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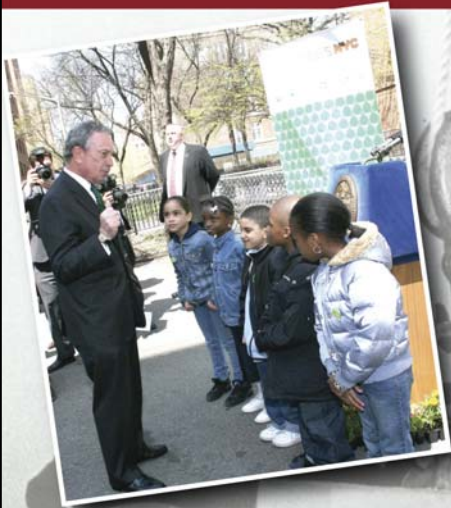


THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

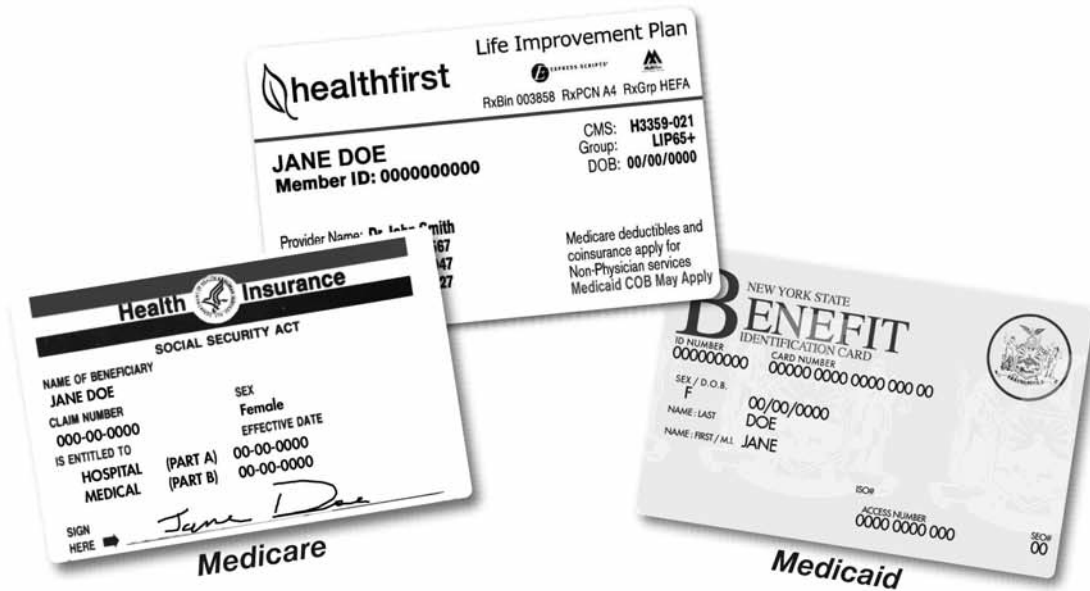
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DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

New Chairman Meets With Residents at Wise Towers to Talk About Energy Conservation in the New Year



RAISING AWARENESS Chairman Ricardo Morales speaks to Wise Towers residents about energy conservation.

By Eileen Elliott

ON HIS FIRST DAY AS THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA) NEW CHAIRMAN, DECEMBER 15TH, RICARDO ELÍAS MORALES MET WITH RESIDENTS OF WISE TOWERS ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE TO TALK ABOUT NYCHA'S "GREEN" INITIATIVES AND HELP RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION.

"Our goal with this energy conservation initiative is to inform residents about how their actions in partnership with NYCHA's efforts can leverage additional savings that can be

reinvested back into the Agency. It's a win-win for all—residents, the environment, NYCHA," the new Chairman said.

The Chairman was joined by NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, who heads the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Committee, Manhattan Borough Director Robert Knapp, staff from NYCHA's Energy Department, and City Council Member Gale Brewer.

The message to residents was simple and direct: Turn off the television when you're not watching it; switch off lights when they're not in use; use Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) instead of traditional light bulbs; take showers instead of baths; don't run the faucet when washing dishes, etc.

