



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

RUBEN DIAZ JR.  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TEL. 718-590-3500  
FAX. 718-590-3537  
E-MAIL: [rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov)

November 24, 2015

Frederick A. O. ("Fritz") Schwarz, Jr.  
Brennan Center for Justice  
161 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mr. Schwarz:

Thank you for reaching out today. I hope that the enclosed materials provide you with some of the answers you are looking for, and are helpful in guiding your thought process as the work of the commission moves forward.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ruben Diaz Jr.

# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.

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## Press Releases

### STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS 2010

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

March 5, 2010

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Jonas Bronck, our founder, first landed in the Bronx in 1639, bringing with him a small group of settlers to work on his farm, located at what is today 132nd Street and Lincoln Avenue. The Bronx would go on to play a major role in the founding of our great nation. Many Bronxites gave their lives fighting the American Revolution and Gouverneur Morris, a Bronx native, is credited with writing the preamble to our constitution, perhaps the most important document in the history of democratic government.

In the mid-1800's, the Bronx saw its first great wave of immigrants when severe famine in Ireland and political unrest in Germany sent waves of Europeans to our shores, a wave that would be repeated many times by groups from many different countries during the decades to come. The tenement dwellers of Manhattan and elsewhere saw the promise of the Bronx, and the suburban dream it represented, and rushed to it.

For too many, however, the history of the Bronx is that of the 1970's. Those years saw a great slide in our borough. Arson was the norm, and the crime rate here was astronomical compared to the rest of the city, if not the nation. During the next two decades, the Bronx saw millions of dollars in new investment, through direct government intervention and private partnerships, transforming once vacant lots into new opportunities. The last decade saw major corporate development in the Bronx, proving to all that the Bronx is a place where people want to do business, consumers want to spend money, and folks want to raise a family.

Our borough has come a long way. But we still have further to go. We know that the Bronx has seen tremendous improvement over the past three decades. But there is always room for more.

Statistics compiled by the United States Census Bureau show us that the poverty rate here is 28.3 percent, more than double the state and federal average. And our current unemployment rate is 13.9 percent, well above the national average and by far the highest in New York State. Only 21.6 percent of Bronxites own their own homes, compared to more than 55 percent of State residents and two-thirds of all Americans.

During my inauguration in May, I spoke of the concept of One Bronx—Un Solo Bronx—where we would all come together regardless of our differences to work for the greater good of the entire borough. One Bronx—Un Solo Bronx—where the good things in one community are good for us all, and the bad things in another community are equally bad for everyone. One Bronx is about standing side by side as one borough, to solve our problems and celebrate our successes together. The spirit of "One Bronx" was on display a few weeks ago, following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. People from every corner of our borough, regardless of their race, age or ethnicity, came together to donate what they could—food, money, clothing—to help those in need, despite their own hardships. The outpouring of generosity from Bronxites in response to the crisis in Haiti made me proud to be your borough president.

"One Bronx" means we will take the lead on "LEED"—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—and work as a whole to build and grow the green economy, while making sure Bronxites are prepared to take these jobs.

"One Bronx" means that, when one of our mothers, our daughters, or our sisters is taken from us through an act of senseless violence, we all feel it together. And

"One Bronx" means that when developers want to do business in our borough, they must do what is right for the entire Bronx, and not just themselves.

Our poverty rates, combined with our unemployment rates and these other statistics, show us just how far we have to go. My administration will bring the Bronx to the forefront of environmentally-friendly development, and we will take advantage of the benefits these jobs will create.

My push to build a greener economy is about more than just words. In the New York State Assembly I authored a law that gives developers tax breaks when they construct a green roof as part of their project.

My office has a sustainable development policy, and we will not provide any funds unless a project meets the highest possible level of environmental certification. In the last year my office funded a number of projects with major "green" components, such as the new library in Woodlawn, the award winning Via Verde mixed-use housing development in Oak Point, and Common Ground's Brook Avenue Residence, which creates permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals. We are putting our money where our mouth is, quite literally, at Borough Hall.

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the announcement of a federal grant for the Consortium for Workers Education that will be used to train more than 400 Bronx residents for work in the growing field of energy efficiency. We are also working in conjunction with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Fordham University to bring a co-generation plant to the college's Rose Hill campus. This project will lessen the burden on our electric grid, reduce pollution, and create dozens of new jobs. And, along with the promotion of other clean energy technologies, this project will be a significant step towards the development of an alternative power grid, leading to lower energy costs, right here in the Bronx.



I, along with Congressman Steve Israel, have co-founded the New York State Intergovernmental Energy Partnership, which is working to identify stimulus funding for green initiatives. And, through the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, this year my office placed in each of our borough's business improvement districts two "Big Bellys."

Have you seen the Big Belly yet? It's really amazing. When this garbage receptacle gets too full, a solar power press will activate and compact the trash inside. Because of this, the Big Belly is able to hold ten times the amount of garbage of a normal trash can. This means fewer pickups, which also means fewer trucks on the street. And these trash bins, which could represent the future of waste management in the United States, are manufactured right here on Tiffany Street, by my friend Franklin Cruz and his company, Direct Environmental.

You should know by now that I am serious about building the "green" economy, and these are just a few of the steps that we have already taken. My office will continue to work to expand green manufacturing opportunities in our industrial zones. We will encourage existing businesses to retrofit, and work to find incentives for them to do so. We can, and we will, create the blueprint—or should I say "greenprint"—to expand this emerging industry and lead the nation.

There are many great opportunities for development in the Bronx, and we will take advantage of them in the years to come. Our waterfront is virtually untouched, and with smart planning we can create new opportunities for housing, for economic development, and for recreation along our shores. I will push to expand the Empowerment Zone in our borough, so that more small businesses can benefit from the loans and other opportunities available through this program.

We need to make sure that more homeownership opportunities are afforded to Bronxites, in all neighborhoods. I am always happy when affordable housing is developed in the Bronx, but we must do more to ensure that new developments are built that offer Bronxites a chance to buy their homes. Homeownership leads to community stability, and my office will do all that it can to persuade developers to create more of those opportunities. A stable neighborhood is a better neighborhood, and more stability means a better Bronx.

Developers, however, do not bear the entire burden on this issue. I have been personally reaching out to our banking community to urge them to free up capital so that developers can make these projects a reality. We cannot make the dream of owning your own home come true without the proper funding, and I will continue to push banks to make money available to develop home ownership opportunities in our borough.

Last year my office's economic development arm, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, hosted the borough's first ever economic summit. At that event, business, community and not-for-profit leaders from every corner of the borough came together, as "One Bronx," to discuss the problems that face our borough. Together, we discussed the different ways we can tackle our issues, create new jobs and develop plans that will grow our economy. In the coming weeks, my office will begin to put forward a comprehensive economic plan, largely based on the ideas that were developed during this summit. Our plan will call for the expansion of the film industry, the creation of retail retention zones, and the development of a real hotel.

Think about it – we have the Bronx Zoo, great restaurants and the Yankees all in the Bronx. And yet, for too long a real hotel has been absent in our borough. Our business community and not-for-profit groups, which are in dire need of first-class conference space, could see this hotel become the centerpiece of a new revival. A new hotel would create hundreds of good-paying jobs offering health benefits, pension plans, and a chance for its workers to have a better life.

That is the kind of development we want to see in the Bronx...an opportunity that not only offers a much needed community benefit, but also creates meaningful jobs that offer Bronxites a career path out of poverty and into the middle class. We are all tired of visitors coming to the Bronx but spending their evenings in Westchester or New Jersey, taking with them the money that could have been spent in our restaurants and shops. Peter Ward, president of the New York Hotel Trades Council, and our administration will work together to seek developers who will make this concept a reality. Together, we will bring this much needed, and long overdue, project to our borough. We have a great deal to offer here in the Bronx, and hotel operators would be crazy to ignore us.

None of this will come easy, and I cannot do it alone. With that in mind, I would like to introduce everyone to Marlene Cintron, the new president of the BOEDC. Marlene will be my point person in our efforts to build and grow the Bronx economy. Marlene is an attorney whose years of service at companies like Merrill Lynch and Citibank, in state and federal government, and in the not-for-profit sector make her the perfect individual to lead the BOEDC into the new decade. Those of you who know Marlene know just how great she is, and if you don't know her you'll find out for yourself soon enough. I urge everyone to reach out to Marlene in the coming weeks and months to discuss your ideas with her and her staff, so that we can begin the hard work ahead of us. Marlene, good luck!

Though it is important, economic development will not be our only focus at Borough Hall. Last year my office was able to identify dozens of worthy organizations, and allocate more than \$21 million in funding to them. These funds will help to ensure that our schools stay strong, our parks remain beautiful, our senior citizen centers remain vital and our cultural organizations continue to provide the amazing programs they are known for.

Things are tough right now. The hit our economy has taken during the past two years has caused numerous budget cutbacks and job losses not only here, but across the entire nation. In times like these, our struggling not-for-profit organizations feel the budget pinch more than ever. I will fight, along with our borough's Council delegation, to make sure the Bronx gets its fair share of City dollars, regardless of the enormous budget cuts—to our senior services, to our schools, to our parks—that have been proposed by Mayor Bloomberg.

Additionally, we must make sure that all Bronxites, especially those that are new to this country, do not feel left out of the great conversation on the future of our borough. Look around this room...we know just how diverse our borough is, and we must continue to embrace that diversity. Statistics indicate that 31 percent of the 1.4 million people who call the Bronx home are foreign-born. Last month, I announced the formation of a new African Advisory Council. This council will serve a dual purpose. It will inform my office on the unique issues of this growing population while also directing them to services and available benefits. Our nation is a nation of immigrants, and they only want what our own forbearers wanted for themselves: a chance for a better life. My hope is that this council will serve as a model for other growing populations, and will help to weave our growing immigrant communities into the tapestry of our city.

To do that, we must make sure we are counted. My office will push to ensure that all Bronxites, particularly our immigrants, are counted in the upcoming United

States Census. The census results play a major role in deciding how much funding is made available to programs in our borough.

I cannot stress this enough...if we do not count, we will miss out. It's ten questions, and it takes ten minutes. We will protect our senior centers from budget cuts, and foster new initiatives to help them grow. This year, my office provided funding to 114 senior centers and programs in every corner of our borough. And we are doing even more for our elderly population. Just a few weeks ago I, along with the commissioner of the Department for the Aging, met with dozens of directors of Bronx senior citizen centers to discuss new programs, new funding opportunities, and to shape a vision for their collective future. My office is also preparing our first ever Senior Resource Guide, a great tool that will offer information about senior citizens centers, Social Security, veterans benefits, home care and many other topics that are important to our aging neighbors.

On housing, my office has been working with my colleague from Manhattan, Borough President Scott Stringer, to let tenants know their rights and protect them from scam artists that would seek to exploit the housing crisis for their own gain. We have created the first ever Public Housing Advisory Council, which meets once a month to work on solutions to a number of different issues facing our public housing developments. And my constituent services office helps dozens of Bronxites with their housing issues every day, making sure that Bronx families have a warm, safe place to sleep every night.

Just as our children cannot live in an unsafe environment, they cannot learn in an unsafe environment. My office has been leading the charge to make sure that our older school buildings are free of toxic chemicals, and has demanded that the Department of Education enact proper testing for PCB's in our classrooms. We have pumped millions of dollars into our Bronx schools to ensure that our children have the best learning experience possible—be it new computer equipment at P.S. 11 in Highbridge, the renovation of the library at the Grace Dodge Memorial High School, or the new planetarium at P.S. 24 in Riverdale.

And we are fighting to guarantee that when schools are closed in the Bronx, parents are given adequate notice and a real explanation as to why. The Department of Education, and Chancellor Klein, must know that we will not be ignored. When it comes to the success of our schools, we will be heard.

While the City will point to ever rising test scores on our State tests as evidence that the system is working, the results of the National Assessment of Education Progress indicate that achievement in our schools is stagnant at best. The SAT scores in many of our high schools are far too low. When the day ends, students do not have quality after school programs to attend. Art and music classes are no longer a mainstay of their daily curriculum.

Every month, I meet with a group of principals from our borough's public schools, and they have told me just how tough their jobs are, and how much more they need to make their schools a success. A majority of the students at our borough's two premiere public high schools, the Bronx High School of Science and the High School of American Studies at Lehman College, do not come from the Bronx. In fact, of the more than 13,500 eighth graders in Bronx public schools, only 334 were accepted into our City's specialized high schools. This number is far too low. We must work to change that...to ensure that our own students are prepared to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available to them.

I am a strong supporter of charter schools, and I will push to raise the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in this state, so that more children can take advantage of these innovative education opportunities. However, the criticism has been that when a charter school takes up residence in a public school building, it does not participate in the life of that building, nor does it become a part of the community-at-large. The equipment is newer, the walls are freshly painted...the charter school becomes an oasis within the school building, and the parents, students and administrators at that public school feel left out. We need to bridge this divide. That is why I am challenging charter schools to use some of the funding they receive through philanthropy to make everyone's world a better place.

When a charter school comes to a public school building, it should use its funding to upgrade the physical plant of the entire building, not just its own section. Charter schools are an important resource, but they must do more to be vital to the entire community.

Our "One Bronx" will be a healthy Bronx. To impact the health of our borough, Bronxites must be healthy themselves. A recent study ranked the Bronx as the least healthy county in the entire state. This is unacceptable, and my office will change this dubious distinction. To that end we will host a Food Summit in May. We will work to bring healthier food options into our neighborhoods, through the expansion of supermarkets and farmers' markets in underserved communities and the addition of healthy food choices in our public schools. We recently saw the passage of legislation allowing individuals to use their EBT cards to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at city farmers' markets. If we can accomplish this, surely we can do even more.

My office has partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through a \$1 million grant, to launch "Start Strong Bronx," an effort that will rally teens, parents, caregivers, educators, and community leaders to build an environment that supports healthy relationships among teens and ensures that violence and abuse are never tolerated.

And I recorded a public service announcement, as part of the "Bronx Knows" campaign, urging individuals to make sure they know their status and get tested for HIV. The Bronx makes up 16 percent of the city's population, yet 21 percent of all city residents living with HIV make their homes here. We also know that new diagnoses of HIV and AIDS are extremely high in the Latino and African-American communities, making it all the more urgent that Bronxites know their status.

During the two years this campaign has been active, more than 160,000 Bronxites have been tested for HIV and now know their status. My PSA, which is being broadcast in both English and Spanish in all city hospitals, is part of a greater effort to get all Bronxites tested, regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation. For our own good, and the good of our families, we must know our status.

In the last year, we have seen a great deal of heartache in the Bronx at the hands of illegal guns. In September Aisha Santiago, from Mott Haven, was killed by a stray bullet right in front of her child. In October, Sadie Mitchell, a 92 year old grandmother and pillar of her community, was hit by a stray bullet that went through the window of her own home. She was killed while walking to her kitchen. And in November, 16-year-old Vada Vazquez was hit with a stray bullet when she got caught in the crossfire of a shootout. Vada survived, and for that we are grateful.

These examples do not include the dozens of victims that have lost their lives to random gun violence over the years, victims who Bronxites cannot and will not forget. We can no longer tolerate the terrible wave of gun violence that has descended on our borough. I have been to too many funerals. I have seen too many

mothers and fathers...brothers and sisters...husbands and wives...families...torn apart by acts of senseless violence. It is time to stand up and say enough is enough.

Mayor Bloomberg and I do not agree on everything, but if there is any issue we stand side by side in agreement, it is the need for stronger gun control laws. That is why Congress needs to enact a national gun control law, so that we can begin to turn the tide against these random acts of violence. At some point all illegal guns were legal, so the protests of those who say that we are punishing law abiding citizens with our efforts must be ignored. We cannot allow outside interests to drive the debate, while our mothers, grandmothers and daughters are gunned down right before our eyes.

Changing the law is just one step. We have to do more. We have to teach our children that violence is not the answer to their problems. We have to teach our children that there are better, more productive ways to resolve their conflicts than to pick up a gun. In November, my office hosted a "Day of Outrage," with the purpose of showing the world that the Bronx has had enough of gun violence.

I grew up on Watson Avenue during the late 80's and early 90's. You could have accurately compared my neighborhood to the "O-K Corral." Far too often, many of my peers turned to a gun because they foolishly believed that violence was the only way to settle a dispute. I saw some of my friends killed, while others would spend the rest of their lives in prison. It saddened and angered me then, and my anger has only grown over the years. I have seen the devastation gun violence causes, and, as a father of two young men, I will not allow our youth to head down this destructive path without pushing back.

In January, we co-hosted a gun buyback program with District Attorney Robert Johnson and the NYPD at four churches across the Bronx. We were able to take nearly 1,200 guns off of our streets. Using this program as a model, my office will look to take an additional 1,500 illegal firearms out of circulation in the next year. And my office will continue to identify different initiatives and funding streams to combat gun violence in our streets.

"One Bronx" is real, and we have already seen its benefits. We saw it when each of our neighborhoods came together to help the earthquake victims in Haiti. We saw it when two of our own residents, Douglas Murphy and Horia Cretan, risked their own health and well-being to save the lives of their fellow Bronxites, people they had never met. And we see it in the heroes of our police and fire departments, who put their lives on the line everyday to make our communities a little safer.

And we know that when Bronxites from all corners of the borough and from all walks of life come together to fight for what is right and what is just, as "One Bronx," we can do anything. In December, we proved that. We stood together and sent a strong message throughout the city that we would no longer take a backseat when it came time to reap the rewards of our borough's economic development, and we defeated the proposed redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory.

For too long, City Hall has embraced the mindset that what is good for developers is what is good for the five boroughs, with little regard for the real needs of the community. Planning should drive development, development should not determine our planning.

Our land—our most important and valuable natural resource—has been taken from us through zoning and the sale of air rights. Development plans have been created with little or no input from the communities that will host these new projects. Developers have been handed millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, and in return, we have received part-time jobs without benefits that offer few, if any, chances for advancement.

Listen to me carefully. For those of you who would distort my position by saying that I want to stop jobs from coming to the Bronx...you are wrong. Nothing could be further from the truth. As I have said, the idea that any job is better than no job should no longer apply specifically when developers take millions of dollars in taxpayer funding.

Let me repeat that. The idea that any job is better than no job should no longer apply *specifically* when developers take millions of dollars in taxpayer funding.

When New Yorkers are already struggling to pay their rents, when they must worry about feeding and clothing their children, when our poverty rates are the highest in the nation, we cannot accept that the minimum wage is the best salary a developer can offer while they take so heavily from the taxpayers' wallets. If you want charity, you must be charitable. If you want a public benefit, your project must benefit the public.

Do not misunderstand me. I welcome development, and I am ready, willing and able to work with everyone that wants to do business within our borough. But we must raise the standard of that development. We must stand up and demand that major projects that receive heavy taxpayer benefits offer more than poverty level jobs. It is time to do better.

The fight at the Kingsbridge Armory was not about preventing development, nor was it about focusing on the parochial concerns of a small corner of the city. What we stood for at the Kingsbridge Armory was the right of all city residents to earn an honest living when developers take large taxpayer subsidies to make their projects work. Our call has been heard throughout the City, and I will lead the fight for better wages not just for Bronxites, but for all New Yorkers.

That is why I am proud that two of my Bronx colleagues in government, City Council Members Oliver Koppell and the dean of our borough delegation, Annabel Palma, have partnered with me to introduce a bill that would require builders who receive government funding for their projects to pay a living wage to the future employees of that development. In my conversations with leaders from across the city I have found that this is a priority not just here in the Bronx, but in all five boroughs. This bill has already received significant support, and I am hopeful that we will be able to see it become law this year.

