January, 2011 District Manager's Report

Department of Transportation (DOT):
Beginning January 3, 2011 meter rates will be changed with an estimated completion date of June 30th, 2011. Rates will change as follow:

- Passenger and Commercial parking rates at muni-meters in Manhattan south of 86h Street are $2.50 per hour, will increase to $3 per hour;
- Passenger parking rates at other metered locations, citywide are $.25 for 20 minutes, will increase to $.25 for 15 minutes

Sanitation Department
Reported the following on Budget Cuts:

- Monday night pick-up 4-12a.m. will be reduced to one truck
- 100 supervisors demoted to Sanitation Worker
- No mechanical brooms – mechanical brooms transferred to Enforcement
- One Field Supervisor for Collections

To combat Bed Bugs, the Sanitation Department has set new rules for disposing mattresses and box springs. Beginning December 3rd, 2010, the New York City Department of Sanitation will require all City residents to fully encase within a sealed plastic bag all mattresses or box springs being discarded for DSNY collection. This new rule will help prevent an increase in bed bug activity, with bed bugs found in homes and apartments. Under the new rule, failure to place a mattress or box spring out in a proper bag can result in a $100 fine. The Department will delay enforcing the new set-out rule for 30 days, followed by full enforcement beginning January 3rd, 2011. (see attached)

Department of Homeless Services
On January 31, 2011, the NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Volunteers are needed to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to count the number of people living unsheltered in the city. Information gathered by volunteers during HOPE 2011 is critical to our ongoing efforts, but your help is needed to make it possible. Please call 311 for further information or visit the following web site @ www.nyc.gov/dhs .

Human Rights Commission
Immigrant Employment Rights Workshop, offering employment rights, Job hunting tips, and legal documents, for immigrants. For further information, please contact Annette Harewood at (212) 306-7649.

The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is an independent and non-police mayoral agency. It is empowered to receive, mediate, investigate, hear, make findings on and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers which allege the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. Investigations are conducted in an impartial fashion by the

Board's investigative staff, which is composed entirely of civilian employees. The CCRB Board holds a monthly public meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at 40 Rector Street, New York, N.Y. 10006, 2nd fl., for further information please contact Dawn Fuentes, CCRB Director of Community Relations and training at (212) 442-8848.

Community Service Society/Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (CSS/RSVP) – is recruiting adults age 55+ to work one-on-one with low-wage individuals and families on self-selected areas of financial literacy. Volunteers will attend a training beginning February 2011 that will cover topics such as: banking, credit basics, reading credits reports, debt collection, budgeting and saving, avoiding financial scams, public benefits and tax credits, and working with clients. Volunteers must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills. A personal interview, successful completion of the training, and a commitment of 4-6 hours per week for one year of volunteer service is required. No previous experience is necessary; to obtain additional information about the Financial Coaching, please call Reyes Irizarry at (212) 614-5419 or Yvette Rennie at (212) 614-5558.

Citizens Committee for New York City
Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award. New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, Citizens Committee for New York City is awarding grants in the amount of $500 to $3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects. For more information, please contact Arif llah @ (212) 822-9580. Application deadline: January 31, 2011; Download Application @ www.citizensnyc.org/grants. (see attached)

NYC Ladders for Leaders is a college and career readiness program offering New York City high school and college students professional paid summer internships, college scholarship opportunities, free college preparatory and SAT courses, career guidance, and leadership development workshops.

Who can apply?
Anyone with prior work experience (paid or volunteer) who is:
A permanent resident of one of the five boroughs of New York City, between the ages of 16 - 21, A current high school junior, high school senior, college freshman, or college sophomore, Legally allowed to work in New York. For further info, please visit the Department of Youth & Community Development web site at www.nyc.gov/dycd.

Submitted by,

Eutha Prince
District Manager
1/20/11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, December 01, 2010
CONTACT: Vito A. Turso/Matthew LiPani
1 (646) 885-5020

Press Release #10-38A
www.nyc.gov/sanitation

TO COMBAT BED BUGS, NEW SANITATION RULES FOR DISPOSING OF MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS BEGIN THIS FRIDAY

Beginning this Friday, December 3rd, the New York City Department of Sanitation will require all City residents to fully encase within a sealed plastic bag all mattresses or box springs being discarded for DSNY collection. This new rule will help to control an increase in bed bug activity, with bed bugs being found in homes and apartments. Bed bugs are generally nocturnal and tend to live in bedding, such as mattresses and box springs, hiding in their crevices until they are ready to feed.

