

To the voters of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, I am Councilman Albert Vann, and I am running for re-election to represent the 36th Council District.

You have honored me by allowing me to represent you in the New York State Assembly for 27 years and for the past almost 8 years in the New York City Council. I have attempted to repay you for this great honor, by representing you to the very best of my ability.

We share in common our love for our community. I am very proud of the fact that I was born and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant, my children were born and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant, and now my grandchildren are being raised in both Bed Stuy and Crown Heights; all of them are attending public schools, as I did as well as their parents.

As our community has evolved over the years, we have experienced many changes. We realize that there are many factors that play a role in determining the viability of a community and the quality of life within the community.

My longtime involvement in our community as a teacher and community organizer, years before I was elected, helped shape my philosophy of life as well as my political philosophy. In essence, a community must be organized and have clear goals in order to maximally benefit from the resources and opportunities available in our society. Community leaders must use their collective power to demand and advocate that community needs be met.

It is through this process that my colleagues and I, in the early 1980s, coined the phrase, "community empowerment." Following this concept, we have built institutions in our community, and we have

created and supported many community-based organizations. Going forward together, we will continue to build strong communities that empower its residents.

Thank you.

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