And I do not want to see the Kingsbridge Armory remain empty. That is why today I am announcing the creation of a new task force, co-chaired by myself and Councilman Fernando Cabrera, that will examine the armory and discuss ideas for its future use, such as manufacturing, recreation, and other innovative uses. This task force, whose members will be announced in the coming days, will help shape a new RFP for this majestic building from the ground up. The community's voice will be heard.

My administration has begun to lay out an aggressive agenda to create new jobs that offer Bronxites not just a chance to work, but a chance to provide. We are



pushing for new jobs in the growing green economy, and we will make sure that Bronx residents are ready to take advantage of those opportunities. We are working together to make sure our schools are properly serving our students. And we are making every possible effort to ensure that our streets are safer.

The borough presidency provides a crucial resource for all city residents—to help them find work, to assist them in their housing crisis, to coordinate with neighborhoods to put forward a plan to make their communities a better place. Our community boards, my partners in government, are typically the first to know about new problems and issues affecting their neighborhoods. Community boards encourage civic participation and offer everyday New Yorkers a voice in the decision making process, and are critical to the life of our five boroughs.

Together, we represent the front line of democratic government for many, and we are typically more accessible than the massive bureaucracy at City Hall. Any effort to change that structure would be foolish, and would incur the wrath of all New Yorkers. In fact, the new reform charter revision commission must hear the voices of Bronxites and hold a hearing right here in our borough.

We have a great deal of work to do, and it will not be easy. But I have faith in the people of the Bronx. And we as elected officials must make sure that the people have faith in us, and that we respect and honor the trust that our constituents have placed in them.

I know that together, as "One Bronx," we have the knowledge, the skills, and the determination to tackle the issues the Bronx faces head on.

I know that, as "One Bronx," we have the will to stand up and fight for our neighborhoods, to ensure that we no longer receive the short end of the stick when it comes to economic development, education, and the critical funding our communities need to thrive.

I know that, as "One Bronx," we can make our already wonderful borough even greater. The Bronx is home—our home—and only by working together can we realize the bright future of our borough.

In 1931, the poet Ogden Nash published in the New Yorker perhaps the shortest, and most unfortunate, poem ever written.

*"The Bronx? No Thonx!"*

In 1964, a professor at Bronx Community College wrote to Nash to call him out on his mistake. Having seen the error of his ways, Nash replied:

*I wrote those lines, "The Bronx? No thonx"*

*I shudder to confess them.*

*Now I'm an older, wiser man*

*I cry, "The Bronx? God bless them!"*

We have come a long way—not only from the time of Jonas Bronck but from the days of Fort Apache and from the days when the Bronx was burning. There are wonderful things happening in our borough, and slowly but surely we are changing the minds of those who would only focus on the negative - just like Nash's mind was changed 46 years ago.

Together, as "One Bronx," we will change even more minds—and maybe even turn a few heads—as we usher in a new era of success to our hometown.

Let's get to work.

God bless you, God bless the Bronx, and God bless America!

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851 Grand Concourse Ste. 301

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-3500

Email: [Borough President Diaz \(mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov\)](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov)

# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.



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## Press Releases

### STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS 2011

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

February 24, 2011

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One year ago, we came together just a few miles from here to celebrate our home—the Bronx—and our shared accomplishments.

Today, we come together to discuss not only how far we have come, but where we are headed.

We come together to celebrate our efforts to make every neighborhood, every block, even better.

We come together to stand up against those who denigrate our home.

And as we did last year, we come together as "One Bronx" – "Un Solo Bronx." "One Bronx" is embodied in all of you who sit here today who have been working tirelessly for years, if not decades, to make the Bronx a better place.

Together we are expanding that vision and executing a plan that centers on holistic, intelligent development. A development plan which prioritizes greening our Borough at every opportunity. A plan that creates good, livable jobs. A plan that assists those businesses seeking to operate here. A plan that builds more parks and affordable housing. A development plan that serves all our Borough's needs.

Our goal, our commitment is to raise the standards and expectations for all in this Borough.

We will fix the way we do business in the City, by forcing corporations that lobby for taxpayer handouts to do better by the men and women they employ. We will not simply accept "business as usual."

We will change the pay structure of this City, ensuring that a "living wage" goes hand in hand with heavily subsidized development.

Developers must do more for the Bronx, City Hall and City agencies must do more for the Bronx and we, the residents of the Bronx, must also do more.

We know from speaking with, working with, and living with each other that great strides have been made over the past 30 years. It is time to share that story with the world, and there is no better time to start than today, right here and right now.

This chapter of the story begins with our children. As former Mayor David Dinkins once said, "our children are our future," so I am proud to report that we have, for the second year in a row, provided the highest amount of funding to schools in the history of my office.

The more than \$12 million in funding we have provided to Bronx schools will go towards new playground equipment, smart boards, physical plant upgrades and other major improvements to schools in every corner of our borough.

And we are not done. Our office continues to meet regularly with principals and administrators from Bronx schools at all levels through our education consortia to discuss their challenges and develop workable solutions.

And we will do more. Recently, I appointed Monica Major, a long-time parent advocate and Morris Park resident, to serve as my representative to the Panel for Educational Policy. I am thrilled to have her as part of my team.

Together, we will both recognize and build on the many great achievements happening in our schools.

In Mott Haven, M.S. 223 was honored this year by Intel as one of the top math schools in the nation. For their efforts, M.S. 223 will not only receive cash grants and prizes totaling \$160,000, but they will also continue to set the bar by which all other public middle schools will be measured.

Over the holiday break, the choir at the Celia Cruz High School of Music showed off just how special their talents are, winning the title of "Best Choir in New York City" at the Bronx Zoo's first-ever "SING! For Wildlife" competition. They competed against schools from every corner of the City. We already knew the Bronx was number one, and we thank the choir for going out and proving it. Now we can all sing it from the rooftops.

Discovery High School, in Kingsbridge Heights, continues to lead the City, and the nation, in green initiatives. Nine of its students completed a nationally recognized employment training program in green wall and green roof installation. In November, I proudly joined them when they were highlighted by NBC as a national leader in green innovation and given a chance to construct a green wall at Rockefeller Center.

Our schools are doing great things, yet there is still a great deal of work to be done. Last year, I correctly noted that while the Department of Education touted record-high scores on the State Assessment Test, the results of the national tests made it clear that something was wrong with the State's system. An investigation by the State has further confirmed that for years, the scores on those tests had been grossly inflated.



This fall my office will host an education summit, which will bring together the best minds on education from not only the Bronx, but from across the nation.

Through this summit, we will develop strong new ideas on curriculum, on overcrowding, and on expanding charter schools. We will work to foster innovation while also making sure our public schools, once again, are the best in the nation. We will put forward new ideas to make sure all students—from our most gifted to those who need extra help and everyone in between—are being served by our public school system. Our children must be prepared to enter college and the workforce, and the way to make sure that happens is to guarantee that our public schools are the best they can possibly be.

Our schools are getting healthier and safer. For several years my office, along with concerned parents and the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, has led a campaign to compel the Department of Education to acknowledge the crisis of PCB contamination in our schools and fix the problem. Recently, the extent of contamination has been proven to be city-wide. We all know that PCBs are extremely toxic chemicals that for many years were unwittingly put in building materials used in schools. PCBs are particularly dangerous to the health of both children and school workers. Schools are no place for children to be exposed to dangerous pollutants.

There is nothing more important than our children being safe while they get a proper education. Thanks to the efforts of our coalition, which includes Congressmen Jose Serrano, Joseph Crowley and Jerrold Nadler, the EPA has demanded that the City test and remediate PCBs from all schools that may be at risk. I am happy to report that this administration has finally made an attempt to treat the PCB issue seriously. They have proposed a plan that would allocate \$700 million to remove these contaminants from nearly 800 public school buildings over a ten year period. A good first step, but the time table is grossly inadequate. In announcing this program, the City is conceding that our schools have a real problem. We need a faster response...the health of our children is at stake.

We will never stop our efforts to protect our children from this serious threat. And let me be clear, PCB's are not just a Bronx issue, they're a city wide issue and I will work to make sure every elected official in this city makes this a priority.

Remediating PCB contamination is just one way we have made health a priority for school administrators. Last year, in partnership with the New York City Strategic Alliance for Health, we helped create the Excellence in School Wellness Awards. These awards recognize elementary schools for their efforts in creating a healthy school environment. This is key to preventing childhood obesity and improving academic achievement. We encourage all Bronx elementary schools to apply, and in due course, we will expand the awards to middle and high schools. My hope is that our schools can one day be measured not only by using test scores, but also by the health and physical fitness of their students.

To this end, we hosted the first ever Bronx Food Summit, which brought together individuals and organizations from across the City—such as health care institutions, food justice advocates, and people like me who just love to eat—to spend a day discussing strategies to bring more nutritious food choices to our borough, and to make sure Bronxites can and will take advantage of them. The event was wildly successful, and has led to the creation of a working group that has spent months developing and supporting health programs for the Bronx residents who need them the most.

We have great stories across the borough, not just in schools but in all walks of life. This year we were able to provide \$37.6 million in funding to worthy organizations in every corner of the Bronx. We are helping to renovate libraries in Woodlawn, Castle Hill, and Westchester Square. We are contributing to the redevelopment of the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, just a few blocks from where we sit today.

Yes, we must provide our children with a quality education, but we must also improve where they live and play. Parks all over our borough are getting much-needed improvements, thanks to our partnerships with local elected officials:

For instance, working with City Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, new playground equipment is headed to Fox Playground in Longwood. Council Members Joel Rivera and Jimmy Vacca have teamed up with me to rebuild Van Nest Park. State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and I are partnering to improve Belden Point, a beautiful waterfront park on City Island. Also, Council Member Helen Foster, Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson and I are partnering to improve Rocks & Roots Park in Highbridge.

In fact, twelve percent of our total budget allocation, nearly \$5 million, has gone to park reconstruction across the Bronx. Together, teaming up with local officials and community organizations, we are making sure Bronx kids have the green space they deserve.

Preserving our existing parks and greenways is a major priority. This summer, thousands of Bronxites stood together to protest the removal of old growth trees along Pelham Parkway as part of the roadway's long-awaited reconstruction. While this project is critical to improving the safety of motorists and pedestrians alike, it must move forward with minimal impact to the beautiful trees that line this scenic byway.

Hence, I was pleased to assist in the establishment of a task force specifically created to oversee the preservation of these historic trees. I look forward to working the Pelham Parkway Save the Trees Campaign, Community Board #11, the Pelham Parkway Preservation Alliance, local elected officials and the City to ensure that all viable trees along this Parkway are protected during the course of this project.

To quote the great philosopher Dr. Seuss from his book *The Lorax*, "I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues." The trees along Pelham Parkway, and our green space in neighborhoods across the Bronx, cannot protect themselves. Like Dr. Seuss said so eloquently, it is our job to protect them.

Like parks, we made great strides in improving housing. Our office has thrown its support behind major rezoning efforts that will lead to increased development in areas that are primed for new growth, including those in Bedford Park/Norwood and East Tremont and Third Avenues.

Over the course of my first two years as Borough President I have successfully leveraged approximately \$16 million in capital allocations into \$442 million in housing development. My support has facilitated the construction or preservation of over 1,800 units of housing, across 20 different projects of all types, including moderate-income homeownership, affordable mixed-income rentals, and supportive-housing for veterans, victims of domestic abuse and others with special needs. In fact, senior citizen housing represents the greatest number of projects receiving my support.

And we didn't just fund new housing projects; we also took steps to enhance and improve our existing housing inventory. Since I first became Borough President I have been working to assist the tenants living in neglected Bronx buildings. Many of these buildings were crumbling around them, while real estate speculators, interested only in profit, took advantage of, if not outright abused, hard-working Bronxites. In many cases, the treatment of these tenants rose, I believe, to the level of criminality.



I am well-aware of just how bad conditions were within the infamous Milbank and Ocelot real estate holdings—a member of my own staff was among those tenants who were being mistreated. Tenants within these buildings were denied basic human necessities—such as heat, hot water, and even locks on their doors—for weeks, if not months at a time.

This is unacceptable. Now we will be able to fight back early against real estate speculators who have abused the trust of both Bronx tenants and renters across the City. Last month, I joined with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg, and others to launch the "Proactive Preservation Initiative," a new program that will work to identify troubled buildings and make necessary repairs, before things get out of control and tenants are left in a hopeless situation. We will take advantage of these tools to ensure what we saw with Milbank and Ocelot—as well as other distressed properties—never happens again.

Just like our schools, we are working to make our housing healthier and safer. Consequently, we have put together a pilot program, investing half a million dollars to assist low-income buildings in our borough to convert from #4 and #6 heating oil to either clean-burning natural gas or #2 heating oil. Our first building—530 159th Street—is a 44-unit low-income cooperative currently in the process of conversion. This project and future projects like it, will not only reduce air pollution and energy usage through the consumption of cleaner fuel, but they will also help to keep housing affordable for low-income tenants while providing the market for green jobs, right here in the Bronx.

Burning cleaner fuel is one important way we can improve the health of Bronx residents. But we need to do more. As part of any major project in this City, developers must submit an environmental impact statement, which analyses the effects of physical construction on the surrounding area. But here in the Bronx, where we have some of the worst health indicators in the nation, that's not enough.

We are currently researching the incorporation of a health impact statement for every major development project. Such a report would explore the health effects of land use decisions, guaranteeing that significant analysis will occur prior to planning, zoning, and development. My staff and I are currently working with Council Member Arroyo, chair of the health committee, and other City Council members to develop the best way to move forward with this important proposal, that ensures that new development does not have an adverse impact on the health and well-being of our neighborhoods.

However, we are not waiting for the rest of the city; it is with the health of our borough in mind that we are already working toward the continued greening of the Bronx. We already require new projects to meet LEED certification in order to receive funding and I call on the rest of the City's elected officials to make this a city wide mandate. As we have already shown, we're not just talking about change for new construction but actually undertaking efforts to retrofit existing buildings to make them more environmentally-friendly, as well.

It gets better. We also administer the Bronx Initiative for Energy & the Environment, which works to help both new and existing businesses "green" their physical plant and make the Bronx a cleaner place. Last year, we approved five loans, totaling nearly half a million dollars. Also, through the Bronx Empowerment Zone, we approved 20 additional loans for more than \$2.3 million. For our smaller businesses we have the "springboard" program, which offers both low and no-interest microloans. More than \$50,000 has been approved through the microloan program, with much more to come this year.

My administration has and will continue to make intelligent economic development a reality. We have taken major steps to market the Bronx to new businesses, to support our existing businesses, and to grow the overall economy of our borough. A recent article in "City Hall News" commended our office for its focus on economic development, noting that the \$300,000 I allocated to support the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation has gone a long way towards the continued revitalization of the Bronx economy.

The proof is right in front of us. Since October 2009, our Business Initiative Corporation has provided 41 loans to Bronx businesses, totaling just over \$24 million. The BIC also has seven loans pending, which will push another \$5 million into our borough's economy.

In all, we have lent more than \$32 million since 2009 to Bronx businesses, from major corporations just entering the Bronx to mom-and-pop shops that have been here for years. In the past year the BIC has increased its lending by 52 percent... an impressive number at any time, but even more impressive during a down economy. Late last year our BIC was honored by the Small Business Administration as a "Bronze Lender" for their work in expanding borough business. At this rate, we'll be heading to gold in no time.

But these are more than just numbers on a page. These are the success stories of the new Bronx economy.

Right here in Mott Haven we have helped Verdero, an athletic apparel and equipment company with exclusive marketing rights to Major League Baseball. With a \$191,000 loan, Verdero will be able to increase their merchandise for the upcoming season, create new jobs, and expand their business beyond the borders of the Bronx.

In Hunts Point, specialty food supplier, Gourmet Guru, was able to outfit its brand new, state-of-the-art warehouse with top of the line, environmentally friendly equipment thanks to \$300,000 in loans.

We are changing the borough's power grid as well. Two companies, C. Kenneth Imports and Flat Rate Movers, took loans to install solar panels on their roofs. Both companies will not only save money by upgrading their energy supply, they will also reduce their carbon footprint.

In June, Down East Seafood in Hunts Point was able to purchase an all-electric, fully refrigerated delivery truck—the only such truck on the road today in New York City. The truck can travel 150 miles before being recharged, and produces zero emissions.

In September, we were awarded almost \$270,000 by the attorney general's office to develop a green roof, in partnership with ABC Carpet and Home, that will not only decrease the company's utility bills, but will also absorb rainwater and reduce storm water runoff pollution in the Bronx River.

Together with State Senator Klein, we were able to bring Cross County Federal Savings Bank to Van Nest. Not only will this branch offer area residents a new banking opportunity, it will also increase foot traffic on this important commercial strip.

We also helped to secure \$5 million in funding through the IDA for Jetto Cash & Carry, one of the most critical businesses in the region. If you buy groceries or eat in a restaurant in this city, chances are you've purchased something that originated at Jetto. This loan will give Jetto the ability to undergo a major "green" expansion at its Hunts Point facility.

Providing funding is not the only way we have helped Bronx businesses in the past year. For the first time ever, thanks to our advocacy, SCORE has come to the Bronx. Through the federal Small Business Administration, SCORE provides free counseling to start-ups, entrepreneurs, and businesses looking to expand.

Also this year, in partnership with the BOEDC, Major League Baseball and the New York Yankees held a seminar to increase their contractors and suppliers from the Bronx.

Each and every day the BOEDC acts as a clearinghouse for Bronx businesses. We do not just provide funding, but help with tickets, violations, infrastructure and a variety of other issues that all businesses, both large and small, are faced with. In fact, in the last year alone, the BOEDC provided assistance, financial or otherwise, to nearly 700 Bronx businesses. And that has made a real difference in our borough.

Much of this success can be attributed to the hard work of Marlene Cintron, president of the BOEDC, and her staff. Since Marlene was brought on a year ago, she has been working tirelessly to not only bring new business to the borough, but to offer opportunities for our existing businesses to grow as well. Thank you, Marlene.

We've also been doing more work to bring new visitors to the Bronx, through the Bronx Tourism Council. This year, the tourism council offered the first-ever eco tours of the Bronx. These tours give visitors the chance to take in the sights at Riverdale's Wave Hill, visit the wildlife at the Bronx Zoo, and canoe the Bronx River. Our parks are beautiful, our waterways are gorgeous, and why shouldn't we show them off?

The long awaited visitors' center at Poe Park is almost complete. This project, funded jointly by our office and City Council Member Rivera and scheduled to open in October, will create new public space where visitors to the Bronx will be able to get information not only on historic Poe Cottage, but the many wonderful attractions our borough has to offer.

When it comes to tourism, we had a pretty good year. More than two million people visited the zoo, with almost 700,000 visiting the botanical garden. People from all over the world, including yours truly, participated in this year's Tour de Bronx. Diners continue to flock to Arthur Avenue and City Island, and visitors to Woodlawn Cemetery can now take advantage of a new interactive audio tour that we helped to fund. Tourism means more money spent in our restaurants, more visitors to our major cultural institutions...more commerce in our borough.

Yet despite our efforts, the growth of our tourism industry faces a major challenge: we lack a world-class hotel. That is a problem we are trying tirelessly to fix. Just a few weeks ago the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium brought to the Bronx thousands of out-of-town visitors from as far away as Kansas. Unfortunately, fans of Syracuse and Kansas State football were unable to explore all the Bronx has to offer.

While a new hotel is not here just yet, we have seen movement on a number of fronts. We have been working diligently, in conjunction with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, to bring a top-flight hotel to the area near Yankee Stadium. We have begun discussions with multiple developers who have shown a keen interest in building a 200-to-300 bed hotel, complete with street-level retail, restaurants, entertainment, catering and convention space just blocks away from the stadium.

This development would serve as a new tourism hub for our borough, while creating hundreds of good jobs for Bronx residents and greatly enhancing the area surrounding Yankee Stadium.