"We also wanted to let residents know about our plans to install CFLs at the development," said Energy Director Lloyd Kass, who mentioned that the development also has two instantaneous hot water heaters. "We plan to visit all 343 developments before we're through."

In October of last year, NYCHA received preliminary approval from the U.S.

(Continued on page 2)



Former NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (left) with the Housing Authority's new Chairman, Ricardo Elías Morales.

TINO HERNANDEZ RESIGNS Ricardo Morales Appointed New Chair

TINO HERNANDEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) FOR THE PAST 7 1/2 YEARS, RESIGNED FROM THE AUTHORITY'S TOP JOB ON NOVEMBER 21ST. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has appointed NYCHA's General Counsel Ricardo Elías Morales as Chairman while conducting a national search for a replacement.

In a budget hearing at City Hall held shortly after the resignation was made public, many City Council members thanked the Chairman for his dedication and accomplishments, as did Mayor Bloomberg, when he announced the Chair's resignation on the WOR radio program "The John Gambling Show with Mayor Mike," that morning.

"Tino actually has done a great job," the Mayor told Mr. Gambling and the show's audience.

"You know most cities are walking away from their public housing and we've gone in the other direction. We've invested a couple of billion dollars in NYCHA housing. ...Tino really has made a big difference."

Mr. Hernandez is returning to the private sector, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the drug treatment agency Samaritan Village. Mr. Hernandez

(Continued on page 2)

NYCHA and City Partner to Provide Resident Services

By Eileen Elliott

AS FORMER CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL IN TESTIMONY LATE LAST YEAR, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HAS PLANS TO WORK WITH THREE CITY AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SOME SERVICES TO RESIDENTS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY NYCHA. NYCHA will convert directly run operations over to the Department of Youth and Community Development, the Administration for Children's Services and the Human Resources Administration to provide services in the areas of youth, prevention and employment.

NYCHA will utilize the expertise of the agencies to bring the highest quality services to residents while offering attractive community spaces to providers at reasonable cost. City funds will be provided to agencies for community-based services. The entire transition process is expected to take approximately two years.

Unfortunately, as things stand now and barring any additional funding, up to 18 NYCHA-operated Community Centers could be closed.

Should the Centers close, as of the writing of this article, 200 associated staff would most likely be affected.

NYCHA has long been warning of the possibility of more community center closings (in addition to the 15 closed last spring) as a way of reducing its \$170 million budget deficit for 2008 and its projected deficit for the federal 2009 fiscal year, which begins this month. Despite the significant gains

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HEAP Changes Mean Increase in Food Stamp Allowance



More than 20,000 NYCHA households may now be eligible for significant increases in their food stamp benefit allowance. **Governor David A. Paterson (at microphone)** announced on October 16th that New York State has implemented changes in the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) which will result in an increase of \$150 million in Federal Food Stamp benefits for low- and moderate-income families. The announcement was made at the Stanley A. Isaac's Neighborhood Center in Manhattan.

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FOLLOW THESE SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT FIRES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Targeted Relief In Response to the Changing Economy



CITY AGENCIES ARE RESPONDING TO THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WITH NEW INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO CREATE JOBS, SUPPORT THE CITY'S WORKFORCE, SMALL BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS, AND PROVIDE TARGETED RELIEF TO THE CITY'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. And they're doing it primarily by utilizing existing city, state and federal resources. New Yorkers can now take advantage of 18 new

initiatives designed to help them weather the increasing challenges brought on by the changes in the global, national and local economies.

These are preliminary steps—as economic conditions and needs change, we'll adjust what we're doing to expand what is working, remove what isn't and find ways to address problems we couldn't anticipate. But the initiatives we are embarking on, with the cooperation of our partners in the City Council, will provide meaningful assistance to many New Yorkers who need it now, as we continue to tackle our challenges together as a city.

Open Five New Financial Empowerment Centers

The Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) will use private funds to open five new Financial Empowerment Centers throughout the City early this year. The new centers will provide families with free financial counseling services in English and Spanish, including assistance with money management, managing credit and debt, and negotiations with creditors.

Expand In-Class Breakfast Pilot Program

The Department of Education will expand its pilot project which provides breakfast in the classroom to help ensure students eat a healthy breakfast. The program will be available to 300 schools whose student populations experience high poverty rates in addition to the roughly 50 schools currently serving breakfast to children in their classrooms.

