

NYCHA ADOPTS PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2008

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) BOARD ADOPTED A \$2.8 BILLION FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET ON JANUARY 23rd. The budget includes a \$195 million structural deficit, resulting in large part from chronic Federal underfunding. Before adopting the budget, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez vowed that the Housing Authority will continue to take aggressive action in the coming year to preserve public housing in New York City.

Commitment to Public Housing

"The NYCHA Board will make the tough decisions necessary to achieve structural balance and ensure the continued stability and preservation of public housing in New York City," said Chairman Hernandez, just before the Board adopted the FY2008 Preliminary Operating Budget and Four-Year Financial Plan. "Public housing is part and parcel

of New York City and while we do have to make tough choices, we have nearly 70 years of being the first, the biggest and the best. We'll get through this. We've been through hard times before."

Chronic Federal Underfunding

"NYCHA has lost over \$611 million in Federal aid since 2001," said NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Finance Felix Lam in his budget presentation at the meeting. He added that the last time public housing was fully funded was in 2002.

For 2008, the Federal subsidy NYCHA receives will again be pro-rated, meaning that NYCHA will receive an estimated 83 cents on the dollar, which will account for approximately \$160 million of its deficit.

Though chronic underfunding by the Federal government is the primary cause of NYCHA's structural budget deficit, other major components of NYCHA operations that are not funded and

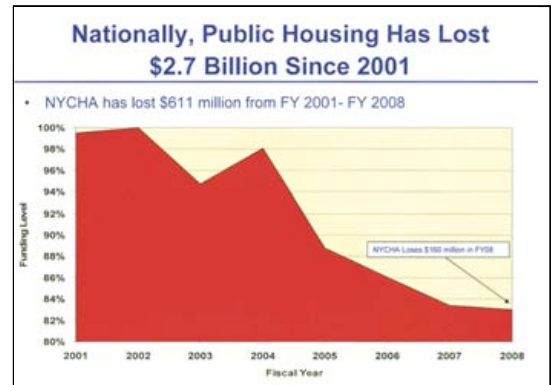
contribute to the deficit include: the cost of operating 21 State and City-built developments, which amounts to \$93 million annually; an increase in non-discretionary employee benefit expenses of \$40 million; \$68 million for policing services; and another \$68 million for NYCHA-provided community and social services.

Victories

"In many ways, NYCHA is a victim of its own success," said Chairman Tino Hernandez, referring to the fact that NYCHA has managed to maintain its level of service despite nearly seven years of underfunding.

The Housing Authority has already reduced its budget by over a half-billion dollars (\$527 million) since 2003, and cut more than 2,000 positions.

In addition, the Authority has also achieved victories in securing new revenue sources, including passage of legislation that will increase the Shelter Rent Allowance NYCHA receives



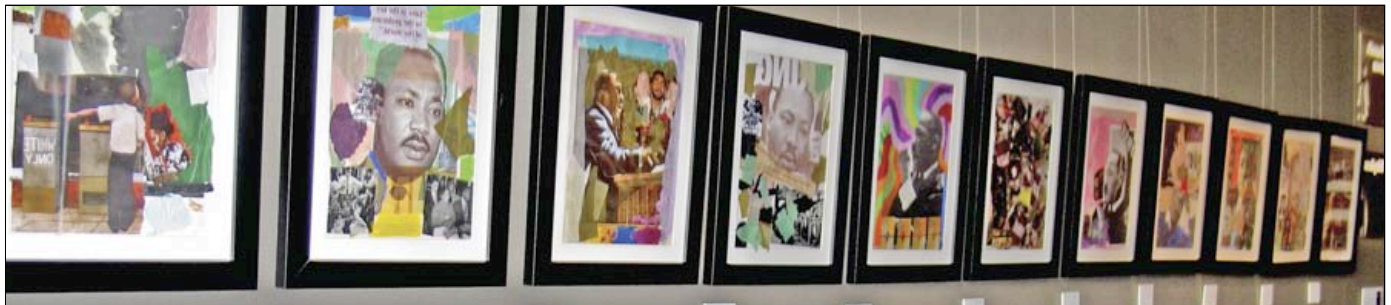
DISINVESTMENT The graph above shows the decline in federal allocations for public housing nationwide.

from the State of New York, and obtaining approval for the Section 8 Transition initiative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Section 8 initiative will allow NYCHA to transition 8,400 units in its 21 State and City-built developments into the Section 8 Program, providing a

needed funding stream for these 21 developments. (See "HUD Approves Section 8 Transition Starting at Bay View Houses," page 3.) This victory was announced publicly by the Chairman for the first time at the meeting.