As many of you have heard, the Yankee Stadium parking lots are facing severe financial problems. The parking fees being generated by the facilities are not enough to pay the debt on the bonds issued to pay for their construction. For the past two seasons, only about 60 percent of the available parking spaces have been filled. With the support of the Bronx Parking Development Company, which operates the parking facilities, we believe one of the older garages could be used for the hotel development. This would create an incredible win-win for the people of the Bronx and the parking company.

It will not be long before you can take in a Yankee game and walk just a few blocks to your Bronx hotel room.

And my office, together with Governor Andrew Cuomo as well as city and federal officials, is working to make sure that the Hunts Point Produce Market—and the thousands of jobs it provides—stay right here in the Bronx. While certain Machiavellian municipalities have attempted to woo the market away, we have made real progress in the past few months, and I am confident that a new deal with the market's tenants will be reached in the near future.

This spring, we will release a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. Last year, I announced the creation of a Kingsbridge Armory Task Force, which would be charged with developing a plan for the future of this historic structure.

Many have said that no one would ever be interested in the reuse of the Kingsbridge Armory. They are wrong. The interest in the armory we have seen has been amazing, and enthusiastic. We have heard from healthcare, cultural and educational institutions about the use of the building. The film industry has expressed great interest, and many studios from across the city, such as Kaufmann-Astoria and Silvercup, came to us with plans that would duplicate their success elsewhere right here in the Bronx.

We heard from one developer, New York Arena Management, who wants to convert part of the armory into a sports arena. Officials from the YMCA also visited us, interested in replicating their success at the Park Slope Armory in Brooklyn.

Nobody can argue that Fordham Road, which sits one subway stop away from the Kingsbridge Armory, would not have been devastated by a retail mall. In the summer, shoppers would have abandoned Fordham Road for the air conditioning...in the winter, the same would be said for the heat. A covered, climate-controlled shopping mall...the end of Fordham Road as we know it. And all at taxpayer expense.

There are alternatives. In October, New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service chose the Kingsbridge Armory for a study through its highly competitive Capstone Program. The Capstone Program is very well-respected, so much so that multiple city agencies have used its services to design and plan major projects. For several months, Capstone has been providing our task force with valuable support as we move forward on developing a new plan for the armory. The report of this task force must be the cornerstone of a new RFP, and I invite the mayor to join with me to responsibly redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory.

Responsible redevelopment means that whatever plan we choose has a direct positive impact on all citizens, not an elite few. Right now, the Bronx has a poverty

rate of 28.5 percent. A recent report by the Fiscal Policy Institute found the bottom 90 percent of city income earners make 34.5 percent of all money made in the city.

In contrast, the top one percent of the City's income earners make 44 percent of all money made in New York. In fact, the same study noted that between 1990 and 2007, hourly wages in this city actually fell almost nine percent.

These numbers are even more shocking when one looks at just how much development has taken place during the past decade. Since 2002, more than \$11 billion in new development took place in the Bronx. Yet we still have the highest poverty rate of any urban county in the United States. How do we address this? What is the solution to this huge income gap? How do we make these development-dollars work for "One Bronx?"

We have a real problem in this city. This is why I am leading the fight to pass the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers" Act, a bill that would require developers who receive heavy taxpayer subsidies for their projects to provide a "living wage." Not only is this the right thing to do to lift our people out of poverty, it is sound economic policy.

A study of 15 cities with similar "living wage" laws, by the Center for American Progress, found that wage standards, such as the requirements put forward in this bill, do not have a negative effect on job creation. This report is not the only credible research we have on the positive effects of a "living wage" law. Professor Robert Pollin of the University of Massachusetts has done extensive research on "living wage" laws. He has found that such laws give workers more money to save, allowing them to lower their debt and make much-needed purchases.

Fiscal conservatives should join me in support this legislation. As Pollin's research demonstrates, wage standards reduce reliance on food stamps, welfare, and other government assistance.

Twenty-nine members of the City Council have signed on to this bill, putting us another step closer to making "living wage" the law. This year I will work to ensure that the City Council holds hearings on this legislation, so that we may begin the discussion on changing our city's wage structure in earnest. It is time to hold hearings on this legislation, and for the City Council to bring it to a vote. The people of New York City cannot afford to wait.

We've worked to improve the quality of life for all Bronxites. And we also worked throughout last year, to make sure all Bronxites were counted by participating in the United States Census. Through our efforts, we were able to bring the total number of Bronx residents who were counted to 65 percent, up from 56 percent in the last Census. Census participation is critical to ensuring that we obtain our fair share of funding and resources, and I am proud that so many Bronxites heard our call and made their own voices heard.

The Census affirms the great diversity we enjoy in the Bronx; a diversity that must always be celebrated and used to unite us. In October, a brutal anti-gay attack in University Heights against three young men brought the Bronx into national focus. This horrific moment of atrocious violence was sickening, and pushed a diverse group of Bronxites into action.

But even the ugliest moments brought out the best of our borough. In response to this event and several other bias incidents, my office, together with Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson and the police department, have created a task force, to be made up of clergy and community leaders from all faiths, ethnicities and sexual orientations, designed to stand together in the face of future hate crimes. Not only will this team act to show Bronx solidarity in our most trying times, it will work to educate Bronxites on the definition of a hate crime, how to report a hate crime, and how we can work together to prevent such incidents in the future.

Yes, we are deeply committed to the concept and reality of 'One Bronx.' That same month, I wrote to President Obama, urging him to make the long-awaited repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which prevented LGBT Americans from serving openly in our armed forces, a reality. The repeal of this law hit close to home for me, as my own niece had been forced to resign from the Navy for no other reason than being openly gay. Late last year Congress finally passed a repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which President Obama then signed into law. I am happy to report that many members of the borough's LGBT community, including my niece, are planning to reenlist in the military thanks to this courageous act.

This was a major step forward. We cannot tolerate any step back. I have often spoken of "One Bronx," where we all work together to promote the best of the borough, while also standing up as a whole to push back against what hurts us. The spirit of "One Bronx" was on display in November, when Community Board #10 condemned these attacks. This horrific incident happened on the other side of the Bronx, yet this board stood up and urged all Bronxites to join together and combat all acts of violence and discrimination. This is the epitome of the "One Bronx" mentality, and I urge all community boards to follow Community Board #10's lead and pass a similar resolution showing their commitment to a peaceful, unified Bronx.

These actions, as well as other efforts by Bronxites from all walks of life, will show the world that we are united as "One Bronx." We can disagree with one another on the issues, but those disagreements must be respectful. And we do not and will not tolerate any act of violence against a fellow Bronxite, especially when that violence is related to race, religion, or sexual orientation.

"One Bronx" is about coming together. "One Bronx" is about different, diverse communities standing as one. "One Bronx" is about supporting our efforts to improve every one of our neighborhoods.

This past year nothing filled me with more pride—and illustrated the spirit of the "One Bronx" mentality—than the enormous response that we received for our "Peace in Our Streets" initiative. This past fall we led hundreds of volunteers into neighborhoods that had been identified by the police department as hotbeds of gun violence. This initiative promoted the NYPD's 866-GUN-STOP program, which collects tips on illegal guns and offers individuals a \$1,000 reward when that information leads to an arrest.

We walked the streets and spoke to people about crime in their neighborhood. We went door-to-door in some of our most challenging public housing developments and handed out information on this program. We reached thousands of Bronxites, and the message we heard from them was loud and clear: they are tired of being terrorized in their neighborhoods... they are tired of keeping their children inside, for fear that they will be struck down by a stray bullet... they are tired of the violence. I agree...enough is enough.

And our efforts have already begun to pay off. Last year, the police received 181 tips through this hotline, resulting in the confiscation of 79 guns, 158 arrests, and



rewards of \$50,000 paid out to concerned tipsters. These numbers would not be possible without the help of the hundreds of volunteers who joined us, to work for an end to violence in our Borough. Many of you are here today, and I ask that each of you stand up and be recognized. You are the heroes among us, people who quietly work to make the Bronx a better place. Our "Peace in Our Streets" initiative would be nowhere without all of you. We will be back on the ground in just a few short weeks, continuing to spread our message of peace to new communities. I urge all of you to join with your neighbors and join us on the streets.

The Bronx has indeed come a long way during the past 30 years, and we have all played a major role in that renaissance. In the early 20th century, the Bronx was known throughout the world as a borough of neighborhoods, of families, of strong communities working together for the common good of their hometown. Great art, literature, and cultural achievements have come from the Bronx.

In *The Jazz Singer*, which was the first movie in the history of film to feature sound, the lead character assures his mother that when he becomes a successful Broadway star, they will leave Manhattan and move to the luxury of the Bronx. Great authors, from Edgar Allen Poe to Mary Higgins Clark, have all made their home here. Great entertainers, such as Al Pacino, Aventura, Willie Colon, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Regis Philbin, all have Bronx roots. We are the home of Nobel Prize winners, like Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, and of Pulitzer Prize winners like David Halberstam. Internationally renowned fashion leaders, like Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, as well as and pioneers like Herman Badillo, Colin Powell, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, have all called the Bronx home. When hip-hop took the world by storm, it did so from right here in the Bronx.

It is time to let the world know once again that the Bronx is a place of success. We face challenges—in education, in the economy, in making our borough a greener place. But we are all committed to the rebirth and continuing revitalization of our Bronx—the place we call home.

This year, we will continue to build our economy into a force to be reckoned with. We will not listen to the naysayers who say it cannot be done in the Bronx... instead, we will show them how.

We will continue to fight to make our schools better, both in curriculum and in environment. We will not listen to those who say our children are already doing as well as they can...we will show that they can do better.

We will fight to make sure that more Bronxites are able to support their families and rise out of the clutches of poverty. We will not listen to those who say that poverty is an inevitable part of life in the Bronx...we will show them that those chains can be broken.

There are success stories all around us. But the best is yet to come. Please join me on this journey...our journey to a thriving "One Bronx."

God bless you, God bless the Bronx, and God bless the United States of America!

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651 Grand Concourse Ste. 301

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-3500

[Email Borough President Diaz \(mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov\)](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov)

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH 2012**  
**Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President**  
**February 23, 2012**

Today, for the third time, we join to recount our past year of working together to make our shared home—the Bronx—a better place to live, to work and to raise a family.

This past year, we spent a great amount of our collective time and effort advancing a bold agenda for the future of the borough—on economic development, on education, on transportation, and across the many issues that face our neighborhoods.

We said we would bring new business to our borough, take advantage of our underutilized assets and grow our economy in a smart, sustainable way. And we have.

We said we would put forward a real plan for the future of our City's public schools. And we are.

We said that we would change the way business is done in this City, by ensuring that taxpayer handouts are used not only to enrich developers, but to enrich everyday New Yorkers as well. And we did.

We have executed a holistic vision for the current and future development of our borough, one focused on intelligent investments that make sense not only for individual neighborhoods, but for the entire borough. Through comprehensive planning and community collaboration, we are reshaping the Bronx and advancing a strong agenda for its future.

Where better to begin than with our borough's flourishing "green" economy, which has been the cornerstone of my administration. We have made it our policy that we will not fund a project unless it complies with "green" industry standards. This increases the demand for green jobs and supplies, and drives the green economy in our borough. It also ensures a healthier Bronx.

Our commitment to a greener, healthier borough continued this year. My administration leveraged almost \$6 million in capital funding into hundreds of units of housing, including senior citizen housing in Hunts Point and home ownership opportunities at the Via Verde co-ops on Brook Avenue. This project, which was highlighted in *The New York Times* as a leading model of sustainable development, will offer state-of-the-art living space for Bronx residents with an eye towards a healthier environment.

But it gets even better. This year, not only did we put our funding dollars into worthy green projects, we recruited a major "green" manufacturer to Hunts Point. In November, I was proud to announce that Smith Electric, an all-electric truck manufacturer based in Missouri, is moving their operations to the Bronx, thanks to the efforts of my administration and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

Not only does Smith Electric represent a major manufacturer choosing the Bronx as its new home, but the move will also create more than 100 green jobs, right here in our borough.

Now, Smith Electric will need customers to purchase those trucks, and they have already begun negotiations with our newest Bronx neighbor, FreshDirect. We have secured a strong written agreement with FreshDirect, one that will secure jobs for Bronx residents, a greener environment and stimulate economic activity in our borough. Not only will FreshDirect bring 3,000 total jobs to the Bronx, they will expand their business to neighborhoods across the borough. Over the next five years, FreshDirect plans to convert their entire delivery fleet to a cleaner, greener one.

One day, it is my hope to see a fleet of zero-emission FreshDirect trucks, built by Bronxites and driven by Bronxites. This is an unqualified victory for the Bronx. To top it off, in Hunts Point we will soon see an alternative fuel station—one that will offer services to electric vehicles—thanks to a collaborative effort between my office and the City's Economic Development Corporation.

Do you see how things are coming together? These three projects join together perfectly. This is smart economic development, and this is just the beginning.

Since we arrived in Borough Hall our BIC, the lending arm of the BOEDC, has lent more than \$33 million. That money has been leveraged into \$88 million in new investments and more than 1,200 new jobs. These numbers are so significant that the BIC has been recognized by *Crain's New York* as one of the top lenders not just in the City, but across the entire State.

We have changed the way business is done in the Bronx, and it shows. Major companies are making their way to our borders, to take advantage of our able workforce. In the past three years we have seen unprecedented interest in the Bronx, and a major influx of private development dollars into our borough.

For example, Metropolitan Realty Associates has announced that it will build a major new facility at the site of the former Stella D'oro cookie factory. This project will include several high-level national retailers, will serve as a major traffic hub for the entire Broadway commercial corridor, and create more than 400 jobs in the process.

Across the borough, but just down the block from us today, Prestige Properties has announced the imminent expansion of the existing retail mall at Bay Plaza, the first such construction in New York City in almost 40 years. This mall will be anchored by a new Macy's department store, and is expected to create more than 2,000 construction jobs along with more than 1,700 permanent jobs. It will also provide new shopping opportunities to Bronx residents and visitors from across the region.

We are rewriting our history through new development, as well. When United States President Jimmy Carter visited West Farms in 1977, he witnessed firsthand a blighted, rundown Charlotte Street. Today, that area is filled with dozens of private homes. This year, my administration helped clear the way for a plan that will complete the revitalization of the West Farms neighborhood, approving the largest private rezoning in Bronx history, just down the block from Charlotte Street.



That rezoning will allow for Signature Urban Properties to bring \$350 million in new investment to West Farms, by transforming an underutilized industrial area into a dynamic, mixed-income residential community. The project will feature nearly 1,300 new housing units, 30,000 square feet of retail space and a new school, creating more than 400 jobs in the process. This development will also include new public space, have a heavy “green” component, and will serve as the blueprint for what we want to see from developers in this county.

We have also been working to strengthen and retain our existing businesses, especially at the Hunts Point Produce Market. Last year, I noted the importance of this economic engine to the City, and this year my office facilitated an agreement between the City and the market’s tenants, giving us the time to put forward a long term deal that will maintain Hunts Point’s status as the premiere produce market in the world for decades to come.

In December, at our urging, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that his administration will allocate \$29.5 million in funding through his Regional Economic Development Councils for the redevelopment of the market, as part of a larger infusion of \$37 million in State dollars into our borough. This is in addition to the city’s \$87 million commitment to rebuild, modernize and green the Hunts Point Produce Market.

This much is clear— if our goal was to make the redevelopment of the Hunts Point Produce Market a high priority at all levels of government, then we have succeeded. This market feeds the entire region, and is directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of thousands of New Yorkers. Working together with our colleagues in the City, State and Federal government, along with business leaders from across the State, we will keep this economic engine right here where it belongs.

We said we would keep the Hunts Point market in the Bronx, and we did. We brought Fresh Direct to the Harlem River Yard. In both cases, the Bronx stood up to New Jersey and soundly defeated them. Twice in the past year, New Jersey lost a food fight.

We have seen unprecedented cooperation with the Bronx at all levels. This past year we negotiated with Cablevision to ensure that the future of Bronxnet, our own public broadcasting service, will remain strong. My administration was able to secure a new agreement that not only provides Bronxnet with the financial resources it needs to grow and prosper, but also showcases Cablevision’s commitment to serving as an exceptional corporate citizen.

This is not small change. Over the next decade Bronxnet will see an infusion of more than \$30 million in capital and programmatic funding, providing it with the financial support it needs to upgrade and expand its facilities and technology. These plans include the creation of three additional sites. At these new locations, Bronxnet would be able to continue to train hundreds of Bronxites for careers in media while expanding their programming options to Bronx residents.

And we aren’t stopping there. We said we could do better than a mall at the Armory and we proved it. Last year, my administration, together with Councilman Fernando Cabrera, announced the creation of the Kingsbridge Armory Task Force. In collaboration with NYU’s Capstone Program, we released our much anticipated report in June. The report explored the

feasibility of a number of potential uses—including recreation, green manufacturing, and even a film studio—that would work at this historic structure.

We reviewed a diverse group of proposals, shared our findings with the Bloomberg administration, and they listened. In January, Mayor Bloomberg and I announced the release of a new RFP for the Kingsbridge Armory. This RFP lets developers explore a wide spectrum of uses, allowing us to bring a project that will enhance and complement the surrounding community.

The future development of the Kingsbridge Armory will serve as the foundation for the revitalization of the Northwest Bronx, in ways that a retail mall never could. I am confident that, working together with this administration, we can and will bring a new tenant—and living wage jobs—to this highly valuable and unique Bronx asset.

Such major projects cannot happen on their own, but require collaboration at all levels of government and community alike. In that regard, I would like to introduce you to our new Bronx City Planning Commissioner, Orlando Marin. Orlando has the right combination of knowledge, principles and expertise to help push our aggressive development agenda, and I welcome him to our team.

While we are indeed pushing for the major developments that will serve as the anchors of our borough's economy, we are nurturing our small businesses as well. For instance, our administration has thrown its support behind the emerging Westchester Square Business Improvement District, and we will work together with that organization to help improve the business climate in that hub of activity.

Through the BOEDC, we have helped more than 1,000 businesses in one way or another this year. We helped through permit assistance, filing out MWBE forms, or even a microloan. We know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we will continue to support their growth.

And one way to help them grow is to bring them new customers, from all parts of the region. Tourism is a great way to help our borough's economy, and my administration and the Bronx Tourism Council will continue to partner on unique, innovative events that increase visitors, revenue and attention to our borough.

In 2011, we supported the landmark status of the Woodlawn Cemetery and brought salsa back to Orchard Beach with "SalsaFest." Both helped to bring new visitors, and new commerce, to our borough. We also hosted our borough's first-ever restaurant week, "Savor the Bronx." With the help of our partners in the New York State Restaurant Association, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and American Express, dozens of borough eateries participated in this inaugural event, offering foodies and epicureans alike a chance to sample the great cuisine the Bronx has to offer.

Our tourism efforts already attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to our borough each year. This year, we'll bring even more.

Another big attraction is on the way. The golf course at Ferry Point Park will finally see its completion, thanks to an agreement we reached last month. This partnership between the Parks Department and developer Donald Trump will create a PGA Championship-level golf course that will not only serve as an amenity to the Throggs Neck community, but will stand out as a major hub for tourism in our borough once completed.

In the near future, drivers entering the Bronx from the Whitestone Bridge will not see a barren landfill, but a top quality golf course. This course will not only draw tens of thousands of players from across the world, but major pro golfers like Phil Mickleson and Vijay Singh.

This new golf course just adds to the growing list of attractions bringing people to the Bronx. Through our long standing institutions like the zoo and the botanical garden, or with newer events like the Pinstripe Bowl or concerts featuring Paul McCartney, the Big 4 of Heavy Metal, Madonna or Pink Floyd's "The Wall," tourism is growing in the Bronx. Yes! We are changing our brand, and becoming known for gourmet restaurants, first-rate events and top-notch cultural institutions.

