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JUNE 2006

500 ATTEND 'EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT' JOB FAIR

By Eileen Elliott

ON A SUNNY APRIL 27TH, 500 NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS CAME TO THE GYMNASIUM AT THE FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CHELSEA NEIGHBORHOOD OF MANHATTAN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH COMPANIES LIKE J.P. MORGAN CHASE AND OLD NAVY, AGENCIES LIKE THE FDNY AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING, AND INSTITUTIONS LIKE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES' (RES'S) SECOND "EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT" JOB FAIR.

Residents like 22-year-old Jeffrey Tam from Brooklyn's Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, who recently graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in mathematics and has never had a job. "Right now I'm just browsing around to see what I can find," Mr. Tam said early that morning. Before our conversation was through he found his way to the Primerica Financial Services table.

And there was 26-year-old Cherisse Lilly from Manhattan's Douglass Houses, who had recently worked as a teacher's assistant and is currently attending the College of New Rochelle where she is studying early childhood education. Ms. Lilly found her way to the table staffed with representatives from the Block Institute, formerly the Brooklyn School for Special Children.

Fifty-six-year-old Patricia Heyward from Rangel Houses, also in Manhattan, was looking for work as an administrative assistant. "I've been working since I

was 16 years old," said Ms. Heyward, who also mentioned that she had a 40-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old grandson. Ms. Heyward had just visited the table manned by Delta Airlines.

"This is what it's about, the residents," said RES Supervisor Eleanor Lowe, as she made a sweeping motion that encompassed the many job-seekers milling about. "Without the residents there would be no RES!"

True. But this particular event was also about employers. Before the official job fair began, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager (DGM) Hugh Spence and RES Director Sonia Torruella hosted a brief ceremony to greet the 30 employers and 10 training vendors in attendance.

"This is our second 'Empowerment Through Employment' Job Fair," Ms. Torruella remarked. "Welcome new employers. Those of you who have worked with us in the past, I know that you're

(Continued on page 9)



WORK SHOP NYCHA residents lined up outside of the Fashion Institute of Technology in Chelsea for the Department of Resident Employment Services' second "Empowerment Through Employment" Job Fair.

Qualifications for Emergency Transfers for Victims of Domestic Violence Expanded

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND IN RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK FROM ADVOCATES, SERVICE PROVIDERS, OTHER CITY AGENCIES, AND RESIDENTS, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY TRANSFERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (VDVs), AND FOR OBTAINING VDV PRIORITY STATUS FOR NEW APPLICANTS TO PUBLIC HOUSING OR SECTION 8 LEASED HOUSING.

These changes, which went into effect in April 2006, allow for greater flexibility in the types of documents which can be submitted. In addition to an expanded list of acceptable documentation, the timeframes for admissible Police Reports and Orders of Protection have been extended.

Under the old policy, VDVs had to submit a Police Report and Order of Protection to be eligible for an Emergency Transfer. Applicants or transfers may now submit certain kinds of medical documents, NYPD detective or Parole Officer letters, or Court Dispute Referral Center letters to replace the Police Report or Order of Protection if they are unable to obtain the criminal justice documents.

In addition, timeframes for documentation of the second incidence of violence were extended to 12 months for transfers and to 24 months for new applicants.

Earlier changes NYCHA made to its VDV policy, such as the One Serious Felony Provision, and the ability to choose to stay in the same borough of residence (with the exception of Staten Island), remain in place.

The One Serious Felony Provision is that VDVs need to submit only one document verifying a crime if that document shows an acceptable Serious Felony.

How to Request An Emergency Transfer

A resident who believes that he

(Continued on page 3)



ALL ABOARD From left to right are: NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Secretary Vilma Huertas, Board Member Margarita López, and Chairman Tino Hernandez. Chairman Hernandez announced the appointment of Ms. López as the Housing Authority's newest Board Member on April 28, 2006.

FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARITA LÓPEZ JOINS BOARD

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARITA LÓPEZ AS THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S THREE-MEMBER BOARD ON APRIL 28TH. The NYCHA Board, appointed at the discretion of the Mayor, is composed of two board members and the Chairman. The board reviews and approves contracts, policies, rules and regulations, and holds a public calendar meeting to vote on resolutions affecting NYCHA's business affairs. Ms. López joins Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and is assuming the position of former Board Member JoAnna Aniello.

In announcing the Mayor's appointment, Chairman Hernandez remarked that "Margarita López will bring to NYCHA real-world and practical experience, and help us continue to meet our mission to preserve public housing for current and future generations of New Yorkers."

Board Member López represented the 2nd Councilmanic District on the Lower East Side from 1998-2005. She has been an outspoken advocate for affordable housing, as well as for the mentally and physically disabled. Her efforts in the community over the years have resulted in the

(Continued on page 10)

PUBLIC HEARING!

ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2006 AND THE DRAFT AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2007

June 8, 2006

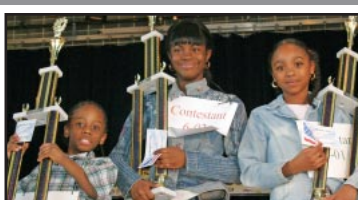
5:30 to 8:00PM

at the Manhattan Center
Hammerstein Ballroom

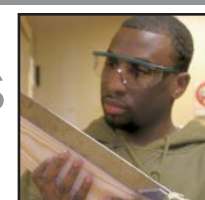
311 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

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FIREARMS

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BROOKLYN WINS
SPELLING BEE



PAGE 6
MINORITY WORKERS
TRAINING PROGRAM



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Taking Illegal Guns Off of Our Streets



TODAY, EVEN THOUGH NEW YORK IS THE SAFEST BIG CITY IN THE NATION, THERE ARE STILL FAR TOO MANY ILLEGAL GUNS ON OUR STREETS. Nearly all of them arrive from out of state — and most are sold by a small group of rogue gun dealers who refuse to obey federal laws.

