

***THE CITY OF NEW YORK***  
***COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR***  
**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2008**  
**Submitted by: José Rodriguez, District Manager**

**September 24, 2008 Ramadan Celebration & Rally to bring awareness to the observance of Muslim Holidays**

The Purpose of the evening's event was to celebrate the end of Ramadan and bring awareness to their Department of Education initiative. Over 500 community residents packed Veteran's Hall at the Bronx County Court House. The New York City Police Department was present registering children as part of their community partnership program. Community organizations that assisted in coordinating the evening's activities were Highbridge Community Life Center and New Settlement Apartments. Throughout the evening guest speakers spoke of the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar, the ninth month of the year. During Ramadan, Muslims fast between dawn and dusk. They also spoke to their work to have Muslim Holidays as part of the Department of education's calendar. Assemblyman Michael Benjamin was in attendance and spoke about his Assembly Bill that would extend the City's Schools days that would allow for an effortless lift from the Department of Education to add additional days off during the calendar year.

**September 25, 2008 Public Hearing regarding the redevelopment of the Emergency Assistance Unit**

The Community Board held a public Hearing at Hostos Community College. We were joined by the community at-large to call on the City of

New York and its Department of Homeless Services to change their mind and to see how their decision to site and expand the City's Emergency Assistance Unit from two floors to seven floors without notice to the community was not conducive to redevelopment of the surrounding area. We called on the City to re-evaluate their policy and plans for the site.

Commissioner Robert V. Hess of the Department of Homeless Services and representatives of the Mayor's office were in attendance. The Commissioner committed to reach out to the Borough President's office and schedule a meeting with area residents.

**October 1, 2008 Monthly meeting of Bridgebuilders Bridge Builders/CPI, a community-based demonstration project**

Their monthly meeting focuses on three census tracts in the south-west Bronx. The project tests the hypothesis that family well-being and child welfare outcomes will improve as a result of: community members working together in a collaborative to reach out to and assist their neighbors; provision of targeted social services and legal representation; meaningful parent and youth involvement; collaboration by neighborhood-based service providers and strengthened relationships with the Administration for Children's Services. In addition to ACS, the project is supported by a donors' collaborative of thirteen foundations, the Administration for Children's Services, and is administered by the Fund for Social Change. The project is governed by the Executive Committee (consisting of twelve agencies and parents) and led by the Project Director and the co-chairs of the Executive Committee.

The primary goals of the project are to improve four key indicators: the number of children who enter foster care for the first time, the number of children who re-enter foster care, the length of time children remain in foster care, and the overall occurrence of abuse and neglect within the Highbridge community.

Items discussed were

Information sharing and data base access and retention.

The need for more ACS approved housing

Strategies on community outreach

**October 1, 2008 Meeting with a group of Highbridge homeowners**

The meeting was coordinated by Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo's office and area homeowners. Deputy Inspector Dermont Shea and Keith Kalb, Bronx Director Department of Transportation were in attendance, fielded questions and gave an overview of their respective duties and responsibilities. Residents brought issues ranging from drug dealing, community and Police relations to speed bump placement and traffic signage.

**October 1, 2008 Bronx BP Bronx DIVA Talk at Pregones Theater**

As part of the Borough President Domestic Violence initiative and in-conjunction with his Domestic Violence Advisory Council in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month held their annual DiVA Talk program. This year's program, which was aired courtesy of News 12 the Bronx, was held at Pregones Theater. The show focused on providing Coordinated Assistance accessing social and legal services for victims and addressing teen dating violence. To keep victims safe, Borough President Carrion has continued his partnership with the Bronx District Attorney and Sanctuary for Families to improve enforcement policies of arrests and protections orders.

**October 8, 2008 Bronx Borough Service Cabinet**

The following items were discussed during the meeting. A report on the youth risk behavior survey presented by The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Philip Alberti, PHD, Director of Research and Evaluation and Deborah Lomax, Program Director, Bronx District Public Health Office. NYC Teen Mindspace presentation by Denise Arieli

Barufka, MSW, Director of Innovative Initiatives-Division of Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Child and Adolescent Services NYC DHMH.

**October 8, 2008 Meeting with the NYC Alliance on preventing sexual assault**

The mission of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is to develop and advance strategies, policies and responses that prevent sexual violence and limit its destabilizing effects on victims, families and communities. They accomplish this through: 1) research to document the extent of sexual violence in NYC and determine the effectiveness of current intervention and prevention efforts, 2) education about the devastating aftermath of sexual violence and opportunities for its prevention, and 3) advocacy for responsive policy development, practice and legislation with public officials and service providers. The meeting was to assist the group in highlighting certain locations throughout our district. It was similar to the community walkthrough/meet and greet over the summer. In this case we made pinpoint markers on an actual map of Community District Four.

**October 9, 2008 Governor Patterson's Hispanic Heritage Celebration**

Governor Patterson's Hispanic Heritage Celebration was held at Hostos Community College. The Governor via taped message spoke of the many contributions made by the Hispanic community throughout New York State.

**October 10, 2008 Bronx Borough President's Community parks tour**

The Borough President's office toured some of our neighborhood parks to survey and document needs for the planning department's assessment as part of a Borough-wide initiative.

**October 14 meeting with Luis Lugo and Bakary Camara of the Plimpton Homeowners Association**

The meeting was to discuss traffic, bus and structural issues that the homeowners are experiencing as well as an introduction.

**October 14 Site visit of the Ogden and 169<sup>th</sup>**

The purpose was to survey the area around Ogden Avenue between 168 to 170<sup>th</sup> and view the bus patterns. For some time now local home owners have petitioned to have the bus stop remove form 169<sup>th</sup> Street between Ogden and Plimpton Avenue.

**October 20, 2008 meet and greet**

The meeting was an introductory meeting with Nurah W. Amatullah, Executive Director of the Muslim Women's Institute Research and to discuss issues of concern.

**October 21, 2008 Morris Baseball League**

The meeting with the Morris Baseball League representatives was to discuss issues they are having with the ball field at Mullaly Park North. The League has met with the Parks department and will also meet with Council Members Foster and Arroyo. I also recommend that they attend our committee meeting and General Board Meeting.

**October 21, 2008 Meeting with EDC Bronx Representative**

The meeting with EDC's Bronx Representative, Andrew Barnes was an introductory meeting to review projects in his portfolio in Community District Four.