Isn't this great time for a first-class hotel to come to the Bronx?

In September, the BOEDC was authorized to solicit interest in hotel development at one of the parking lots near Yankee Stadium. Several excellent proposals were put forward to us, and we have passed them on to the City for the consideration of a future RFP. The long-held dream of a world-class hotel in the Bronx is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Our brand is changing in a variety of ways. Our borough's leadership has never been so united, and we are seeing results. For many years, various City and State agencies treated the Bronx as an afterthought. Nowhere was this more evident than at the MTA, which year after year, cut Bronx service and ignored necessary repairs in our borough, all while raising our fares.

This is starting to change. When I was a member of the New York State Assembly, I successfully fought for funding to rebuild the subway stations along the 6 line, and that work is coming to completion as we speak. In addition, we now have two strong Bronx advocates on the board of the MTA in Charles Moerdler and my good friend and predecessor Fernando Ferrer, and already we have seen a big difference in how we are treated.

In September, the MTA announced that the 149<sup>th</sup> Street subway station, one of the most heavily utilized stations in the City, will finally undergo much needed repairs. That only happened thanks to our joint advocacy.

And we didn't stop there. We know that greater connectivity to both traditional and emerging employment hubs is critical to our borough's future development. That means greater access from places like the Hutchinson Metro Center, to Midtown and Stamford, Connecticut. Working with the MTA, we have breathed new life into the plan to bring Metro-North railroad service to the East Bronx. This would include possible stations in Hunts Point, Parkchester, Morris Park and right here in Co-op City.



In the fall, we hosted a meeting of elected officials, business leaders and others to gauge their interest in such a plan. The feedback we received was uniformly positive. While some may be concerned with costs, in the long run this proposal would save money, as it would eliminate our borough's overreliance on buses. This year, we will continue to work with officials on all levels of government in order to make certain that this major project finally becomes a reality in the East Bronx.

While these projects are scattered across the borough, they work together to move the Bronx in a positive direction. We are enacting our conceptual "master plan."

Can you see this coming together? We are balancing the needs of individual neighborhoods with the needs of the entire borough, and our development agenda is moving forward because we are attentive to those concerns.

A retail mall may not work at the Kingsbridge Armory, but could be the perfect addition to Bay Plaza. What works in one location may not work for another. But all together, these projects are working for the Bronx.

The health of the Bronx is a major part of our agenda, as well. Year after year, we see statistics indicating that when it comes to health the Bronx is a leader in everything that is bad, from asthma to obesity rates and everything in between. In our efforts to combat that, we are showing our support to our many healthcare institutions by funding critical projects that are important to their growth, especially given the fact that the healthcare industry is our borough's largest employer.

Our funding lead to a major expansion of Urban Health Plan's headquarters on Southern Boulevard, the new ultrasound equipment at Lincoln Hospital and the relocation of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities. This is, of course, important work. But we need to do more. It is time for a boroughwide discussion on the health disparities that impact our communities.

That is why, this coming year, I am calling for a Bronx Health Summit. Like our economic development and education summits before it, this event will bring together the best minds on health and wellness from across the nation to devise a comprehensive plan to put the Bronx on the right track. We will hold this event next year, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our work to make the Bronx healthier has already begun. Last year, I announced that my administration, together with our City Council delegation, has taken steps toward making our building stock healthier and more environmentally-friendly. We recently hosted the first planning meeting on the development of a Health Impact Statement, a new Citywide policy guaranteeing that significant analysis will occur prior to planning, zoning, and development.

We are off to a good start on this proposed policy change, and this year my administration is committed to advancing this conversation. Together, we can determine how the utilization of a Health Impact Statement will lead to improved health outcomes not just here in the Bronx, but across the City.

Such collaborative efforts are the cornerstone of our success. We are willing to put forward our own ideas on a variety of issues, and work together to see them enacted. One such area is education, where despite the claims of some, we know that our public schools have, at best, remained stagnant over the past decade.

That is not to say that good things are not happening in individual schools across the Bronx and the City. Each of us can point to a student, a teacher, a principal or a school that is raising the bar on performance, and making us proud of our public schools.

I can point to quite a few, myself. At P.S. 48 in Hunts Point, the students in the music program bested 500 schools from across the nation to land a \$50,000 prize as part of a contest connected to the popular television show “Glee.”

At Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School, Kate Belin has been recognized as one of the top math teachers in the five boroughs by the Fund for New York City. Her work revamped that school’s curriculum, tailoring it to the specific needs of her students.

And, of course, right here at Truman, Principal Sana Nasser has presided over a renovated building, new planetarium, a popular cooking program and a school on the rise—a high school that can serve as a model for our entire borough.

These are great examples, and my office is working to help every school see similar success. That is why, for the third straight year, the highest percentage of our capital funding, 30 percent, went to our borough’s public schools.

Since I took office in 2009, my office has funded new computers, smart boards and other technology upgrades in schools all over the Bronx. We funded major library upgrades at the M.S. 135 campus in Morris Park and at the Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship. We built a new playground at P.S. 69 in Clasons Point. We’ve even funded upgrades to auditoriums and performance spaces in public schools across the Bronx, including the room we are sitting in right now.

This year, I named Monica Major, who had represented us so admirably on the Panel for Educational Policy, to serve as my new director of education. At the same time I appointed Wilfredo Pagan, a longtime education activist, to replace Ms. Major on the PEP. Together, they are the eyes and ears of my office on the critical issue of education.

And we have a great deal of work to do. In all five boroughs, there are significant issues that need to be addressed.

Last year I announced that we would host a summit on education, which was held this fall. At that event we heard from hundreds of individuals and organizations at all levels of the borough’s education network, many of whom put forward interesting, innovative ideas on improving school performance for Bronx children.

One thing that came up, over and over again, was that parents do not feel like their voices are heard in the public schools. Parent engagement is perhaps the most important aspect of public education. If parents are not involved, our children fall behind. My administration has already begun to address this.

This year, in partnership with Mercy College, we funded a new, innovative program known as the “Bronx Parent Center.” This center is focused on family and leadership development in our public schools. This initiative has also funded two parent centers at P.S. 46 and P.S. 85, both in the northwest Bronx. Such a program could become a model for similar partnerships across the City, and I thank Aramina Ferrer, who first brought this partnership to my attention.

We will also work to expand education options for our children in their earliest years. This includes ensuring access to gifted and talented programs for all students who qualify, and expanding early childhood education opportunities. Early childhood education is a right, not a privilege, and we will push the Department of Education to offer these options to every family.

We must also expand our “Career and Technical Education,” or CTE programs, in our high schools. A perfect model of what CTE could look like in our borough is the Association for Energy Affordability, an organization that I funded. The Association for Energy Affordability works to train Bronxites for careers in the growing “green” economy, offering young men and women first-hand experience in construction, manufacturing and other important aspects of the growing labor field. Wouldn’t a similar program be a real asset to our high schools?

Next week, we will release the full report from this summit; an agenda that will outline the changes we believe must be made in order to better serve our students. We will present these recommendations to Chancellor Walcott, and we will stand together and push for meaningful change on education. We will make the system work for children across the five boroughs.

We not only support our public schools, but our charter schools as well. In my first “State of the Borough” address, I spoke of the need for charter school operators to focus not only on their own well-being, but that of their neighbors.

We have seen a model for such partnership grow at the John F. Kennedy High School campus, where New Visions for Public Schools has opened two charter schools. Rather than keep to themselves, New Visions went out of its way to reach out to the public schools also housed in the building.

Now, the entire culture of the school building is changing, and students throughout the campus are able to take advantage of the support systems New Visions offer. This is a model of public/charter collaboration, and one I hope can be expanded across the borough.

We also need to focus on higher education. This is magnified in immigrant communities, and is of special concern for Bronx students. We cannot—we will not—give up on these students.

Often, these young people drop out of high school because they erroneously believe they will not be able to pay for college. The Board of Trustees of SUNY took a great first step last month by



passing a resolution supporting the expansion of the state's Tuition Assistance Program to all students, regardless of immigration status. This is why I stand with the Governor and echo the call for a New York State Dream Act!

Investing in education is the most important anti-poverty instrument at our disposal. But it is not enough on its own. We have too many people working multiple jobs just to get by. The economic subsidy policies of the City must be invested in jobs that offer individuals a chance to live the American Dream. This year, we were successful in our efforts to make our economy work for everyone, and not just the privileged few. We have come to an agreement with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers" Act will become law.

Soon, when major economic development projects solicit heavy taxpayer subsidies, they must pay their employees a "living wage." Speaker Quinn and a large majority of the City Council emphatically endorsed the fundamental premise of our position. If you take heavy taxpayer subsidies you must do better by your workers.

Let me be clear: what we have developed with our partners in the City Council and the Living Wage NYC Coalition, will be the strongest "living wage" law in the United States. Mayor Bloomberg should join our efforts, and join the majority of New Yorkers who support this bill, and sign it into law when it lands on his desk. As the *The New York Times* put it when they endorsed our legislation in December, "this bill makes sense."

Look how far we have come in just two years. Look how much we have changed the conversation on development and income equality. But this is just the beginning. In the coming years we will expand our push to level the playing field in our State.

The same broad coalition that pushed for a living wage—of clergy, labor, community, elected officials and the general public—must remain united, and join the effort to raise our minimum wage. We must stand together and carry our fight from the Kingsbridge Armory up to Albany, and build on our momentum. We will not listen to the arguments of those defending the status quo.

All of us, together, as "One Bronx," have done the hard work of developing our ideas for a better Bronx. Almost 65 percent of those who took our 2011 Bronx Wellness Survey said they had a "positive" or "confident" outlook on life in the Bronx, illustrating what we already knew.

Things are not always good, but even in our most trying times we have worked to make things better. In recent weeks we have seen a spate of high-profile incidents between the police and the community, actions that threaten to derail the progress we have made on police/community relations over the past decade.

We cannot and will not tolerate police misconduct. We must demand that our police department is better trained to work with our communities in a respectful fashion that honors the dignity of life. At the same time we must passionately support the hard work of the overwhelming majority of men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line to protect law-abiding citizens each and every day.

While there has been a great deal of protest over police behavior in the past few weeks, the fact remains that most Bronx residents want to see the police in their neighborhoods. In our survey, the overwhelming majority of Bronxites said the main way to control crime in our streets was to give our borough a greater police presence.

That is why we will continue our necessary work with law enforcement and community leaders to curb illegal gun violence in our neighborhoods, through our “Peace in our Streets” program and other initiatives, to make sure they are safe for everyone.

And the Bronx is a place for everyone. Last year, I spoke of the need for our borough to come together in the face of hate, following a horrific anti-gay attack in the west Bronx. This year, I was proud to cut the ribbon at the Bronx Community Pride Center’s new space at the Rev. Ruben Diaz Gardens on Kelly Street. What I saw that day was Bronxites of all ages, races and sexual orientation standing together to celebrate the success of one group as though it was their own.

There was no division. There was no hate. There was only “One Bronx,” as it should be.

That positive energy, that confident outlook on life, and that spirit of partnership and community, is what we are going to need to make sure our seeds take root, and that the tall trees of our economy, our education system, and our healthcare system grow for years to come.

I’ve seen those partnerships bear fruit already, as my administration has worked with dozens of elected officials, community groups and others to make the Bronx a better place during the past three years.

Working together with our community boards, we were able to push participation in our survey to the highest levels, higher than the city of Philadelphia was able to reach on their own survey. Working with community organizations across the Bronx, we were able to host amazing events celebrating the wonderful cultures that make up our beautiful borough—be it Irish, Italian, Jewish, Muslim, Puerto Rican, African-American, South Asian, Dominican, Garifuna, Mexican and more.

We partnered with Assemblyman Carl Heastie to give our livery cabs legal protection and allow for street hail access in all five boroughs. We worked with State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson to advance a major rezoning in the Williamsbridge and Baychester communities. We joined with State Senator Gustavo Rivera to launch the Bronx CAN health initiative. Through our capital funding, we partnered with Council Members Helen Diane Foster and Maria del Carmen Arroyo to bring a green roof to the new Highbridge Middle School.

We’ve funded major renovations and technology upgrades in schools across the Bronx, partnering with City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera. We are working to return public access of the Jerome Park Reservoir with Assembly Members Jose Rivera, Naomi Rivera and Jeffrey Dinowitz. We have stood with Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson in her efforts to help victims of domestic violence.

On Metro North's expansion we stand united with City Council Member Jimmy Vacca, the chair of the transportation committee, to advance our plan. We will work with State Senator Jeff Klein to raise the State's minimum wage, and with Congressman Jose Serrano to expand the Bronx River Greenway.

Thanks to legislation put forward by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, we are working to retrofit Bronx homes with energy upgrades, making our borough a greener place. We are fighting to keep our post offices open with Congress Members Eliot Engel and Joseph Crowley.

With Councilman Cabrera and Assemblyman Nelson Castro, we are making sure our faith-based organizations can continue to rent space in our public schools, as they have for decades.

We funded close to 100 senior centers and programs across the Bronx this year, and we are working to make sure our seniors have continued access to these valuable programs with State Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. We are battling violent crime in our streets with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo.

And on living wage, we would have been nowhere without the hard work of City Council Members G. Oliver Koppell and Annabel Palma, the prime sponsors of this important legislation.

Indeed, our elected officials are united as never before, working to make the Bronx an even greater place to live, to work and to raise a family. But we cannot do it alone.

We need all of you, together, to help ensure that new business finds a friendly face in the Bronx.

We need all of you, together, to work to make our borough a greener, healthier place, by changing our attitudes and making small adjustments in our lives.

We need all of you, together, to nurture our youth and encourage them when they do well, but to also take responsibility and act when they need to do better.

We need all of you, together, police and community alike, to work for a safer environment in which to raise our children, while doing so with mutual respect.

We need all of you, together, to join our fight to guarantee that City tax dollars are spent wisely, and have a greater rate of return for our taxpayers.

And we will do this as partners. We need to do this as a team. Vince Lombardi, a great football coach with strong roots here in the Bronx at Fordham University, once said, "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society."

Take a look around this room. Can you see the amazing team we've assembled? Can you see how our agenda is coming together, thanks in no small part to all of you? We have a great Bronx team right here, our own version of the New York Yankees or the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. Our elected officials, our businesses, our community groups, our non-profits and



our neighbors are united as never before. We are working together, as a team, to implement the good ideas our borough needs to grow in the short term, and thrive in the future.

Together, as a team, we will move the Bronx forward into a new age of success. And together, as a team, we will win.

Thank you, God Bless the Bronx, and God Bless America!

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS**  
**RUBEN DIAZ JR., BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

Good morning!

I am proud to stand here today, for the fourth time, to deliver my annual "State of the Borough" address.

I stand before you, honored and humbled, to have your full faith and confidence as we lead the Bronx into a new age of success and prosperity.

I stand before you fully aware of the tremendous contributions of those who came before us, while also building for future generations.

I stand before you as the president of a borough which has taken tremendous steps towards a brighter future.

And I stand before you today at the Monroe campus, here in Soundview, where it all started for me. I never thought, so many years later, I would serve as the chief executive of my hometown.

The Bronx has come a long way in the last few decades. Crime is down, investment is high, our neighborhoods are cleaner, and our economy is growing.

In my first term we have taken every step and opportunity available to advance the New Bronx, and we are succeeding.

What is the New Bronx? The New Bronx is a place that is safe — safer, than many major cities. The New Bronx is a place where crime continues to drop to record lows.

The New Bronx is a place with stellar infrastructure, and a willing workforce.

The New Bronx is a place of diversity, where a full 40 percent of all of our residents were born in another country—and we embrace that diversity.

The New Bronx is a place where you can enjoy world-class cultural and recreational opportunities, or eat a top-notch gourmet meal.

The New Bronx is a place where we have put more than \$94 million in direct capital funding into nearly 300 projects, creating jobs, thousands of housing units, rebuilding our schools and improving our parks.

The New Bronx is a place where, together with Marlene Cintron, the president of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation; and its lending arm, the Business Initiative

Corporation of New York; we have leveraged \$60 million in loans into over half a billion dollars in investment.

The New Bronx is a place that saw almost \$1.5 billion of new investment last year, and more than \$4.5 billion since 2009. The New Bronx is a place where we have helped to create or retain thousands of new jobs, and will create thousands more.

That, my friends, is the New Bronx.

We're outlining a new agenda in education, health and economic development, and wherever possible we are merging all three. At the same time, we're ensuring that business in our borough adheres to sustainable development standards.

We are growing by leaps and bounds. We are seeing significant progress in our efforts to make the Bronx an even greater place to live, work and raise a family. We are moving forward.

The arrival of my administration in 2009 meant a new paradigm. We would use every means at our disposal to insure that business as usual was no longer the norm.

In this New Bronx, that had to change. We needed to become more aggressive in attracting new businesses, while also encouraging those companies to hire Bronxites. We needed better wages and more local subcontractors, so that all corners of our borough could prosper.

For example, we've delivered FreshDirect and Smith Electric, and they will do business together, as the former purchases zero emission trucks from the latter. We will see major commercial hubs built in Kingsbridge and Throggs Neck, and the borough's first ever indoor mall in Bay Plaza. At every turn we are providing direct recruiting services to these companies and the many others that have chosen to make the Bronx their home.

What we accomplished this year will have a profound and lasting effect on the borough. With assistance from the New York City Industrial Development Agency, we've secured 18 projects that will result in another \$550 million in capital expenditures. These projects will retain and or create more than 5,000 permanent jobs, in addition to thousands of construction jobs.

For example, Montefiore Medical Center is building a \$230 million office tower in the Hutchinson Metro Center. This development will create hundreds of construction jobs and new healthcare jobs, and my office was proud to help make it happen.

We were also successful in expanding medium-sized businesses, such as Manhattan Beer Distributors, Smith Electric, and Baco Enterprises, which is a steel instruments manufacturer. These three projects combined will provide more than 700 jobs.

Expanding the depth of the borough's food industry, we attracted seven new retail and wholesale food businesses, including Foodfest Depot, --R Best Produce, a FineFair supermarket, --Krinos Food, --Big Farm Corporation, --a new Fairway bakery, -- and, as I mentioned earlier, FreshDirect. We've seen Bronx Brewery break ground on a new facility in Port Morris, bringing our borough its first brewery since 1968.



In partnership with Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council we secured a capital allocation of \$400,000 for a new organic produce facility and rooftop garden in Oak Point, operated by Gotham Greens. And when the Hunts Point Produce Market renovation is finally underway, the Bronx food industry will continue its undisputed role as the bread basket of the tri-state area and a super-generator of jobs.

Now, big projects may make the news, but in fact we are assisting businesses of all sizes.

The BOEDC continues to give microloans to smaller companies, and in August I was proud to stand with our U.S. Senator, Kirstin Gillibrand, to call for new tax breaks for start-up companies.

Perhaps the best way to help small business is to bring customers through their doors, which is why we hosted our second annual "Savor the Bronx" restaurant week in partnership with the Bronx Tourism Council, an important event following the incredible loss of business they saw in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

Tourism remains a great way to help our small businesses grow, and this year we expanded on many of our existing programs while also introducing new ones. We launched a new tourism publication, *The Bronx Now!*, aimed at bringing visitors from the entire region to the great attractions in our borough. We will see an expanded *Salsafest!*, new Spring tours, and an even bigger Bronx Week.

And there's more. 2014 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bronx County...an occasion I'm sure we will all want to celebrate. In the coming weeks, I will announce the formation of a commission that will help guide a year of events commemorating this milestone.

None of this is possible without an active Bronx Tourism Council, and its dedicated director. With that said, I would like to officially introduce everyone to Olga Luz Tirado. Ms. Tirado is an award-winning communications professional, and I am thrilled to have her as part of our team.

