



Journal

Housing Bureau's New Officers' Orientation

Chairman Hernandez Joins Chief Jaffe To Address Officers

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez addressed 180 new graduates of the Police Academy on the morning of January 12, 2004, at Metropolitan Hospital in Manhattan, during the first day of the officers' two-day orientation with the Housing Bureau. After Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe's welcoming remarks, Mr. Hernandez assured the probationary officers that NYCHA staff and residents value the vital role played by the Housing Bureau in reducing crime and improving the quality of life for residents in NYCHA's 346 developments. Most of the officers will be stationed at PSA#2 in Brownsville, Brooklyn, PSA#5 in West Harlem, and PSAs #7 and #8 in the Bronx. In addition to manning the desks at the PSAs, Housing Bureau police serve as Community Police Officers (CPOs), patrolling NYCHA's buildings and grounds by foot, bicycle and scooter in some cases. Over the course of the two-day orientation officers were educated on NYCHA-specific policies, programs and procedures, such as the pet policy, the Tenant Patrol Program, how to perform vertical patrols in NYCHA developments and what to do when elevators are disabled. Citywide Council of Presidents (COP) Chair Gerri Lamb, who represents all of the resident leaders in each of NYCHA's nine COP districts, spoke to the group after the Chairman. This class already has a special distinction. Many of these officers were called into duty during the Blackout of 2003, although they were still in training, and their first assignment as police officers after graduating from the Police Academy on December 30th, was to work at Times Square on New Year's Eve.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe (right) addresses 180 probationary police officers (above) newly assigned to the NYPD Housing Bureau, at Metropolitan Hospital on January 12, 2004. To Chief Jaffe's right are NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez and Housing Bureau Lieutenant Luis Colon. The officers will be considered probationary for a period of 18 months. The NYPD Housing Bureau operates from nine Police Service Areas throughout the city. Their mission, as always, is to reduce crime and foster positive community relations.



NYCHA and the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union Collaborate to Promote the EITC and Free Tax Assistance



(left to right) Congress Member Nydia Velazquez, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, DCA Commissioner Gretchen Dykstra, LESPFCU CEO Pablo DeFilippi and City Council Member Margarita Lopez joined forces at the LESPFCU to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit on February 1, 2004.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez joined The Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union (LESPFCU) in Manhattan for a press conference on February 1, 2004 to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and launch a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at NYCHA's Campos Plaza Community Center. Campos and the LESPFCU are just two of 42 VITA sites around the City that will provide free income tax preparation services to NYCHA residents and other low- and moderate-income New Yorkers in nine languages.

It is estimated that 31,000 NYCHA families will be eligible to file for the EITC — a federal and state tax credit for individuals and families who have earned income below \$35,000. Filing for the EITC can result in a refund of up to \$5,000, depending on filing status and number of children. It is estimated that the average refund per NYCHA family will exceed \$2,500.

"Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Dykstra of the Department of Consumer Affairs have launched a Citywide effort to make sure that people who are entitled to this benefit really know about it and apply for it," said Chairman Hernandez. The Chairman commended the LESPFCU and its CEO Pablo DeFilippi for serving as a VITA site and for holding a press conference to promote the EITC for the second year in a row.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is spearheading the New York City EITC Coalition, whose goal is to increase public awareness of the

(Continued on page 4)

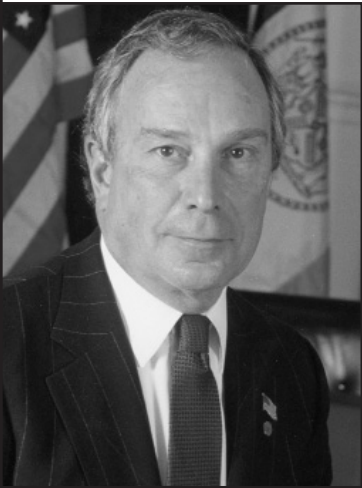
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Celebrate Black History Month!

Message From The Mayor

The State of The City



The goal of this administration in 2004, as it has been for the last two years, is to continue to create opportunity for every New Yorker, in every neighborhood, and in every borough.