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BROOKLYN ARTISTS 'PICTURE THE DREAM' AT ACADEMY OF MUSIC



PICTURING THE DREAM Collages made by 20 young resident-artists from the Whitman Community Center commemorating Dr. King in an exhibit at the BAMcafé.

THE WORK OF 20 YOUNG ARTISTS, AGED 12 AND UNDER, FROM THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) WHITMAN COMMUNITY CENTER IN BROOKLYN, WAS ON DISPLAY FROM JANUARY 17TH THROUGH THE 22ND IN A SPECIAL EXHIBIT, "PICTURE THE DREAM," AT THE BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC CAFÉ, BAMCAFÉ.

The exhibit was part of BAM's 22nd Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., held on January 21st. The day started with a breakfast reception for the NYCHA youth at BAMcafé, led by BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins. Ms. Hopkins praised the resident artists for their impressive collages, which were exhibited in a semi-circle around the room.

"The young people were really excited," said Community Operations' Eric Cumberbatch, who has been reaching out to cultural institutions in Brooklyn to create similar opportunities. "They were able to learn a great deal about civil rights and human rights in a different era, during the five weeks they worked with BAM's teaching artists."

Among the dignitaries present to celebrate the life of Dr. King were Senator Charles E. Schumer, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

The day included songs and stories by soul and gospel legend Mavis Staples of the Staple Singers. There was also a special screening of the acclaimed film "At the River I Stand," about the Memphis sanitation worker strike in 1968, which brought Dr. King to Memphis.

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INCOME TAX CREDIT

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

'Safe Streets for Seniors' to Reduce Traffic Fatalities in 25 Neighborhoods



OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF NEW YORKERS OVER 65 IS GOING TO NEARLY DOUBLE. By 2030, 20 percent of the City's residents will be seniors—and New York City needs to prepare. You may already be aware that seniors are the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) fastest growing population, and already make up over one-third of NYCHA residents.

Early this year I launched "Safe Streets for Seniors," a major new pedestrian safety initiative for older New Yorkers, which will work in conjunction with the new All Ages Project that's re-envisioning what it means to grow older in New York City. In collaboration with the City Council and the New York Academy of Medicine, the All Ages Project NYCHA will determine how best to ready the City for its growing population of seniors, examining everything from housing to meal delivery to transportation to traffic engineering improvements.

Safe Streets for Seniors

Since 1990, pedestrian fatalities in New York City have decreased by 62 percent, but senior citizens remain a particularly vulnerable group. A study of pedestrian fatalities from 2002 to 2006 showed that senior citizens—those 65 and over—made up about 12 percent of the City's population but were involved in nearly 39 percent of the City's fatal pedestrian accidents.

Department of Transportation (DOT) engineers have already examined accident histories across the City and identified 25 neighborhoods that have both a high density of senior citizens and a high number of pedestrian accidents or injuries, looking at variables like visibility, lighting, drivers' compliance with traffic and pedestrian signals and the width of the roadway.

As part of the Safe Streets for Seniors program, engineers will evaluate pedestrian conditions in these neighborhoods from a senior's perspective and make engineering changes such as extending pedestrian crossing times at crosswalks and shortening crossing distances, altering curbs and sidewalks, restricting vehicle turns, and narrowing roadways.

The first five pilot locations include some neighborhoods with public housing developments. They are: Brooklyn's Brighton Beach, the Lower East Side of Manhattan where many NYCHA developments are located, the Fordham/University Heights neighborhoods in the Bronx, Flushing/Murray Hill in Queens, and New Dorp/Hylan Boulevard in Staten Island.

Traffic Fatalities Already Lowest On Record

The final 2007 traffic fatality data shows that traffic fatalities in New York City have already dropped to the lowest level since records started being kept in 1910: 271 traffic fatalities Citywide last year, down more than 30 percent since 2001. Pedestrian deaths in 2007 were also at an all-time low, at 13, which is 13 percent fewer than previous lows in both 2004 and 2005.

The lower fatality rate has been achieved through a combination of stepped up enforcement of traffic laws by the NYPD—focusing on drunken driving, speeding and seat belt use; improved driver behavior and vehicle safety, such as the widespread use of seat belts and air bags, and DOT outreach efforts through programs like Safety City, which have educated tens of thousands of children and seniors.

We consider safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers a matter of public health—like smoking or obesity—that deserves our full attention. And while the final 2007 traffic fatality statistics were nothing short of incredible, we will continue to find new ways to bring them down even more.

