

New York City Housing Authority Journal

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LATE NEWS

Centralized Call Center Expands to Queens

By Allan Leicht

SINCE AUGUST 1ST, ALL NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) residents who live in the borough of Queens have been utilizing the new Centralized Call Center (CCC) to request apartment repairs and maintenance service. Like the successful inauguration of CCC on Staten Island last April, Queens residents will now call (718) 707-7771 rather than their development's management office when they need service in their apartments. At that phone number, they will connect with a Customer Service Representative who will process the request and enter it into the Authority's Work Ticket System. The resident will receive a Work Ticket Number and an appointment for service.

"That's the major innovation from the residents' point of view," said NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple. "Until now residents who requested service or repairs often had to wait at home for extended periods during the day. This new system will give residents specific appointments — and that's a big step forward in customer service."

Customer Service Representatives are available at (718) 707-7771, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For non-emergency repair or maintenance service appointments, the Customer Service Representative will generate a Work Ticket that is printed out at the development so that the superintendent can assign the appropriate personnel to the work, based on the appointment. A Customer Service Representative will then call the resident on the day before the appointment to

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SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER LAEDLEIN RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS

By Howard Silver
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Rowland Laedlein

ON AUGUST 19, 2005, ASSISTANT DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ADGM) OF OPERATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ROWLAND LAEDLEIN RETIRED FROM THE AUTHORITY. Two weeks earlier, on a quiet Friday afternoon, he sat in his small office on the ninth floor of 250 Broadway, patiently answering questions about his remarkable career here of almost 34 years.

With characteristic deliberation and a twist of humor, Rowland Laedlein looked back at a tenure begun just one year out of college, which spanned ten positions that scaled NYCHA's organization chart to the level of senior management.

Starting in 1971 as a Housing Assistant, and rising through positions as Assistant Housing Manager, Housing Manager, Executive Assistant to the Assistant General Manager, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services, Deputy Director and Director of Community Affairs, Director of the Bronx North Management District and the Staten Island Management Department, and

(Continued on page 5)

OCEAN BAY CONTRACTOR TO PAY \$1.8M IN RESTITUTION AFTER PREVAILING WAGE INVESTIGATION

ON JULY 14TH ATTORNEY GENERAL ELIOT SPITZER AND NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION (DOI) COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN announced six felony guilty pleas from contractors who failed to pay legally required prevailing wages on major contracts with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the New York City School Construction Authority. As a result of the investigations 147 workers will receive restitution totaling over \$4.2 million in unpaid wages, and 11 corporate and individual contractors will be barred from public works projects for five years.

The Housing Authority contract involved D&S Plumbing & Heating Corp./Zaffuto Construction Company, Inc., a joint venture, and its subcontractors, who were responsible for the largest Housing Authority construction project at the time of the investigation, the revitalization of the Edgemere and Arverne Houses, now Ocean Bay Houses, in Queens.

D&S/Zaffuto will pay up to approximately \$1.8 million restitution in back wages with interest to 109 employees who worked for the joint venture or its sub-contractors on projects at Ocean Bay, Marlboro Houses in Brooklyn and Moore Houses in the Bronx, for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

Among the 109 employees who were not paid prevailing wages were 81 Housing Authority residents hired as a result of a contract provision known as "Section 3," that requires NYCHA

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NYCHA'S ASTORIA HOUSES IN QUEENS DURING NIGHT OUT
NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe, Community Police Council President Juanita Braithwaite, Astoria Houses Resident Association President Carolyn McArthur and Captain John Denesopolis pause for a photo op.

Celebrating Safety At the 22nd Nat'l. Night Out Against Crime

By Allan Leicht

NYCHA residents and their fellow New Yorkers came out by the thousands across the City for the 22nd National Night Out Against Crime on August 2nd.

The community-oriented event is part of a national effort to heighten public awareness of crime, illegal narcotics and domestic violence, and to strengthen police and community relations. More than 30 million people participated in various anti-crime programs and activities across the country. In New York City, the hot midsummer evening was filled with music, dancing, hot dogs, proclamations, speeches, fun and, yes, a sense of victory over crime.

"Crime has been reduced tremendously," Chairman Tino Hernandez told festive residents and whistle-blowing children on the expansive playground of Astoria Houses in Queens. "It's a great day to celebrate." And with crime down nearly 20% in New York City over the last four years and 67% since 1993, all agreed that indeed it was a great night to celebrate.

The Chairman capped a sequence of brief speeches by civic leaders beginning with NYPD Housing Bureau Chief Joanne Jaffe, who set the tone of the festivities. "We are celebrating our future," said Chief Jaffe, "because our children are our future." Chief Jaffe and Chairman Hernandez had spent quite a bit of time among the children, accentuating the

importance of positive relationships between young people and the police. The Chief concluded her remarks with the presentation of a proclamation from Mayor Bloomberg, who attended five National Night Out events, one in each of the boroughs.

Sponsored by Police Service Area (PSA) #9 and Astoria Houses, this National Night Out program, was one of nearly 90 across the city. Mistress of Ceremonies Police Officer Anita Jackson, of PSA #9 Community Affairs brought a succession of speakers to the microphone: Astoria Houses Resident Association President Carolyn McArthur, Community Police Council President Juanita Braithwaite, Astoria Houses Manager Patricia Barnett and PSA #9 Commanding Officer

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The Summer In Pictures



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

NEW HOME FOR GREGORIO LUPERON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND MATH IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS



LAST MONTH I WAS PLEASED TO JOIN SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR JOEL I. KLEIN TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS for Gregorio Luperon High School for Science and Math. The \$41 million project will be completed for the opening of school in September 2008. At the time, we also announced the relocation of The Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership into a new building at 501 West 152nd

Street and the creation of a pre-kindergarten annex for P.S. 173.

These projects are part of this administration's \$13.1 billion capital plan — the largest and most ambitious capital plan in history — for New York City schools. Together, the new facilities for Luperon High School, Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership, and P.S. 173 will provide the students of Washington Heights with some of the most modern and engaging educational spaces in the city.

