



# Rebuilding After Sandy: Considering the Needs of New York's Low-Income Families

Friday, April 26th, 2013 | 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. | New York University School of Law | #NYChousing

**PANELISTS:** **Laurel Blatchford**  
Executive Director, Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force

**Brad Gair**  
Director, Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations

**Rick Gropper**  
L+M Development Partners

**Jonathan Rose**  
President, Jonathan Rose Companies

**MODERATOR:** **Vicki Been**  
Director, NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy



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## ABOUT THE PANELISTS

### LAUREL BLATCHFORD

Laurel Blatchford was appointed Executive Director of the President's Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, a federal inter-agency effort charged with leading the recovery in the Northeast following Superstorm Sandy. Prior to her appointment in January 2013, Ms. Blatchford served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Secretary Shaun Donovan for the entirety of President Obama's first term. As Chief of Staff, she was responsible for the agency's external affairs, communications, congressional, and policy development teams, and ensured that the Secretary's strategic priorities were executed across the agency. She worked closely with the White House and other Cabinet agencies, and was responsible for the hiring, development, and retention of the agency's political appointees.

She joined the Obama Administration from General Growth Properties (GGP), a Chicago-based real estate investment trust that has holdings across the United States and abroad, where she was Vice President for Development and Project Director in the New York City office. During her tenure at GGP, she directed the company's plans to redevelop the South Street Seaport, a GGP property.

Prior to her work at GGP, Ms. Blatchford worked for New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for six years, first as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding and then as Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner for Strategy Planning, Policy, and Communications at New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). At HPD, she worked with then-Commissioner Shaun Donovan and led a staff of 50, focusing on strategic planning, communications, and policy issues.

Before joining the Bloomberg Administration, Ms. Blatchford worked at the Downtown Alliance, the business improvement district for Lower Manhattan, and in a variety of positions in City government, including the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the New York City Public Advocate. She also served as the Mayor's representative on the Brooklyn Public Library Board from 2007-2009. Ms. Blatchford holds a B.A. from Williams College and an M.P.P. from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She lives with her family in Washington, DC.

### BRAD GAIR

Brad Gair has more than 20 years of professional local, national and international emergency management experience, including deployment to scores of disasters, emergencies and special events in key leadership positions. He is currently serving as Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations leading post-Hurricane Sandy disaster housing efforts. In this capacity, Mr. Gair created the New York City Rapid Repairs program which made permanent repairs to 20,000 damaged residences enabling New York families to return to their homes in less than 90 days. Previously, Mr. Gair has served as a FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer, Federal Recovery Officer for the World Trade Center attack, Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Office of Emergency Management, and Special Advisor to the United Arab Emirates National Crisis & Emergency Management Authority. Mr. Gair is also a Certified Emergency Manager and volunteers as Special Advisor to the President of the International Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

### RICK GROPPER

Rick Gropper of L&M Development Partners Inc. is responsible for sourcing and structuring preservation and new construction transactions. Rick has grown L&M's preservation business over the past 4 years, most recently closing on a \$250 million 1,100 unit distressed Mitchell Lama property that is currently under construction. He has also led the physical and financial repositioning of two 500 unit LIHTC resyndication portfolios. Prior to joining L&M, Rick worked for a boutique adaptive reuse development firm based in New Haven, CT. He has an undergraduate degree from Connecticut College and an M.S. in Real Estate Development from Columbia University.

## ABOUT THE PANELISTS (cont'd)

### **JONATHAN ROSE**

Jonathan F.P. Rose's business, public policy and not-for-profit work all focus on creating a more environmentally, socially, and economically responsible world. In 1989, Mr. Rose founded Jonathan Rose Companies LLC, a multi-disciplinary real estate development, planning, consulting and investment firm, as a leading green urban solutions provider. The firm has successfully completed \$1.5 billion of work. In 2005, the firm launched the nation's first green transit oriented acquisition and redevelopment fund.

A thought leader in the Smart Growth, national infrastructure, green building, and affordable housing movements, Mr. Rose is a frequent speaker and writer. His work has received widespread media attention from CNN to The New York Times and was profiled in *e2*, a PBS series on sustainable development.

Mr. Rose is Vice Chair of Enterprise Community Partners and is a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council. He also serves on the Board of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and is an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Rose chaired the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Blue Ribbon Sustainability Commission, which developed the nation's first green transit plan, and was a commissioner on Governor Cuomo's NYS 2100 Commission, tasked with identifying strategies for the long-term resilience of New York State's infrastructure post-Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Rose is also a co-founder of the Garrison Institute with his wife, Diana Rose, where he founded the Climate, Mind and Behavior program. Mr. Rose graduated from Yale University in 1974 with a B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy, and received a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980.

### **VICKI BEEN (Moderator)**

Vicki Been, the Boxer Family Professor of Law at New York University School of Law and an Associate Professor of Public Policy at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, is Director of the Furman Center. Vicki teaches courses in Land Use Regulation, Property, and State and Local Government, as well as seminars on The Takings Clause, Environmental Justice, and Empirical Issues in Land Use and Environmental Law. She also co-teaches an interdisciplinary Colloquium on the Law, Economics and Politics of Urban Affairs.

She received a B.S. with high honors from Colorado State University in 1978 and a J.D. from the NYU School of Law in 1983, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar. After graduation, Vicki served as a law clerk to Judge Edward Weinfeld, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from August 1983 to July 1984 and as a law clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, United States Supreme Court from August 1984 to August 1985. She was an Associate at the firm of Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City for one year, then served as an Associate Counsel at the Office of Independent Counsel: Iran/Contra in Washington, DC. She joined Rutgers University School of Law in Newark as an Associate Professor in August 1988.



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The Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy is a joint center of the New York University School of Law and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The Furman Center is the leading academic research center in New York City devoted to the public policy aspects of land use, real estate, and housing development, and is dedicated to providing objective academic and empirical research.



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The Furman Center launched the Moelis Institute for Affordable Housing Policy to improve the effectiveness of affordable housing policies and programs by providing housing practitioners and policymakers with information about what is and is not working, and about promising new ideas and innovative practices.

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