Today, virtually every economic indicator in the Big Apple is positive. Unemployment is at a 20-month low. Businesses are hiring. Building permits are up. Wall Street firms have stayed in this city, and have just had their best year in three. Our hotels are full, and international tourists

are coming back to New York. New York's economy is growing again.

That's no small thing. When I took office in January 2002, the City faced a \$5 billion budget deficit. A year later, the deficit had grown to \$6.5 billion. Thanks to a reviving economy and the contributions of our citizens, New York City will finish the current fiscal year (which ends in June) with a balanced budget.

In addition to our getting the City government finances in order, another reason that New York is coming back is because we've kept it the safest big city in the nation. During 2003, the NYPD drove crime down to levels last seen in 1968. We reduced crime by 5% Citywide last year, and by more than 10% over the last two years. Crime in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments went down by 3.4%. (See page 4.) Crime in the subways fell by 13% last year, to its lowest point since we began tracking it. Domestic violence homicides fell by 20%, and for the second consecutive year, there were less than 600 murders. All of this has been accomplished while protecting New York City against the constant threat of terrorism.

The New York City Fire Department has done an equally outstanding job of keeping New Yorkers safe. Civilian fire fatalities in 2003 stayed at levels not seen since the 1950s. The FDNY has been rebuilt, and as of December, reached the most important milestone in its recovery. There are now more men and women in the ranks of our Bravest than there were on September 10th, 2001.

And while cutting City spending by some \$3.3 billion, this administration has done a better job of providing help to those who need it most. For seniors: we've maintained services to our elderly. During the last fiscal year, with the help of the New York City Housing Authority, we made sure that all the City's senior centers remained open. And today, we're making that same commitment for the next year.

We've continued to make the lives of our most vulnerable children safer, and their families stronger. During the last year, we reduced the foster care rolls to their lowest level in 16 years. The number of children entering the system fell by 17%. More families were kept together at the same time. Adoptions were finalized for more than 3,100 children.

The number of homeless families has also been reduced. During the last fiscal year, a record number of homeless New Yorkers — 20,000 men, women and children — were placed in permanent housing. For those struggling out of poverty despite a deep recession over the last two years, 32,000 people have come off the welfare rolls, and fewer New Yorkers are on public assistance now than at any point since 1965. We really are moving people from welfare to work — and we're doing it in the face of a national and local economic slowdown.

City government is more democratic and accessible to the public than ever. Thanks to 311, City government is accessible and answerable to the people of New York — 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in 170 different languages. 311 has given us a tremendous tool for improving the quality of life for New Yorkers, and New Yorkers are taking full advantage. 311 operators handle over 25,000 calls a day!

In 2004, I challenge all New Yorkers to keep our city great and to make it even greater. It won't be easy, but I know we can do it. There is almost no limit to what we can accomplish.

Michael R. Bloomberg

HOPE VI

Section 3

Construction Jobs Available at Prospect Plaza Houses!

What is Section 3?

Section 3 is a HUD requirement that employment and other economic opportunities be directed to public housing residents. It requires that for contracts in excess of \$100,000 for modernization, new construction and building maintenance work at public housing developments that 30% of all new hires be residents of public housing.

Who is eligible for Section 3 construction jobs at The HOPE VI Revitalization Development — Prospect Plaza?

All NYCHA residents. However, you should know that there is a hiring order. This order for hiring is:

1. Relocated residents of the Prospect Plaza Housing development;
2. NYCHA residents from NYCHA developments within Community Board # 16;
3. NYCHA residents residing within the borough of Brooklyn; and
4. NYCHA residents residing in other boroughs of the city.

How can a resident be placed on the Section 3 list for any job citywide?

To place your name on the list please:

1. Contact your Management Office for both a Job Training/Section3/Employment Referral Intake and a Resident Experience form;
2. Indicate your interest in Section 3 employment by checking "Yes" in the box on the Intake Form marked "Section 3: Yes or No"; and
3. Return the Intake Form to your Management Office so that your residency "in good standing" can be confirmed. The Management Office will forward the Intake Form for processing by NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services.

Intake Forms are also available by calling: NYCHA Department of Resident Employment Services (DRES) at 718-250-5904 or the 24-hour Hotline at 212-306-3800. Leave your name, address (including apartment number), zip code and daytime telephone number if you call the Hotline. You will be contacted by DRES's Recruitment Unit to attend an orientation to complete the intake process.