I recently went to Washington with Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly to support New York Senator Charles E. Schumer as he introduced a bill that would give state and local law enforcement agencies access to the federal government's gun

trace data, reversing previous acts of Congress that have restricted the right to this data. The "Anti-Gun Trafficking Penalties Enforcement Act" relates to gun trace data compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which is critical to tracking the origin of firearms used in crimes.

Since 2002, Congress has been passing laws that restrict our ability to hold irresponsible gun dealers accountable by limiting our access to federal "trace data." That's the data that tells us where a gun recovered from a crime scene was bought. It's one of the best tools we have for determining which dealers are selling to gun traffickers, and our lawsuit would not have been possible without it. But now, some in Congress want to further restrict our use of this valuable resource.

Under the Schumer bill, state and local law enforcement agencies would one again have access to ATF trace data and expert testimony based on this data would be admissible in court and in licensing and other administrative proceedings. The bill also includes provisions for increasing penalties for gun trafficking, the ability to apply the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) against gun traffickers, increased information sharing between local authorities and the ATF, and the removal of limits on how often the ATF can inspect federal firearms licensees.

Illegal guns plague the streets of every big city in America and we can't tell our law enforcement agencies to fight them with one hand tied behind their backs. This bill would reverse the outrageous attempts to deny law enforcement agencies critical gun trace information that would help save the lives of innocent people and police officers in New York City and across the nation — and I applaud Senator Schumer for his leadership in introducing it.

As the Senator said when he introduced the bill, we should give law enforcement every available tool to fight crime guns from making their way to our city streets. Eighty-five percent of the guns used in crimes in New York City come from out of state. And last November, one of those guns was used to kill New York Police Officer Dillon Stewart.

In our fight to take illegal guns off our streets, we are using every tool at our disposal. We have developed a three-pronged strategy — stronger law enforcement, tougher legislation, and innovative litigation. It's not an easy fight but we cannot afford to back down — and we won't.

Michael R. Bloomberg

**Call 311 for All
Non-Emergency
City Services**

PROFILE

Williamsburg... At the Heart of It All

By Heidi Morales

AT FIRST GLANCE MARILYN GONZALEZ SEEMS LIKE A SHY WOMAN WHO KEEPS TO HERSELF AND GOES ABOUT HER BUSINESS LIKE MANY OF US ROUTINELY DO. BUT SHE'S NOT. MARILYN GONZALEZ IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING A WIDE VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER. Hers is the smiling face you see when you walk into this incredible state-of-the-art facility. As Center Director she is involved in people's lives. She says children, parents and others in the community come in for help, for fun, or just to say "Hi." Mrs. Gonzalez has been living in the community for over 40 years and has witnessed first-hand the evolution of the neighborhood and of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). It's fair to say that despite the changes in the neighborhood there's always one constant, Mrs. Gonzalez.

She has great stories and black-and-white pictures documenting her life in Williamsburg. And although Mrs. Gonzalez has never been a NYCHA resident herself she frequented the Williamsburg Houses often since her aunt and cousins lived and continue to live there. Mrs. Gonzalez said that Williamsburg Houses has served as the backdrop for many of these pictures and is where many important moments of her life took place.

"When I got married I walked down the stairs and came out of a development in my wedding gown. On the day of my first communion I came out of a development. I've had nothing but positive experiences here," she added.

In fact, Mrs. Gonzalez or "Mrs. G" as the children and teens at the Center call her, has a picture of herself at a playground in 1961. The irony is that the Williamsburg Community Center is built over this playground. "This [the Center] is the playground where we played, the playground where I brought my children, [where they experienced] their first snow storm. It's heartwarming. I couldn't see myself anywhere else."

Beginnings

Mrs. Gonzalez started her career in community coordinating as a volunteer at the neighborhood YMCA. Her passion for her work and her devotion to the children led her to a supervisory position at the "Y" where she spent a total of 18 years before moving to the Williamsburg Community Center.

"When this place was being built I was working for the YMCA. I used to walk by it all the time and one time my son said, 'Mami wouldn't it be cool if you became Director of that new center?'"

At the time Mrs. Gonzalez never thought she would leave the YMCA. After all, she had been working there for over a decade. But her tireless commitment to the children at the "Y" got her supervisor thinking that she could be an asset to NYCHA — and she was right. Mrs. Gonzalez applied for the position of Center Director at the new site and six months later was creating curriculums and planning the grand opening.

"It was made for me. This is like my second home. I feel this

place was built for me to start something different in it. I say it from the heart. Everything I do for the Center is because I want the community to become better," she said.

Programs

Mrs. Gonzalez does her own marketing for the Center by talking to parents and going to shops to get the word out about new programs. She talks to community members about her needs — for books or for volunteers — and according to her the community is always more than willing to lend a hand. Even her husband and children help out because they know the Center means a great deal to her.

The Williamsburg Community Center currently has culinary, GED, and fitness programs among other activities and services. There are reading programs, Girls Scout



Marilyn Gonzalez at the site of the Williamsburg Community Center, circa 1961.

meetings, nutrition programs, and sports training for children. Mrs. Gonzalez said what makes this particularly special is that the parents coach the teams and are closely involved with the children and the Center itself.