Our Safe Streets for Seniors program is the largest program of its kind ever undertaken in the nation, and it's appropriate that it targets the most vulnerable New Yorkers throughout neighborhoods in all five boroughs. It will ensure that New York City remains one of the most age-friendly cities in the country as it serves to reduce senior fatalities at busy intersections across the five boroughs.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Approximately 300 Units of Affordable Housing for Sites in East Harlem

APPROXIMATELY 300 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING WILL BE BUILT ON NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA)-OWNED SITES IN EAST HARLEM AS PART OF THE ONGOING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD) AND NYCHA, TO BRING MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO NEW YORKERS. The collaboration plays a key role in Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan to provide affordable housing for 500,000 New Yorkers over a ten-year period.

"The cooperative effort between NYCHA and HPD in making affordable housing continues to grow across the City," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "While we are creating the opportunity for more affordable housing to be built in New York, we are simultaneously helping to preserve public housing through the money raised in the long-term leasing of these underutilized spaces."

The properties, known as Metro-North, comprise 17 six-story walk-up tenement buildings on 100th, 102nd and 103rd Streets, all bounded by First and Second Avenues in Manhattan.

Phipps Houses—the nation's largest and oldest not-for-profit developers, owners and managers of affordable housing—is the lead developer for the creation of a total of 339 units, approximately 300 of which will be permanently affordable to a range of households earning up to \$42,540 for a family of four and up to \$29,760 for a single person. The remaining units will be affordable to a mix of incomes: between \$56,700 and \$70,900 for a family of four or between \$39,700 and \$49,600 for single people.

NYCHA will receive an annual payment under the terms of a long-term ground lease for the property. These proceeds will help modernize and preserve public housing throughout the City.

The sites, which were once Federal Housing Administration foreclosed properties, were given to NYCHA in the late 1980s by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1990, NYCHA completed rehab work on the properties and has since



METRO-NORTH The above rendering shows some of the affordable housing planned for East 102nd Street.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Celebrating Resident Leaders



I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE MANY NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHO HOLD RESIDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

If you are new to public housing and not familiar with Resident Associations, you should know that Resident Associations are organizations which are dedicated to improving the quality of life in NYCHA developments and the surrounding neighborhoods. Most NYCHA

developments have Resident Associations, also known as Tenant Associations, Resident Councils or Tenant Councils. Resident Associations work with NYCHA management at every level, which gives residents a real voice in the operation of their developments.

Each Resident Association Executive Board, which is elected by Association members, typically consists of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms.

Last year was a banner year in terms of Resident Association elections and it is my pleasure to welcome the newly elected Resident Association Presidents and their Boards. Of the estimated 250 Resident Association Presidents, 30 are serving for the very first time.

The work of the duly elected Resident Association Presidents and their Boards, will be key to helping NYCHA address its pressing challenges in the coming years and NYCHA will continue to lend technical support to the resident leadership as they advocate for the sustainability of public housing.

Remember, your Resident Association is your voice. I urge any NYCHA resident who has not joined your development's Resident Association to do so. To find out how you can join or create your Resident Association, contact your local Management Office.

The Resident Advisory Board

Another resident organization, the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) consists of public housing and Section 8 residents. Its primary function is to address various aspects of NYCHA's Annual and Five-Year Agency Plans, which set forth NYCHA's priorities and policies in 18 core areas and chart the course for NYCHA's short-term and long-term future. RAB members express concerns, make recommendations and advise NYCHA management in the formulation of the Agency Plans. The RAB's recommendations are considered as the plan is drafted and their recommendations regarding the final plan become a part of the submission when the plan is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

RAB members are responsible for keeping residents in each development/district informed of the Plans' development at both the draft and final stages. There are 80 plus members of the RAB, consisting of 45 elected Resident Association Presidents and five Section 8 representatives, and their alternates.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to all of the resident leaders who look out for the welfare of your communities and keep NYCHA on course. I know we will have a challenging and productive year.

Tino Hernandez

HUD Approves Section 8 Transition Starting at Bay View Houses

IN AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL HELP TO REDUCE THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) BUDGET DEFICIT, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) HAS APPROVED A PLAN TO TRANSITION 8,400 units in 21 State and City-built development into the Section 8 program.

The transition will start at Brooklyn's Bay View Houses, with OVER 400 UNITS. Bay View Houses is one of 21 NYCHA developments built by the City and the State that do not receive funding from any government source. These developments were built in the 1950s and 1960s and have been operating as public housing ever since.