If you are interested in the Section 3 employment opportunities, contact you Management Office or call DRES now! This may be the opportunity you were waiting for!



Passing of Former Chairman Walter E. Washington

Washington was appointed first mayoral election and Mayor-Commissioner of the District of Columbia by President Lyndon B. Johnson in late 1967, after serving as NYCHA's Chairman for less than one year. He was elected Mayor in D.C.'s first mayoral election and remained Mayor until January 1979. Mr. Washington was the first African-American to head a major United States city, and was the recipient of many distinguished awards and honorary degrees.

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) 10th Chairman and the first elected Mayor of Washington, D.C., Walter E. Washington, passed away on October 27, 2003 at the age of 88. Mr. Washington was appointed Chairman of the New York City Authority in 1966 by Mayor John Lindsey after a national search.

Before his appointment with NYCHA, Mr. Washington was the Executive Director of D.C.'s housing authority, the National Capital Housing Authority (NCHA), for more than five years, concluding a 25 year career there. *The Washington Post* called Mr. Washington's departure from the District, "a civic misfortune."

The great grandson of a slave, Mr. Washington was born in Georgia and grew up in Jamestown, New York. He was a graduate of Howard University where he also received his law degree.

The Housing Authority
Journal

70
years
of Public Housing
in New York City

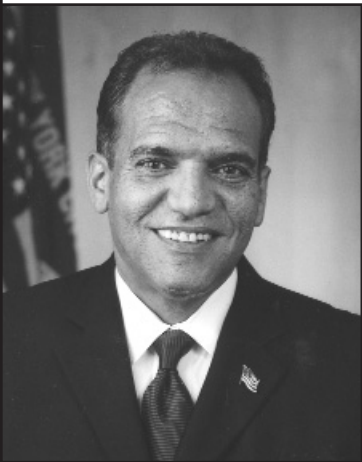
ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority
Department of Public and Community Relations
250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007
Tel. (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358

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Message From The Chairman**Transparency In Government –
NYCHA's Budget For 2004**

I'm pleased to announce that on January 14, 2004, the Board of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) passed the Authority's budget for FY2004 and financial plan for FY2004-2007. NYCHA will continue to provide the core services that are essential for keeping our developments in good working condition. We will continue to maintain the physical infrastructure of our developments, preserve our Community Center senior and

youth programs, administer all 90,000 Section 8 Leased Housing vouchers, provide subsidies to the NYPD Housing Bureau and 105 Department for the Aging (DFTA) sponsored senior centers, and perhaps most importantly to residents, we will accomplish all of this without raising ceiling rents.

Overall, the budget for 2004 will account for a reduction in spending by \$300 million. Why are these cuts necessary? Since 2001, the Authority has experienced reductions in government funding, resulting in a loss of \$240 million. And at the end of the day, it is money that makes it possible to fulfill our mission. As you all know, NYCHA's mission is to provide decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. And more than that, NYCHA also seeks to help residents improve the quality of their lives by making an array of community, educational, employment and social service programs available.

Last year, NYCHA was successful in reducing its budget deficit by more than \$93 million. We did it through a variety of initiatives, including instituting a partial hiring freeze, eliminating Wednesday evening management coverage, freezing vehicle purchasing, curtailing overtime spending and cutting administrative expenses.

In 2004, we will implement department-level budgeting to help us better control our costs, reduce funding for contracts, equipment and supplies, leverage new sources of revenue, and streamline operations through improved technology and the consolidation of administrative functions.

The Housing Authority needs to be able to manage within its means in order to continue to be the vital agency that it is in the future. This is particularly important because funding for NYCHA can be unpredictable. Because we receive nearly all of our funding from the federal government, the future inevitably involves financial risk as administrations change and with them, priorities for allocating federal dollars. Priorities can also change within the same administration because of shifting demands.

No one could have foreseen the attacks of September 11th, or the Blackout of 2003, and the financial toll, as well as the emotional toll of those events. There's no knowing what the future will bring, but rest assured that NYCHA's budget and financial plan leaves room for the Housing Authority to adapt to unforeseen changes.