Provide Targeted Food Assistance to Seniors

The Human Resources Administration, working with the Department for the Aging, the New York City Food Policy Coordinator and the Food Bank for New York City will use a new federal grant of \$677,000 to create an automated food stamp benefit assessment and simplified application process for over 40,000 seniors who may be eligible.

Launch Debt Management Awareness Campaign

The Department of Consumer Affairs' OFE will launch a year-long public awareness campaign to inform New Yorkers about how the City can help them take control of their finances. The first phase of the campaign will focus on helping New Yorkers deal with debt. The advertisements encourage New Yorkers to call 311 or visit NYC.gov to find free or low-cost financial education classes, counseling and workshops available through the City's Financial Education Network directory.

Implement Largest Capital Infrastructure Plan in City's History

Although ongoing pressure on the budget required the City to stretch the capital plan from four years to five, the total capital spending will be greater than at any time in the City's history. This year alone, the City will spend \$10.4 billion, creating roughly 25,000 jobs.

Create Green Jobs through Building Upgrades and Incentives

The City will work with the City Council to promote green buildings and with Con Ed and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to persuade the Public Service Commission to further expand its energy retrofit incentive program. Combined, the programs will create thousands of jobs.

In all likelihood, the current economic downturn will not end quickly. We can't eliminate the burden many will feel and we can't act as a substitute for failing or missing federal assistance in every case. We can create real jobs and provide targeted assistance to those who need it most.

To find out more about these and other initiatives, visit NYC.gov. And have a great New Year!

Michael R. Bloomberg

Wise Towers

(Continued from page 1)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its three-phase Energy Performance Contract Initiative. The initiative focuses on replacing traditional light bulbs with CFLs; the installation of instantaneous hot water heaters in NYCHA developments; and boiler replacements at 35 sites. An additional energy-saving initiative, the Computerized Heating Automated System, allows for remote monitoring of NYCHA's major boiler systems at 211 sites.

So far the conservation talks, which began last November, have been held at 303 Vernon Avenue and Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn, Mott Haven and Patterson Houses in the Bronx, South Jamaica Houses in Queens, and Manhattanville, also in Manhattan.

In 2008 NYCHA paid \$531 million in utilities, which was roughly double the amount paid in 2002.

HERNANDEZ

(Continued from page 1)

was Vice-President of Samaritan Village prior to his 16-year tenure in City government.

As the Housing Authority's 19th Chairman, Tino Hernandez has seen the agency through six straight years of federal underfunding. His legacy will include passage of the Shelter Allowance bill into law, which gives NYCHA parity with private landlords in funding it receives for residents who are on public assistance; approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of the Section 8 transition program, which will provide a permanent funding stream to preserve 21 locally built developments; the implementation of cutting edge technology like instantaneous hot water heaters and the Computerized Heating Automated System to reduce skyrocketing energy costs, and the Centralized Call Center, which allows residents from all 343 NYCHA developments to call a single telephone number to schedule routine maintenance repairs.

NYCHA has also played a critical role in Mayor Bloomberg's plan to preserve or create 165,000 units of affordable housing by 2013, and in his PlaNYC 2030 to create a greener, more sustainable City.

"I feel confident that I am leaving the Housing Authority in good hands," said Chairman

SPEAKING GREEN IN THE BRONX



Special guest speaker Ashok Gupta joined New York City Housing Authority Environmental Coordinator Margarita López for a "Speaking Green" panel discussion on November 17th at the Bronx River Community Center. Mr. Gupta is the Air and Energy Program Director and Senior Energy Economist at the Natural Resources Defense Council. The focus of the discussion was on "Integrating Economics, Energy, Climate and Air Quality Strategies." It was the second of NYCHA's and the Clinton Climate Initiative's quarterly lecture/discussion series.

Hernandez. "I think I was able to assemble the best and the brightest in City government."

Tino Hernandez' last official day as Chairman was December 12th. His was the second longest tenure of any of NYCHA's Chairs.

— Eileen Elliott

The Housing Authority Journal

75 years of Public Housing in New York City

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

**Welcome to the New Year,
NYCHA'S 75th Anniversary!**



WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR! It's great to be able to congratulate the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) on its 75th Anniversary. That's 75 years of providing homes for hundreds of thousands of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers who have made this City what it is today.