The Gregorio Luperon High School was founded in 1992 as a transitional setting for newly arrived Spanish-speaking students, and became a diploma-granting, four-year high school in 2001. It is named for Gregorio Luperon, a 19th Century Dominican general who led the movement against Spanish colonizers. The high school, which serves approximately 400 students in grades 10-12, has been located in its current leased space since 1994. Ninety-seven percent of Luperon students are eligible for free lunch and 93% are English Language Learners.

The new Gregorio Luperon High School will be located at 165th Street and Amsterdam Avenue where the former 33rd Precinct headquarters stood in Washington Heights, and where the Department of Education currently has offices for its Region 10 Special Education Services staff. These offices will be razed for the construction of the new school. The new school building will include air-conditioning and state-of-the-art facilities, including a library, gym, auditorium, science labs, music and art room, kitchen/cafeteria, and wireless internet access.

In addition to the new building for Luperon High School, the Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership will be relocated to a new and larger building at 501 West 152nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership currently serves more than 150 K-7 students and has outgrown its location at 4111 Broadway at 173rd Street. The new building will cost \$37.5 million and will be completed for the opening of school in September 2007. It will include air conditioning, as well as a gym/auditorium, library, kitchen/cafeteria and rooftop playground. The Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership will continue as a dual-language school and will serve students in K-8, with an expanded capacity of 500.

In the space vacated by the Twenty-First Century Academy for Community Leadership at 4111 Broadway, a pre-kindergarten annex for P.S. 173 will be created. The annex is expected to be completed in 2008 and will help alleviate the lack of space for pre-kindergarten students in the area.

As Chancellor Klein noted, these projects illustrate the kinds of wonderful things that can be achieved when the entire school community works together to meet the needs and serve the interests of our children. These facilities will make a real, tangible difference in the lives of students in Washington Heights. Likewise, so will the continued collaboration among parents, teachers, principals, staff, and communities as we improve public education throughout our City.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Toll-Free Terrorism Hotline

**NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
TOLL-FREE TERRORISM HOTLINE
REPORTS MAY BE MADE ANY TIME TO:
1-800-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)
ALL CALLS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL**

EXCLUSIVE

Filmmaker Exposes the Real Truth About 'The Bridge'

By Heidi Morales

BY NOW, I'M SURE WE'VE ALL BEEN EXPOSED TO THE NEGATIVE PORTRAYAL OF PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDIA. But those who have lived and continue to live in public housing know that there are good, hard working, community-minded people residing in public housing developments. There are people who make it their life's work to serve their community. One woman in a small, cluttered apartment—visual proof of nearly 20 years of habitation, is trying to change the image of "the projects."

Selena Blake—long-time resident of NYCHA's largest development, Queensbridge Houses, single mom, part-time model, actress, caterer, and now full-time documentary film producer—is trying to show the world that public housing is home to many good people. Ms. Blake has decided to thank the Queensbridge Houses community for all of the years of friendship, care and loyalty it has shown her and her family by producing a documentary, an oral history of sorts, of "The Bridge" as it is known by many.

It was after her son Daniel graduated from high school that Ms. Blake realized that a lot of what she and her son were able to accomplish was because of the "family" she had created at the development. Ms. Blake said living at The Bridge has been a godsend. "I looked back and I said, wow, there are some really good people here. I'd love to just show the other side of Queensbridge. I've been on Park Avenue, I've been in the Atrium on 57th and Park Avenue where my girlfriend lives...and believe it or not I prefer being in Queensbridge. It feels like home; I'm comfortable here, the people know you...I don't get that anywhere else."

However, Ms. Blake, who moved to Queensbridge with her mother and son in 1987 from their home in Jamaica, wasn't always a believer. "It took me a couple of years of blending in, the neighbors baby-sitting for me, the upstairs neighbors, the downstairs neighbors. My mom was on dialysis; they would help with the wheelchair coming up...they were very helpful. It's amazing how we judge things by the way we think things should be and we put them in that little box."

So in an effort to say "thank you" to her Queensbridge family, Ms. Blake took every cent she had and hired a professional film crew for a little over \$1000 a day to record the stories of the people of The Bridge. Five weeks later the funds were gone and the project was nowhere close to being finished. It wasn't until she met her current co-producer, Gregory Larkin, at a networking mixer that the project really took off.

Mr. Larkin is the technical brain of this project and Ms. Blake is the creative genius behind it. "I wasn't supposed to be doing this; I was just supposed to give guidance, consulting services," said Mr. Larkin. But "Queensbridge: The Other Side" has become a full-time job for Mr. Larkin



Selena Blake and co-producer Gregory Larkin in front of Queensbridge Houses. For more information, log on to spaces.msn.com/members/maynovproductions or e-mail Ms. Blake at maynovproductions@msn.com.

who puts in an average of 15 hours a day recording and editing. His belief in this documentary is so great that this seasoned media professional is doing all this for only \$200 a month.

Now with over \$50,000 in debt between credit cards and small business loans, and thousands of dollars invested in recording and editing equipment, Ms. Blake still needs just as much to finish putting her documentary together. She has interviewed over 115 people and has about 75 hours of footage including still pictures from the 1930's and 1940's, that were given to her by residents, or that she's been able to find in the LaGuardia Archives. She's even interviewed a group of Jewish women who lived in Queensbridge in the 1940's.

Ms. Blake and Mr. Larkin hope their documentary inspires other filmmakers to explore the hidden history and the "diamonds in the rough" of public housing. They hope to see "Queensbridge: The Other Side" on

PBS and the local television channels. "I hope just to see it out there because people need to check the stereotype at the door and come open your mind and take a look at this...At least I know a seed is planted and somehow you are going to see housing projects and the people in them in a different light," said Ms. Blake.