I'd just briefly like to say a word about financial accountability in government. The creation of a budget is a fundamental step toward financial accountability. Transparency, or making that budget available to the public, is another important step, a demonstration of the Housing Authority's commitment to be held accountable. If you are interested in viewing NYCHA's budget and financial plan, please visit our web site at www.nyc.gov/nycha.

This is truly a sea change for the Housing Authority, a defining moment. And I remain confident that whatever the future brings, NYCHA will always be able to rely on the good faith and the commitment of the nearly 419,000 residents who make their homes in our developments.

Tino Hernandez

**SUDDEN INFANT
DEATH SYNDROME
Reducing The Risk!**

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden joined Health and Hospitals Corporation President Benjamin Chu and Harlem Hospital Pediatrics Director Stephen Nicholas for a press conference in early December to announce that a recent DOHMH Community Health Survey found racial disparities in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS.

SIDS is the diagnosis given for the sudden, unexplained death of an infant younger than 12 months of age, with the majority of SIDS deaths occurring in infants 2-4 months old. Across the nation, SIDS is the leading cause of death in infants between one month and one year of age, and the third overall cause of infant death behind very low birth weight and birth defects.

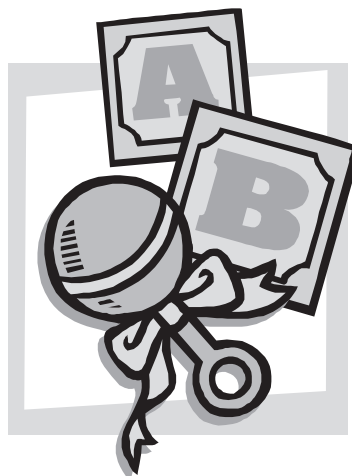
The DOHMH reported that the study found that 38% of African-Americans reported putting infants to sleep on their stomachs, compared with 11% of other respondents. "Back to sleep" practices are closely correlated to SIDS. Vital statistics from 1999-2002, showed that 52% of reported SIDS deaths in New York City were among African-American infants, which was nearly twice the rate for Hispanics and ten times the rate for whites.

"Losing a child to SIDS is a tragedy that can often be prevented when parents and care givers have safety tips on how to put their children to sleep," said Dr. Chu at the press conference.

How can you reduce the risk of SIDS death for your infant?

- Always put your baby to sleep on his or her back;
- Use a firm, flat crib mattress in a safety approved crib;
- Remove fluffy or loose objects from the sleep area including pillows, comforters, stuffed animals and toys;

(Continued on page 4)

*Deborah's Diary*

By Deborah Williams

"A Found Treasure" — Ocean Bay Apartments in Queens is home to Ms. Celia Betancourt but recently it has become more than just her home — it has become a place where she creates magnificent paintings using oils and water colors. Ms. Betancourt creates still lifes, portraits, and nature scenes, and also recreates the paintings of other artists adding a little of her own flavor. Most of her paintings reflect her life experiences, travels and her ethnic heritage. Discovered by NYCHA's Queens Social Services Department, this 63-years-young woman personifies strength, courage, and resilience. Stricken with arthritis and lung complications she perseveres. She describes her painting, which, with the exception of an art class in high school is self-taught, as a form of exercise for her hands. "It keeps them from stiffening and I feel relaxed and serene. While I am painting I forget about life's sorrows," Ms. Betancourt told me recently. In an interview I conducted with Ms. Betancourt I discovered that she had stopped painting because she was out of supplies. But thanks to the NYCHA Harborview Arts Center in Manhattan and Ms. Leticia Barboza, I am happy to report that she is back in action, paint brush and all. The Harborview Arts Center generously donated the art supplies that Ms. Betancourt needed to get her started again. *Well Ms. Betancourt I have seen your paintings and I can understand why the Queens Social Services staff refer to you as, "A Treasure Found."* No one who has had the opportunity to view your paintings would ever believe that you are not a professional artist. You are an inspiration!