"I think parents are getting more involved in what the children need to have to be successful," Mrs. Gonzalez said. For example, exposing the children to new things, such as observing cocoons until they bloomed into full grown butterflies or participating in the NYCHA Kids Walk. "I want to keep people off the streets, entertained, doing something positive. I want to enrich their lives," Mrs. Gonzalez said.

The Williamsburg Community Center opened in September 2003 and since then has received some major recognition. The

(Continued on page 6)

**The Housing Authority
Journal**

72
years
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in New York City

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- Earl Andrews, Jr.Vice-Chairman
- Margarita LópezBoard Member
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

More on the 'Plan to Preserve Public Housing'



SUMMER IS ALMOST OFFICIALLY HERE, AND AS WE MOVE INTO THE WARMER WEATHER WE ALSO MOVE TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS. We've already held all five Town Hall meetings on the Amendment to the Agency Annual Plan for FY2006 and the Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2007, and are preparing for the final Public Hearing, which will be held on June 8th at the Manhattan Center on 34th Street. (See page 9 for details.)

I commend all of you who made a point of examining these documents and coming out to the Town Halls to let us know what you think. As I said when I announced the seven-point "Plan to Preserve Public Housing" in April, NYCHA needs your cooperation and support. I also encourage you to please attend the Public Hearing this month.

Based on feedback from the Town Hall meetings, I would like to clarify some issues about the proposed rent increase.

First, the majority of NYCHA residents will not be affected by the proposed rent increase, assuming that it is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The increase will affect only the 27% of residents who already pay ceiling rent. These residents would be divided into three different income bands and the rents will be raised 10%, 20%, and 40% over the course of two years, with the people in the lowest of the three bands receiving the lowest increase, etc. So, those at the low-end of the scale would have a 5% increase the first year and a 5% increase the second; those in the middle band would have a 10% increase the first year and a 10% increase the second; and those at the high end of the band would have a 20% increase in their rent the first year, and a 20% increase the second.

Regardless of the income, none of the residents affected by this proposed rent increase would pay more than 30% of their incomes in rent. The proposed increase was designed to protect the 73% of residents who would be least able to absorb a rent increase.

I'd also like to clarify when, if the rent increase proposal is approved, it would go into effect. If approved, the rent increases would be phased in for the first group of residents with the fourth quarter 2006 annual review period — which takes place during the months of October, November and December. The earliest effective date would be February 2007.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg is coming to NYCHA's aid with a \$100 million transitional aid allocation while we work to advance the seven-point "Plan to Preserve Public Housing." Under the Mayor's leadership, NYCHA has been a constant presence in Washington, fighting for the preservation of public housing and Section 8. NYCHA is committed to increasingly aggressive efforts in Washington, as well as in Albany, to advocate for critical funding and flexibility to support housing for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers.

NYCHA will petition HUD to provide relief from unfunded mandates such as Community Service, which requires that certain public housing residents perform eight hours of community service a month as a condition of their tenancy. We will also petition HUD to streamline federal rules and regulations to provide relief from non-essential administrative costs and to implement housing and self-sufficiency strategies so that we can combine funding streams for maximum financial flexibility.

NYCHA really is at a defining moment. Our future depends on your support and cooperation. Please work with us to make sure that public housing remains a viable alternative for thousands of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers for the next 70 years.

Tino Hernandez

Domestic Violence

(Continued from page 1)

or she is a DV, and who wishes to request an Emergency Transfer, may do so by going to the development Management Office. Residents who are too fearful to do this, or who prefer to, may also initiate an Emergency Transfer by going to Safe Horizon. To find the nearest Safe Horizon location, the resident should call the Domestic Violence Hotline at: 1-800-621-HOPE.

Residents who choose to go through the Management Office will receive a copy of the "Emergency Transfer Program Information Sheet" and the "Emergency Transfer Program Required Documents List" from the staff. The staff will assist the resident in filling out the "Transfer-Emergency: Tenant Request for Transfer" form.

The resident may select any borough to transfer to, including their own borough of residence, except residents of Staten Island. If a resident selects the borough in which (s)he currently resides, the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan (TSAP) will automatically select a development in a location that is not adjacent to the resident's current address. Staten Island residents must choose another borough in which to live.

Processing Time

The processing time for an Emergency Transfer depends on prompt submission of the required documentation, as well as the tenancy records, the results of criminal background checks, and the availability of apartments.

For the specific document requirements, please refer to NYCHA's Web site at: nyc.gov/nycha.

A Word About Safe Horizon...

Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Intervention, Education and Prevention (DVIEP) Program case managers work together with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the New York City Police Department to advocate and support victims of domestic violence who reside in NYCHA developments. Safe Horizon supportive services are designed to help clients rediscover their sense of safety and self-worth and regain control over their lives. Safe Horizon services include: crisis intervention counseling, home visits and safety planning; assistance with NYCHA emergency housing transfers, advocacy within the criminal justice system, and information about victims' legal rights and options.

If you reside in a NYCHA development and need assistance, please contact the Safe Horizon DVIEP program at the main office number: (212) 577-7800.

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Hershey Winner—When you see the name Milton Hershey the first thing you probably think of is chocolate. That would be typical because Mr. Hershey has made millions in the chocolate business — but there's more to Milton S. Hershey.