Mr. Larkin added that working on the documentary has helped him appreciate what he called, "the silent majority—the good hard-working people of 'the projects.' Now I'm the biggest advocate for public housing!"

Ms. Blake said she plans to use any proceeds gathered from the film to help build another community center, and she challenges celebrities like NBA star Ron Artest and rapper Nas, who have come out of Queensbridge and are part of the documentary, to give back to the community. She plans to have the film completed this month.

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- Deborah Williams.....Staff Writer
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**THE ANNUAL PLAN FOR FY2006
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**



ON AUGUST 3, 2005, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) held a public hearing on the draft Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2006 at the New York Marriott Hotel in downtown Brooklyn. By the time of the hearing, the plan had been available for inspection by the public at a number of NYCHA locations (as well as on the Internet) for over two months, and NYCHA had held town hall-style meetings in each of the five boroughs to hear what residents, elected officials, advocates and representatives from various

community and faith-based organizations had to say.

The difference between the town hall meetings and the final public hearing was that at the town hall meetings, NYCHA staff could actually respond to the comments. At the Public Hearing, our goal was to allow the maximum number of people to speak, and so we did not respond. Along with NYCHA's Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple, and Housing Bureau Police Chief JoAnne Jaffe, I heard what you had to say about the things you care about as residents of the largest public housing authority in the country.

So, what happens now? NYCHA will meet once again with the 54 member Resident Advisory Board, comprising 45 representatives from the NYCHA Council of Presidents (COP) districts and nine from Section 8, to obtain their final comments and submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by October 17th. If we don't hear back from HUD within 75 days of that date, the plan is considered to be approved.

Turnout at the public hearing this year was not what I had hoped. In fact, the number of residents who attended the hearing was just under 300. That's 300 out of nearly half-a-million! I can't say it enough. NYCHA needs the feedback and support of residents such as yourself to continue to steer a safe course for public housing in this City. The sole purpose of this process is to enhance our mission of providing decent, affordable housing and preserving the integrity of our housing stock.

Residents, elected officials, and advocates spoke passionately about a number of topics at the hearing. These included: the needs of victims of domestic violence, the need for additional funding for City and State developments; concerns about funding cuts from Washington; and NYCHA's efforts to utilize minority-owned, women-owned and small business contractors. Another issue that came up at the hearing was the requirement that became effective in December 2004, that public housing authorities nationwide obtain consent forms from residents so that they may verify income and income sources directly. We've included an article on this topic, referred to as "Third Party Verification" in this issue of the paper, on page 9, to further explain the process and hopefully clear up any questions you may have.

Thanks for your participation in this process, and for those of you who are getting ready to head back to school this month, have a great school year!

Tino Hernandez

**The NYCHA
Journal Survey...**

NYCHA is in the process of sending out a survey to determine what you, as residents, are looking for in this newspaper. If you receive one, please fill it out promptly and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you.

BOROUGH DIGEST

The Bronx: In the Morrisania section of the Bronx, 21 formerly homeless families moved into a new affordable housing facility in July named the Albert Walsh Apartments, for former NYCHA Chairman Albert Walsh. Mr. Walsh was Chairman of the Housing Authority from 1967 to 1970.

Brooklyn: 106-year-old Vandalia Houses resident Susie Mushatt Jones was honored with letters from President George W. Bush, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez on July 30th at the development's Family Day celebration. In addition to birthday greetings, the letters praised Ms. Jones for her efforts on behalf of the development's tenant patrol. Ms. Jones' birthday was on July 6th.



Susie Mushatt Jones and friends

Manhattan: Fans crowded into the plaza of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building on the evening of July 28th for the Harlem Summer Stage's Gospel Concert featuring Detroit star Marvin Sapp, and Brooklyn's own Hezekiah Walker and The Love Fellowship Choir. The official count was 2500—the largest turnout so far for any of the Thursday evening concerts hosted by NYCHA, the New York State Office of General Services and the Apollo Theater.

Queens: NYCHA hosted a reception at the Ravenswood Houses Community Center on the evening of August 23rd for Queens Resident Association Presidents and their boards, to announce the of the Centralized Call Center in their borough. (See page 1.)

Staten Island: In addition to the Melrose Houses Community Center in the Bronx, the City Harvest Mobile Market now visits Staten Island's Stapleton Houses once a month. The popular nonprofit "food rescue" organization provides fresh produce to registered participants for free.

DEBORAH'S DIARY *By Deborah Williams*



It's all in the family—The August 2004 edition of "Deborah's Diary" recognized Quinette Johnson, resident of Beach 41st Street Houses in Far Rockaway, for her outstanding academic achievement and for her participation in the Arizona National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. Well, since then Quinette has graduated from Far Rockaway High School and is currently attending Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, pursuing a career in the field of medicine. While Quinette is doing great and pursuing her dreams there's another member of the Johnson-Harper Family whose academic achievements have begun to skyrocket and that's Quinette's 12-year-old sister Bryiana Harper. From July 16th to the 25th, Bryiana attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. The ten-day conference taught leadership from a practical, everyday point of view. With emphasis on the eight leaderships traits, it focused on leaders in American history and social advocacy. Bryiana participated in workshops that brought her leadership traits to life while she developed an action plan for changes in her home and community. It's not an easy task to be selected into this prestigious program but for Bryiana, who made the honor roll four times and who has a 96 average — the highest average of the entire sixth grade — it was a piece of cake. Bryiana also interviewed and was accepted to Camp Mariah in Fishkill, New York. So, as soon as she returned from Washington she was whisked off to Camp Mariah (co-sponsored and named on behalf of the pop star Mariah Carey) for the three-week Career Awareness Development workshop. After graduation from high school in 2011, Bryiana plans to attend Harvard to pursue a career in law and according to her mom, Linda Harper of NYCHA's Department of Applications Development & Support Systems, Bryiana aspires to become the first black female justice of the Supreme Court. *Let me start off by saying congratulations to you both. Quinette, you have been the perfect role model for your sister and no doubt you have encouraged and stimulated her educational growth. You should be commended for your success as a student and as a sister. Bryiana, you have shown great academic achievement and aptitude which will only bring you great success! Keep up the good work! Mom, you also deserve congratulations because you are the backbone and key to the success of your daughters. Everyone stand up and take a bow because you deserve high praise and a round of applause! I guess it's true when they say, "It's all in the family."*