Guitarist — When Dominique Jones first joined the H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program, which provides musical instruction to children of low-income families, he was just a beginner. Dominique took his lessons one day at a time and his guitar playing flourished. Everyone at the H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program realized his potential. So did his mother, Ms. Ivy, who attends every training session with Dominique and is always supportive. In the H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program, Dominique took his first step, learned to walk and is now ready to run with his talent. Dominique has auditioned for the Talent Unlimited High School, the Professional Performing Arts School and La Guardia High School and has received callbacks. This means that he has passed the first round of auditions and may be accepted into one of the City's high schools for the musically gifted. *Dominique, you have taken the first step in developing your career as a guitarist. If you stay focused and stay committed to your music and yourself you will become the musician you want to be. So, Dominique, practice, practice, practice because achievement and success are only another step away. I congratulate you on your achievement and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!*

Touché — **A great hit for the art of fencing** — In 2003, the fencing competition was eliminated from the Empire State Games because of budget cuts. But, after strong opposition from the United States Fencing Association and with assistance from individuals like Frederick Douglass West Broadway Houses' St. Claire Clement, who lobbied for fencing to be reinstated, the sport of fencing prevailed and this year (2004) fencing will be included on the Empire State Olympic Games roster as a competitive sport game. In addition, the Empire State Games, New York City has a new Regional Coach for Fencing — St. Claire Clement. St. Claire Clement possesses a great passion for the sport of fencing and began fencing in 1957, during his military years in Germany. Since then, he has gone on to become the co-founder of The East Harlem International Fencing Club, the official score and time keeper for the Women's Foil World Cup '96 gold, silver and bronze finals, and helped form the Alexander Dumas Fencing Society. The Empire State Games will be held during the week of July 28 through August 1, 2004 in Binghamton, New York. *Mr. Clement, I congratulate you on your appointment and wish you all the best in the world of fencing.*

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on December 11 and 18, 2002, and January 2, 8, and 22, 2003. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of December 11, 2002

William Shaw Case 6359/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 3073 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of December 18, 2002

Menelek Edwards Case 5227/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 300 Wortman Avenue, Linden Houses, Brooklyn.

Alexander Davidson Case 6420/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 60 East 135th Street, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.

Anwar Amari Case 6422/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 360 Williams Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.

Charles Lomotey Case 6423/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 2793 Dewey Avenue, Throggs Neck Houses, the Bronx.

Angel Maldonado Case 6425/02 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 215-217 Alexander Avenue, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.

Marvel Strand Case 6483/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 335 East 166th Street, Claremont Consolidated, the Bronx.

Alfonso Hill Case 6501/02 formerly associated with seventh floor of 3550 Bivona Street, Boston Secor Houses, the Bronx.

Pedro Madera Case 6502/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 156 West 174th Street, Sedgwick Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of January 2, 2003

Steven Sanchez Case 6514/03 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 235 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 8, 2003

Perry Heyward Case 6729/02 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 50 East 106th Street, Carver Houses, Manhattan.

Aaron Jack Case 6712/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 2304 West 8th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

Christopher Clark Case 6721/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 344 East 28th Street, Straus Houses, Manhattan.

El-Khalig Case 6798/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 30 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.

Ian Collins Case 6837/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 868 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of January 22, 2003

Kelvin Sambula Case 6980/02 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 350-352 East 137th Street, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.

Carl Turner Case 6982/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 820 Henderson Avenue, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.

Adam Manning Case 6983/02 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 2360 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, New York.

EITC

(Continued from page 1)

EITC. The Coalition is made up of more than 80 government agencies, non-profit organizations, private businesses and others.

DCA's Commissioner Dykstra was on hand to report that there are an estimated 250,000 New Yorkers who are eligible for the EITC but might not apply. "We have to find those 250,000 people and urge them to come to a free site," Commissioner Dykstra said. "We will bring \$560 million to the City of New York in just one year."

Also present were Congress Member Nydia Velazquez and Council Member Margarita Lopez, whom the Chairman referred to as, "two dynamic Latinas who day in and day out help to educate the people of public housing on the many issues that concern them."

Congress Member Velazquez was quick to point out that the EITC is NOT a welfare program but money that people have worked for and are entitled to. She called the EITC, "The only federal program that brings fairness to the tax system in this country."