What many folks may not know is that Mr. Hershey and his wife Catherine founded the Milton S. Hershey School in 1909. The school is located in — as you have probably guessed — Hershey, Pennsylvania, and provides a home, quality education, food and clothing to students in need, free of cost. The Milton Hershey School also has a National Honor Society for its elite juniors and seniors. To qualify, the students must have received a cumulative scholastic average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for two marking periods. Candidates are evaluated on their character, leadership and service, and must be recommended by a panel of five Milton Hershey teachers.

Adzua Agyapon, a resident of Straus Houses in Manhattan, was able to meet those standards and was inducted in the Milton Hershey School's National Honor Society on January 8, 2006. Adzua, who is a junior at Milton Hershey, was one of 10 students to receive this special honor. It's no wonder! Adzua has been a member of the Student Government Association, participated in the Model UN, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. She is on the staff of the school magazine, "The Spartan Spirit," works as a lifeguard at Milton Hershey, and is a member of the Rock Climbing Club. And if that's not enough, she is also listed on the Distinguished Honor Roll and in "Who's Who Among American High School Students." She has received an Effort & Conduct Award and the Kodak Young Leaders Award. **Wow! What an impressive list of accomplishments, and at such a young age. You should be very proud of yourself! You are a scholar among scholars. I congratulate you on your achievements and expect to hear much more about you in the future.**

Direct Care Counselors—The legendary Alhambra Ballroom in Harlem served as the venue for the Direct Care Counselor Training Program Graduation Ceremony on March 30, 2006. Graduates and instructors shared their experiences in the program while demonstrating their newly acquired sign language skills. Janice Nixon-Wright, a resident of Harlem River Houses, told the audience, "I had a lot of obstacles to overcome. I thought I wouldn't be able to attend my graduation ceremony today. My mother was hospitalized with kidney problems. With three children sometimes I don't have a sitter. It's been tough on me but I succeeded. The training provided me with useful skills and although I haven't completed my internship yet — I just have three days left — I am confident that I will be employed."

The Direct Care Counselor program began as a joint effort between the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) in July of 2003. Since then, 118 NYCHA residents have graduated and 69 are still employed. The classroom training is held at BMCC's 125th Street location in The Harlem State Office Building. The 12-week program, which runs from 9AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday, includes a 96-hour internship. Those who complete the program receive a certificate in Medication Administration, CPR First Aid, and Strategies for Crisis Intervention & Prevention. They also learn sign language. Graduates are prepared to work as Direct Care Counselors servicing mentally and physically challenged adults in residential or day care treatment facilities, and are often hired at their internship location. This year's class, which began in January, will unfortunately be the last collaborative effort between NYCHA and BMCC. If you are interested in this program, please call BMCC directly and speak with Ms. Ortega at (212) 665-1766.

A special note: This year's class experienced the tragic loss of one of their classmates. Just two weeks before graduation Evelyn Florence of Manhattanville Houses passed away after a long battle with asthma. The graduates dedicated the ceremony to Ms. Florence.

Hats off to the 2006 Graduates: Laura Alejandro, Carmen DeValle, Deborah Lawton, and Nancy Quezada, East River Houses; Charmaine Campbell, Pelham Parkway Houses; I-Mecca Carmichael, Seth Low Houses; Linda Day, Glenwood Houses; Shaval Mulrain, Patterson Houses; Janice Nixon-Wright, Harlem River Houses; Jacqueline Pope, Mitchell Houses; Audrey Styles, Queensbridge Houses; Geano Thompson, Morris Houses; Danielle Williams, Manhattanville Houses; Leslie Williams, University Ave. Consolidated; Vashawn Williams, Hope Gardens; Tiffany Feliciano, Washington Houses; and Samantha Codrington, who is not a NYCHA resident. Congratulations!

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 June 15, 22 and 29th, and July 6, 2005. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.

Prohibited as of June 15, 2005

Louis Laboy	Case 4022/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 5480 Broadway, Marble Hill Houses, Manhattan.
Victor DeValle	Case 9689/04 formerly associated with the seventeenth floor of 2660 8th Avenue, Drew Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Romale Felder M. Sanders Makema Jordan	Case 4132/05 formerly associated with the Harrod fifth floor of 143 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Gerard Brockington	Case 4190/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 233 Sands Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn.
Julio Perez	Case 4239/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor, 90 Amsterdam Avenue, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
Jamar Harris	Case 4323/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 22 Mill Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Wayne Fenty	Case 4391/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 2343 Batchelder Street, Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of June 22, 2005

Felix Cruz	Case 9224/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 1142 Lenox Road, Reid Apartments, Brooklyn.
Adrian Lash	Case 1616/05 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 2250 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
Charles Moore	Case 4274/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2211 Pitkin Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Denise Garcia	Case 4287/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 1155 East 225th Street, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 29, 2005

Malik Grosvenor	Case 4449/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 584 East 137th Street, Mill Brook Houses, the Bronx.
Efrain Colon	Case 4533/05 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 520 East 137th Street, Mill Brook Houses, the Bronx.
Jonathan Leggett	Case 4254/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2949 West 28th Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Isaac Taylor	Case 4772/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 41-15 10th Street, Queensbridge South Houses, Queens.

Prohibited as of July 6, 2005

Charles Cherry Lamont Cherry	Case 3248/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 213 Nagle Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.
Johathan Shaw	Case 4513/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 40 Glenmore Avenue, Howard Houses, Brooklyn.
Timmy Pinder	Case 1103/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 1250 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Far Rockaway.

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!

Hello again.