The Housing Authority is now working with HUD's regional office in New York City to lay out management and implementation plans for the remaining 20 developments Citywide.

NYCHA first announced its plan to transition 8400 units into the Section 8 program back in April 2006 as part of its seven-point "Plan to Preserve Public Housing." The Plan was designed to address a structural budget deficit, that was \$168 million at the time, and is currently \$195 million. A large part of that deficit has been caused by NYCHA's need to stretch its federal operating funds to cover the operation costs of these 21 developments.

Stay posted for more news as the rollout continues. Bay View residents who are interested in transitioning over to Section 8 should contact their development office to be placed on a waiting list.

Residents who opt for the Section 8 vouchers will have all of the flexibility of any Section 8 voucher holder, which means they can remain in their existing apartments or use the voucher to find a new apartment in the private housing market with a participating Section 8 landlord. Section 8 vouchers are portable and can be used to relocate to another Section 8 apartment anywhere in the United States or U.S. territories, as well as in New York City. NYCHA will continue to own and manage these units just like public housing.

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Ready, Set, Work—was the theme of the day at the LaGuardia Community College NYCHA/ROSS end-of-program ceremony held on January 30, 2008. NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) and The Workforce Education Center at LaGuardia Community College collaborated to develop the Resident Opportunity for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) program which offers training to become Certified Nursing Assistants (C.N.A.), Emergency Medical Technicians (E.M.T.), Pharmacy Technicians, Security Guards, and Food Service workers. Thirty-six NYCHA residents registered for and completed their training, which ran from August 16 through December 13, 2007.

Anzehela Sharrif, a resident of Coney Island Houses, who has been employed as a home attendant for the last eight years, was diligently searching for an affordable Certified Nursing Assistant program to upgrade her skills and find a higher paying job. Her chances of finding affordable C.N.A. training were looking bleak until she opened the *NYCHA Journal* and discovered an advertisement for the LaGuardia Community College NYCHA/ROSS C.N.A. program. Overjoyed, she called and enrolled. Anzehela has passed not only the C.N.A. training requirements, but she has also passed the State Board Certification exam and is now a Board Certified Licensed Nursing Assistant.

Anzehela said, "Training wasn't easy for me and I couldn't have succeeded without my family. My daughter, Vadhiya Sharrif, volunteered as my patient stand-in during my final exam and supported me throughout my training." Vadhiya explained, "My mother's native language is Ukrainian. She speaks English but not fluently and has difficulty with some words. I help by translating those words." At this point, Vadhiya's face seemed to glow as she said, "I am very proud of my mother's achievement. It takes her two hours to get to LaGuardia from Coney Island and she was willing to do that without missing a day." Anzehela was one of the recipients of the Perfect Attendance Award.



Anzehela Sharrif and her daughter Vadhiya Sharrif

Three cheers and a round of applause to Anzehela and all the participants. I wish you great success! If you are interested in this program, please call (718) 482-5168.

Footsteps—You may recall that the February 2008 issue of the *NYCHA Journal* featured an article about Year Up NYC, an innovative program that provides young adults with a unique combination of technical and professional skills, college credits, an educational stipend, and corporate apprenticeships to enable them to move on to higher education and full-time employment. On January 29, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Manhattan, Year Up NYC held its graduation ceremony. Andrew Sherman of Wagner Houses, in Manhattan, was a member of the graduating class. Andrew told me he learned about the program from his brother, John Sherman, who graduated from the program and secured full-time employment with Merrill Lynch. John said, "I am following in my brother's footsteps because, like him, I too am graduating and have been offered a full-time position with Merrill Lynch as a Senior Specialist in the Derivatives Department." Andrew has earned 16 college credits at Pace University and plans to attend Baruch College to earn his bachelor's degree in business. With a warm smile, Andrew said, "Year Up NYC put me in contact with the right people and now I have a better life. This program is fantastic and I recommend it to all."

Congratulations. Good luck on the job and I wish you well in all your future endeavors. To find out more call NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services at (718) 250-5904.