"Last year this institution was able to put this initiative together for the first time in conjunction with NYCHA," said Council Member Lopez. "The result was 300 tax returns resulting in \$186,249 from EITC money." The Council Member also stated that taxpayers who utilized the LESPFCU VITA site saved \$30,000 in tax preparation fees.

To find out if you are eligible for the EITC and for the location of the VITA site nearest you, call New York's City's all (non-emergency) service hotline, 311.

PREVENTING SIDS

(Continued from page 3)

—Keep the temperature in your baby's sleeping area below 70 degrees;

—Always keep the baby's head uncovered;

—Don't let anyone smoke near your baby. Smoking around children greatly increases the risk of SIDS as well as childhood infections;

—Having your baby sleep in the same bed with you or other adults can be dangerous. Adults can inadvertently roll over onto their babies in their sleep.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/health or call 311.

Message From The Housing Bureau Chief

Operation Impact II

The Housing Bureau hopes all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and employees enjoyed a joyful and safe holiday season. With another year behind us, I am happy to report that just as crime dropped throughout the City in 2003, the Housing Bureau's focus on NYCHA developments also produced a drop in crime.

Housing Authority locations experienced a 3.4% reduction of reported index crimes last year. In particular, the Police Department's crime reduction strategy, Operation Impact, which was launched to reduce and prevent serious and violent crimes by deploying 1,000 officers to strategically targeted locations, proved to be an enormous success. Building on that success, last month, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly announced the expansion of Operation Impact Zones to include 22 precincts, up from 18, with Operation Impact II.

Nine housing developments fall within two of these zones, in Police Service Area #2 in Brooklyn and Police Service Area #7 in the Bronx. In Brooklyn, Brownsville, Tilden, Langston Hughes, Seth Low and Van Dyke Houses have been designated as the Operation Impact Zone. And in the Bronx, Patterson, Millbrook, Mott Haven and Mitchel Houses are the Operation Impact Zone.

As of end of 2003, Police Service Area #2 reduced index crime by 28% within the Operation Impact Zone and Police Service Area #7 reduced index crime by 23% within the Operation Impact Zone.

Our goals in 2004 are to continue reductions in crime, improve the quality of life for all residents, and to enhance police community relations.

Joanne Jaffe

In Memoriam ~ Barbara Outlaw



Polo Grounds Resident Association President

Polo Grounds Resident Association President Barbara Outlaw passed away suddenly on January 30, 2004. A service for Ms. Outlaw was held on February 6 at the Resurrection Roman Catholic Church in Harlem.

Barbara Outlaw was born in New York City and raised in Harlem where she attended the Resurrection Roman Catholic School and Cathedral High School. She also attended the College of New Rochelle.

Ms. Outlaw was active in her community. She served as the Resident Association President for Polo Grounds Houses in Manhattan from 1996 to 1998 and was re-elected in 2002. She was a member of the Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy and a former president of Community School District #5. She received many awards for her hard work, most recently from Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields during Women's History Month.

Ms. Outlaw's professional career began in 1966 at the New York City Board of Education as a family assistant. At the time of her death, she was employed at District Council 37, Local 372, as a Grievance Representative for the Schools Division.

Ms. Outlaw was the wife of the late James Henry Outlaw, mother of James, Desiree and Jacqueline, and guardian to another child, Ninta.

NYCHA's Board and staff extend their condolences to Ms. Outlaw's family and friends.

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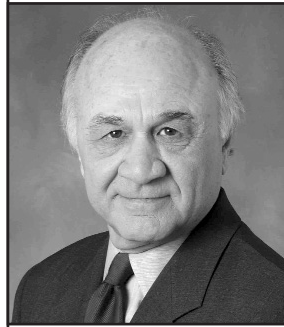
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Message From The FDNY Commissioner

Residential Fire Safety in NYCHA Housing



**FDNY Commissioner
Nicholas Scoppetta**

Fires. They're unpredictable and dangerous. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to be armed with the most up-to-date knowledge on fire safety and prevention.

Take for example the January 15, 2004 fire in Wald Houses, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This two-alarm fire spread easily through the halls of the sixth floor because residents fleeing the apartment where the fire originated failed to close the door behind them.

Taking simple steps, such as closing doors can help contain the fire and assist firefighters in fighting the blaze more easily. In addition, fire marshals attributed the cause of the fire to a faulty electrical extension cord. It's important to make certain that there are no exposed wires or frayed electrical cords in your home.