Next month we will come together to celebrate our nation's independence. The NYPD Housing Bureau encourages all residents to fully enjoy the festivities and celebrations associated with our national birthday.

However, it is also important to recognize the danger posed to our communities through the unsafe handling of illegal fireworks.

Unfortunately, every year at this time a number of individuals who play with fireworks are injured, many seriously so. Injuries include severe burns, permanent disfigurement, and even the loss of eyes, fingers and hands. Often, those injured are young people.

If you are aware of any information regarding the sale, delivery, or storage of illegal explosives or fireworks, I urge you to call 311.

As always, we rely on our strong partnership with the residents of the New York City Housing Authority to help us fight crime, address quality of life concerns and enhance public safety. Your assistance in this matter can help save a child from being seriously injured this holiday.

Have a **HAPPY** and **SAFE** Fourth of July!



Housing Bureau
Police Chief
Joanne Jaffe

JOIN NEW YORK'S FINEST

The police profession offers great benefits, varied work assignments and unlimited opportunities. Uniformed patrol officers are the backbone of the New York City Police Department. A NYC Police Officer is a multi-faceted individual with training in community affairs, crime prevention, investigations, narcotic enforcement, forensic science, law, and youth relations. So, take the first step into a new career with **New York's Finest**, where you can make a difference. If you have any questions, visit our web site WWW.NYPDRECRUIT.COM or call (212) R E C R U I T.

Brooklyn Wins First Place In Citywide Spelling Bee



FIRST-PLACE WINNERS for the Citywide Spelling Bee were all from Brooklyn Community Centers. They are (left to right): Dominick Williams of Sumner who won in the fourth-grade category, Mecca Snipp, also from Sumner, won for the sixth graders, and Quasia Bethea of Park Rock was the fifth-grade winner.

— By Deborah Williams —

Can you spell A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-E? That's the word that won Quasia Bethea of Park Rock Community Center in Brooklyn the title of Fifth-Grade Spelling Bee Champion at the Citywide Spring Spelling Bee Contest on April 17th, at the Williamsburg Community Center, also in Brooklyn. The contest was open to NYCHA children in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades in all five boroughs. Third graders were also eligible to participate but they had to compete in the fourth-grade category.

Contestants went through a rigorous three-step elimination process. Step one began with spelling contests held at Community Centers in each borough. Winners then competed borough-wide, and all borough-wide winners competed against each other for the Citywide

Spelling Bee Championship title, spelling words such as: "management," "comedian," "intriguing," "amnesia," "infraction," "radical," "investigate," and "alertness." Dominick Williams, a third grader from Sumner Community Center in Brooklyn, whose trophy was almost as tall as he was, became Spelling Bee Champion for the fourth-grade category. Mecca Snipp, the sixth-grade winner, also from Sumner, was victorious after spelling the word "subsidy."

"I was nervous because I felt I wasn't prepared but while I was up there on stage I kept thinking about the words and it worked out for me," Mecca said with a grin.

"Well, I was prepared. I studied at home and again at the Community Center using my study packet," Dominick said. "I was a little nervous and worried up there with the fourth graders, but now that it's over, I am very happy."

Each winner received a trophy and a \$675 savings bond, generously donated by Neighborhood Health Providers. The judges were Community Operations' Brooklyn Senior Program Manager Lisa Davis, Queens Senior Program Manager Raymond Diaz, and Krystal Serrano from Neighborhood Health Providers. The Spelling Bee was sponsored by NYCHA's Citywide Programs and Contract Management Department.

36th ANNUAL
TALENT SHOW



JUNE 25, 2006
Fashion Institute of Technology
Haft Auditorium
227 West 27th Street
2 pm
FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL:
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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
Community Operations
Department of Citywide Programs

APPROVED FOR POSTING

Summer's Almost Here! Make Sure Your Window Guards Are Properly Installed!

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA), LIKE ALL LANDLORDS IN NEW YORK CITY, IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS IN EVERY WINDOW OF EVERY NYCHA APARTMENT WHERE RESIDENTS AGED 10-YEARS-OLD OR YOUNGER RESIDE? WHY? THE REASON IS SIMPLE — WINDOW GUARDS SAVE LIVES! Window guards are especially important now that the warmer weather is here.

Residents who live in the Bronx, and those parts of Manhattan that are not yet online with the Centralized Call Center (CCC), should contact their Management Offices for window guards. Residents who want or need window guards and live in Staten Island, Queens, or the parts of Manhattan that now utilize the CCC for maintenance and repairs, should contact the CCC at: (718) 707-7771. In either

case, requests for window guard installation receive an emergency priority and installation is required within 24 hours.

You don't have to have a child aged 10 or under to have window guards installed, either. In fact, it's a good idea to have them installed if children even visit your apartment.

Proper Installation

New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene provides the following guidelines for the proper installation of window guards:

Window guards must be installed permanently in the lower half of the outside track of a double-hung window, 4 1/2 inches or less above the window sill, with four one-way screws and two "L" brackets. Stops must be screwed into each side of the upper window track with one way screws. When the lower window is stopped from being raised more than 4 1/2 inches above the top bar of the guard, your child cannot fall out.

The two illustrations here show examples of window guards that are properly installed, lower left, and improperly installed, upper right.

