

My name is Jonathan Gardenhire and I am running to be re-elected as District Leader in the 65th Assembly District, Part B.

It is crucial that the District Leader in Part B deeply understands NYCHA and affordable housing. As District Leader, I have continued to advocate for NYCHA residents and keep them informed especially during the pandemic. Here's why: about a third of the 65th Assembly District are NYCHA campuses. Most of those developments are situated in Part B, including the Alfred E. Smith Houses, where I was born and raised, and live today. I share a lived experience with a majority of the individuals that I represent and that is important.

Before running for office, I served as the Vice President of the Smith Houses Resident Association. Even before that point, my family and mentors were all advocates for affordable housing, and NYCHA. NYCHA is facing a worsening budget crisis that is directly affecting residents' access to a decent quality of life. Furthermore, the looming threat of gentrification along our waterfront would heavily impact NYCHA residents as most of those developments are along the waterfront.

Ultimately, I am committed to and invested in the traditional role of District Leader: to embrace, expand, and thoughtfully audit the voting apparatus in our communities. I have been compelled by the ways, as District Leaders, we can leverage relationships with other elected officials to truly galvanize and activate more voters.

In many ways, the 65th Assembly District, Part B, represents some of our most vulnerable neighbors. It has been a privilege to be their District Leader at a time when many people feel that our government does not work for us. It means something that they chose someone who looks like them, with a shared lived experience, and a record of defending that experience. Joining DID has only helped to elevate and expand the Lower East Side's legacy of mutual aid and staunch activism and I hope to have the honor of your confidence with an endorsement for re-election.

Thank you,

Jonathan Gardenhire
District Leader, AD 65 Part B