Strike a pose — That's exactly what Chiquita Jones and Juanita Berry did on prom night as they walked the runway of Bruno's On The Boulevard in Jackson Heights, Queens, wearing gowns designed by Chiquita herself. It was Chiquita's gown lined in Louis Vuitton silk scarves that caught the eye of staff in the Louis Vuitton Marketing Department who have encouraged her to join their internship program. Traditionally, high school seniors get all excited about prom night and go to great lengths to plan it down to the last detail. Well, Chiquita and her mom, Adriana Jones, who are residents of Brooklyn's Linden Houses, aren't any different from your typical high school seniors and parents. Knowing how important prom night was to Chiquita, her mom used all of her resources. "I wanted to make my daughter's dreams come true and I wanted to make her a princess for the prom," said Ms. Jones. And, I guess dreams do come true because that's exactly what happened. With a surprise makeover at Paul Labrecque Salon & Spa by Yusseff, hair stylist of Alicia Keys, Beyonce, and Naomi Campbell, Chiquita was transformed into a princess and was the Belle of the Ball. The makeover was made possible by contributions from Ms. Jones, Mr. Angel, Ms. Martin and Ms Tina — all teachers in the English Department of Thomas Jefferson High School. And it was all well-deserved because Chiquita is no ordinary high school graduate. She holds the honor of having never missed a day of school throughout her 13 years of attendance in the public school system. That's right, Chiquita has never missed a day of school starting with Pre-School up until her graduation date on June 24, 2005—pretty remarkable, right!

During the graduation ceremony she received the Chancellor's Roll of Honor Award, the Citation Award for Perfect Attendance and the Trophy for Superior Attendance. In addition, she received the Assistant Principal's Award for Special Service to the



(Continued on page 7)

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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort 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 March 24 and 31, and April 8, 14, 21, and 27, 2004.

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 March 24, 2004

Timothy Henry	Case 2397/04 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 130 Monroe Street, Bushwick/Hylan Houses Brooklyn.
Wisdom Champaign	Case 486/04 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 514 W. 134th Street, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of March 31, 2004

Vera Davis	Case 10109/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 333 Georgia Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Martinez Woods	Case 2541/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 529 West 133rd Street, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.
Gerard Martin	Case 2798/04 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 2400 Second Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Jason Clark	Case 2671/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 164 West 147th Street, Frederick E. Samuel Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of April 8, 2004

James Miller	Case 3088/04 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 427 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
Zachary Townsend	Case 5803/04 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1470 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.
Glen Nivens	Case 2882/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 525 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrell Outlaw	Case 4829/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 2175-85 Reed's Mill Lane Boston Secor Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of April 14, 2004

Raul Romero	Case 3198/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 418 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
Cynthia White	Case 3335/04 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 890 East 6th Street, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
Abdul Richardson	Case 3120/04 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2410 8th Avenue, Saint Nicholas Houses, Manhattan.
Boshari Edwards	Case 3132/04 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1295 Amsterdam Avenue, Grant Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of April 21, 2004

Russell Allen	Case 3623/04 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2120 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
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Prohibited as of April 27, 2004

Natalie Spence	Case 3728/04 formerly associated with the first floor of Eastchester Gardens, the Bronx.
Tahiem Washington	Case 7026/03 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 193 Albany Avenue, Albany II Houses, Brooklyn.
Robert Tinsley	Case 8789/03 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 7 St. James Place, Smith Houses, Manhattan.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT



Identity theft is a serious crime. An identity thief obtains some piece of your sensitive information and uses it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years—and their hard-earned money—clearing their good name and credit record. Some victims have lost job opportunities, been refused loans for education, housing or cars, or even been arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

You can minimize your risk by managing your personal information cautiously and with heightened sensitivity. If an identity thief is opening new credit accounts in your name, these accounts are likely to show up on your credit report. You can find out by ordering a copy of your credit report from any of three major credit bureaus. As of September 1, 2005 New York State Residents are eligible for one free annual credit report. Find out more about your free credit report at:

www.AnnualCreditReport.com.

Or go to:

Equifax. www.equifax.com
1-800-685-1111

Experian. www.experian.com
1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

TransUnion. www.transunion.com
1-800-916-8800

You may also want to visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or call 1-877-IDTHEFT, the Federal Trade Commission's toll-free ID Theft Hotline.

Council Member Barron Meets With Resident Leaders



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE Shown here (left to right) are: Council Member Charles Barron Staffer Candaice Randolph, Police Officer “Nikki” Neal of PSA #2, Linden Houses TA President Carmen Witchard, Council Member Barron's Chief of Staff Paul Washington, Linden Houses resident Jim Simmons, Gloria Guy representing Breukelen Houses TA President Anthony Barnes, Cypress Hills resident Corlett Bowen, Cypress Hills TA Dwayne Faison, Bayview Houses TA President Sylvia Whiteside, Chairman Hernandez, Council Member Charles Barron, Unity Plaza TA President Cynthia Whitaker, Pink Houses resident Reginald Gegin, Boulevard Houses TA President Hattie Braddy, Pink Houses TA President Clarissa Moore.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez attended a breakfast for NYCHA Resident Association leaders hosted by City Council Member Charles Barron at the Cypress Hills Community Center in Brooklyn on May 10th. The Council Member represents the 42nd Council District comprising the neighborhoods of East New York, Brownsville, and parts of Canarsie and East Flatbush.

In his remarks at the breakfast, the Chairman commended Mr. Barron for working with NYCHA and the resident leaders representing the 13 developments in his district to improve communication concerning quality of life issues. The Chairman noted that Council Member Barron's office was responsible for contributing \$2.3 million for the Linden Houses Community Center, and \$20,000 for Family Day celebrations for each of the years 2004 and 2005.