Air Conditioners

And if you have an air conditioner, or are thinking of getting one, please make sure that it is installed properly. If you have any

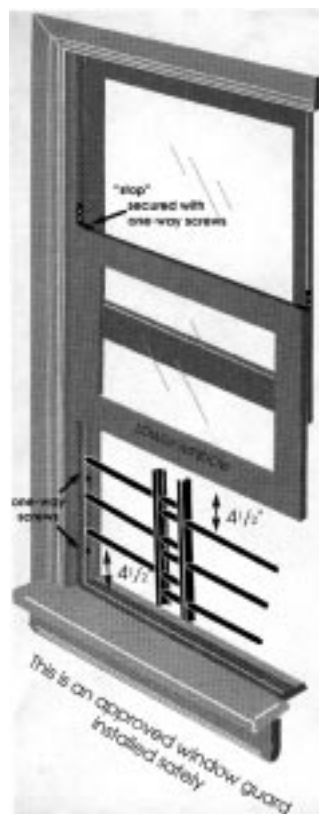


doubts, check with your Management Office.

NYCHA has very specific guidelines regarding air conditioner installation. During Annual Apartment Inspections, not only will NYCHA staff determine if all window guards are properly installed, they will also make sure that any air-conditioner you have is properly and permanently secured to the window.

Please keep in mind that when residents refuse to comply with NYCHA's attempts to install window guards, the Housing Authority will initiate administrative action to terminate tenancy.

Have a great summer!




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AIR CONDITIONERS AND TIPS FOR KEEPING COOL

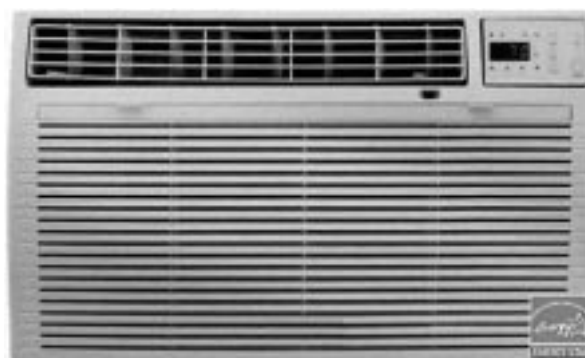
Summer's almost here! It's time to start thinking about ways you can keep cool and conserve energy. Remember, NYCHA has very specific guidelines about buying and installing air conditioners. Contact your Management Office for more information.

—When buying a new air conditioner, get the right size which may be smaller than you think. A properly sized unit cools air and removes humidity more effectively, and costs less to operate.

Always check with your Management Office before buying an air conditioner.

—Make sure the air conditioner unit you purchase has the *EnergyStar* label.

—When using a window air conditioner, close doors leading to uncooled parts of your home.



—Close blinds, shades and draperies facing the sun to keep the sun's heat out and to help keep the room cool.

—Cool things down by reducing the amount of heat generated in your home. Turn off lights when they're not needed, and avoid cooking, bathing or washing clothes during the hottest hours of the day.

—Please turn off fans/air conditioner units when leaving the home.

Residents Learn Trade Skills and Life Skills Williamsburg ... (Continued from page 2)

By Allan Leicht

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS PEDRO RODRIGUEZ, 20, OF MELROSE HOUSES IN THE BRONX, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, 26, OF POLO GROUNDS HOUSES IN MANHATTAN, AND COURTLAND COLEMAN, 25, OF BUSHWICK HOUSES IN BROOKLYN ARE THREE OF A CLASS OF 15 WHO ARE COMPLETING A FREE JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH NYCHA'S DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (RES). They are the first class of the "MWT" or Minority Workers Training program in construction and environmental remediation, and they filled Rutgers Houses Training Center in lower Manhattan with the scent of fresh-cut lumber and the aura of determination. They were building birdhouses, jewelry boxes and shelves, but more, they were building futures.



Pedro Rodriguez



Anthony Williams



Courtland Coleman

"It's classroom training combined with hands-on work," said Office of Applied Innovations (OAI), Inc. Program Coordinator David Myers. The Chicago-based training organization is NYCHA's partner in this venture. "But," said Mr. Myers, who is in his 20's himself, "it's training in life skills. The students learn to navigate the applications process and acquire the tools to successfully build a career once they have become a member of a union."

Dennis Brown, master carpenter and union instructor, spoke of carpentry as a means of building character. "They're building shadow boxes and they'll learn sheet rocking and wood framing," said Mr. Brown, "but it's not just to get a

job done, it's to acquire an attitude, the ability not to just get the job and do the job, but to hold the job — and that takes attitude. I want them to fall in love with what they're doing, use their hands to develop the right attitude."

Home base for the MWT program is the Monterey Community Center in the Bronx, and so most participants are Bronx residents. However, NYCHA residents city-wide are eligible for the program and women are strongly encouraged to apply. In fact, there are two women in this initial class, preparing for careers that are historically considered to be "non-traditional" for women.

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25, have a high

school diploma or GED, and be able to perform physical labor to qualify for the intensive 12-week course. The curriculum encompasses industry-specific building trades, and participants who complete the course become licensed in asbestos and lead abatement and as hazardous waste handlers.

Mr. Myers, a native of Jamaica, Queens who has been with OAI for six years, said that in past years as many as 85% of OAI graduates have secured positions in the building trades. "We maintain relationships after they complete the course and alumni come back to interact with current students," he said. "It's very powerful to see someone like you who has had success."

Anthony Williams of Polo Grounds Houses expressed confidence in his future because of the wide scope of the training. "I am aiming to use everything and not pick just one thing. I think my first choice might be the elevator union because I see how much need there is for that. But just in NYCHA there's a demand for painters, plasterers, all the skills," said Mr. Williams.