Under the new rule, failure to place a mattress or box spring out for DSNY collection in a proper bag can result in a $100 fine. The Department will delay enforcing the new set-out rule for 30 days, followed by full enforcement beginning January 3rd, 2011.

"There has been a rise in bed bug-related complaints within the City, and bedding is the prime nesting place for most bed bugs," said Sanitation Commissioner John J. Doherty. "With this new rule, and thanks to the support of Councilmember Gale Brewer, we will safeguard our workers and help to mitigate the spread of bed bugs throughout the City. We also suggest that the plastic mattress bags be placed around the bedding before it is removed from the room out to the curb to further limit bed bugs from infesting other parts of the home or apartment."

Councilmember Gale Brewer said: "I appreciate the efforts made by the Department of Sanitation to address the bed bug epidemic that our city has been grappling with, an issue I have been working on since 2006. In 2008, I introduced a bill, Intro 0872-2008, that would require all bedding and furniture set out for collection to be both completely contained inside a sealed plastic bag, and labeled with a sticker or decal indicating that it may contain bed bugs. I believe the rules promulgated by DSNY are a step in the right direction towards curtailing mattresses and box springs as a vehicle of spreading bed bugs. In our shared concern for the health and safety of city employees, I look forward to working with the Department to ensure that these rules are as effective as possible."

Plastic bags to contain the bedding are available at department stores, home improvement centers, at other home supply businesses, and online, at a modest cost. Bedding stores also provide removal options with purchases.

For further information, go to www.nyc.gov/sanitation, or call 311.

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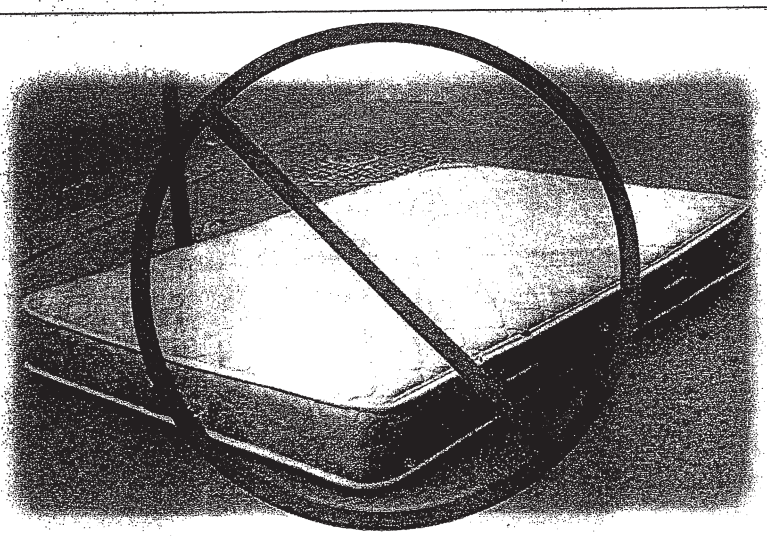
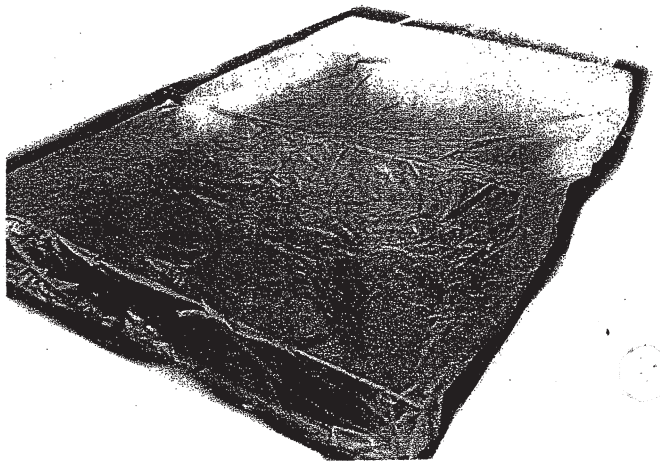
Stop Bedbugs



NO!



Yes!

MATTRESSES and BOX SPRINGS MUST BE BAGGED for COLLECTION

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

NYC™
sanitation

Over half of low-income New Yorkers report feeling insecure about their financial future

About the CSS Financial Coaching Corps

In 2007, the Community Service Society of New York launched the Financial Coaching Corps (FCC) in order to address the need for financial education in impoverished urban areas, where lack of conventional banking services encourages use of sub-prime lenders, check-cashing systems, and other high-risk practices.