Andrew and John Sherman of Wagner Houses

Visit NYCHA's Website at: nyc.gov/nycha to get the latest NYCHA news

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 August 23, and 30, September 6, 13 and 20th, October 4 and 18, 2006, and November 15 and 22, 2006. **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 August 23, 2006

Christopher Smith	Case 8611/06 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 2949 8th Avenue, Polo Grounds Towers, Manhattan.
James Wheelings	Case 5552/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 291 East 143rd Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Jonathan Walton	Case 5604/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 826 Columbus Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.
Khadija Davis	Case 5644/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1052 Teller Avenue, Claremont Consolidated, the Bronx.
Eric Maldonado	Case 3791/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 854 Eagle Avenue, Union Avenue Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of August 30, 2006

Victor Porter	Case 3584/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 987 Myrtle Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.
Monard Jenkins	Case 5737/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 290 East 4th Street, Bracetti Houses, Manhattan.
Marcus Delucien	Case 5853/06 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 433 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Houses, Brooklyn.
Russell Williams	Case 5853/06 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 433 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Houses, Brooklyn.
Willie Maisonet	Case 5948/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 16 Mill Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Jarrett Heyward	Case 5901/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 60 Glenmore Avenue, Howard Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of September 6, 2006

Charrise Knight	Case 5927/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 5704 Farragut Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Rachesta Sumpter	Case 5933/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 133-20 Roosevelt Avenue, Bland Houses, Queens.
Larry Clarke	Case 6027/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 5 Tapscoff Street, Park Rock Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of September 13, 2006

Devon Bryan	Case 472/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1430 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Far Rockaway.
John White	Case 6127/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 350 East 124th Street, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of September 20, 2006

Hector Tirado	Case 6232/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1225 FDR Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan.
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Prohibited as of October 4, 2006

Daniel Solis	Case 6542/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1414 Bergen Street, Albany Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
Carliel Wright	Case 6564/06 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 950 Old Broadway, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

(Continued on page 9)

What You Need To Know About Elevator Safety

Following these simple tips can help keep you, your family, friends and neighbors healthy and safe.

—Keep your elevator clean. Remove all personal belongings when you leave the elevator, including any scraps, etc.

—Don't prop the elevator door open unnecessarily. Propping the door open will damage the elevator mechanism and cause service interruptions.

—If you are moving, have enough household items ready to fill the elevator before you call for it. Be careful to avoid damaging the elevator buttons, walls or doors when loading and unloading your belongings.

—Don't allow young children to go into the elevator alone. Young children should always be accompanied by an adult.

—Vandalism takes resources away from preventive maintenance, as well as inconveniencing you and your neighbors. Call 911 if you witness elevator vandalism.

—Report unsafe conditions, such as jumps, or stops that are too high or too low, to the CCC at (718)707-7771 immediately.

—Remind your family and neighbors to always **look in before entering an elevator.**

—If you are stuck in an elevator, **REMAIN CALM, press the alarm button, and wait for assistance. If you have a cell phone, call 911. Don't try to get out by yourself.** The Fire Department is trained by the New York City Housing Authority to remove persons from stalled elevators.



Vending Machines for NYCHA

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS WORKING WITH A VENDOR TO INSTALL 148 VENDING MACHINES IN NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS AND AT CENTRAL OFFICE LOCATIONS. This new revenue-generating initiative will bring NYCHA a guaranteed \$1,000 a year per machine.

"The rollout is being phased in now in staff office locations and in the field," said NYCHA's Office of Business and Revenue Development Assistant Director Susan Vairo.

Beverage vending machines will be placed in 58 developments in the five boroughs, primarily in Community Centers. "The vendor did a detailed study to decide which locations for the machines would be most profitable, based on historical sales and knowledge of the beverage industry in New York City," Ms. Vairo added.

The cost is \$1.50 for a 20 ounce beverage. Residents, as well as staff, are encouraged to call the toll-free number set up by CC Vending, Inc. to request refunds or repairs: 1-800-761-0810.

BUDGET FOR 2008

(Continued from page 1)

These initiatives will lead to incremental increases in revenue and yield over \$121 million in new monies once they are fully phased in by Fiscal Year 2011.

"We have to fight for more funding," the Chairman said to NYCHA's senior staff. "We have to do it at all levels of government."

The FY2008 Preliminary Operating Budget and Four-Year Financial Plan are available on the NYCHA Website at www.nyc.gov/nycha.

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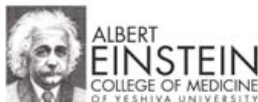
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FREE JOB TRAINING
AND
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AGES 17 - 23**

Prepare for the GED and/or College while you train for a great career in Culinary, Healthcare, Security, Banking, Construction, Mechanics, Computers, and more!!

Receive:

- Job Placement Assistance

For Program Information Call:

**Youth Employment Training Program
212-862-6401, ext. 410 or 342**

**CALL 311
FOR ALL
NON-EMERGENCY
CITY SERVICES**

File for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)!