Lee Blyden, with David Myers and Dennis Brown, completes the trio of role models for the students of MWT. As one of NYCHA's senior skilled tradesmen, Mr. Blyden serves as liaison between the Authority and the OAI program. Mr. Blyden had been a NYCHA staff electrician prior to joining RES, and he is a firm believer in the partnership of education, labor and community as represented by OAI, the trade unions and NYCHA. "Yes, they learn how to nail and how to cut," said the 20-year NYCHA veteran, "but they also learn how to live successfully in the world of work."

children and teens on the Chess team are the borough champs and just recently the Center won second place in the NYCHA Spelling Bee Competition.

"I pride myself in making sure the kids excel in whatever they choose to do," Mrs. Gonzalez said. Getting this kind of commitment out of children can be difficult at times but when adults care, children usually do too. "Everything I do in life is part of my job. When I travel I bring back coloring books and other stuff for the kids so that they can share that experience with me. I don't separate my life from my job; it's just part of me. These kids can go anywhere and do whatever they want but they come in everyday. When they don't come I make sure they know that I acknowledge that they weren't here so that they know I care," she said. And they do. Mrs. Gonzalez said the children and teens don't even want to go home at closing time. They hang around the Center until they see "Mrs. G" (as they affectionately call her) lock up. "When I walk home at night they say, 'Mrs. G. we got your back.' It's a great place to be. I love it here."

Williamsburg at a Glance

Mrs. Gonzalez has not always lived in Williamsburg. She's lived in Puerto Rico and Ohio but she always found herself back in her home town. "I wanted to raise my son in the neighborhood where I was raised because I had nothing but positive experiences here," she said. But she does admit the neighborhood has changed a lot since that day on the seesaw in 1961, and she has been lucky enough to witness these changes first-hand, especially in the ethnic make-up of this area.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Williamsburg became predominantly Puerto Rican, due to the large number of factory jobs, with a population that was mostly Hasidic to the southwest, Italians to the west and Polish to

the north near Greenpoint.

The Hispanic community continued to grow. The 1980's saw the arrival of Dominicans and other Latin Americans to the area despite the slow decline in manufacturing jobs.

In fact, in the 1980's Ecuadorians, Mexicans, new Polish immigrants, and Chinese also joined the mix.

Diversity is not a new notion in this neighborhood, however, during the last 20 years, the newest wave of "immigrants" are artists attracted to the large spaces offered by old factories turned into residential apartments. As a result art galleries, restaurants and shops have opened to cater to these new residents.

There is concern among some residents, especially those who have lived in the neighborhood for generations, that their complex, diverse and affordable neighborhood is vanishing; but others like Mrs. Gonzalez feel that this is positive change. "There's a mixture of people in the neighborhood. It's not so much Latinos and Blacks anymore but all kinds of ethnic groups so it's become very diverse," she said.

Like with any neighborhood in transition, old faces move out and new faces move in but throughout there are always the constant familiar faces of others who serve as the fabric that connects one era to the next. "A lot of the familiar stores and store owners have moved away. If you're used to seeing Juan in the corner store for years and all of a sudden Juan is not there...I feel that's a loss. [But] there are a lot of job opportunities and new housing developments. At one time it [the neighborhood] was run down but now it's changing," Mrs. Gonzalez commented.

Williamsburg Houses is a 20 residential building development completed in 1938. It's one of the first housing developments in the United States and has been designated a New York City Landmark.

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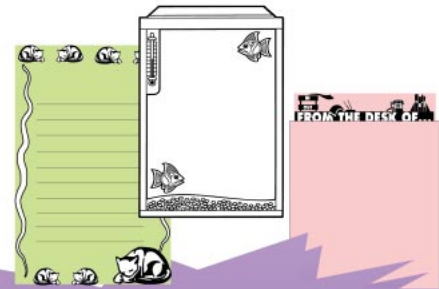
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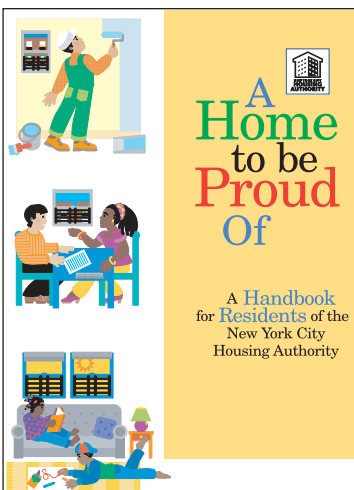
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Resident Employment Services Job Fair

(Continued from page 1)

here because you're pleased with the outcome. Our staff is very committed to making sure that there is a pool of qualified candidates. I'm sure they are going to be happy with the outcome of this as well."

Mr. Spence complimented Ms. Torruella and her staff for "leveraging over 1,000 jobs for NYCHA residents in the last few years." And to the employers attending, Mr. Spence summed up the essence of the day when he said, "Thank you for helping get NYCHA residents employed." After brief remarks, the DGM presented Longevity Awards to representatives from Federal Express and D'Agostino's Supermarket, and a New Partner Award to J.P. Morgan Chase.

"It's been a pleasure," said Tiffany Lilly, representing J.P. Morgan Chase as she accepted the New Partners Award. "I've hired a number of NYCHA residents and its been a great experience."



Job Development Trainer Gwendolyn Hamilton from the RES 99th Street Satellite office in Manhattan (left) with Patricia Heyward of Rangel Houses in Manhattan at the "Empowerment Through Employment" Job Fair at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

NOTICE

Proposed Amendment to the New York City Housing Authority Agency Annual Plan for FY 2006 and Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2007

As required by Section 5A of the Housing Act of 1937 as amended, the New York City Housing Authority has proposed to amend its *Agency Annual Plan for FY 2006* and developed a *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2007*.