And let me explain how we all work together. In October, one of our borough's most well-known eateries, Tony's Pier, was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The day after the storm, I saw the damage firsthand, and directed my office to assist them. The BOEDC has been coordinating with the City's Economic Development Corporation and other federal agencies, like FEMA, to make sure they get help. Once they've rebuilt, the Bronx Tourism Council will be there to bring them a crowd. And I'll be first in line.

This is all part of our conceptual master plan, a plan we have put into motion in my first term...a plan that leads to complementary development and good job opportunities for the people who live here.

Such a model offers significant benefits for the entire City, especially in our commitment to "sustainable" development. Superstorm Sandy has pushed climate change, and the need for environmentally-friendly development, to the forefront. As I've said before, I will not fund a project unless it contains a comprehensive "green" design.

Since taking office we have put more than \$25 million of our capital budget into 35 different housing projects, creating thousands of construction jobs and housing units in the process. For example, we are revitalizing Borinquen Court in partnership with the Westside Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing. We are replacing the roof, rebuilding apartments and assisting with a total green renovation.

Another approach we have utilized to achieve cleaner housing and reduce unhealthy emissions has been through our Solar Thermal Initiative, which we kicked-off this year with a \$400,000 capital allocation. This pilot program helps residential buildings install Solar Thermal Hot Water systems, reducing the costs of heating domestic hot water in multi-family buildings.

Such efforts have garnered us national and international attention. In fact, this year the prestigious Big Apple Brownfield Awards recognized three major Bronx projects for their environmentally-friendly components, while also presenting me with their distinguished service award, for my longtime commitment to sustainable development.

These programs are just the beginning of our plan to retrofit the Bronx while hastening green job creation. That's why today I am proposing that we create a fund that will leverage our capital dollars with existing programs at the federal, state and city level, so that more residences can take part in what we are doing. We have to be smarter with how we spend vital tax dollars so we can create more sustainable housing, so that everyone can recoup the remarkable savings that come over time.

We're not just greening our buildings and our commercial vehicles, we're also working to green our mass transit system as well.

That's why this year we took on another project, one that has been contemplated in the Bronx for more than 40 years, and moved it further along than ever before. Today, we are closer than we have ever been to expanding Metro-North in the eastern corridor of the Bronx.

We've always heard that the people of the Bronx were united in their deep desire to see this happen. But that support was made clear this fall, when hundreds of residents of Hunts Point, Parkchester and Morris Park—and over a thousand residents of Co-op City—showed up at public hearings to support this plan.

Last year, I spoke about how transformative this project would be...how it would open our borough up to new development, employment and housing opportunities. That has not changed. We need this. Over the past year, I have been in constant contact with our borough's elected officials on this proposal, and everyone agrees. In fact, the governor's NYS 2100 commission, formed in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, has recommended this project as a critical component in hardening our transit infrastructure.

This year, we will push for its full funding in the MTA's upcoming five-year capital plan. The dream of Metro-North service in the East Bronx must become a reality now.

Metro-North service to the East Bronx is not the only long-awaited projects that are coming to life in our borough. After years of advocacy, we will finally see a first-class hotel opened in our borough next year.

I am pleased, and I am sure you all are as well, to welcome the Marriott hotel chain to the campus of the Hutchinson Metro Center, where the company has announced plans to build a 125-room Residence Inn. In the past, those visiting family and others in our borough have found themselves looking for places to stay in Westchester and Manhattan. This hotel will keep them in the Bronx.

Our development interests extend to our schools, as well. Since 2009 we have funded nearly 150 education projects at nearly \$21 million, helping to rebuild infrastructure and bring new technology to the borough's public education institutions.

Without great schools, we would not have national chess champions at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics, or one of the nation's top debate teams at the Bronx High School for Law, Government and Justice.

Without great schools, we would not see success stories like the Green Bronx Machine at Discovery High School, where teacher Steve Ritz has built a citywide model for green education. In December Steve was honored with a Chevrolet GREEN Educator Award, and I was thrilled to present it to him.

Also in December, we named a longtime parent advocate as our borough's new representative to the Panel for Educational Policy. Robert Powell is a resident of Wakefield and a parent at Lehman High School, which I attended. Over the years he has demonstrated a serious commitment to the betterment of our public schools. Welcome to our team, Robert.

Robert and I—and all of you—have more to do. We have an aggressive agenda to improve our schools, and we have put forward serious ideas for the future of public education. Last March, we teamed up with Truman High School and Mercy College to launch the Bronx Achievement Pact, an innovative new educational initiative that aims to raise high school graduation rates, enhance college readiness and maximize college enrollment by pooling resources and offering high school students a chance to earn early college credits.

We are also working to make the specialized high school admissions process more equitable, and in May we released a report highlighting Bronx students' severe underrepresentation in Specialized High Schools as a consequence of inadequate test preparation and other factors.

This report called for the Department of Education to expand test preparation options in our most disadvantaged communities. It also called for increased gifted and talented programs and the creation of alternative methods of admission to specialized high schools. Two of the best public high schools in the United States—the Bronx High School of Science and the High School of American Studies at Lehman College—sit within our borders. Yet our kids are unable to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities such schools offer.



That must change, and that change must begin right here. Already, this report was used in the lawsuit filed by the NAACP seeking to bring equity to the City's admissions process for these schools. We know that some of the brightest middle school students in the City, if not the nation, live here in the Bronx. It is time for the Department of Education to give those kids the resources with which to succeed.

Bronx children must have access to great education opportunities, ones that lead to high-paying careers.

The facts are clear. We have a significant disconnect between the skills needed to compete in the economy and those available in the workforce. In 2010, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or STEM fields accounted for 64 percent of all specialty-employer visa requests nationally. Locally, that translated in 50,000 jobs.

Can you imagine if just half of those jobs were filled by Bronxites? Our borough needs a new school that can prepare our children for these careers. A school like the P-TECH school in Brooklyn. It is a six year high school, grades 9 to 14, where the curriculum is driven by professionals from IBM and the students graduate with a degree from New York City College of Technology.

They are doing college level work in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We need a school like this in the Bronx and we cannot afford to wait.

The Bronx is ripe for growth in this field, and we have all the essential parts for a vibrant tech start up sector to take hold and expand. In fact, it is our goal to partner with Hostos Community College so that their plan to build a new Allied Health and Science Building becomes a reality. We will work with the next mayor to see that happen.

It is also time for all of us to ensure that our kids—and our adults for that matter—are physically able to succeed. That is why this year we will host our first-ever health summit. Like our education and economic development summits before it, this event will help us outline a path forward on the major challenges that face us, such as asthma and obesity.

This is a paradox. How is it that our borough's largest employer is the healthcare industry, that we are home to some of the most prestigious medical institutions and centers of care in the world, that we house a medical school conducting life-changing and life-saving research, but yet we have some of the worst health indicators in the nation?

We have a number of questions that need to be answered, and we won't be able to accomplish everything in one day. But together, we will organize a day of substantive discussion on the topic of healthcare, and outline a blueprint for change for our constituents.

Speaking of our constituents, my office's constituent services unit, last year alone, helped Bronxites with more than 3,400 individual cases. Since 2009, the unit has handled more than 12,000 cases.

This is what it means to be an elected official—to help people—be it the community that's asking for help with traffic improvements, or the father who needs to register his child for school, or the mother who needs a job.

This is what we're in it for, and I'd like to take a moment to thank my constituent services staff for all they do.

Economic development is growing. We're creating new jobs. We're getting healthier. Good things are happening in our schools. At every turn, the New Bronx has seen dramatic improvement. Yet we are still fighting the stereotypes of a previous generation. It is time we bury the idea that the Bronx is unsafe.

In January, my office released statistics that showed a dramatic reduction in violent crime. In 2012, the Bronx saw its lowest murder rate since 1963. In fact, we are dramatically outpacing cities like Boston, Newark and Philadelphia in preventing violent crime. And we of course want to thank Commissioner Ray Kelly, Assistant Chief Carlos Gomez and the entire NYPD for their efforts to make the Bronx safer.

It is so important that we use these statistics to show the world how far we have come. It is time for us to take greater ownership of our brand --to elevate the Bronx brand.

When individuals or groups seek to invoke the past to describe our hometown, let them know that it is not the truth.

Yes, the Bronx has improved, and violent crime has dropped dramatically. However, we do not live in a vacuum. The national conversation on gun control needs to address the culture around gun ownership. Isn't it incomprehensible that no one questions regulations for toy guns, but we do for real guns? Why does any Bronxite—in fact any American—feel the need to own a gun?

Does it make sense... that someone who has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor is eligible to own a gun? Why do the youth of our city think that a gun can solve their problems? Maybe they need to visit the morgue, to see exactly what this trajectory leads to!

I support the President and our Governor in their efforts to ban assault weapons. I also introduced a resolution, which passed unanimously, calling for a full study of our City's pension investments, so that we can identify just how much of those funds are fueling gun profits.

And we must thank our State delegation for moving so quickly to pass the NY SAFE Act, putting our state at the forefront of tougher gun laws. New York always leads the way, and they proved it last month. Take a bow!

We cannot stop there. We must work with our partners in government at all levels to make sure that the President's plan to require criminal background checks for all gun sales becomes law.

We must support microstamping, allowing police to match ammunition used in crimes to the gun it was fired from. It's also time to limit the number of guns and amount of ammunition an individual can purchase at any given time, and to require a drug test to get a gun license.

We must also be willing to help the police take guns off of our streets by seeing criminals put in jail. And we did that, continuing our "Peace in our Streets" campaign this year, reaching out directly to Bronx residents to encourage them to report illegal guns in their neighborhoods.

Solving the gun problem goes hand in hand with lower recidivism rates in our borough and our City. Statistics show us that we have a significant population of repeat offenders.

My office is dealing with this issue on two fronts. In June, we received funding from the State Department of Criminal Justice Services to implement the first ever Bronx Reentry Taskforce. I would also like to thank the Governor, Senator Gustavo Rivera, Senator Hassel-Thompson, and Assemblyman Eric Stevenson. As a result of our advocacy, the Fulton Correctional Facility will be transformed into a unique and comprehensive one-stop-shop for services for those released from prison. Through these initiatives we will help these individuals lead a productive life, and do our best to keep them from returning back to prison.

We must also ensure that those who engage in gun violence are not allowed to escape the spotlight. Today, I propose the creation of a new gun crime registry, with reporting requirements similar to those as sex offenders. The registry would be available online, and would require perpetrators of gun violence to keep updated records with the police regarding their living and employment arrangements. Law-abiding citizens ought to know who among us is responsible for gun violence, and this initiative will do just that.

This issue affects me so greatly, because I love the Bronx so much. I often tell school groups how inspired I am to be borough president, having grown up in the Bronx and spent my entire life here.

In this borough, we have the most kindhearted, caring citizenry anyone could ask for, and nowhere was that more clear than in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

The Bronx was not hit as badly as other communities. Yet those who were affected found a comforting shoulder and a ready hand in their neighbors. Bronxites went to Staten Island to help homeowners dig through the wreckage, while delivering toys at Christmas to children in Rockaway Beach. This borough's response in the face of Hurricane Sandy, the charity and love we showed our neighbors in the wake of this devastation, made me more proud than anything else to be your borough president.

We are doing great things. We are ushering in new development, and seeing long-coveted projects come to life right before our eyes. We have encouraged companies to move to the Bronx, not only from other boroughs but from other states and countries, while strengthening the economy for businesses that are already here.

We've fundamentally transformed the way our City does business with our tax dollars and passed a "living wage," in partnership with Council Members Annabel Palma and G. Oliver Koppell.



We have outlined real reforms for our public schools, and for restoring the promise of our specialized high schools for all students, all while providing tens of millions of dollars in funding to our schools for equipment upgrades and new technology.

We have leveraged tens of millions more into thousands of new housing units.

We have seen major developments--and new jobs they bring--in every corner of the Bronx.

We have outlined a plan, together with the MTA, to bring Metro-North service to the east Bronx, and will work with State Senator Jeff Klein to make that happen.

We have realized the promise of a major hotel chain making its home in our borough.

And we do all of this with an eye towards sustainable development, ensuring a healthier environment while also preparing our borough for the economy of tomorrow.

And the best is yet to come. In my next term we will continue to offer a bold, progressive agenda for the future of the borough, one that will see long-held dreams become reality and new ideas come to life.

In my next term we will continue to make the Bronx a greener place, as our businesses switch their truck fleets to electric, our buildings convert to cleaner fuel, and solar power become ubiquitous.

In our parks, we will continue to join companies like AT&T to bring wi-fi to more outdoor spaces. With Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz we will bring access to the Jerome Park Reservoir, and reopen the High Bridge for public use with Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson.

We will see the completion of the renovation of the Hunts Point Produce Market, so that this economic engine has the new home it deserves.

We will push to see our state's minimum wage increased, and work to pass "paid sick leave" legislation in our City.

With Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Mayor Bloomberg, we will bring responsible development to the Kingsbridge Armory.

We will continue to help our most vulnerable population—our seniors—having already put over \$4 million into 116 senior centers across the borough for daily meals, fitness training, tax assistance and even a new van at the James Monroe Senior Center with Assemblyman Marcos Crespo.

We will bring the PGA to our new golf course at Ferry Point Park with Councilman Jimmy Vacca, and a state-of-the-art tennis center to Crotona Park with Majority Leader Joel Rivera.

We will streamline our community board offices, using my task force's report as a guideline for greater productivity.

We will continue to support our libraries, which have seen their usage double in the past decade.

We will advance our "health impact assessment" legislation, together with Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

We will help our very own public television network—Bronxnet—as it expands in programming and capacity, opening its new studio operation in conjunction with Mercy College.

We will continue to pressure the City to clean our public schools, and to remove toxic PCB's from them.

There is so much to do, and so much I am proud of. Abraham Lincoln, perhaps one of our greatest presidents, once said that, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." Every single day we are working to build a new future for the Bronx.

Each day in our Bronx—the New Bronx—represents a great step forward to a better and more future. Good things are happening here, and there's more to come. We spent many years, many decades, building our borough. We've taken past successes and built upon them. Generation after generation of Bronxites—including many of you here today and our mayor Ed Koch—put in the hard work to make this borough what it is.

Look around you. Look at how the work has paid off. The seeds we planted so many decades ago are bearing fruit. And it doesn't stop there. We have to keep going. We must persevere. We must push forward. During the next four years we will—together as "One Bronx"—as a New Bronx, bring about meaningful change to our borough.

God bless you, God bless the Bronx and God bless America!

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS**  
**RUBEN DIAZ JR., BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

I am proud to stand before you today to deliver my annual “State of the Borough” address, here in one of the crown jewels of our city’s public education system, Hostos Community College.

Just a few weeks ago we officially kicked-off our full year of festivities and events celebrating the centennial of Bronx County. I stood with our City Council delegation to recreate the inauguration of our county’s elected officials back in 1914.

Our Bronx Chamber of Commerce presented my office with a plaque, outlining the tremendous growth our borough has seen over the past 100 years. And the Empire State Building, perhaps the most iconic symbol of this city, was lit in the colors of the Bronx to celebrate this great anniversary.

People are taking notice. We are opening minds and changing perceptions.

We will celebrate our heritage this year. But 2014 is not just about looking to the past. We will focus on the present, and develop smart plans for the future.

The Bronx is transforming, all around us. We are writing a new chapter of the history of our borough. And we are doing so in strong partnership with our institutions, businesses, elected officials, non-profits and, most importantly, the 1.4 million citizens who call the Bronx their home.

We do not stand still. We do not rest on our laurels. We are modernizing the Bronx—creating the “New Bronx”—and ensuring its strength and vitality not just today, but for centuries to come.

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, currency and stock certificates for countries and companies all over the world were printed in Hunts Point at the American Bank Note building. Today, that structure is home to the Sunshine Business Incubator, which has helped over 70 small companies take root through shared space and creative partnerships. That is the “New Bronx.”

Before anyone lived there, Co-op City was the site of Freedomland, a theme park that celebrated the history of the United States. This year, our borough’s first indoor mall, anchored by a brand new Macy’s, will open at Bay Plaza, creating hundreds of new jobs. That is the “New Bronx.”

For decades, the former landfill at Ferry Point Park was an eyesore. Drivers coming to the Bronx using the Whitestone Bridge saw piles of brown dirt as their welcome mat. Now, they will see the rolling hills of a lush, green golf course—a major new tourist attraction—with a first-class clubhouse and event space, created by the Trump Organization.

Donald Trump understands the power of his brand, and we are now partners. That is the “New Bronx.”



We have a great story to tell, especially when it comes to safety. The truth is on our side. In 2012, the crime rate in our borough was the lowest it had been since the early 1960's. Last year, we shattered that record.

We have made huge gains in crime prevention, and our reductions are setting the pace for the entire city. By certain metrics, the Bronx is a safer place to live than cities such as Philadelphia and Boston, and much safer than New Orleans or Washington, D.C.

But we have to rewrite outdated narratives. We have to think differently. If a politician in Paris decides to use our hometown to make a cheap political point, or a tour operator twists facts to make a quick buck, we will set the record straight. That is the "New Bronx."

We also have to make sure that our borough stays safe. For instance, we are reintegrating those who have faced legal troubles back into society. Last year, our reentry task force assisted more than 160 moderate and high-risk parolees with job training, housing placement, education and other services designed to reduce recidivism.

My Veteran's Advisory Council was also successful in creating a new "Veterans' Court" in Bronx County. This program serves as an alternative to incarceration, and will assist veterans whose felonies have resulted from mental or substance abuse problems arising from military service and steer them into treatment programs.

Another example is by enhancing security at our public housing developments, which can deter crime and improve quality of life for over 100,000 Bronx tenants. This year, we put more than \$5 million into providing seven NYCHA developments with various upgrades, including Middletown Plaza, Eastchester Houses, the McKinley Houses and others.

We have also put forward legislation designed to curb criminal activity. This year, we will renew our call for a statewide public "gun offender registry," similar to the private one that already exists and is used by the NYPD.

With Council Member Vanessa Gibson, chair of the City Council's Public Safety committee; as well as State Senator Jeff Klein and Assembly Members Carl Heastie and Jeffrey Dinowitz, we will pass this law.

Legislation can make us safer, but crime reduction starts on our streets. Nothing helps decrease crime more than a well-trained, professional police department, functioning in tandem with a civic-minded citizenry.

Yes, we have the greatest police department in the world. We owe our NYPD a strong round of applause for their efforts to keep us safe.

They cannot do it alone. The populace of the Bronx has played just as important a role in lowering crime. We owe ourselves a round of applause as well.

Safer streets, safer neighborhoods, a safer Bronx, requires a strong partnership between the people who live here and the police officers that serve us. We can always do better. And we must do better when it comes to “stop and frisk.”

Our new mayor understands how harmful “stop and frisk” can be, and is committed to reform. I stand ready to work with Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner William Bratton, in their efforts to reshape “stop and frisk” in a way that keeps our neighborhoods safe, but does so with respect.

There are other ways to rebuild the trust between the community and the police. We are doing this by creating new community partnerships, and healthier Bronxites, through an innovative program we launched in January, called C-BALL—the Community Board Athletic Leadership League.

The goal of C-BALL is to promote physical activity through basketball while facilitating engagement within our community boards and with city agencies, such as the NYPD. Our first game took place in January, and I am proud to say that I joined the elected officials team, but sad to say that we lost. It’s safe to say that none of us will be heading to the NBA anytime soon.

C-BALL is just one way we’re making our borough a healthier place. We held our first ever health summit last year, and nearly 1,000 individuals from all over the nation joined together that day to listen, to voice their concerns about health issues in the Bronx, and to begin outlining a plan of action. We are joining the City Council to push an expanded “paid sick leave” bill, and will redouble our efforts to require a “health impact statement” for construction projects this year.