ROWLAND LAEDLEIN RETIRES

(Continued from page 1)

Director of Operations Initiatives, ADGM Laedlein has seen and served the Authority as few others have. Here is some of what he had to say.

What led you to a career at the Authority?

My wife's mother suggested I take some civil service tests. When NYCHA called me for Housing Assistant, I was pleased because I was interested in urban affairs and wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

How did you like your early years here?

The chance to help solve people's housing problems as a HA at LaGuardia Houses felt like a valuable task. I took pride in having few evictions due to my frequent reminders. They were gentle, never mean.

What are some differences from then to now?

At LaGuardia Houses [in the early 70's] there were no intercoms and no locks on building entrance doors. Buildings and grounds were not as well maintained. Now we take the need to improve the community more seriously.

What advice do you have for new field employees?

I tell HA's to treat residents how they would like to be treated and to learn policies and procedures so they can give good advice and straight answers. If the answer to a request is no, it's important to explain why. It's also important to be seen out and about, not just behind a desk.

Was there a major decision or turning point for you?

At one time I thought my prospects here were limited, and I interviewed with a private real estate firm. I saw that in some ways they could offer more. It made me realize how important my job here was because it may be hard to attract worthy people. I decided to stay, and I later had chances to develop I might not have had elsewhere.

What are some of your major accomplishments?

Working in what was then called Community Affairs, during a two-year period, we reached out to each of the 261 Resident Associations to help formalize their bylaws and conduct elections. That had never been done before. I am also proud of my work in the Annual Plan process and Town Hall Meetings, where we discuss NYCHA's plans with the community. Of course, the Authority's response to September 11th also stands out. What we did that day to mobilize staff and vehicles at Ground Zero and re-establish communications with developments, and the mechanisms we later put into place to normalize operations...

What qualities are responsible for your success?

I try to listen carefully and hear 'between the lines' because you are often told what people think you want to hear. I also try to know what's going on outside my area, so I know how to get things done or who to ask. And I encourage staff to think and make decisions for themselves. There can't be a procedure written for every scenario. You must use judgment as well as compassion.

What qualities might we find surprising?

I may be known for having a somewhat steady nature, even, perhaps, a poker face. Well, you may be surprised to learn this attribute was carefully developed out of necessity.

What will you miss most from working here?

I will miss the interactions with people and sense of everyone working together to find solutions and make things work. People here can work hard and play hard, and both are shared.

Do you have specific plans for your retirement?

I plan on doing some things with my family and also just some relaxing. I am the kind of person who will probably be doing something, but I am really not sure right now exactly what.



Centralized Call Center

(Continued from page 1)

confirm the date. In the event that a resident does call the development's management office rather than the new number, the call will be switched to CCC.

In the event of an emergency, such as power failures, toilet stoppages, and heat and hot water complaints, residents of Queens and Staten Island should still call the Centralized Call Center.

Customer Relationship System Director Patricia Lawler, who is in charge of putting the system in place, said that judging by the success of the CCC in Staten Island, Queens residents can look forward to a significant increase in customer satisfaction. "After all," said Ms. Lawler, "the residents are our customers."

NYCHA Assistant Deputy General Manager Rowland Laedlein added that the CCC system will decrease duplication of Work Tickets and "Tenant Not Home" tickets. "We will complete repairs in a more timely way and manage our maintenance staff and the distribution of work assignments more efficiently," he said.

Mr. Apple said that bringing Queens into the CCC system is, "a huge step up. With the addition of 26 developments and over 17,000 apartments, CCC has more than quadrupled in the number of residents we serve with this initiative."

REMINDER

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Bronx South Holds Tenant Participation Activities Workshop

By Heidi Morales

If you live in the Bronx South Council of Presidents (COP) District, you may have cooking classes coming to your development or a nearby Community Center very soon. Or, perhaps you would rather take part in leadership training or sharpen your computer skills? Whatever your taste, you can be sure to expect new activities, thanks to the Bronx South Council of Presidents (COP), its Chair Joanne Smitherman, and Tenant Participation Activities (TPA) funds.

TPA funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to promote community involvement and improvement. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) works jointly with residents and resident association presidents to encourage and support the new activities. Eligible activities include leadership development, entrepreneurial and job skills training programs, among others.

The Bronx South COP held a TPA workshop at the Melrose Community Center on August 8th to introduce residents to the funding and application process, and NYCHA staff were there to provide information and guidance.

Department of Community Operations Assistant Deputy General Manager (ADGM) Michelle Pinnock gave an overview of eligible tenant participation activities followed by a review of the money allocated to the Bronx South District, which totals over \$1.2 million. NYCHA's Deputy General Counsel John de Clef Pineiro instructed residents on the most efficient ways to find the best service providers. Mr. de Clef Pineiro succeeded in simplifying the complex topic, offering what he termed "Procurement In A Nutshell: What do you want? When do you want it? How much are you going to pay for it?"

All prospective TPA activities have to be developed and given shape in very specific terms. To that end, Bronx Senior Program Manager Mario Hamblin provided a step-by-step run-through of proposal writing for the purpose of fleshing out ideas and acquiring funding. Bronx Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard assured resident leaders that NYCHA would assist them throughout the process and provide the resources needed to get their programs running as quickly as possible.

"You know what services are missing and what gaps we have to fill. This is going to take commitment by us and commitment by you," said General Manager Douglas Apple. Mr. Apple praised Ms. Smitherman for all of her hard work and for coordinating the meeting. "This is the culmination of a very long process; without her leadership, without her wisdom, we would not be here tonight."

Resident Associations interested in submitting proposals should contact their COP Chairs.