Do you make less than \$40,000 a year? You might qualify for as much as \$6,000 from the EITC, just by filing your taxes. To make it easy, the New York City EITC Coalition partners will prepare your taxes for free at locations throughout the City.

What is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) returns federal, state, and in New York City, local government dollars to qualifying working families and individuals through either a credit on taxes or as cash refunds. This income helps people cover basic expenses.

The EITC will not change other benefits such as food stamps and housing vouchers. And if you didn't claim the EITC in the past, you can file your taxes for three previous years which could triple your refund. So, if you worked in 2004 and didn't file taxes, you could file a return now and claim this credit. If you were eligible for the maximum refund each year, that could mean more than \$15,000 for you and your family. Call 311 to learn where you can file your taxes for FREE!

To see if you are eligible, just refer to the chart at right. Call 311 for the location of a New York City EITC Tax Coalition preparer to prepare your taxes for free. And don't forget to file by April 15th!

Notice of HUD Inspections

Dear Residents,

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be conducting a physical inspection of your development. The system that HUD developed for these inspections is called the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). As part of this process, a certain number of residents' apartments will be inspected.

If any of the items below are not in good order – contact the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771 to schedule an appointment to have those items repaired.

You can assist us by reviewing the following items in your apartment:

Electricity

- Your circuit breaker or fuse panel should not have any missing breakers or fuses. (You should not see any of the wiring or parts inside the breaker or fuse panel.)
- All light switches and outlets should operate properly and have cover plates over them.
- In apartments with Call-For-Aid units, switches and pull cords should operate properly with pull cord hanging down.
- Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) outlets should test properly when pushing the test button.

Smoke Detectors/Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Detectors should be installed. There should not be empty brackets with missing detectors.
- Detectors should test properly (beep) when the test button is pressed.

Stove/Oven

- Check each burner. Each burner should light individually by turning the knob. The oven should work.

Refrigerator

- The refrigerator door should close all the way. Door gaskets should not be cracked or broken. Lights should work.

Doors

- Bathrooms, Bedrooms and Closets – Doors should close and latch properly. Door knobs and latches should be in good working order. Doors should be free of holes or damage.

Windows

- Windows should work properly, staying up when opened. Window glass should not be cracked or broken.

Faucets

- Faucets and their parts should not leak when either on or off. You should have rubber stoppers for the sinks and tub.

Exterminator

- You should not have any type of infestation condition.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

Tax Year 2007	Maximum Combined Credit	Maximum Federal Credit	Maximum New York State Credit	Maximum New York City Credit	Maximum Income
Families with more than one qualifying child	\$6,367	\$4,716	\$1,415	\$236	\$34,783 (if married filing jointly)
Families with one qualifying child	\$3,852	\$2,853	\$856	\$143	\$33,241 (\$35,241 if married filing jointly)
Individuals with no qualifying children	\$577	\$428	\$128	\$21	\$12,590 (\$14,590 if married filing jointly)

Investment Income is limited to \$2,900.

ProjectEnterprise
Entrepreneur Week 2008

Brand Me!
March 24th—March 28th

Want to learn how to create the brand that will take your business to the next level? Come join Project Enterprise for an exciting week of networking and workshops!




Special Guests include Kwame Jackson of "The Apprentice", Terrie Williams, The Terrie Williams Agency, and many more!

■ For a schedule of events and more details visit our website ■ www.projectenterprise.org ■

For more information call 212-678-6734, ext. 19 or email christinam@projectenterprise.org

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Continued from page 2)

operated them as Project Based Section 8 housing.

Nearly all of the tenants have been relocated and three of the buildings have been already been demolished. Recent residents will have the right to return upon completion of construction.

Together, HPD and NYCHA have begun construction on nearly 800 units of housing on NYCHA-owned land, with plans for over 5,000 additional units.