We partnered with the Food Network and Cablevision to promote healthier eating in our schools, and our CAN initiative continues to help Bronxites make the small healthy changes in their lives that will eventually lead to big results. Through these projects and more we are creating a model for healthy living through community engagement, right here in the Bronx.

Our schools—where future generations of engaged citizens are created—are another key to a great city. Working with our education consortia, my office continues to meet with school and university leaders at every level to discuss capital needs, curriculum and the shared issues that face our public schools.

We’ve done some great work in our borough, thanks to the input and advice of these consortia, and I am grateful for their efforts. Since taking office in 2009 we have put almost \$24 million into 173 education projects at all levels. I’ve seen firsthand how important this can be, not just to a school and its physical plant but, more importantly, to the students who spend their days inside.

In October, I cut the ribbon on a new computer lab at P.S./M.S. 194 in Castle Hill, a project for which I provided over \$100,000. The students were awesome. They displayed their computer expertise, showed off their Powerpoints, and even did a little Tweeting. They were engaged, and our funding helped to make that possible.

Partnering with Chancellor Carmen Fariña, my office and our consortia will continue to identify

schools like this that are in need of upgrades, especially technology upgrades, and provide them with the necessary funding to make those improvements.

Big changes are coming at the Department of Education. For the past 12 years, we've seen an education system dictate from the penthouse, rather than engage from the ground floor. We've seen an education system that did not properly engage parents and the community-at-large, while outright denigrating the leaders of our classrooms--our teachers.

It is a new day. Greater involvement, and greater transparency, are coming to Tweed. In cooperation with the new administration, we will push for our schools to reach new heights of success.

When given the opportunity and the resources, our children do succeed. When given a chance, we develop geniuses in the Bronx, such as the students at the Bronx Design & Construction Academy. These students are one of just five winners across the entire world of the Zayed Future Energy Prize for green development. They flew all the way to Dubai to accept their award, and we are proud to have them with us today, right here in the Bronx.

How we acquire those resources has been a topic of some discussion as of late. Should we create new taxes, or should we use existing funds to give our students a necessary leg up? What's important is that universal pre-K is implemented, and it's time to take the politics out of this proposal. It's time for Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo to compromise on universal pre-K. Our children deserve no less.

Our borough has a long, rich history when it comes to education. The numerous world class colleges that call the Bronx home have earned us the nickname "The Borough of Universities." We have institutions with amazing alumni communities, such as The Bronx High School of Science and DeWitt Clinton High School, where former graduates still play a major role in the life of those schools to this day.

Unfortunately, right across the street, one example of our borough's great history in education is crumbling before our eyes. It is an absolute disgrace that the City allowed P.S. 31, one of the most iconic school buildings in our city and my own alma mater, to fall into such disrepair that it is scheduled to be torn down.

This past summer I walked those halls again. What I saw was incredibly disheartening. These were the very rooms where I fell in love with learning, and where teachers like Mr. Poloso and Ms. Rosen, and our great principal Mrs. Russo; helped set me on the path to where I am today.

With that said, it is time for innovation. The city must issue a new RFP for the P.S. 31 site. This RFP should examine whether or not the building can be saved, and should also explore a wide variety of uses for the site in order to stimulate street life and blend in with the neighborhood.

The lower Grand Concourse is an exciting place these days. Hostos Community College is planning a major new Allied Health & Science Building just down the block, a project I believe is so important to the future of our borough that I have committed more than \$2 million in capital



funding to its completion

With the right neighborhood engagement, and the appropriate community benefits agreement, I can even see a new soccer stadium a few blocks from here.

Given all of this new development, we have to do more to influence growth. That means continuing to implement our conceptual master plan for the redesign of The Bronx. That means smart, sensible planning—planning with a purpose—that makes the most of our available amenities. It is time for the creation of a new waterfront district along the Harlem River between 138<sup>th</sup> and 149<sup>th</sup> Streets, one that would lead to development similar to the Brooklyn Bridge Park. Bronxites should have quality waterfront access, and this project could make that happen.

We must also fight for the future of the Bronx General Post Office. Many of us tried to stop this sale. Legislative efforts in Congress to protect this facility were useless, and we are now faced with a daunting task. We cannot allow Washington bureaucrats to simply sell one of our most cherished assets to the highest bidder. This is a public asset, and its liquidation cannot be carried out behind closed doors.

We do have options. We have met with several developers that have put forward innovative ideas for this space. Doing what's best for our borough requires us to move on good ideas, rather than wait for things to just happen on their own. In order to get the best possible project, in order to see the best possible ideas move forward, we must stand up and we will be heard.

We've done so much in the last four years. And I must take a moment to acknowledge the amazing new venture that will bring the world's greatest ice sports complex to our borough, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center.

This project will bring \$300 million in private development funds, living wage jobs and the strongest possible community benefits agreement ever written to our borough. I have to thank Council Member Fernando Cabrera, former Council Member Oliver Koppell, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Community Board #7, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, and the hundreds of residents and organizations who contributed to this victory. We have set a new standard for responsible development.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is "planning with a purpose." That, ladies and gentlemen, is the "Diaz Doctrine."

The world's largest ice sports center is one example of what can happen when we think differently. It's time we all "think different...think the Bronx."

It's time we embark on our innovative ideas. It's time to bring ferry service to Soundview. This plan would open up new transit options for thousands of Bronx commuters. A recent study found the Soundview route to be among the most promising ferry sites in the city, and noted that property values and new development has grown faster at current ferry locations. Working with Council Member Annabel Palma, we will see similar growth here.

It's also time to expand Metro North access to the East Bronx. This has been a vision in the minds of Bronxites since the 1960's, and we have never been closer to making it happen. New stations in Co-op City, Parkchester, Hunts Point and Morris Park would make the Bronx more attractive to new businesses while opening up new employment opportunities across the region for our residents.

In May, I joined Senator Klein and other community leaders to release a report on the immense impact this expansion will have on the Bronx. It showed that this plan will create 5,400 new jobs, increase home values by more than \$140,000 per home, and increase business activity in the Bronx by more than \$1 billion.

In his "State of the State" address in January, Governor Cuomo himself made this a priority of his administration. Let me be crystal clear...nothing is more important than making this long held vision a reality.

We've accomplished a great deal, together, over the past four years. We've created more than 14,000 jobs, and will create thousands more with the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. We've placed nearly 1,500 Bronx residents into available jobs through our workforce development programs.

We've invested more than \$600 million in housing, building nearly 13,000 new units. We've created projects like the Bronxchester Urban Renewal in Melrose, a LEED certified development that will bring us nearly 1,000 mixed-income housing units of all sizes, retail and community space, and a new skate park. Projects like this contribute to the continuing growth of the "New Bronx,"—a place of boutique hotels and green development.

We've helped to create more than \$75 million in loans through our Business Initiative Corporation, helping companies of all sizes expand in our borough. Our parks are greener, having seen more than \$100 million in capital upgrades in my first term. Crime is lower, our streets are cleaner, and thanks to the Bronx Tourism Council, thousands of new visitors are taking a new look at the "New Bronx."

This is our year, ladies and gentlemen. In 2014, we are going to show the world that the "New Bronx" is more than just rhetoric. It's a movement. This is our centennial celebration. And we are going to have the most productive year our borough has ever seen.

We will revisit the Cross Bronx Expressway, and develop a plan to rehabilitate and redesign this road so that it works for our borough, and is no longer an eyesore.

In partnership with Council Member James Vacca, we will rid our streets of their most common summer nuisance, dirt bikes. With Council Member Palma and the entire delegation, we will expand our "living wage" bill to bring labor harmony to city developments and give more people an opportunity for success.

We will develop a plan to allow Bronx residents more access to their waterfront, with a goal of

allowing one to walk, run or bicycle without interruption from Pelham Bay Park all the way to Riverdale.

We will increase recreational activities in all corners of the borough, and will welcome two new YMCA centers in Williamsbridge and the 149<sup>th</sup> Street Hub. We will join Governor Cuomo in his call for a renters' tax credit, and provide relief for the more than 80 percent of Bronxites who do not own their own homes.

We will, together with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo, demand a DREAM Act for New York State. If they can do it in New Jersey, why not here? We will create a new specialized portfolio high school for Bronx students—one that does not rely solely on a high stakes test to gain admission, and we will join Mayor de Blasio in his call for increased STEM options for our students.

2014 is our centennial. We celebrate 100 years as our own county, the youngest county in New York State. However, our story starts 375 years ago, when Jonas Bronck landed in Mott Haven, becoming the first European settler north of the Harlem River.

The early 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the need for a crossing between our borough and Manhattan. That bridge—the King's Bridge—is long gone, but its name lives on in that thriving community.

The fight for freedom from the crown came later. Our own Gouverneur Morris joined the brave men who publicly declared their independence from the British, and the minutemen fought valiantly at the Battle of Pell Point. Many of the heroes who battled for that freedom—Heath, Putnam, Greene—are memorialized in our street names.

The 1840's saw the completion of the High Bridge and the founding of Fordham University. In 1846, Edgar Allen Poe sought refreshing country air, and moved near today's Grand Concourse.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the purchase of the land that would become some of our greatest parks—Van Cortlandt, Pelham Bay Park, Crotona Park and others—ensuring that our residents would forever have amazing outdoor space, and shaping our neighborhoods for centuries to come.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the completion of our bridges and highways, the extensive infrastructure that makes us so attractive to new business today. The Jerome Park Reservoir opened, the Morris Park Racetrack was closed, and the original "House that Ruth Built" was completed.

Throughout this our population was in flux. We started with the Dutch and the Germans, and later saw major emigration from Irish, Italians and European Jews. African-Americans and Puerto Ricans came after, and today we see Dominicans, Albanians, Mexicans, Garifuna, Bangladeshi, Africans and many others joining the great Bronx melting pot.

Hip-hop and salsa were born here, but let's not forget, so was doo-wop. We are the home of Willie Colon, Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa and Dion & the Belmonts. We are a place of bacalaito and burek, pizza and pastrami. We have seen tremendous changes during throughout

our history, and we are a stronger community for having embraced that change.

And no time is that more apparent than today. We are a place of growth, a place where new business is moving and existing businesses are expanding. We have seen hundreds of millions of dollars in new housing, and thousands of new jobs. We are seeing major new projects built here, and even bigger ideas on the horizon. We're getting safer. We're marketing ourselves as a destination, and we're receiving national and international attention for our efforts.

A major newspaper in Switzerland says The Bronx is "filled with gardens and artists' lofts." In Ireland, they say that The Bronx is "bursting with energy" and a "place on the rise." In Spain, they write The Bronx "isn't what it was...it's *better!*" And in Germany they declare, "The Bronx is Back!" Clear across the globe, people are appreciating the "New Bronx!"

But I cannot do it alone. Our centennial is a time to celebrate our shared ideas, and our shared sacrifice, for the betterment of our borough. Colin Powell, who went from an apartment on Kelly Street to the highest levels of power in Washington and the Bronx Walk of Fame, once said. "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

We know what we want to see in our borough. Our dreams are laid out before us. Over the past four years, if not the past four decades, we have put our own sweat, our own determination and our own hard work into rebuilding and redesigning our borough, into realizing our dreams of what The Bronx can be and will become.

Over the next four years, we will go even further. We will build on this strong foundation, so that 100 years from now, when our successors observe the bicentennial of this county, they will look back at our work and see it as a watershed moment.

They will look back and see a time when the people of this borough—regardless of race, gender, creed, sexual orientation—came together with a common cause, a common dream, and worked as "One Bronx" to develop the "New Bronx."

Our Bronx.



**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS  
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

Welcome to my sixth annual State of the Borough address, and welcome to our newest destination, the largest indoor shopping center in New York City, The Mall at Bay Plaza.

We've seen unprecedented, transformative growth since I became the borough president.

We have built nearly 16,000 new units of housing, and have created more than 15,000 new jobs.

City Island was named the best neighborhood in the entire city by the real estate blog Curbed. J-Lo tore the house down at Orchard Beach. Anthony Bourdain highlighted our borough on CNN. We even have our own hot sauce. Tourism is up 14 percent...even the president of Israel came to the Bronx.

Unemployment is down nearly five percent since 2009. Investment is at a record high.

And we even made history with our very own speaker of the New York State Assembly, my good friend, Carl Heastie!

The state of The Bronx is stronger than it has been in decades.

We are maximizing our assets, while improving our quality of life.

For decades, this citadel of commerce was nothing more than a parking lot. Now it is an economic engine, and home to nearly 2,000 new jobs. When I walk around this mall I ask employees, "Where do you live?" The answer, over and over again, is "I live in The Bronx." That's because more than 90 percent of the jobs here have gone to Bronx residents.

In our 2011 quality of life survey, we demonstrated that Bronxites often left the borough to shop because they were dissatisfied with our local options. This shopping venue is an immense improvement. Keeping those spending dollars here in the community is having a big impact.

In its first six months this mall saw its sales rise 20 percent over initial projections. Bronxites have embraced this mall in tremendous fashion. And we know that consumer spending equals job growth.

Our efforts are bearing fruit. What we are doing is working.

Together, we are making great things happen.

We are helping all businesses, small and large. For example, Marlene Cintron, President of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, was able to convince Prestige Properties to extend the lease of the Bagel Cafe in Bay Plaza. This preserved a small, beloved neighborhood

institution.

In October, the community was up in arms when the future of Barnes & Noble, our only bookstore, was in doubt. Consequently, we acted. I mediated an agreement between the bookseller and Prestige Properties, to keep it open for our community for years to come.

Now, I'd like to take a moment to thank Sam Shalem and Prestige Properties, our hosts today, for all they have done for The Bronx. They heard our united voice. They put people over profits.

Youngwoo & Associates is another major developer that has made a significant commitment to our borough. They purchased the former Bronx General Post Office and we are working hand in hand with them, our elected officials, Hostos Community College and Community Board #4 to unlock the potential of this landmark as an innovative new commercial and community space. The GPO will feature quality retail tenants, first-class office space and preserve the continued operation of postal services.

To the west of here, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center is progressing. This is a game changing redevelopment. It will activate a long-dormant landmark and create living wage jobs. My office and the BOEDC have been working diligently with KNIC and its leadership, including hockey legend Mark Messier and gold medalist Sarah Hughes, on construction, permitting and programming. Soon children from all over The Bronx...from all over the region...will be skating to new heights.

In Soundview, we will see the development of New York State's largest television and film studio in partnership with York Studios. This nearly 300,000 square foot, state-of-the-art space will feature eight new sound stages. It will be built green, and will host hundreds of new jobs.

Our food industry is another key to putting more Bronxites to work. For too long, the fish and meat markets at Hunts Point, and other borough food manufacturers, have been forced to store their perishable goods all the way in New Jersey. Therefore, they incur great expense to cross the bridge every day. These markets are responsible for thousands of jobs. These markets feed the entire region.

We must make sure they can remain competitive. It is time for the city to develop a plan to build a new freezer facility in Hunts Point. This will allow our markets to expand, lower costs for consumers, reduce truck traffic and pollution, create hundreds of new jobs and keep more revenue in The Bronx.

Just before Christmas, we finally broke ground at the future home of FreshDirect. We have improved this project since it was first proposed. FreshDirect has one of the most fuel efficient delivery fleets in the city. They accept EBT on their website, a unique program that is among the first of its kind in our nation. They now deliver to the entire borough. Freshdirect could help end food deserts and reduce obesity. They will bring at least 1,000 new jobs. They will save and create thousands more.

The time to build is now. We are moving forward.

All types of development are coming to our borough, from retail and industrial to medical and professional. In the east Bronx, we will see a new, nearly two million square foot office expansion at the Hutchinson Metro Center. This \$550 million complex will include professional and healthcare jobs, a bio-tech incubator, community facilities and more. Estimates indicate that this project will generate thousands of new jobs, and I am proud to support Simone Development in this transformative endeavor.

When it comes to getting Bronxites jobs, we have already done so much. But there is even more to be done.

According to Census data, just 18 percent of working age Bronxites have a bachelor's degree, compared to 33 percent statewide and almost 60 percent in Manhattan. Our challenge is clear. We have to do more to improve the employability of Bronxites at all levels, regardless of their education or personal history.

We are working with our schools to align curriculum with the jobs in demand. This year, we partnered with our principals consortia to convene a Career and Technical Education forum at Bronx Community College. This event allowed our public school principals to participate in a discussion with some of the leading employers across the region.

At the former site of the Fulton Correctional Facility, we have developed a multiservice center for our borough's formerly incarcerated population. In partnership with the Osborne Association, we will help those coming back from prison find work, get the services they need, and rebuild their lives.

The BOEDC has also partnered with the governor and the State Department of Labor to develop a new program, "NY Works." This program puts Bronxites looking for jobs into direct contact with potential employers in The Bronx. Since that initiative was launched in August, we have made more than 4,000 job placements. Without a doubt, these are tremendous numbers.

This initiative has been so successful that Governor Cuomo committed an additional \$10 million in funding. We are bringing together development and job placement like never before.

We are taking advantage of the Harlem River in new ways, creating strong blue-collar jobs while also building new employment and housing opportunities from Mott Haven to Fordham Road.

A complete metamorphosis of the Harlem River waterfront is coming. Last year, both my office and SOBRO issued reports highlighting the promise of this underutilized area. From just south of the 3rd Avenue Bridge all the way to 149th Street, we found the opportunity for thousands of housing units of all kinds, new waterfront access and park space.

The opportunity does not end there. There's more. To the north we have Fordham Landing. This site could host up to one million square feet of mixed-use development, including housing of all

types, community space and additional waterfront and park amenities. This is a great site for a public/private partnership, and we will work with the owners and future developers to activate and revitalize the northwest Bronx.

One of the great features of Fordham Landing, is that it has great Metro-North access. And speaking of Metro-North, in advance of our four new East Bronx Metro-North stations we are examining rezoning opportunities in these neighborhoods. I must once again thank the Governor for including these stations in MTA's five-year capital plan. I am also grateful to our borough's MTA board members—Fernando Ferrer and Charles Moerdler—for their continued advocacy on this issue. It is time for the State Legislature to approve the capital plan, so that this phenomenal transit upgrade can become a reality.

These ideas have the potential to completely invigorate our borough. Better and greener housing...new and more efficient commuting...jobs of all kinds...more access to the waterfront. That's my master plan for The Bronx.

The Bronx has never been more open for business. If you're looking to invest, the time is now.

At the same time, we are ensuring those investments create better paying jobs, as well. Last year, we joined with Mayor Bill de Blasio to increase the living wage for workers at City-funded developments to \$13.13 an hour, building on our victory at the Kingsbridge Armory. And I support Governor Cuomo's call to raise the minimum wage, and to increase it at a higher rate in New York City.

Job creation and economic development are not our only focus. We are also advancing a robust policy and legislative agenda designed to make life better and safer for our residents.

Late last year, the city announced LinkNYC, a proposal to transform public payphones into Wi-Fi kiosks. We found the original plan to be deficient in several ways. Wi-Fi speeds in Manhattan would have been incredible, while the other boroughs would have seen slower speeds and slower rollouts.

We were not going to accept a high-tech "poor door." First, I issued a report critiquing various deficiencies in the LinkNYC proposal. Then, with Comptroller Scott Stringer and my fellow borough presidents, we negotiated a better LinkNYC not just for The Bronx, but for the entire city of New York.

Thanks to our advocacy, under this new plan The Bronx, as well as Upper Manhattan and Staten Island, will receive more high speed kiosks. Due to my recommendation, the city will enact a solar-powered pilot program in our borough to improve the network's resiliency. Now LinkNYC will work for everyone.

We're tackling an important public health issue. I'm sure the ladies here today, and even some of the men, have been getting their manicures and pedicures. I have to admit I've gotten my nails done before. . If you regularly visit a salon, then you know that some of them can be unsanitary.



This past summer, a relative of mine was forced into the emergency room after a pedicure led to a serious infection. When I speak to people about this issue, every one—every single person—has their own horror story about a friend, a family member, or even themselves, who visited a salon to look good, and ended up with a major health issue.