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DEBORAH'S DIARY By Deborah Williams

(Continued from page 3)

Business & Technology Department, the Spirit of Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in contributing to the school's success, scholarship and citizenship, the Cotillion Award and the Gold Medal for Excellence in Art. She also received the Metropolitan Museum of Arts Medal that is given to gradu-

ating seniors who excel in craftsmanship. Her paintings were on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on June 3, 2005 during the School Art League of New York City Exhibit. She also won a grant for art supplies to be used at the college of her choice. Chiquita is a multi-talented young lady with great artistic

talent that has taken her into the world of fashion, painting and photography, but when asked where her true passion lies she said, "My true passion is photography. I love to take pictures of people," said Chiquita. "I like airbrushing photos and I love writing or printing graffiti all over my clothes—it's fun! Chiquita has always been active in her community where she along with her three siblings participate in Friday and Saturday night cleanups and in the Youth Tenant Patrol at Linden Houses. Chiquita has applied to FIT, some CUNY Colleges, the University of Buffalo and the University of London and to-date has received acceptance letters from almost all.

Chiquita, it must be a great feeling to be pursued by so many colleges, but you take your time and pick the one that's best for you. I think the message inscribed on your Perfect Attendance Plaque says it all: "A perfect example of how a proud black woman can succeed." I salute you and congratulate you on all of your success!

National Night Out Against Crime

(Continued from page 1)

Captain John Denesopolis. Rounding out the dignitaries in attendance at the PSA #9-Astoria Houses National Night Out event were the Resident Association Presidents Nina Adams of Queensbridge Houses, Ann Cotton Morris of Woodside Houses and Carol Wilkins of Ravenswood Houses. Across the river in Manhattan, another of the city celebrations took the form of an old-fashioned block party on East 8th Street. This one, sponsored by PSA #4, was marked by dance contests for the kids, the ever-present barbeques and local entertainment with star potential. PSA #4 Commander Captain Edward F. Britton introduced Chairman Hernandez, who brought the Mayor.





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THIRD-PARTY CONSENT FORMS Required At Annual Recertification

RESIDENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN REQUIRED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING INCOME, but federal law now requires all public housing authorities in the country to verify the incomes of all households with a third party. Accordingly, since the end of 2004, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has required residents to sign a "Consent to Release Information" form and submit it along with their recertification forms so that NYCHA can directly verify income information with the residents' employers. All NYCHA residents 18 years of age or older must submit these forms.

"NYCHA will absolutely protect the privacy of every resident, just as we always do," said NYCHA's Assistant Deputy General Manager of Operations Rowland Laedlein. "We do not have a choice in this matter. The United States Congress has passed legislation that requires all authorized family members 18 years of age and older to sign the consent form that will enable NYCHA to verify the income residents report to us, with an independent party, or third party."

The consent forms are included in the recertification material that is sent to every resident household. Failure to sign the consent form may result in denial of eligibility and/or termination of tenancy or rent subsidy. To avoid a raise in rent and potential termination, residents should fill out the form and return it to management as soon as it arrives.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which subsidizes the rents paid by public housing residents, bases subsidies on residents' incomes, just as a residents' incomes determine how much rent they pay. Without independently verified income verification, NYCHA could suffer a serious reduction in federal subsidy, which would adversely affect all residents.

"HUD could withhold our funding," Mr. Laedlein said, "and we simply cannot allow that to happen. For the good of all residents, we must collect consent forms and verify everyone's income, as required."

Residents are required to report and verify all income from all sources, including income from wages, net income from self-employment, interest, dividends, Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, pensions, disability benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, welfare assistance, alimony and child support, and all regular pay and allowances for a member of the Armed Forces.

There has been nearly 100% compliance with the Third-Party Verification requirement, but the small number of residents who are not signing the consent forms face serious consequences.

"We don't want anyone to go through the aggravation of a possible rent raise or termination," said Mr. Laedlein. "So as one of my last official acts here at NYCHA, I urge all residents to return those signed consent forms quickly." After a 34-year career that began as a Housing Assistant, Rowland Laedlein is retiring. (See article, page 1.)

ATTENTION SENIORS

New York City Housing Authority's
1st Annual

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Date: October 6, 2005 (Thursday)

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PREVAILING WAGE

(Continued from page 1)

contractors to use their best efforts to employ Housing Authority residents. Those 81 employees will be eligible for restitution in back wages with interest totaling \$786,000.

The NYCHA investigation was conducted by NYCHA's Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and staff. The Section 3 investigation was handled by NYCHA's Office of Contract Compliance Assistant Director Norma Ramos, under the supervision of Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) Director Fredrika A. Wilson.

"The Housing Authority takes prevailing wage compliance by contractors very seriously, and we are committed to making sure that all workers at Housing Authority developments, including residents, are paid the wages that they are legally entitled to receive," said Ms. Wilson.

"It's satisfying to know that, in the end, the workers who had been cheated by the contractors, many of whom were NYCHA residents, will get the money they are owed," Ms. Abruzzo added. "The Inspector General's Office will continue to work with DEO and the Attorney General to enforce prevailing wage laws and to ensure that workers are paid what they are rightfully due."

The Housing Authority has been actively monitoring contractors' compliance with prevailing wage laws since 1993. Since NYCHA's new Prevailing Wage Initiative went into effect two years ago, the Housing Authority has recovered \$1.9 million in back pay for 177 workers on Authority contracts.

Also resulting from the Housing Authority investigation were four felony charges and guilty pleas to violations of the prevailing wage laws by D&S/Zaffuto subcontractors. They are: Columbus General Construction Corp. and its principal Mohammed Rashid; Harrison Jarvis d/b/a Two by Four Carpentry; and Tarcisio Ferreira d/b/a Nu-Look Painting. The D&S/Zaffuto subcontractors are barred for a period of five years from performing state or municipal public work contracts.

(This article is based on a press release from the Attorney General's Office.)

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NYCHA Summer In The City



Youth from the Lower East Side's Campos Plaza Community Center enjoy some spun sugar at the Citywide Carnival in Central Park on August 9th.