COMMUNITY OPERATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND CITYWIDE PROGRAMS

38th ANNUAL TALENT SHOW COMPETITION

NOW CASTING

THE TALENT SEARCH COMPETITION IS ONLY OPEN TO HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 6. FULL-TIME NYCHA EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

EACH CONTESTANT MAY SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- VOCALIST / INSTRUMENTAL
POP, ROCK, HIP-HOP, CLASSICAL, RELIGIOUS
- DRAMA / READINGS / POETRY
- DANCE
POP, HIP-HOP, JAZZ, BOMBA Y PLENA, SALSA, MERENGUE, CUMBIA, RUMBA, BALLET, TAP
- COMEDY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AUDITION DATES PLEASE CALL
(212) 306-3527, 3368, 3398 APPROVED FOR POSTING

New York City Police Department Toll-Free Terrorism Hotline

Reports May Be Made To:

1-888-NYC-SAFE 1-888-692-7233



HIP
HEALTH PLAN OF NEW YORK

WILLIAMS, ERIKA
1-888-290-0774

CHILD HEALTH PLUS

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Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus. If you think you can't afford quality health care for your family, think again. With HIP, thousands of deserving New Yorkers may qualify for free or low-cost health care that includes a full range of physician services, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, even eye and dental care. FHPlus members pay no monthly premiums, but some members are subject to copayments for certain services. FHPlus is for adults aged 19 through 64. There's no longer any excuse for not having health care. Call today for more information.

Call to reserve a seat at one of our enrollment sites.

Call to find out if you qualify: **1-888-290-0774**
(TDD: 1-888-447-4833)

**Montefiore Medical Group
Bronx East Center**
2300 Westchester Ave., Section C1
Bronx, NY 10462
Monday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm
Saturday, 9 am – 11 am
(1st & 2nd Saturdays of the month)

**Montefiore Medical Group
Grand Concourse Center**
2532 Grand Concourse, 1st FL, Rm 8
Bronx, NY 10458
Monday, Wednesday & Friday,
9 am – 4 pm
Thursday, 9 am – 12 pm
Saturday, 9 am – 11 am
(1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month)

Jamaica Estates Medical Offices
180-05 Hillside Ave., 2nd FL.
Jamaica, NY 11432
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am – 4 pm
Tuesday, 9 am – 6 pm
Thursday, 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday, 9 am – 12 pm

**Central Brooklyn Medical Group
Bay Ridge Center**
740 64th St., 1st Fl.
Brooklyn, NY 11220
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9 am – 4:30 pm
Monday & Wednesday,
9 am – 4 pm



Family Health Plus, Medicaid and Child Health Plus are New York State-sponsored programs. For general information about Medicaid and Family Health Plus, please call New York Medicaid CHOICE at 1-800-505-5678.

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 AM (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2008 are as follows:

March 5, 2008
 March 19, 2008
 April 2, 2008
 April 16, 2008
 April 30, 2008
 May 14, 2008
 May 28, 2008
 June 11, 2008
 June 25, 2008
 July 9, 2008
 July 23, 2008
 August 6, 2008
 August 20, 2008
 September 3, 2008
 September 17, 2008
 October 2, 2008 (Thursday)
 October 16, 2008 (Thursday)
 October 29, 2008
 November 12, 2008
 November 26, 2008
 December 10, 2008
 December 24, 2008



Changes to the schedule 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.

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 3 PM 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.

Please visit our Website at nyc.gov/nycha or contact us at (212) 306-6088 for additional information.

Notice to Residents Regarding Your Telephone Service and Intercom System

If you use your household telephone to talk on your building's intercom system and open your building's entrance door, you have a telephone entry intercom system.

With a telephone entry intercom system, if you switch to a cable, fiber optic system (FIOs), such as that provided by Verizon, or cellular telephone service provider, you will find that your intercom no longer works. This is because the telephone is no longer connected to the telephone lines which carry the intercom connection.

To correct this condition you should contact the Centralized Call Center (CCC) at (718) 707-7771 so the Housing Authority can have a dedicated intercom telephone installed in your apartment. This will correct the condition and ensure you have a working intercom.

Please ask your service provider NOT to remove the original telephone line as NYCHA will need that to hook up the intercom telephone.



THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

(Continued from page 4)