Whether you live in a six-story walk-up or a high-rise building, there are basic fire safety and prevention tips that everyone should know. Following these simple tips will significantly enhance your safety and reduce the number of fire-related injuries, fatalities and property loss in residential buildings of any kind.

Basic Fire Prevention and Fire Preparedness Measures

- Every apartment should be equipped with at least one smoke detector and batteries should be replaced twice every year. Make sure your smoke detector is operational.
- Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy.
- Store matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Never leave cooking unattended and keep stovetops clean and free of items that can catch fire.
- Never overload electrical outlets. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed and never run extension cords under rugs.
- Never obstruct doorways or windows leading to fire escapes or other means of egress. Do not install air conditioners in windows that lead to fire escapes. Air Conditioners must be used with special heavy duty outlets only.
- Report any accumulation of rubbish or obstructions in hallways stair halls and elevators to your Management Office as soon as possible.
- If you have window gates in your apartment, they should be approved by the Fire Department or the Board of Standards and Appeals. Familiarize yourself and members of your household with the operation of the window gate and maintain the device so that it opens smoothly.
- Familiarize yourself and members of your household with the location of all stairwells, fire escapes and other means of egress.
- Prepare an emergency escape route to use in the event of a fire in the building. Choose a meeting place for members of your household that's a safe distance from your building.
- Always exercise care with candles. Never leave candles unattended and never use candles around small children or animals.

What to do if you encounter a fire:

Following the above fire safety tips is the first step to protecting yourself and your family. However, should you encounter a fire there are some general things you should keep in mind:

- Stay calm and do not panic. Notify the Fire Department as soon as possible.
- Because flame, heat and smoke rise, generally a fire on a floor below your apartment presents a greater threat to your safety than a fire on a floor above your apartment.
- Do not overestimate your ability to put out a fire. Most fires cannot be easily or safely extinguished. Do not attempt to put the fire out once it begins to quickly spread. If you attempt to put a fire out, make sure you have a clear path of retreat from the room.
- If you decide to exit the building during a fire, close all doors as you exit to confine the fire. NEVER use the elevator.
- If you are caught in heavy smoke conditions, get down on the floor and crawl. Take short breaths, breathing through your nose.
- If your clothes catch fire, *don't run*. Stop, Drop and Roll.

All residential buildings are required to have a Fire Safety Plan and Fire Safety Notice attached to the inside entrance door of each apartment. Contact your Management Office if you do not have one.

Nicholas Scoppetta

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If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General (IG) at 212-306-3355. The IG is supervised by the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI). Although the DOI and the IG initiate and develop their own investigations they encourage and rely upon NYCHA employees, residents, people who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large, to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.