Pulling punches at McKinley Houses Family Day in the Bronx on July 23rd.



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (center) grills up some steaks at Assemblyman Vito Lopez' 33rd Annual Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Picnic, at Sunken Meadow Park in Long Island. He is joined by (right to left) NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Senator Martin Dilan, and Assemblyman Lopez, who is standing just behind the Mayor.



Chairman Hernandez says hello to a senior resident at the McKinley Houses Family Day in the Bronx on July 23rd.



Harborview Visual Arts Program Artist Letitia Barboza turns young residents into butterflies at South Jamaica Houses' 65th Anniversary Celebration, on July 30th in Queens.



A young resident tests his strength at the Citywide Carnival in Central Park on August 9th.



Chairman Hernandez presents South Jamaica House's Anniversary Proclamation to Resident Association President Rose Mary Lakins in Queens on July 30th.



Snack-time at Fun Time USA in Brooklyn during the Partners in Reading Closing Ceremony on June 30th.



Chairman Hernandez with resident Rosaura Milan at her Senior Enchanted Garden at McKinley Houses Family Day.



More fun at the Citywide Carnival in Manhattan's Central Park, August 9th.



Lacrosse was one of a host of "nontraditional" sports at the Sports Education Field Day in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx on August 3rd.



Community Operations' Bronx Borough Administrator Leroy Williams and a young camper at the Gateway National Recreation Area in Brooklyn on August 10th.



The Chairman with McKinley Houses' Resident Association President Wallace Diamond at the Bronx development's Family Day on July 23rd.



Community Operations' Citywide Programs' Nisson Gartenhaus mans a booth at Citywide Carnival in Central Park on August 9th.



More than 1600 youth from NYCHA developments in all five boroughs participated in the Third Annual Kids' Walk at Clove Lake Park in Staten Island on August 17th. The U.S. Marines led the children in a warm up for the 5k walk.



PSA #2 Captain Donald Lyons kicks up his heels with resident Jerry Whitaker at Unity Plaza Houses in Brooklyn during Night Out Against Crime, August 2nd. Photo by Clarissa Moore.



Chairman Hernandez (left) and Mayor Bloomberg (right) join residents for a dance at Assemblyman Vito Lopez' 33rd Annual Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Picnic at Sunken Meadow Park in Long Island on August 18th.



Brooklyn Borough Management Director Gloria Finkelman (far left) at the Sumner Houses Family Day in Brooklyn on August 6th with (left to right) PSA #3 Captain Steve Haynes, Resident Association President Raymond Ballard, NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member JoAnna Aniello