The program comprises a rigorous training program for older adult volunteers (aged 55 and up) who work at community-based agencies to support the financial stability of low-income clients. Through ongoing one-on-one sessions, the financial coaches provide tools and skills that build clients' confidence in money management.

The Financial Coaching Corps is a cost-effective program to support New York's working poor while capitalizing on the City's most abundant resource: older adult volunteers.

Addressing a Need

Now more than ever, there is a severe national need for financial education, particularly in impoverished urban areas. As the brunt of the economic downturn hits the poor and near-poor, many low-income people are facing severe credit and debt issues arising from unemployment or a reduction in work hours.

An empowering approach to financial stability

Financial literacy education and training empowers people: it provides clients with the background and resources to engage in behaviors such as budgeting, saving, investing, and asset building that ensure financial success and future security. Through one-on-one coaching, FCC volunteers guide clients toward greater financial security by:

- Obtaining and reviewing credit reports
- Developing debt reduction plans
- Organizing and prioritizing bills
- Creating a budget and setting financial goals
- Screening for public benefits and tax credits
- Opening a bank account and avoiding fringe banking services such as check-cashing stores and payday loans

A Vital Resource: Senior Community Residents as Educators

While the notion of "financial literacy" has been discussed over the last decade, and bank after bank has developed its own financial literacy curriculum, no organization has effectively addressed the intermediary role that would ensure the material is delivered. Older adults are trusted and respected members of their communities—therefore a natural resource for educating community members on sensitive issues such as financial management. CSS has significant experience in training and placing older adult volunteers through its nationally acclaimed Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

"Clients who come to CSS enjoy 'one-stop-shopping' services, with access to experts in finances, entitlements and benefits, and taxes." RSVP Financial Coaching Corps Volunteer Reyes Irizarry

Community Service Society | Fighting Poverty Strengthening New York

RSVP Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

105 East 22nd Street
New York, NY 10010
PH 212.254.8900
FAX 212.260.6218
www.cssny.org

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES: Financial Coaching Corps

Training

In the spring of 2010, 21 new volunteers were trained to serve as financial coaches and are in the process of being placed in sites. All coaches have completed a rigorous nine-week training session most recently conducted by the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP). The program has a total of 36 volunteers.

Coaching Sites

Nineteen coaches are currently placed at sixteen sites: BronxWorks (Bronx); Community Service Society (CSS); Center for Employment Opportunities (Manhattan); Dress for Success (Bronx); First Step-Coalition for the Homeless (Manhattan); Food Bank – Community Kitchen (Manhattan); Gay Men' Health Crisis (Manhattan); Grace Institute (Manhattan); Groundwork, Inc. (Brooklyn); Jamaica Neighborhood Center (Queens); Lenox Hill Neighborhood House (Manhattan); Per Scholas, Inc (Bronx); Queens Community House (Queens); Taxi Workers Alliance (Manhattan); United Community Centers (Brooklyn): and the Westside Campaign Against Hunger (Manhattan).

Impact

From January - December 2009, the FCC conducted over 600 coaching sessions.

- Coaches assisted 66% of the clients in the retrieval and review of their credit reports.
- Coaches helped 40% of clients with budgeting.
- Coaches helped 78% of clients with debt and credit issues.
- Coaches screened 15% of clients for public benefits.

The FCC Model: Replicable, Collaborative, Unique

- Focuses on collaboration (*banking community, senior centers, churches*)
- Is replicable *(transfers across areas while capitalizing on specific community strengths/leadership)*
- Addresses significant need *(building financial stability among individuals continues to be a national issue)*
- Engages volunteers that are reflective of the communities they serve *(minority, low-income)*
- Draws on a plentiful resource (*the number of older adults looking for ways to "give back" and stay active is growing)*
- Is unique and different from existing programs in financial literacy *(trains and provides a critical teaching resource, adding extraordinary value to the field)*.

Building On CSS Strengths

The Financial Coaching Corps takes advantage of CSS's expertise in training and volunteer mobilization. Built on the core elements of the renowned Experience Corps Literacy model and our expertise with similar programs, CSS is utilizing RSVP volunteers age 55+ from communities throughout New York City.

Key Contacts

Rebecca Haase, Program Director
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rhaase@cssny.org

Reyes Irizarry, Project Director
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Yvette Rennie, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist
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yrennie@cssny.org

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) draws on a 160-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. We respond to urgent, contemporary challenges by pioneering programs for a more prosperous city.