Availability of Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the proposed amendment to the *Agency Annual Plan for FY 2006* and the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2007* will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, Reception Area, New York, NY, starting on April 21, 2006 through June 4, 2006, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Plans will *also* be available on NYCHA's web page, which can be located at <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>; at the Management Office of *each* NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours; and at all NYCHA-operated Community Centers during the hours of 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Public Comment

The public is also invited to comment on the proposed plans at a public hearing, which will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2006, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at:

Manhattan Center
Hammerstein Ballroom
311 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

Note: The location above is both accessible for the disabled and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the draft plans are encouraged. To be considered, **submissions must be received, via United States Postal mail, no later than June 4, 2006.** Faxed submissions will not be accepted. Comments may be sent to the following address:

New York City Housing Authority
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE IN STATEN ISLAND

The New York City Housing Authority has a limited number of apartments available at the following developments in STATEN ISLAND. The addresses of the Management Offices and available bedroom sizes are listed next to each development.

- CASSIDY-LAFAYETTE (Senior Building) – 121 Jersey Street – **1 Bedroom**
- MARINER’S HARBOR – 200 Lochman Avenue – **2 & 3 Bedrooms**
- RICHMOND TERRACE – 121 Jersey Street – **1, 2, 3, & 4 Bedrooms**
- STAPLETON – 210 Broad Street – **3, 4, & 5 Bedrooms**
- WEST BRIGHTON I – 210 Broadway – **2, 3, & 4 Bedrooms**
- WEST BRIGHTON II (Senior Building) – 210 Broadway – **1 Bedroom**

If you wish to be considered for one of these apartments, you need to complete and submit a specially designated Public Housing Application identified by the “SIGO” stamp.

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1 Person	\$39,701	6 Persons	\$65,751
2 Persons	\$45,351	7 Persons	\$70,301
3 Persons	\$51,051	8 Persons	\$74,851
4 Persons	\$56,701	9 Persons	\$79,401
5 Persons	\$61,251	10 Persons	\$83,901

These applications are available at the following locations:

Bronx Applications Office

1 Fordham Plaza, 5th Floor
(718) 329-7859

Brooklyn Applications Office

350 Livingston Street, 2nd Floor
(718) 250-5900

Manhattan Applications Office

55 West 125th Street, 7th Floor
(212) 828-7100

Queens Applications Office

120-34 Queens Boulevard, 2nd Fl.
(718) 286-7500

Staten Island Applications Office

120 Stuyvesant Place, 2nd Floor
(718) 448-7326

You may also request a special application by mail by writing to:

The New York City Housing Authority
Department of Housing Applications
90 Church Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Attn: Staten Island Outreach Coordinator

Hip Hop Story: The Musical



—By Deborah Williams—

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY OPERATIONS PERFORMING ARTS UNIT DID IT AGAIN! ON APRIL 13, 2006, THEY PUT ON A TERRIFIC PERFORMANCE OF “HIP HOP STORY: THE MUSICAL” THAT HAD THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDING, LAUGHING AND SOMETIMES SINGING. “Hip Hop Story: The Musical” was a story of romance and betrayal but more importantly, it depicted the relationship between hip hop and teens, and explained the significance of hip hop music in the teen world.

The performers, 53 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) youth from various Community Centers throughout the city and a few parents, rehearsed for two-and-a-half months to bring the production to the stage. The play, similar to the Broadway show “West Side Story,” featured characters such as “Bernardo,” played by Michael Crayton of Taft Houses in Manhattan, “Anton,” played by Patrick Robinson of University Avenue in the Bronx, and “Marie,” played by Rebecca Camacho of Douglass Houses in Manhattan, and like “West Side Story,” it wouldn’t be complete without a “Romeo and Juliet” saga and the climactic confrontation of the rival groups.

Today everyone remembers “Romeo and Juliet” and “West Side Story” for their theme and message. And that’s exactly what the producers and cast of “Hip Hop Story: The Musical” hope to convey through their acting, dance, musical notes, and rap lyrics to their audience — hip hop is a culture that rap developed from and it is not a negative culture as some view it. Hip hop is positive because through it rap is used as an outlet for teens to express themselves and share their inner feelings with the world.

“I am here today because of the cast. These teens could have been doing something else today, but they chose to be here because hip hop is important to them,” said Community Coordinator Kier Nelson.

In the audience were former Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Citywide Programs Director Ernesto Lozano, and Brooklyn South Council of Presidents (COP) Chair Rosia Wyche. Performances of “Hip Hop Story: The Musical” were held on April 12 and April 13, 2006, at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in Manhattan.



MARGARITA LÓPEZ JOINS NYCHA BOARD (Continued from page 1)



New Board Member Margarita Lopez with NYCHA Senior Staff.

construction and restoration of hundreds of units of affordable housing as well as a wide range of support services for area residents.

Ms. López has partnered with NYCHA on several initiatives at developments on the Lower East Side. These include a push to urge residents to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit program, with the help of the Lower East Side People’s Federal Tax Union, which she co-founded.

“I am humbled and proud to be appointed to this important position,” Board Member López said at the time of her appointment. “I have spent almost 30 years as a community advocate, Community Board Member, and member of the City Council fighting for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers who need affordable housing. I am very grateful for this new opportunity to serve the cause I have made my life’s work.”