We have seen numerous cases of staph infections, hepatitis and other illnesses. Doesn't the evidence demand more oversight? I think so.

That's why, in September, we announced a set of legislation that would introduce a letter-grading system for cosmetology businesses. The new system will be modeled after the current letter grading system used to monitor restaurants and food service establishments. Our legislative package includes not only letter grades for salons and spas, but a call for increased training options and for a "Customer's Bill of Rights." This legislation was introduced at my behest by Council Member Rafael Espinal, and is supported in Albany by State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

We are making sure that all stakeholders, including businesses, are involved in crafting this proposal. Already, we have partnered with the New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce to hear their concerns.

Moreover, we have heard from numerous businesses who support this legislation, and who want their industry to be cleaner and safer. In partnership with my colleagues in government and responsible business owners, we will spend this year pushing for a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for customers and employees alike in our beauty spas and nail salons.

From healthier salons, to a healthier Bronx, we continue to make great strides in greening the borough. The Bronx River is cleaner than ever. We've lead the way in solar panel installations. I've invested millions of dollars in LEED certified new housing. But we must aggressively green our older housing stock and retire dirty boilers, if we're going to bring down air pollution and reduce asthma.

We need to utilize capital dollars in smarter ways. Last year, we proposed, to HPD an innovative partnership with Village Power Financial which would leverage a revolving fund with private sector investment to accelerate the greening of large residential buildings. This partnership would make tax dollars go further than ever before, through the power of "impact investing."

Impact investments are ventures made with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental benefit, alongside a financial return. With Council Member Andrew Cohen, we will identify eligible buildings. We believe this proposal will clean our environment, create new jobs, reduce energy cost, and in the long run, keep our city affordable.

We are looking not only to do well, but to do good.

We will also continue our push for a citywide and statewide public felony gun offender registry. Last year, unfortunately, our proposal for a statewide database was halted in Albany. This year,

with State Senator Jeff Klein, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, and Council Members Costa Constantinides, Ritchie Torres and Paul Vellone, we will redouble our efforts to expose those individuals who would commit gun crimes to public scrutiny.

Our borough is safer today than it has been in decades. For two straight years we saw the total number of homicides in The Bronx drop below 100 for the first time since the early 1960's. That would not be possible without the NYPD, working hand-in-hand with a concerned citizenry.

Let me be clear, when a police officer does wrong, I will speak up. When justice is not served, I will protest. But I know that the majority of our police are doing great work. I know they are keeping us safe. I know they are putting their lives on the line for us.

On the evening of January 5, two of our finest in the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct were responding to a robbery at the end of their shift. They both, unfortunately, were greeted by the bullets of two thugs. The results could have been horrible, as we saw in Brooklyn. They could have paid the ultimate price. Thank God they are ok. Thank God they are able to be here with us today.

Please give a round of applause to Police Officers Andrew Dossi and Aliro Pellerano!

This coming year, we will continue to articulate and execute a vigorous agenda. We will encourage our youth to have their voices heard, and to take advantage of a new law that allows individuals as young as 16 to be eligible for appointment to our community boards.

We will continue to modernize our housing stock. Last year, I put nearly \$3 million in capital funds towards housing, helping to build 600 affordable units. Our green developments, such as Via Verde and Arbor House, are nationally recognized for their design.

I have committed funding to the city's first ever development designed specifically for LGBT seniors. I am excited that SAGE and HELP USA are about to embark on this innovative development in our borough. I am committed to be a borough president for all people, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

But to truly bring transformative housing development to The Bronx, we have to examine not just available space, but space that does not even technically exist.

My office is putting together a report examining the possible decking of three Bronx train yards—149<sup>th</sup> Street, the Grand Concourse yards near my alma mater, Lehman College, and the 1 train yards connecting Riverdale and Kingsbridge.

We will examine possible costs and potential density, and will take the first step towards creating new space as a key component of our city's housing and economic development future.

Mr. Mayor...if they aren't interested in Queens, why not try The Bronx?

We will make sure that the housing we develop works for everyone, so that we are able to retain

our growing professional class. We do have a population of skilled professionals. We must provide more amenities to retain them, so that their employment status and purchasing power stays right here where it belongs.

We must finally act on the redevelopment of the Sheridan Expressway. We have seen the success of converting highways into boulevards with pedestrian crossings, such as those found on the West Side of Manhattan. It will not only provide for new housing development opportunities, but will improve pedestrian safety and access to parkland along the Bronx River, without compromising access to the Hunts Point Market. The State can no longer drag its feet on the future of the Sheridan.

We will get healthier, as well. Recent studies rank our borough number 62 of New York's 62 counties in health indicators. We must change this. Today we are launching a social media campaign. This initiative will challenge all Bronxites to encourage one another to adopt a healthier lifestyle. So when you eat a healthy lunch, or get in a good workout, hashtag #NOT62! on social media. Let's start trending toward a healthier Bronx together!

The Bronx, unfortunately, remains one of the centers for HIV transmission. I am committed to changing this and have created an HIV Roundtable to assist us in staying on top of the latest developments in HIV/AIDS and to initiate innovative approaches to help those living with HIV.

As part of our continued efforts to support our seniors, we are announcing a special partnership with the City Department of Finance SCRIE and DRIE Out-Reach Team. Our staff will visit 10 buildings this year to inform and enroll Bronxites in these two important programs. Participants will have their rent frozen. Consequently, the City of New York will provide their landlord a property tax credit which is equal to the amount of future rent increases. We will make sure our seniors can stay in their homes.

We will continue to fund worthy projects. My administration has provided more than \$126 million in capital funding to over 360 projects since 2009. Last year alone, we provided \$9 million to 25 different endeavors, including security upgrades at NYCHA buildings and affordable housing in every corner of The Bronx.

In our schools, my office has provided more than \$26 million to 180 different institutions. With these funds, we are making our schools work better for all of our children by providing them with new computers, smart classrooms and science labs. But a strong education system requires not just an updated building. We must also ensure we are doing everything we can to nurture the minds of young Bronxites. We must ensure that they have every opportunity to excel.

Building on our success at Barnes & Noble, we will do more to put books and Bronxites together. We will continue to expand access to gifted and talented programs, so that children in every Bronx neighborhood are exposed to the strongest curriculum at an earlier age. With AT&T, we will expand our work with "Chess in the Schools," and bring this wonderful mental exercise to more students.

We will make sure that our high school students are afforded the best possible education, regardless of their performance on a single standardized test. There is an inverse relationship between the racial makeup of our public school population and the population of our specialized high schools—including the Bronx High School of Science.

The New York Times reported last year that just 21 Hispanic students—and just seven black students—were offered entry into Stuyvesant High School's freshman class. What is even more shocking is that those numbers were down from the previous year. How could a number already so low get even lower?

I am optimistic that, working with Chancellor Carmen Farina, we can change this. In 2012, I issued a report calling for equal access to test preparation for public school students, and I echo that call today. We can do even more.

It is also time to create new specialized high schools, one in each borough, which would use a portfolio admissions system to choose its freshman class. These schools must also guarantee admission to the top two students in each public middle school. We must ensure that the best and brightest from every community have a chance to excel.

Last year The Bronx Tourism Council, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, put The Bronx on the map...literally. Not only do we now have a Bronx visitors map, but we are seeing sleek wayfinders on our streets. We will continue to promote the amazing cultural opportunities our borough has to offer on the national and international stages. Travel operators, writers and editors from South America, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands have come to discover and write about The Bronx, further solidifying our borough as a travel destination. With a number of new strategies and the upcoming, first-ever comprehensive, "Bronx Visitors Guide," we will continue to attract new visitors in 2015!

We will encourage everyone, regardless of their status, to show the world they are a real New Yorker by getting their official NYC ID.

With the BOEDC, local elected officials and other stakeholders, we will develop plans to improve the Kingsbridge retail corridor along Broadway. We will study the revitalization of our city's epicurean epicenter, the Arthur Avenue Retail Market. We will examine the future of the Cromwell/Jerome corridor, and consider ways to increase housing and commercial opportunities that will complement the existing community.

We will connect our neighborhoods across the water, by implementing ferry service in Soundview. And we will connect our communities across the land, as we work to bridge both halves of Van Cortlandt Park over the Major Deegan.

And we will, with our Congressional delegation, see to it that my predecessor and friend, Herman Badillo, is memorialized in the renaming of the Morrisania Post Office—a fitting tribute to his trailblazing record in Congress.



If we put in the effort, if we advance a strategy and work assiduously to see it enacted, nothing is impossible.

We can improve police/community relations. We can build a strong legislative agenda that makes this city a cleaner, safer place. We can create new jobs.

We can do all of this.

In his famous address before the Democratic National Convention in 1984, our late governor, Mario Cuomo, spoke passionately about the importance of government in the lives of everyday Americans.

He said, "We believe in a government that is characterized by fairness and reasonableness, a reasonableness that goes beyond labels, that doesn't distort or promise to do things that we know we can't do."

He said, "We believe in a government strong enough to use words like 'love' and 'compassion' and smart enough to convert our noblest aspirations into practical realities."

His words still resonate today. His words resonate within me, as I work with our civic and elected leaders, non-profits, first responders, our community boards, and every single one of the 1.4 million people who live here to make The Bronx a better place to live, work and raise a family.

So we move forward. We move forward, in the spirit of Herman Badillo and Mario Cuomo. We move forward, understanding that we can design and enact a transformative agenda for our future while also respecting the hardships and the glories of our past.

Look at where we are today. Look at the hundreds of Bronxites working here this morning. Look around you at this tremendous structure, and the new opportunities it has brought to our borough.

We can. And we will. Because we deserve it.

Thank you!

# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.

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## Press Releases

### STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS 2010

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

March 5, 2010

[Download a .pdf copy of the speech \(../pdf/sotb2010.pdf\).](#)

Jonas Bronck, our founder, first landed in the Bronx in 1639, bringing with him a small group of settlers to work on his farm, located at what is today 132nd Street and Lincoln Avenue. The Bronx would go on to play a major role in the founding of our great nation. Many Bronxites gave their lives fighting the American Revolution and Gouverneur Morris, a Bronx native, is credited with writing the preamble to our constitution, perhaps the most important document in the history of democratic government.

In the mid-1800's, the Bronx saw its first great wave of immigrants when severe famine in Ireland and political unrest in Germany sent waves of Europeans to our shores, a wave that would be repeated many times by groups from many different countries during the decades to come. The tenement dwellers of Manhattan and elsewhere saw the promise of the Bronx, and the suburban dream it represented, and rushed to it.

For too many, however, the history of the Bronx is that of the 1970's. Those years saw a great slide in our borough. Arson was the norm, and the crime rate here was astronomical compared to the rest of the city, if not the nation. During the next two decades, the Bronx saw millions of dollars in new investment, through direct government intervention and private partnerships, transforming once vacant lots into new opportunities. The last decade saw major corporate development in the Bronx, proving to all that the Bronx is a place where people want to do business, consumers want to spend money, and folks want to raise a family.

Our borough has come a long way. But we still have further to go. We know that the Bronx has seen tremendous improvement over the past three decades. But there is always room for more.

Statistics compiled by the United States Census Bureau show us that the poverty rate here is 28.3 percent, more than double the state and federal average. And our current unemployment rate is 13.9 percent, well above the national average and by far the highest in New York State. Only 21.6 percent of Bronxites own their own homes, compared to more than 55 percent of State residents and two-thirds of all Americans.

During my inauguration in May, I spoke of the concept of One Bronx—Un Solo Bronx—where we would all come together regardless of our differences to work for the greater good of the entire borough. One Bronx—Un Solo Bronx—where the good things in one community are good for us all, and the bad things in another community are equally bad for everyone. One Bronx is about standing side by side as one borough, to solve our problems and celebrate our successes together. The spirit of "One Bronx" was on display a few weeks ago, following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. People from every corner of our borough, regardless of their race, age or ethnicity; came together to donate what they could—food, money, clothing—to help those in need, despite their own hardships. The outpouring of generosity from Bronxites in response to the crisis in Haiti made me proud to be your borough president.

"One Bronx" means we will take the lead on "LEED"—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—and work as a whole to build and grow the green economy, while making sure Bronxites are prepared to take these jobs.

"One Bronx" means that, when one of our mothers, our daughters, or our sisters is taken from us through an act of senseless violence, we all feel it together. And

"One Bronx" means that when developers want to do business in our borough, they must do what is right for the entire Bronx, and not just themselves.

Our poverty rates, combined with our unemployment rates and these other statistics, show us just how far we have to go. My administration will bring the Bronx to the forefront of environmentally-friendly development, and we will take advantage of the benefits these jobs will create.

My push to build a greener economy is about more than just words. In the New York State Assembly I authored a law that gives developers tax breaks when they construct a green roof as part of their project.

My office has a sustainable development policy, and we will not provide any funds unless a project meets the highest possible level of environmental certification. In the last year my office funded a number of projects with major "green" components, such as the new library in Woodlawn, the award winning Via Verde mixed-use housing development in Oak Point, and Common Ground's Brook Avenue Residence, which creates permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals. We are putting our money where our mouth is, quite literally, at Borough Hall.

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the announcement of a federal grant for the Consortium for Workers Education that will be used to train more than 400 Bronx residents for work in the growing field of energy efficiency. We are also working in conjunction with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Fordham University to bring a co-generation plant to the college's Rose Hill campus. This project will lessen the burden on our electric grid, reduce pollution, and create dozens of new jobs. And, along with the promotion of other clean energy technologies, this project will be a significant step towards the development of an alternative power grid, leading to lower energy costs, right here in the Bronx.

I, along with Congressman Steve Israel, have co-founded the New York State Intergovernmental Energy Partnership, which is working to identify stimulus funding for green initiatives. And, through the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, this year my office placed in each of our borough's business improvement districts two "Big Bellys."

Have you seen the Big Belly yet? It's really amazing. When this garbage receptacle gets too full, a solar power press will activate and compact the trash inside. Because of this, the Big Belly is able to hold ten times the amount of garbage of a normal trash can. This means fewer pickups, which also means fewer trucks on the street. And these trash bins, which could represent the future of waste management in the United States, are manufactured right here on Tiffany Street, by my friend Franklin Cruz and his company, Direct Environmental.

You should know by now that I am serious about building the "green" economy, and these are just a few of the steps that we have already taken. My office will continue to work to expand green manufacturing opportunities in our industrial zones. We will encourage existing businesses to retrofit, and work to find incentives for them to do so. We can, and we will, create the blueprint—or should I say "greenprint"—to expand this emerging industry and lead the nation.

There are many great opportunities for development in the Bronx, and we will take advantage of them in the years to come. Our waterfront is virtually untouched, and with smart planning we can create new opportunities for housing, for economic development, and for recreation along our shores. I will push to expand the Empowerment Zone in our borough, so that more small businesses can benefit from the loans and other opportunities available through this program.

We need to make sure that more homeownership opportunities are afforded to Bronxites, in all neighborhoods. I am always happy when affordable housing is developed in the Bronx, but we must do more to ensure that new developments are built that offer Bronxites a chance to buy their homes. Homeownership leads to community stability, and my office will do all that it can to persuade developers to create more of those opportunities. A stable neighborhood is a better neighborhood, and more stability means a better Bronx.

Developers, however, do not bear the entire burden on this issue. I have been personally reaching out to our banking community to urge them to free up capital so that developers can make these projects a reality. We cannot make the dream of owning your own home come true without the proper funding, and I will continue to push banks to make money available to develop home ownership opportunities in our borough.

Last year my office's economic development arm, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, hosted the borough's first ever economic summit. At that event, business, community and not-for-profit leaders from every corner of the borough came together, as "One Bronx," to discuss the problems that face our borough. Together, we discussed the different ways we can tackle our issues, create new jobs and develop plans that will grow our economy. In the coming weeks, my office will begin to put forward a comprehensive economic plan, largely based on the ideas that were developed during this summit. Our plan will call for the expansion of the film industry, the creation of retail retention zones, and the development of a real hotel.

Think about it – we have the Bronx Zoo, great restaurants and the Yankees all in the Bronx. And yet, for too long a real hotel has been absent in our borough. Our business community and not-for-profit groups, which are in dire need of first-class conference space, could see this hotel become the centerpiece of a new revival. A new hotel would create hundreds of good-paying jobs offering health benefits, pension plans, and a chance for its workers to have a better life.

That is the kind of development we want to see in the Bronx...an opportunity that not only offers a much needed community benefit, but also creates meaningful jobs that offer Bronxites a career path out of poverty and into the middle class. We are all tired of visitors coming to the Bronx but spending their evenings in Westchester or New Jersey, taking with them the money that could have been spent in our restaurants and shops. Peter Ward, president of the New York Hotel Trades Council, and our administration will work together to seek developers who will make this concept a reality. Together, we will bring this much needed, and long overdue, project to our borough. We have a great deal to offer here in the Bronx, and hotel operators would be crazy to ignore us.

None of this will come easy, and I cannot do it alone. With that in mind, I would like to introduce everyone to Marlene Cintron, the new president of the BOEDC. Marlene will be my point person in our efforts to build and grow the Bronx economy. Marlene is an attorney whose years of service at companies like Merrill Lynch and Citibank, in state and federal government, and in the not-for-profit sector make her the perfect individual to lead the BOEDC into the new decade. Those of you who know Marlene know just how great she is, and if you don't know her you'll find out for yourself soon enough. I urge everyone to reach out to Marlene in the coming weeks and months to discuss your ideas with her and her staff, so that we can begin the hard work ahead of us. Marlene, good luck!

Though it is important, economic development will not be our only focus at Borough Hall. Last year my office was able to identify dozens of worthy organizations, and allocate more than \$21 million in funding to them. These funds will help to ensure that our schools stay strong, our parks remain beautiful, our senior citizen centers remain vital and our cultural organizations continue to provide the amazing programs they are known for.

Things are tough right now. The hit our economy has taken during the past two years has caused numerous budget cutbacks and job losses not only here, but across the entire nation. In times like these, our struggling not-for-profit organizations feel the budget pinch more than ever. I will fight, along with our borough's Council delegation, to make sure the Bronx gets its fair share of City dollars, regardless of the enormous budget cuts—to our senior services, to our schools, to our parks—that have been proposed by Mayor Bloomberg.

Additionally, we must make sure that all Bronxites, especially those that are new to this country, do not feel left out of the great conversation on the future of our borough. Look around this room...we know just how diverse our borough is, and we must continue to embrace that diversity. Statistics indicate that 31 percent of the 1.4 million people who call the Bronx home are foreign-born. Last month, I announced the formation of a new African Advisory Council. This council will serve a dual purpose. It will inform my office on the unique issues of this growing population while also directing them to services and available benefits. Our nation is a nation of immigrants, and they only want what our own forbearers wanted for themselves: a chance for a better life. My hope is that this council will serve as a model for other growing populations, and will help to weave our growing immigrant communities into the tapestry of our city.

To do that, we must make sure we are counted. My office will push to ensure that all Bronxites, particularly our immigrants, are counted in the upcoming United



States Census. The census results play a major role in deciding how much funding is made available to programs in our borough.

I cannot stress this enough...if we do not count, we will miss out. It's ten questions, and it takes ten minutes. We will protect our senior centers from budget cuts, and foster new initiatives to help them grow. This year, my office provided funding to 114 senior centers and programs in every corner of our borough. And we are doing even more for our elderly population. Just a few weeks ago I, along with the commissioner of the Department for the Aging, met with dozens of directors of Bronx senior citizen centers to discuss new programs, new funding opportunities, and to shape a vision for their collective future. My office is also preparing our first ever Senior Resource Guide, a great tool that will offer information about senior citizens centers, Social Security, veterans benefits, home care and many other topics that are important to our aging neighbors.