I am especially honored to be addressing you as NYCHA's new Chairman. I thank Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for appointing me to

this important position of safeguarding this incredible resource while a national search is being conducted for a permanent replacement.

Much has been accomplished here through the hard work of NYCHA staff and the cooperation of you, the more than 400,000 New Yorkers who make your homes in the Housing Authority's 343 developments.

I'd like to take a moment to tell you just a little bit about myself. I was appointed as NYCHA's General Counsel in 2001 and prior to that time directed NYCHA's housing litigation divisions. This is the second time in NYCHA's history that a General Counsel has been appointed Chairman.

In my role as the Authority's Chief Ethics Officer I have ensured that NYCHA employees comply with the agency's Code of Ethics as well as the Conflict of Interest Board's rules and regulations. In addition, as the principal architect and a member of NYCHA's Audit Committee, which focuses on the integrity of NYCHA's financial reporting and accountability, I am in a strong position to help NYCHA face the Housing Authority's financial challenges.

As we all know, there is a new Administration in Washington that promises change. The best change we can work for is getting public housing on the national agenda, and securing full funding for public housing at the Federal level. As Chair, I will press for a proactive urban agenda with the new Administration. And I will continue to encourage all levels of government to support public housing.

The New York City Housing Authority is only as strong as the residents who make their homes here. I know with the support of the Mayor, with your help, and with the help of elected officials, trade unions and our other supporters, we can do more than keep the dream of public housing alive, we can keep the reality of public housing alive, and ensure its viability for future generations.

Please work with me in the New Year on this vital mission.

*Ricardo Elias Morales
Chairman*

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**Here's How You
Can Save \$\$ In
the New Year**

Saving—it's easier said than done, especially in today's economy. Most Americans save less than 1% of their income, so you're not alone if you find it hard to save. But that can be little comfort when you need to draw on your savings for unexpected expenses and there's nothing there.

— **Where can you begin?** Think about what's important to you—a new computer, something special for your family, travel, starting a small business, retirement. Then decide how much you can save in a week—it doesn't have to be much—and multiply times 52 weeks. With that goal in mind, apply some or all of these suggestions to keep your resolution to save.

— **Start by opening a savings account and thinking of yourself as another monthly bill.** Then after you pay your rent, pay yourself second. Decide on some amount you would like to set aside. Using Direct Deposit or automatic transfer to a savings account makes saving easier because if you don't have the money in your pocket, or in your debit card account, it's harder to spend. Ask your employer how to apply for direct deposit. And shop for a bank that offers an account that earns interest so your savings can grow even more.

— **Save small amounts.** Even small amounts of savings add up. Write down everything you spend for a few days then circle items that you can reduce or even eliminate from your list. Where can you save? You make the choices:

— **Do you eat out a lot?** (\$8 a day for lunch = \$160 a month!) Bring your lunch a few days a week.

— **Can you cut back on daily expenses, such as coffee, candy, soda?** If you can save \$3 a day, you can add \$1,095 a year to your savings.

— **Do you have services you don't really need?** If you use a cell phone, can you eliminate your landline?

— **If you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), you can get a great head start on accumulating savings.** Call 311 to learn if you qualify for the EITC and other tax credits and to find a free or low-cost tax preparation site near you. (See the chart on page 7 to determine your EITC eligibility and benefits.)

— **Use cash or a debit card when possible.** It's so easy to swipe your credit card when you

(Continued on page 7)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Scholarship Winners—Nicole Booker and Darwin Galcano have something in common—they are both the recipients of the first annual Campo Misionero Sarepta, Inc. Scholarship Award. Nicole and Darwin each received a \$1,000 scholarship to assist them with their college educations.

"I felt good, really honored and surprised as well as privileged to be the recipient of this award," said Nicole, who has been a resident of Lower East Side II for 19 years. Nicole attends John Jay College where she majors in police studies and hopes to one day become a police officer.

Darwin Galcano, who is not a NYCHA resident, said the award means a lot to him because he doesn't receive any financial aid from the government. "I work to pay for school so the award is definitely a big help," said Darwin, an electrical engineering major at City College.