The CSS/RSVP Financial Coaching Corps program is part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society. RSVP is a nationally-acclaimed program that enlists adults ages 55 and older to strengthen their communities by serving as volunteers. CSS RSVP has grown into a 7,000-strong cohort of older retired volunteers comprising nearly 50% Black and Latino adults from communities around New York City.

Community Service Society | Fighting Poverty Strengthening New York

RSVP Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

105 East 22nd [illegible]t
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www.cssny.org

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Spring 2011 Cycle II:
- May 9 - June 16, 2011

Summer 2011 Cycle:
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31-10 Thomson Avenue, Room C-371
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DAILY NEWS | Queens

Tuesday, February 10th 2009

School helps vets retool for homelife

BY CLARE TRAPASSO

ARMY MECHANIC Rafael Lopez was working on a 14-ton military truck in Iraq when the compressor exploded. When he looked up, he saw a fireball headed straight for him.

"I caught on fire," said Lopez, 24, of South Richmond Hill, as he described his accident of 2½ years ago. "I tried to do the stop, drop and roll thing, but it doesn't really work."

Lopez had always wanted to go to college, but couldn't afford the tuition. He enlisted with the hope that the military would help him achieve his goal.

Now, after two years in a Texas military hospital recovering from third-degree burns, a broken jaw and 15 skin grafts, his dream is about to come true.

Lopez recently began classes in the Veterans Upward Bound Program at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City.

The six-week program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, provides free GED and college-preparatory classes for veterans who trade in their fatigues for civvies.

About 30 students have enrolled in the program at LaGuardia, the vast majority taking college-prep classes, said program coordinator Edith Segovia.

Lopez said he wants to study business administration and eventually attend a four-year college. The key is to get back into the groove of academic life.

"I've been away from school for about six years now," said Lopez, who's concerned he won't do well on entrance exams.

So, four days a week, he brushes up on his social studies, English and other core subjects.

Upward Bound is "just going to make it easier to get back into everything," Lopez said.

That's what the program is for, said Samuel Farrell, who heads LaGuardia's veterans services office. "Our program was set up to make veterans be more competitive in the job market," he said.

And it's not just vets fresh off the battlefield who benefit.

Michael Smith, 79, a Korean War vet and retired Long Island Rail Road conductor, said his dream is to become a minister at his Baptist church in Jamaica.

But, to do that, he needs to go back to school.

"If I'm going to teach in my church, I want to be up in my English," Smith said.

Learning has been harder at his age, he said, but he enjoys being back in school.

"All veterans should take advantage of this course," Smith said. "Right now, we need educated people in this society."

Rafael Lopez (l.), 24, an Iraq War vet recovering from third-degree burns, and Korean War vet Michael Smith, 79, are more than 50 years apart in age, but both are benefiting from the Veterans Upward Bound Program at LaGuardia Community College.

Photo by Susana Bates

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORKERS FOR BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: January 31, 2011

Have a great idea for a community improvement project?
Apply for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award!

Through New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of $500 to $3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects.

We believe that people can make important change happen on their streets and in their communities by working together. We support New Yorkers across the city in their efforts to build stronger communities. In addition to small grants, we offer one-on-one project planning assistance, skills-building workshops, and a resource center with access to computer stations, conference space and an equipment loan library. We also bring people together to share ideas, experiences, and expertise.

Download Application: www.citizensnyc.org/grants

For more information, contact Arif Ullah:
212.822.9580/aullah@citizensnyc.org

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY

767 Fifth Avenue, 26th Fl.
New York, NY 10153

Tel: 212.989.0909
Fax: 212.989.0983

www.citizensnyc.org

Neighborhood Leadership Institute
Winter 2011 Skills-Building Workshops

- Basics of Community Organizing
  Saturday, January 15, 11am-2pm
  Bring neighbors together to work on issues that matter to you!

- Group Structure
  Saturday, February 12, 11am-1:30pm
  Build and maintain an effective neighborhood association or community group!

- Navigating City Government
  Saturday, March 12, 11am-2pm
  Learn how government functions, who is responsible for what, and how to have your community issues addressed.

- Grassroots Fundraising
  Saturday, April 9, 11am-1pm
  Support your group's work with community fundraising efforts!

Workshops are for volunteer-led groups and individuals interested in working on community improvement projects. *Those who complete the series will receive a Neighborhood Leadership Institute certificate.*

For more information about the workshops and to RSVP, please contact Arif Ullah: aullah@citizensnyc.org/212.822.9580