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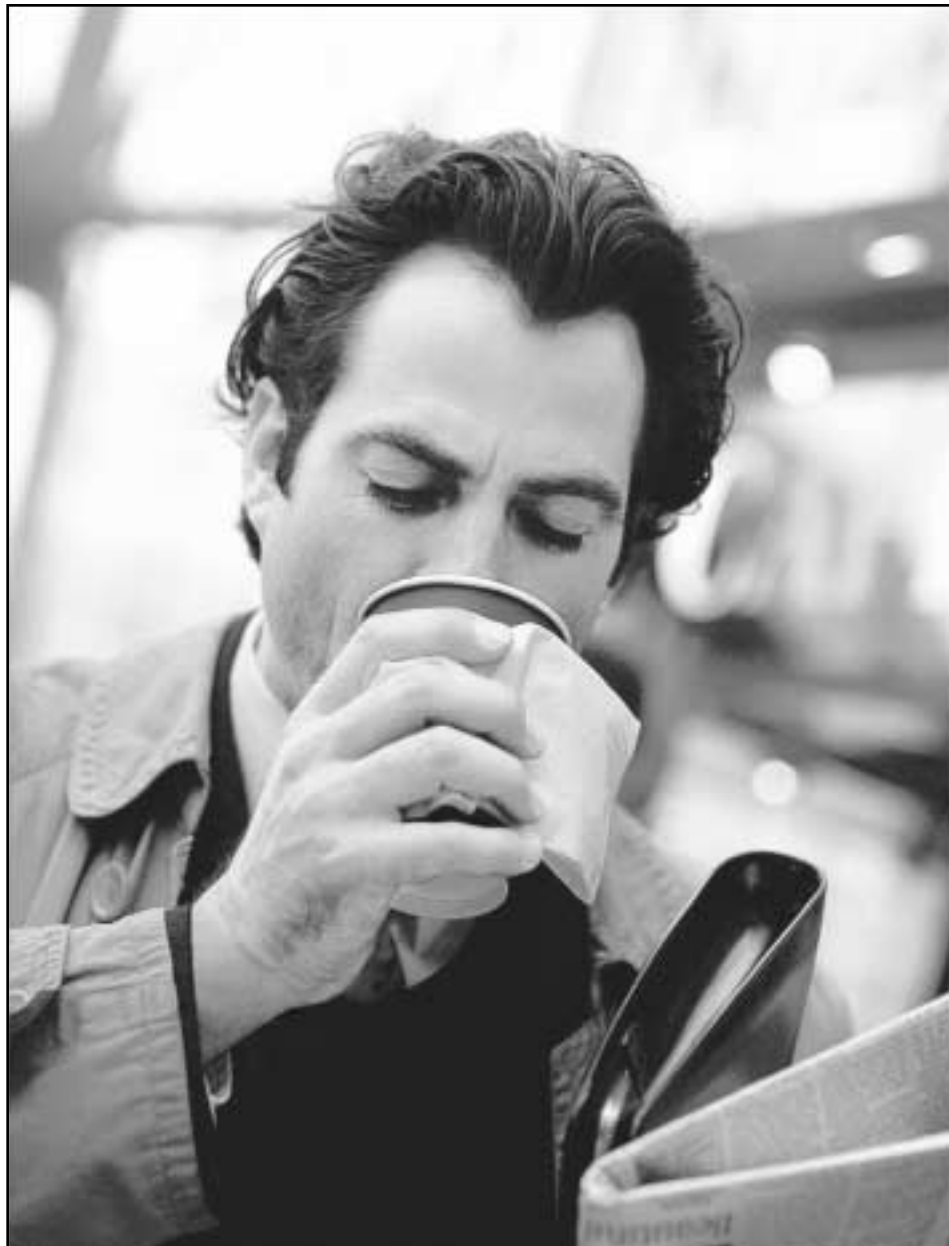
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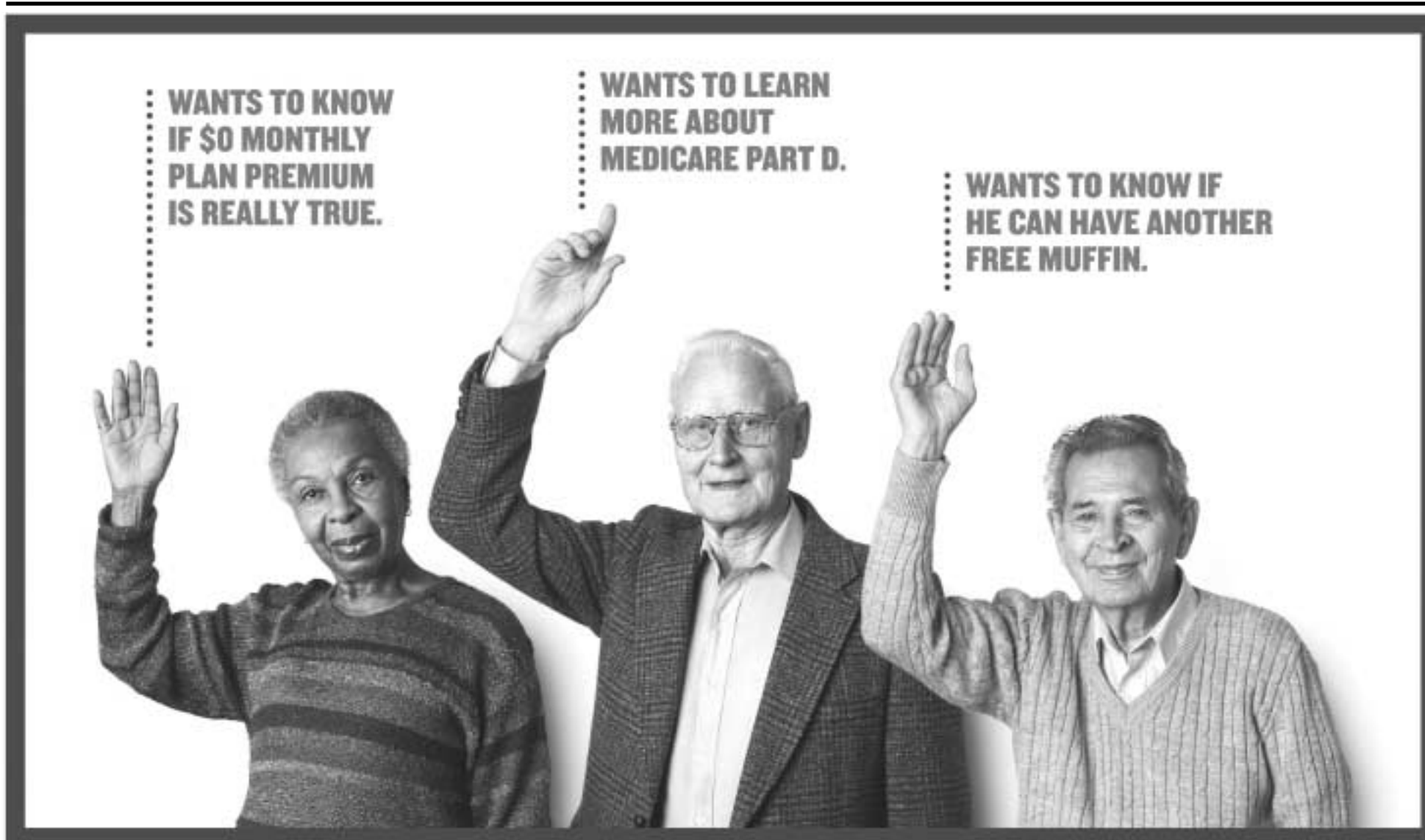


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<p>Brooklyn September 13, 9:30 AM Junior's Restaurant 386 Flatbush Ave. Corner of DeKalb Ave.</p>	<p>Brooklyn September 15, 9:00 AM Del Rio Diner 166 Kings Hwy. Cross St./W. 12th St.</p>	<p>Manhattan September 20, 9:30 AM Amy Ruth's Kitchen 113 West 116th St. Cross St./Lenox Ave.</p>	<p>Manhattan September 21, 9:00 AM Caridad Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 4311 Broadway Cross St./184th St.</p>
<p>Manhattan September 27, 3:00 PM Viand Café 2130 Broadway Cross St./75th St.</p>	<p>Manhattan September 28, 9:00 AM La Rosita Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 2809 Broadway Cross St./109th St.</p>	<p>Queens - Flushing September 14, 5:00 PM Palace Diner 60-15 Main St. Cross St./60th Ave.</p>	<p>Queens - Jackson Hts. September 16, 10:30 AM Casa Colombia (Bi-Lingual) 86-23 Roosevelt Ave. Corner of 87th St.</p>
<p>Queens - Flushing September 20, 9:00 AM Hilltop Diner 164-02 Union Tpke. Cross St./164th St.</p>	<p>Queens - Elmhurst September 23, 9:00 AM Elmhurst Hospital Center 79-01 Broadway, Ste. A1-15 Cross St./Baxter Ave.</p>	<p>Staten Island August 30, 10:00 AM Country Club Diner 2270 Clove Rd. Cross St./Hylan Blvd.</p>	<p>Staten Island September 16, 9:00 AM Country Club Diner 2270 Clove Rd. Cross St./Hylan Blvd.</p>

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