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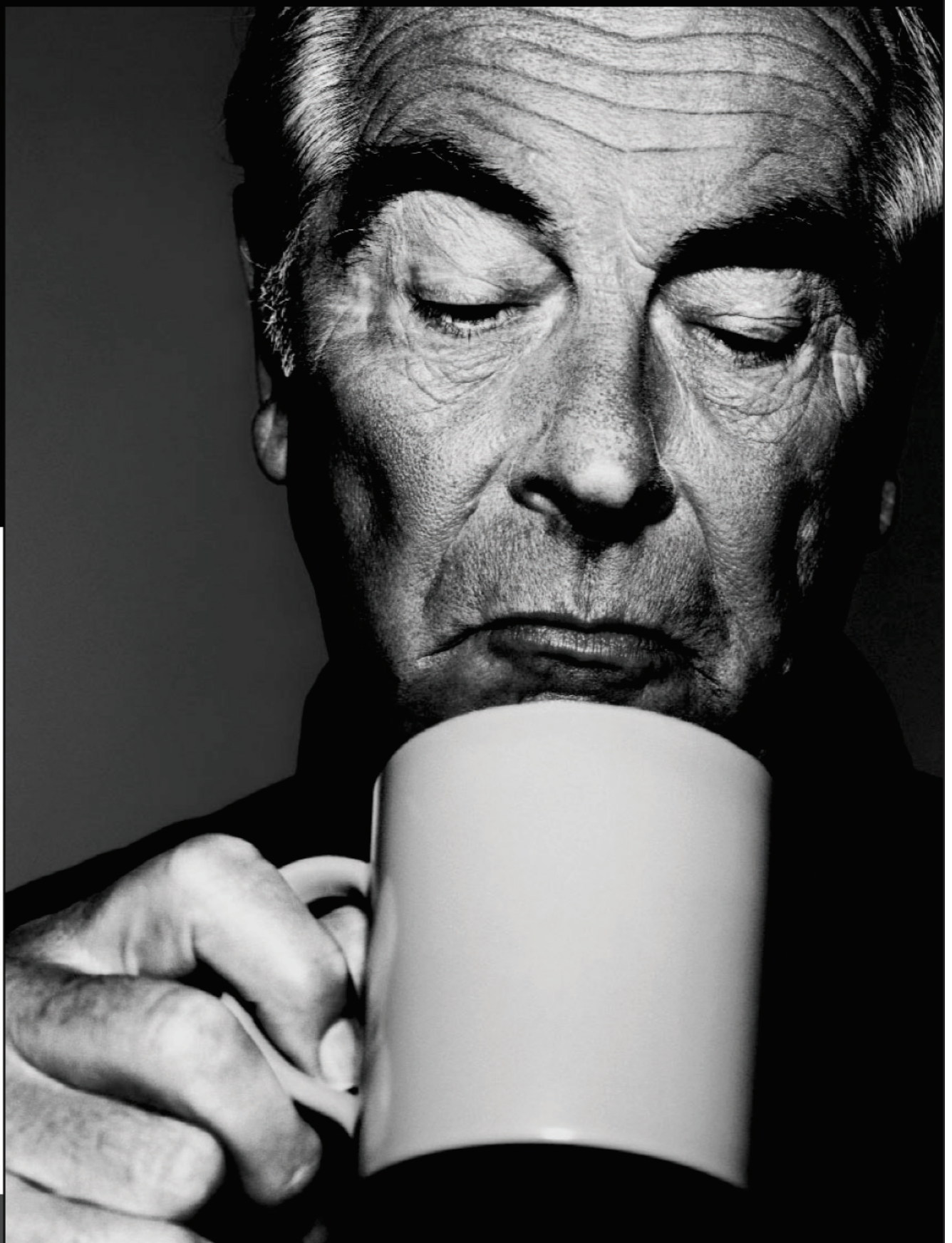
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Brooklyn

March 10, 10:00 AM
Del Rio Diner
166 Kings Hwy.
Cross St./W. 12th St.

Brooklyn

March 12, 9:30 AM
Junior's Restaurant
386 Flatbush Ave.
Corner of DeKalb Ave.

Brooklyn

March 17, 10:00 AM
Perry's Restaurant
3482 Nostrand Ave.
Btwn. Ave. U & V

Brooklyn

March 23, 10:00 AM
Toomey's Diner
252 Empire Blvd.
Cross St./Rogers Ave.

Bronx

February 25, 10:00 AM
Land & Sea Restaurant
5535 Broadway
Btwn. 230th & 231st St.

Bronx

March 9, 10:00 AM
Paradise Restaurant *(Bi-Lingual)*
243 East 149th St.
Cross St./Morris Ave.

Bronx

March 16, 10:00 AM
Joe's Place *(Bi-Lingual)*
1841 Westchester Ave.
Cross St./Theriot Ave.

Bronx

March 18, 10:00 AM
Land & Sea Restaurant
5535 Broadway
Btwn. 230th & 231st St.

Manhattan

March 12, 10:00 AM
Il Forno
2231 Broadway
Cross St./80th St.

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March 17, 10:00 AM
Caridad *(Bi-Lingual)*
4311 Broadway
Cross St./184th St.

Manhattan

March 23, 10:00 AM
Stono Restaurant
277 Malcolm X Blvd./Lenox Ave.
Cross St./124th St.

Queens - Flushing

March 10, 10:00 AM
Palace Diner
60-15 Main St.
Cross St./60th Ave.

Queens - Long Island City

March 23, 10:00 AM
Bel Aire Diner
31-91 21st St.
Cross St./Broadway



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