Nicole and Darwin also attend the same church and it was after one of the services that Campo Misionero Sarepta, Inc. Director Rocky Stella overheard Nicole's mother saying how she needed help paying for Nicole's college education. Mr. Stella's organization always planned on presenting two students with scholarships but the plan was to present the awards next year when the organization moves to its new location at 255-7 East Houston Street. After hearing Nicole's mom, Mr. Stella decided not to wait to award the scholarships.

Mr. Stella is very proud of the programs that Campo Misionero Sarepta offers and excited about those it is planning to offer. In addition to an existing soup kitchen there are plans for a year-round day camp for children which will offer homework assistance, as well as trips to places such as Radio City Music Hall, the circus and basketball games. "I have seen a lot of programs that did not work, but this one will because we will sit down with the teachers that are willing to be involved and plan and prepare," said Mr. Stella with great enthusiasm. "The programs will benefit all in the neighborhood."

Darwin received his \$1000 scholarship during a ceremony on September 28, 2008, and Nicole was presented with her \$1000 scholarship on October 5, 2008.

If you would like to find out how you can apply for a Campo Misionero Sarepta scholarship, please call 212-505-1398 or 212-979-9008 between the hours of 9AM and 2PM.

Congratulations to you both on your scholarships and I wish you all the best on all your future endeavors. College is just the beginning of a world full of opportunities!



(left to right) Campo Misionero Sarepta, Inc. Director Rocky Stella with scholarship recipient Nicole Booker of Lower East Side II and supporters.

Correction: In the photograph of the "College Bound" residents in the October 2007 NYCHA Journal, Michael Roman was misidentified as Deryll Alleyne. Apologies to both.

**Look for special features
commemorating
NYCHA's 75th Anniversary
in the 2009 NYCHA Journal.**

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. The purpose of this list is 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 July 25, and August 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2007. **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
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SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

Prohibited as of July 25, 2007

George Irick Case 5347/07 formerly associated with the third floor of Zabar Irick 370 Bushwick Avenue, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
Sonny Cordero Case 5377/07 formerly associated with the third floor of 261 West 114th Street, Randolph Houses, Manhattan.
Javier Florenciani Case 5382/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 2125 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of August 1, 2007

Leonel Torres Case 5534/07 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 639 Rosedale Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
Kingsley Newland Case 5577/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 88 South 10th Street, Berry Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of August 8, 2007

Tyshawn Fowler Case 5738/07 formerly associated with the first floor of 13-10 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Queens.
Fahim Hannan Case 5745/07 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 875 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.
Kevin Rivers Case 4749/07 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 425 East 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of August 15, 2007

Eliot Diaz Case 1393/07 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 1191 Park Place, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
Kahlif Abdulah Case 5861/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 1615 Dean Street, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrance Thompson Case 4695/07 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2946-50 West 23rd Street, Carey Garden Houses, Brooklyn.
German Alvarez Case 5766/07 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Herman Clotter Case 5766/07 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of August 22, 2007

Hagler Clotter-Alvarez Case 5966/07 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 292 Ralph Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.
Justin Briggs Case 5966/07 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 292 Ralph Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.
Anthony Madera Case 6008/07 formerly associated with the first floor of 1150-52 College Avenue, Claremont Rehab Houses, the Bronx.
Guillermo Bermudez Case 6003/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 710 Tinton Avenue, Adams Houses, the Bronx.
Quitevettia Case 5057/07 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 309 McDougal Street, Ocean Hill Apartments, Brooklyn.
Peacock Marcus Scott Case 6046/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 35-06 21st Street, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.
Warren Brown Case 6073/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 829 Schenck Avenue, Boulevard Houses, Brooklyn.
Stephen Phillip Case 6074/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 3573 Nostrand Avenue, Sheepshead Bay Houses, Brooklyn.
Kendall Lewis Case 6074/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 3573 Nostrand Avenue, Sheepshead Bay Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrance Harris Case 6089/07 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 412 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
Edgardo Diaz Case 6134/07 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 60 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
Malik Morgan Case 6015/07 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 434 Beach 58th Street, Ocean Bay Apartments, Queens.
Jermaine Penn Case 6186/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2950 West 35th Street, O'Dwyer Houses, Brooklyn.