Richard Joyner	Case 6578/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 215 Cozine Avenue, Linden Houses, Brooklyn.
Shawn Orr	Case 2801/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 40-11 Vernon Boulevard, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City.
Kareem Hines	Case 6708/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 82-01 Hammel Boulevard, Hammel Houses, Queens.
Prohibited as of October 11, 2006	
Darnell Brown	Case 6574/06 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 303 Vernon Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.
Frank Winn	Case 6293/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 77 Thompkins Avenue, Tompkins Houses, Brooklyn.
Bobby Lane	Case 4614/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1980 Park Avenue, Lincoln Winchester Houses, Manhattan.
Mathew Solomon	Case 6019/06 formerly associated with the seventeenth floor of 2698 Eighth Avenue, Drew Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Christopher McGirt	Case 189/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 10 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Lawrence McGirt	
Prohibited as of October 18, 2006	
Shawn Jamison	Case 6717/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 50-20 31st Avenue, Woodside Houses, Queens.
Joseph Greene	Case 6434/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 5995 Shore Parkway, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.
Brain Cumberbatch	Case 6795/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 1630 Pacific Street, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.
Alex Nazario	Case 6807/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1682 Seward Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
Jerome Mitchell	Case 5071/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 51 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Hector Quinones	Case 6863/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 50 Debevoise Avenue, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn.
Prohibited as of November 15, 2006	
Randy Quesada	Case 7517/06 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 300 Cherry Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
Rayshawn Thompson	Case 7394/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1430 Bergen Street, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.
Tyrell Brown	Case 7541/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 77 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Roger Murray	Case 6110/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1408 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.
Martin Bradley Jr.,	Case 7608/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 682 Ralph Avenue, Reid Apartments Houses, Brooklyn.
Anibus Rivas	Case 7588/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 45 Jackson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.
Angel Toro	Case 7640/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 1358 Washington Avenue, Astoria Houses, the Bronx.
Joseph Ruffin	Case 7931/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 21 Mill Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Tracy Ruffin	
Germaine Ruffin	
Prohibited as of November 22, 2007	
Charles Cherry	Case 7704/06 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 5210 Broadway, Marble Hill Houses, Manhattan.
Grant Fleming	Case 7710/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 131 Jersey Street, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.



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Call between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. local time

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Evercare® Plan DH is a Medicare Advantage plan offered by United Healthcare Insurance Company, or one or more of its affiliated companies (including PacifiCare, PacifiCare of Colorado, Inc., Evercare of Texas, LLC, and Oxford licensed HMOs and insurance companies), a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract.





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7 DAYS

**A Fond Farewell
to Photographer
Kevin Devoe....**

You may have seen him from the corner of your eye at a Community Center Ribbon Cutting, at the NYCHA Talent Show Competition, or at one of a thousand events at some point over the past 13 years. He has helped bring the Housing Authority into focus with his outstanding photographs—NYCHA photographer Kevin Devoe...former NYCHA photographer. Sadly, Kevin is moving on. Together with his colleague, Pete Mikoleski, Kevin has played an invaluable role documenting the many NYCHA happenings over the years. Please help us wish him the best of luck...He will be missed.



NYCHA Photographer Kevin Devoe

Know your status?
**Free & Confidential Rapid HIV
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ACHIEVEMENT FIRST
COLLEGE-PREPARATORY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADES K, 1, AND 5

Achievement First operates a network of high-performing, K-12 charter schools in Brooklyn. If you are interested in learning more about how to send your child to one of our GREAT public schools, we hope you'll join us for a parent information session.

	AF Brownsville	AF Bushwick	AF Crown Heights	AF East New York	AF Endeavor
	Info session will take place at AF Bushwick, 1137 Herkimer St.	1137 Herkimer [btw Saratoga & Roosevelt]	790 E. New York Ave. [btw Troy & Schenectady]	557 Pennsylvania Ave. [btw Livonia & Riverdale]	850 Kent Ave. [btw Myrtle & Park] serving the Bedford-Stuyvesant/Fort Greene communities
Parent Info Session	Tues, March 25 @ 6pm	Sat, March 1 @ 10am	Tues, Feb 5 @ 6pm	Sat, Feb 2 @ 10am	Sat, Feb 9 @ 10am
Parent Info Session	Sat, March 29 @ 10am	Sat, March 15 @ 10am	Thurs, Feb 28 @ 6pm	Thurs, Feb 7 @ 6pm	Tues, Feb 26 @ 6pm
Applications Accepted	Grades K and 1	Grades K and 5	Grades K and 5	Grade K	Grade 5
					

ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

- ✓ **More Time on Task** Longer school day and year, tutoring before and after school, homework every night
- ✓ **Excellent Instruction** Great teachers recruited from across the country to ensure that students are taught by talented and caring professionals
- ✓ **Character Education** We live by our REACH values: Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship, and Hard Work
- ✓ **Team and Family** Students, teachers, and parents work as a team to achieve success
- ✓ **No Excuses** Mastery of core skills and knowledge drawn directly from NY state learning standards. ALL students will learn - no excuses.

HOW TO APPLY

Students are admitted through blind lottery to our tuition-free public schools, and there are no admissions tests or fees.

To download an application for our student lotteries, go to www.achievementfirst.org. You can also contact us at admissionsnyc@achievementfirst.org or (718) 774-0906 to receive an application and more information.

The deadline for all lottery applications is April 1, 2008.