Jeremiah's personal bodyguard secured the boardroom. The board had a moment of silence for the work that was about to be done but not for the victims of the mass shooting that occurred on their property just 24 hours earlier.

Emotions flared as residents of that community cried out about the chronic violence.

On February 25, a 16 year old who attends PHA's Vaux High School in Sharswood (a neighborhood for which PHA has received multiple Choice Neighborhood grants) was shot after an in school altercation continued outside (<https://6abc.com/philadelphia-shooting-in-philly/5964074/>).

In the overnight hours on May 7, 2020 three teenagers were shot less than a block away from where the two men were shot on April 8, in PHA's Raymond Rosen Homes (<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/video/4541577-3-teens-shot-outside-raymond-rosen-manor-homes-in-north-philadelphia/>).

On May 14 there was yet another shooting in PHA's Raymond Rosen Homes. Two individuals including a 23 year old woman were struck with bullets during a shootout at PHA's Spring Garden Homes on June 4, 2020 (<https://6abc.com/spring-garden-shooting-franklin-place-philadelphia-shootout-philly/6232634/>).

Just after midnight June 10, 2020, over 50 shots were fired once again in PHA's Spring Garden Homes leaving six injured and one dead (<https://www.inquirer.com/crime/philadelphia-shooting-crime-spring-garden-housing-authority-dead-20200610.html?outputType=amp>).

On June 22, 2022 2 teens were shot, one 15 times in PHA's Richard Allen Homes (<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/teen-survives-after-being-shot-15-times-in-philly-police-say/2442881/>).

Shots fired on the morning of July 8, 2020 in PHA's Johnson homes (https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3002934223156683&id=100003204056762

On July 14, 2020 about 40 shots were fired in PHA's Raymond Rosen home leaving one dead and two injured. Multiple homes and vehicles were also struck by bullets (<https://www.fox29.com/news/2-dead-3-wounded-in-overnight-gun-violence-in-philadelphia>).

A pregnant woman was shot in the head in broad daylight in PHA's Johnson Homes on July 16, 2020, she died later that evening (<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/07/16/police-pregnant-woman-shot-head-north-philadelphia/>).

Over 19 shots were fired in PHA's Richard Allen homes striking a 45 year old man 4 times on July 18, 2020.

A man was shot multiple times in PHA's Raymond Rosen Homes on July 26, 2020 (<https://www.google.com/amp/s/philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/07/28/man-shot-multiple-times-in-north-philadelphia-2/amp/>).

According to PHA's own website most PHA units have been integrated back into the city grid and are policed by Philadelphia Police Department (<http://www.pha.phila.gov/aboutpha/departments/pha-police-department.aspx>) and RAD conversions are changing ownership of some public housing to private. Despite these facts Kelvin Jeremiah hired 55 new officers soon after he was appointed as CEO.

PHA's budget shows 12 million dollars being used for protective services which is likely policing. That does not include police salaries, equipment, technology, insurance, litigation costs and much more.

PHA's capital funds for this fiscal year are only 55 million, this low amount is being used to justify demolitions and sales of public housing. The budget for resident services is also only 9 million dollars.

Many major cities including New York have disbanded housing police or consolidated them into the city police departments.

There are many more documented instances of violence and murder in PHA. In every case we see the Philadelphia Police Department investigating and making statements.

PHA and PHA Police can not be allowed to continue operating with the power and financial flexibility of a government agency while simultaneously evading public review as if they are a private company. PHA and the media can not continue to manipulate public perception by putting out press releases and news segments about even the smallest achievement but not ever speaking on or addressing things like the backed up waiting list, neglect of properties, fraud waste and mismanagement, and gun violence.

PHA Police are an unnecessary burden on an already strained housing budget. It is time to disband PHA Police and reinvest that money into housing and resident services.