SERVICES

(Continued from page 1)

the Housing Authority has made by increasing revenue and cutting expenditures, the lack of federal subsidy which amounts to a loss of approximately \$551 million since 2002, has made it difficult to continue to provide many of the community and social services it has historically provided to residents.

To further complicate the situation, as of January 1, 2008, the federal government stopped recognizing the \$115 million cost of providing these services to NYCHA residents as expenses eligible for federal reimbursement.

"The situation has created an opportunity to allow NYCHA to place its focus on its core function and turn to the city's social service agencies to bring high quality services on site to NYCHA residents through a network of programs and providers expert in three key areas—youth, prevention and employment," the former Chairman said when testifying.

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IN TRIBUTE

Nicoletta Azure, a long-time resident of the Alfred E. Smith Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side, and NYCHA employee for 28 years, passed away on October 1st of respiratory complications. The 88-year-old, "Nicki," as she was known, served as Smith Houses Resident Association President and Manhattan South Council of Presidents (COP) Chair for many years. She leaves behind her daughter and son, Jean and Butchie Azure. She will be remembered by NYCHA staff and residents alike for her legacy of good works. In a 1991 *Journal* article, Ms. Azure is quoted telling the young residents in attendance at an event, "Remember the fun. Time goes so fast."



Terence Tolbert, who grew up in Harlem's St. Nicholas Houses, died suddenly of a heart attack on Sunday November 2nd. He was 44. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg delivered Mr. Tolbert's eulogy at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of Manhattan on November 10th. A graduate of Bronx Science High School, Mr. Tolbert was a longtime political operative who worked on Mayor Bloomberg's 2005 re-election campaign. Most recently, Mr. Tolbert was on leave from his position as Chief Lobbyist for New York City Schools to serve as the Nevada Campaign Director for President-elect Barack Obama. In Mr. Tolbert's honor, upon his passing the Mayor renamed the school campus at I.S. 195 in Harlem the Terence D. Tolbert Education Complex. Mr. Tolbert is survived by his wife and mother. **Photo by Spencer Tucker, Office of the Mayor.**

FIRE SAFETY

The New York City Housing Authority has developed procedures to ensure that proper fire safety measures are followed by staff and residents to prevent fires. Residents are reminded that fire safety begins at home. Every family should know the basics of how to prevent fires in your apartment and what to do in case of fire.

In the event of a fire always call 911 first!

Smoke Detectors

— Never remove a smoke detector for any reason. Smoke detectors save lives.

— All smoke detectors have a test button and should be tested each month by a member of your household.

— All smoke detectors installed by NYCHA whether hard wired (electrically connected) or battery operated are equipped with an audible "LOW BATTERY" warning signal. This signal is identifiable by an alternating "BEEPING" sound. When this warning "beep" is heard the battery must be replaced immediately.

— Be proactive. Change your smoke detector batteries twice a year — in the spring and fall when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

The Fire Department sponsors free smoke detector battery giveaway campaigns throughout the year, especially at Daylight Saving Time. If you cannot afford batteries for your Smoke Detector, contact your local fire station.

Fire Safety Notices

— NYCHA is required to post a Fire Safety Notice on the inside of every apartment entrance door. The Fire Safety Notice is a white sticker with black lettering and describes the actions to follow in the event of a fire emergency in your building.

— If your apartment entrance door does not have the Fire Safety Notice sticker posted contact your management office immediately and they will provide one for you.

— If your apartment has a fire escape it must be kept clear of all items.

General Fire Safety Tips

— If you are having a heating problem call the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771 and/or your Management Office.

— Never use your stove or stove top burners as a source of heat. When you use your stove to heat your apartment, poisonous carbon monoxide builds up hour after hour. Carbon Monoxide has no odor, smell or taste and can be deadly. Natural gas from your oven can also build up.

— Space heaters are temporary heating devices and should only be used for a limited time each day and should never be connected to an outlet with an extension cord. Unplug any space heaters when not in actual use. Electric heaters with frayed or damaged cords should never be used.

Candles and Fire Safety

Never leave a lit candle unattended in any room of the house. Never leave a child or pet alone with a lit candle or any open flame. Children and unattended pets can knock over a candle causing a fire and possible burns. With open flames, such as those on a stove, loose clothing or material can easily catch fire. Never use candles near combustible materials such as curtains, drapes, bedding and or cabinets. If you are going to use candles, make sure they sit properly in holders on a flat non-flammable surface.



If You See It, Report It!

If you see conditions that need to be addressed in your development call NYCHA's Centralized Call Center:

The Centralized Call Center.
Call Anytime - 24/7
718-707-7771
It's a shared responsibility.

Centralized Call Center

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BRONX AND MANHATTAN NORTH COP INSTALLATIONS

TWO OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA) NINE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT (COP) DISTRICTS HELD INSTALLATION CEREMONIES IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR. On October 17th, the Manhattan North District COP's swearing-in ceremony took place at Manhattanville Houses in Harlem. Among the distinguished guests was Congress Member Charles Rangel. On October 27th, the Bronx North District COP held its installation Ceremony at the Sue Ginsburg Senior Center at Pelham Parkway Houses in the Bronx.



MANHATTAN NORTH COP Shown from left to right are: Recording Secretary Patricia Moore of Wilson Houses, Treasurer Nathaniel R. Greene of Dyckman Houses, Financial Secretary Anne Bradshaw of Taft Houses, Chair Ethel Velez of Johnson Houses, and Vice Chair Ruby Kitchen of King Towers.

Every president of a recognized Resident Association is a member of one of the nine COP districts in the city. The Chair of each COP district, in turn, becomes part of the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP).



BRONX NORTH COP Shown from left to right, standing in the back row are: Chair Herma Williams, 1st Vice-Chair Loretta Masterson, Recording Secretary Emma Miller, Corresponding Secretary Ernestine Russell, Treasurer Robert Hall, Sergeant-At-Arms Harvey Butler, and 2nd Vice-Chair Keith Ramsey.

The CCOP works with senior NYCHA staff on the many issues affecting life in NYCHA developments, including issues at the local, state and federal government levels. Each member of the CCOP also is a part of the Resident Advisory Board which works with NYCHA on the creation of its Annual Plan which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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- Nursery Schools
- Summer Camps
- Head Start Programs
- Becoming a Child Care Provider
- The New NYS Medication Regulations

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168 GREENPOINT AVE*
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1441 ST JOHN'S PLACE*
1640 BROADWAY*
2323 MERMAID AVE*
2488 LINDEN BLVD*
5215 FOURTH AVE*
1813 KINGS HIGHWAY*
254 LIVONIA AVE*
1068 NASSAU AVE
151 VANDERBILT AVE
187 BEDFORD AVE
2107 BATH AVE
508 CLARKSON AVE
531 EASTERN PKWY
642 NOSTRAND AVE
364 GRAHAM AVE
1075 BROADWAY
1588 FULTON STREET
160 ROCKAWAY AVE
593 MYRTLE AVE
254 KINGSTON AVE
451 BROADWAY
553 GRAND ST
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832 WASHINGTON AVE

840 FRANKLIN AVE
1083 MANHATTAN AVE
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11 EAST GUNHILL RD*
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396 EAST 167TH STREET
664 EAST TREMONT AVE
697 EAST GUNHILL RD
931 EAST 174TH STREET
977 PROSPECT AVE
1030 MORRIS AVE
1204 ELDER AVE
1784 WESTCHESTER AVE
2441 JEROME AVE
3212 THIRD AVE
4551 THIRD AVE
3725 E TREMONT AVE
3429 E TREMONT AVE
164 EAST 174TH STREET
269 EAST TREMONT AVE

890 EAST TREMONT AVE
1202 MORRISON AVE
2193 GRAND CONCOURSE
4215 THIRD AVE
MANHATTAN
94 EIGHTH AVE*
590 EIGHTH AVE*
763 NINTH AVE*
926 COLUMBUS AVE*
3352 BROADWAY*
514 WEST 207TH ST*
50 SPRING STREET
551 COLUMBUS AVE
4984 BROADWAY
2351 SECOND AVE
3433 BROADWAY
3657 BROADWAY
200 WEST 14TH STREET
224 EIGHTH AVE
295 CHURCH STREET
2168 SECOND AVE
QUEENS
56-54 MYRTLE AVE*
37-74 90TH STREET*
102-10 ROOSEVELT AVE*
46-18 QUEENS BLVD*
30-14 31ST ST
39-28 QUEENS BLVD
30-08 BROADWAY
40-35 21ST ST
58-14 ROOSEVELT AVE
*OPEN 24 HOURS

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:



January 7, 2009	July 22, 2009
January 21, 2009	August 5, 2009
February 4, 2009	August 19, 2009
February 18, 2009	September 2, 2009
March 4, 2009	September 16, 2009
March 18, 2009	September 30, 2009
April 1, 2009	October 14, 2009
April 14, 2009 (Tuesday)	October 28, 2009
April 29, 2009	November 10, 2009 (Tuesday)
May 13, 2009	November 25, 2009
May 27, 2009	December 9, 2009
June 10, 2009	December 23, 2009
June 24, 2009	January 6, 2010
July 8, 2009	

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at nyc.gov/nycha and in the *NYCHA Journal* to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our website at nyc.gov/nycha or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3P.M. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting, should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

Save \$\$ In the New Year

(Continued from page 3)

want something, but annual interest is 23% or more if you don't pay the full balance monthly.

— Open a checking account.

If you cash a \$200 check weekly, save more than \$180 a year with no or low-cost accounts offered by NY State banks, usually with a limited number of free checks each month. Check your local bank for specific account features.

— Pay bills on time.

Save by avoiding the added expenses of late fees, finance charges, disconnect and reconnect fees by paying bills on time. Wouldn't you rather have that money for yourself?

— Be a smart consumer.

Buy in bulk, or at least buy the larger sizes of products you use often, like cereal or rice.

TAX YEAR 2008 Earned Income Tax Credit ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND MAXIMUM CREDITS

Tax Year 2008	Max Combined Credit	Max Federal Credit	Max State Credit	Max City Credit	Maximum Income
Families with more than one qualifying child	\$6,512	\$4,824	\$1,447	\$241	\$38,646 (\$41,646 MFJ)
Families with one qualifying child	\$3,937	\$2,917	\$875	\$146	\$33,995 (\$36,995 MFJ)
No Qualifying Children	\$591	\$438	\$131	\$22	\$12,880 (\$15,880 MFJ)

*MFJ = Married Filing Jointly
Provided by NYC Office of Financial Empowerment

The value per pound is usually better than the smaller sizes. Shop with a list and try to avoid expensive "convenience" stores.

Watch your New Year's resolution pay off. Set your goal, create a plan and let your savings grow. You'll feel proud of yourself for keeping a resolution — and a little richer and more secure.

These tips were submitted by Carol O'Rourke, Executive Director of The Coalition for Debtor Education.

GET FREE HELP WITH YOUR TAXES

Call 311 for the location of FREE tax assistance sites in your area. Avoid the rush - Call Now.

Remember to file for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It returns tax dollars to help cover basic expenses. Working families and individuals earning less than \$40,000 a year may qualify and could receive up to \$6,000.



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THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

Are You Ready?

What You Need To Know About DTV

After **February 17, 2009**, all full-power television stations will broadcast only in digital. If you use "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna with your analog television you must take action to continue receiving television broadcasts after February 17, 2009.

There are three options to keep receiving television broadcasts after February 17, 2009:



Buy a converter box that will plug into your analog TV.



Buy a TV with a digital tuner.



Connect your analog TV to a cable pay service.

NOTE: NYCHA residents are prohibited from installing any television or satellite antennas on the window sill or at any place outside of the apartment such as window frames, window guards, or the brickwork on the exterior of the building without prior written consent from NYCHA.

- Certified TV converter boxes are expected to cost between \$40 and \$70.
- The Federal Government is offering U.S. households up to two \$40 coupons to help with the cost of certified converter boxes.
- Coupons are free, but supply is limited.
- Coupons expire after 90 days and cannot be reissued.
- Coupons will be mailed to you from the Federal Government. The coupon will look and work like a plastic gift card.

With your coupons you will also receive instructions for using the coupon, a list of coupon eligible certified converter boxes, a list of retailers where you can use the coupon, and frequently asked questions about the Program.

i For more information or to request your coupons, call **1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)** or **1-877-530-2634 (TTY)** visit online at: www.DTV2009.gov, apply by mail at: P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208, or fax **1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)**.

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