On housing, my office has been working with my colleague from Manhattan, Borough President Scott Stringer, to let tenants know their rights and protect them from scam artists that would seek to exploit the housing crisis for their own gain. We have created the first ever Public Housing Advisory Council, which meets once a month to work on solutions to a number of different issues facing our public housing developments. And my constituent services office helps dozens of Bronxites with their housing issues every day, making sure that Bronx families have a warm, safe place to sleep every night.

Just as our children cannot live in an unsafe environment, they cannot learn in an unsafe environment. My office has been leading the charge to make sure that our older school buildings are free of toxic chemicals, and has demanded that the Department of Education enact proper testing for PCB's in our classrooms. We have pumped millions of dollars into our Bronx schools to ensure that our children have the best learning experience possible—be it new computer equipment at P.S. 11 in Highbridge, the renovation of the library at the Grace Dodge Memorial High School, or the new planetarium at P.S. 24 in Riverdale.

And we are fighting to guarantee that when schools are closed in the Bronx, parents are given adequate notice and a real explanation as to why. The Department of Education, and Chancellor Klein, must know that we will not be ignored. When it comes to the success of our schools, we will be heard.

While the City will point to ever rising test scores on our State tests as evidence that the system is working, the results of the National Assessment of Education Progress indicate that achievement in our schools is stagnant at best. The SAT scores in many of our high schools are far too low. When the day ends, students do not have quality after school programs to attend. Art and music classes are no longer a mainstay of their daily curriculum.

Every month, I meet with a group of principals from our borough's public schools, and they have told me just how tough their jobs are, and how much more they need to make their schools a success. A majority of the students at our borough's two premiere public high schools, the Bronx High School of Science and the High School of American Studies at Lehman College, do not come from the Bronx. In fact, of the more than 13,500 eighth graders in Bronx public schools, only 334 were accepted into our City's specialized high schools. This number is far too low. We must work to change that...to ensure that our own students are prepared to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available to them.

I am a strong supporter of charter schools, and I will push to raise the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in this state, so that more children can take advantage of these innovative education opportunities. However, the criticism has been that when a charter school takes up residence in a public school building, it does not participate in the life of that building, nor does it become a part of the community-at-large. The equipment is newer, the walls are freshly painted...the charter school becomes an oasis within the school building, and the parents, students and administrators at that public school feel left out. We need to bridge this divide. That is why I am challenging charter schools to use some of the funding they receive through philanthropy to make everyone's world a better place.

When a charter school comes to a public school building, it should use its funding to upgrade the physical plant of the entire building, not just its own section. Charter schools are an important resource, but they must do more to be vital to the entire community.

Our "One Bronx" will be a healthy Bronx. To impact the health of our borough, Bronxites must be healthy themselves. A recent study ranked the Bronx as the least healthy county in the entire state. This is unacceptable, and my office will change this dubious distinction. To that end we will host a Food Summit in May. We will work to bring healthier food options into our neighborhoods, through the expansion of supermarkets and farmers' markets in underserved communities and the addition of healthy food choices in our public schools. We recently saw the passage of legislation allowing individuals to use their EBT cards to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at city farmers' markets. If we can accomplish this, surely we can do even more.

My office has partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through a \$1 million grant, to launch "Start Strong Bronx," an effort that will rally teens, parents, caregivers, educators, and community leaders to build an environment that supports healthy relationships among teens and ensures that violence and abuse are never tolerated.

And I recorded a public service announcement, as part of the "Bronx Knows" campaign, urging individuals to make sure they know their status and get tested for HIV. The Bronx makes up 16 percent of the city's population, yet 21 percent of all city residents living with HIV make their homes here. We also know that new diagnoses of HIV and AIDS are extremely high in the Latino and African-American communities, making it all the more urgent that Bronxites know their status.

During the two years this campaign has been active, more than 160,000 Bronxites have been tested for HIV and now know their status. My PSA, which is being broadcast in both English and Spanish in all city hospitals, is part of a greater effort to get all Bronxites tested, regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation. For our own good, and the good of our families, we must know our status.

In the last year, we have seen a great deal of heartache in the Bronx at the hands of illegal guns. In September Aisha Santiago, from Mott Haven, was killed by a stray bullet right in front of her child. In October, Sadie Mitchell, a 92 year old grandmother and pillar of her community, was hit by a stray bullet that went through the window of her own home. She was killed while walking to her kitchen. And in November, 16-year-old Vada Vazquez was hit with a stray bullet when she got caught in the crossfire of a shootout. Vada survived, and for that we are grateful.

These examples do not include the dozens of victims that have lost their lives to random gun violence over the years, victims who Bronxites cannot and will not forget. We can no longer tolerate the terrible wave of gun violence that has descended on our borough. I have been to too many funerals. I have seen too many



mothers and fathers...brothers and sisters...husbands and wives...families...torn apart by acts of senseless violence. It is time to stand up and say enough is enough.

Mayor Bloomberg and I do not agree on everything, but if there is any issue we stand side by side in agreement, it is the need for stronger gun control laws. That is why Congress needs to enact a national gun control law, so that we can begin to turn the tide against these random acts of violence. At some point all illegal guns were legal, so the protests of those who say that we are punishing law abiding citizens with our efforts must be ignored. We cannot allow outside interests to drive the debate, while our mothers, grandmothers and daughters are gunned down right before our eyes.

Changing the law is just one step. We have to do more. We have to teach our children that violence is not the answer to their problems. We have to teach our children that there are better, more productive ways to resolve their conflicts than to pick up a gun. In November, my office hosted a "Day of Outrage," with the purpose of showing the world that the Bronx has had enough of gun violence.

I grew up on Watson Avenue during the late 80's and early 90's. You could have accurately compared my neighborhood to the "O-K Corral." Far too often, many of my peers turned to a gun because they foolishly believed that violence was the only way to settle a dispute. I saw some of my friends killed, while others would spend the rest of their lives in prison. It saddened and angered me then, and my anger has only grown over the years. I have seen the devastation gun violence causes, and, as a father of two young men, I will not allow our youth to head down this destructive path without pushing back.

In January, we co-hosted a gun buyback program with District Attorney Robert Johnson and the NYPD at four churches across the Bronx. We were able to take nearly 1,200 guns off of our streets. Using this program as a model, my office will look to take an additional 1,500 illegal firearms out of circulation in the next year. And my office will continue to identify different initiatives and funding streams to combat gun violence in our streets.

"One Bronx" is real, and we have already seen its benefits. We saw it when each of our neighborhoods came together to help the earthquake victims in Haiti. We saw it when two of our own residents, Douglas Murphy and Horia Cretan, risked their own health and well-being to save the lives of their fellow Bronxites, people they had never met. And we see it in the heroes of our police and fire departments, who put their lives on the line everyday to make our communities a little safer.

And we know that when Bronxites from all corners of the borough and from all walks of life come together to fight for what is right and what is just, as "One Bronx," we can do anything. In December, we proved that. We stood together and sent a strong message throughout the city that we would no longer take a backseat when it came time to reap the rewards of our borough's economic development, and we defeated the proposed redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory.

For too long, City Hall has embraced the mindset that what is good for developers is what is good for the five boroughs, with little regard for the real needs of the community. Planning should drive development, development should not determine our planning.

Our land—our most important and valuable natural resource—has been taken from us through zoning and the sale of air rights. Development plans have been created with little or no input from the communities that will host these new projects. Developers have been handed millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, and in return, we have received part-time jobs without benefits that offer few, if any, chances for advancement.

Listen to me carefully. For those of you who would distort my position by saying that I want to stop jobs from coming to the Bronx...you are wrong. Nothing could be further from the truth. As I have said, the idea that any job is better than no job should no longer apply specifically when developers take millions of dollars in taxpayer funding.

Let me repeat that. The idea that any job is better than no job should no longer apply *specifically* when developers take millions of dollars in taxpayer funding.

When New Yorkers are already struggling to pay their rents, when they must worry about feeding and clothing their children, when our poverty rates are the highest in the nation, we cannot accept that the minimum wage is the best salary a developer can offer while they take so heavily from the taxpayers' wallets. If you want charity, you must be charitable. If you want a public benefit, your project must benefit the public.

Do not misunderstand me. I welcome development, and I am ready, willing and able to work with everyone that wants to do business within our borough. But we must raise the standard of that development. We must stand up and demand that major projects that receive heavy taxpayer benefits offer more than poverty level jobs. It is time to do better.

The fight at the Kingsbridge Armory was not about preventing development, nor was it about focusing on the parochial concerns of a small corner of the city. What we stood for at the Kingsbridge Armory was the right of all city residents to earn an honest living when developers take large taxpayer subsidies to make their projects work. Our call has been heard throughout the City, and I will lead the fight for better wages not just for Bronxites, but for all New Yorkers.

That is why I am proud that two of my Bronx colleagues in government, City Council Members Oliver Koppell and the dean of our borough delegation, Annabel Palma, have partnered with me to introduce a bill that would require builders who receive government funding for their projects to pay a living wage to the future employees of that development. In my conversations with leaders from across the city I have found that this is a priority not just here in the Bronx, but in all five boroughs. This bill has already received significant support, and I am hopeful that we will be able to see it become law this year.

And I do not want to see the Kingsbridge Armory remain empty. That is why today I am announcing the creation of a new task force, co-chaired by myself and Councilman Fernando Cabrera, that will examine the armory and discuss ideas for its future use, such as manufacturing, recreation, and other innovative uses. This task force, whose members will be announced in the coming days, will help shape a new RFP for this majestic building from the ground up. The community's voice will be heard.

My administration has begun to lay out an aggressive agenda to create new jobs that offer Bronxites not just a chance to work, but a chance to provide. We are

pushing for new jobs in the growing green economy, and we will make sure that Bronx residents are ready to take advantage of those opportunities. We are working together to make sure our schools are properly serving our students. And we are making every possible effort to ensure that our streets are safer.

The borough presidency provides a crucial resource for all city residents—to help them find work, to assist them in their housing crisis, to coordinate with neighborhoods to put forward a plan to make their communities a better place. Our community boards, my partners in government, are typically the first to know about new problems and issues affecting their neighborhoods. Community boards encourage civic participation and offer everyday New Yorkers a voice in the decision making process, and are critical to the life of our five boroughs.

Together, we represent the front line of democratic government for many, and we are typically more accessible than the massive bureaucracy at City Hall. Any effort to change that structure would be foolish, and would incur the wrath of all New Yorkers. In fact, the new reform charter revision commission must hear the voices of Bronxites and hold a hearing right here in our borough.

We have a great deal of work to do, and it will not be easy. But I have faith in the people of the Bronx. And we as elected officials must make sure that the people have faith in us, and that we respect and honor the trust that our constituents have placed in them.

I know that together, as "One Bronx," we have the knowledge, the skills, and the determination to tackle the issues the Bronx faces head on.

I know that, as "One Bronx," we have the will to stand up and fight for our neighborhoods, to ensure that we no longer receive the short end of the stick when it comes to economic development, education, and the critical funding our communities need to thrive.

I know that, as "One Bronx," we can make our already wonderful borough even greater. The Bronx is home—our home—and only by working together can we realize the bright future of our borough.

In 1931, the poet Ogden Nash published in the New Yorker perhaps the shortest, and most unfortunate, poem ever written.

*"The Bronx? No Thonx!"*

In 1964, a professor at Bronx Community College wrote to Nash to call him out on his mistake. Having seen the error of his ways, Nash replied:

*I wrote those lines, "The Bronx? No thonx"*

*I shudder to confess them.*

*Now I'm an older, wiser man*

*I cry, "The Bronx? God bless them!"*

We have come a long way—not only from the time of Jonas Bronck but from the days of Fort Apache and from the days when the Bronx was burning. There are wonderful things happening in our borough, and slowly but surely we are changing the minds of those who would only focus on the negative - just like Nash's mind was changed 46 years ago.

Together, as "One Bronx," we will change even more minds—and maybe even turn a few heads—as we usher in a new era of success to our hometown.

Let's get to work.

God bless you, God bless the Bronx, and God bless America!

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851 Grand Concourse Ste. 301

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-3500

[Email Borough President Diaz \(mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov\)](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov)



# BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.



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## Press Releases

### STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS 2011

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

February 24, 2011

[Download a .pdf copy of the speech \(././pdf/sotb2011.pdf\).](#)

One year ago, we came together just a few miles from here to celebrate our home—the Bronx—and our shared accomplishments.

Today, we come together to discuss not only how far we have come, but where we are headed.

We come together to celebrate our efforts to make every neighborhood, every block, even better.

We come together to stand up against those who denigrate our home.

And as we did last year, we come together as “One Bronx” – “Un Solo Bronx.” “One Bronx” is embodied in all of you who sit here today who have been working tirelessly for years, if not decades, to make the Bronx a better place.

Together we are expanding that vision and executing a plan that centers on holistic, intelligent development. A development plan which prioritizes greening our Borough at every opportunity. A plan that creates good, livable jobs. A plan that assists those businesses seeking to operate here. A plan that builds more parks and affordable housing. A development plan that serves all our Borough's needs.

Our goal, our commitment is to raise the standards and expectations for all in this Borough.

We will fix the way we do business in the City, by forcing corporations that lobby for taxpayer handouts to do better by the men and women they employ. We will not simply accept “business as usual.”

We will change the pay structure of this City, ensuring that a “living wage” goes hand in hand with heavily subsidized development.

Developers must do more for the Bronx, City Hall and City agencies must do more for the Bronx and we, the residents of the Bronx, must also do more.

We know from speaking with, working with, and living with each other that great strides have been made over the past 30 years. It is time to share that story with the world, and there is no better time to start than today, right here and right now.

This chapter of the story begins with our children. As former Mayor David Dinkins once said, “our children are our future,” so I am proud to report that we have, for the second year in a row, provided the highest amount of funding to schools in the history of my office.

The more than \$12 million in funding we have provided to Bronx schools will go towards new playground equipment, smart boards, physical plant upgrades and other major improvements to schools in every corner of our borough.

And we are not done. Our office continues to meet regularly with principals and administrators from Bronx schools at all levels through our education consortia to discuss their challenges and develop workable solutions.

And we will do more. Recently, I appointed Monica Major, a long-time parent advocate and Morris Park resident, to serve as my representative to the Panel for Educational Policy. I am thrilled to have her as part of my team.

Together, we will both recognize and build on the many great achievements happening in our schools.

In Mott Haven, M.S. 223 was honored this year by Intel as one of the top math schools in the nation. For their efforts, M.S. 223 will not only receive cash grants and prizes totaling \$160,000, but they will also continue to set the bar by which all other public middle schools will be measured.

Over the holiday break, the choir at the Celia Cruz High School of Music showed off just how special their talents are, winning the title of “Best Choir in New York City” at the Bronx Zoo's first-ever “SING! For Wildlife” competition. They competed against schools from every corner of the City. We already knew the Bronx was number one, and we thank the choir for going out and proving it. Now we can all sing it from the rooftops.

Discovery High School, in Kingsbridge Heights, continues to lead the City, and the nation, in green initiatives. Nine of its students completed a nationally recognized employment training program in green wall and green roof installation. In November, I proudly joined them when they were highlighted by NBC as a national leader in green innovation and given a chance to construct a green wall at Rockefeller Center.

Our schools are doing great things, yet there is still a great deal of work to be done. Last year, I correctly noted that while the Department of Education touted record-high scores on the State Assessment Test, the results of the national tests made it clear that something was wrong with the State's system. An investigation by the State has further confirmed that for years, the scores on those tests had been grossly inflated.

This fall my office will host an education summit, which will bring together the best minds on education from not only the Bronx, but from across the nation.

Through this summit, we will develop strong new ideas on curriculum, on overcrowding, and on expanding charter schools. We will work to foster innovation while also making sure our public schools, once again, are the best in the nation. We will put forward new ideas to make sure all students—from our most gifted to those who need extra help and everyone in between—are being served by our public school system. Our children must be prepared to enter college and the workforce, and the way to make sure that happens is to guarantee that our public schools are the best they can possibly be.

Our schools are getting healthier and safer. For several years my office, along with concerned parents and the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, has led a campaign to compel the Department of Education to acknowledge the crisis of PCB contamination in our schools and fix the problem. Recently, the extent of contamination has been proven to be city-wide. We all know that PCBs are extremely toxic chemicals that for many years were unwittingly put in building materials used in schools. PCBs are particularly dangerous to the health of both children and school workers. Schools are no place for children to be exposed to dangerous pollutants.

There is nothing more important than our children being safe while they get a proper education. Thanks to the efforts of our coalition, which includes Congressmen Jose Serrano, Joseph Crowley and Jerrold Nadler, the EPA has demanded that the City test and remediate PCBs from all schools that may be at risk. I am happy to report that this administration has finally made an attempt to treat the PCB issue seriously. They have proposed a plan that would allocate \$700 million to remove these contaminants from nearly 800 public school buildings over a ten year period. A good first step, but the time table is grossly inadequate. In announcing this program, the City is conceding that our schools have a real problem. We need a faster response...the health of our children is at stake.

We will never stop our efforts to protect our children from this serious threat. And let me be clear, PCB's are not just a Bronx issue, they're a city wide issue and I will work to make sure every elected official in this city makes this a priority.

Remediating PCB contamination is just one way we have made health a priority for school administrators. Last year, in partnership with the New York City Strategic Alliance for Health, we helped create the Excellence in School Wellness Awards. These awards recognize elementary schools for their efforts in creating a healthy school environment. This is key to preventing childhood obesity and improving academic achievement. We encourage all Bronx elementary schools to apply, and in due course, we will expand the awards to middle and high schools. My hope is that our schools can one day be measured not only by using test scores, but also by the health and physical fitness of their students.

To this end, we hosted the first ever Bronx Food Summit, which brought together individuals and organizations from across the City—such as health care institutions, food justice advocates, and people like me who just love to eat—to spend a day discussing strategies to bring more nutritious food choices to our borough, and to make sure Bronxites can and will take advantage of them. The event was wildly successful, and has led to the creation of a working group that has spent months developing and supporting health programs for the Bronx residents who need them the most.

We have great stories across the borough, not just in schools but in all walks of life. This year we were able to provide \$37.6 million in funding to worthy organizations in every corner of the Bronx. We are helping to renovate libraries in Woodlawn, Castle Hill, and Westchester Square. We are contributing to the redevelopment of the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, just a few blocks from where we sit today.

Yes, we must provide our children with a quality education, but we must also improve where they live and play. Parks all over our borough are getting much-needed improvements, thanks to our partnerships with local elected officials:

For instance, working with City Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, new playground equipment is headed to Fox Playground in Longwood. Council Members Joel Rivera and Jimmy Vacca have teamed up with me to rebuild Van Nest Park. State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and I are partnering to improve Belden Point, a beautiful waterfront park on City Island. Also, Council Member Helen Foster, Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson and I are partnering to improve Rocks & Roots Park in Highbridge.

In fact, twelve percent of our total budget allocation, nearly \$5 million, has gone to park reconstruction across the Bronx. Together, teaming up with local officials and community organizations, we are making sure Bronx kids have the green space they deserve.

Preserving our existing parks and greenways is a major priority. This summer, thousands of Bronxites stood together to protest the removal of old growth trees along Pelham Parkway as part of the roadway's long-awaited reconstruction. While this project is critical to improving the safety of motorists and pedestrians alike, it must move forward with minimal impact to the beautiful trees that line this scenic byway.

Hence, I was pleased to assist in the establishment of a task force specifically created to oversee the preservation of these historic trees. I look forward to working the Pelham Parkway Save the Trees Campaign, Community Board #11, the Pelham Parkway Preservation Alliance, local elected officials and the City to ensure that all viable trees along this Parkway are protected during the course of this project.

To quote the great philosopher Dr. Seuss from his book *The Lorax*, "I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues." The trees along Pelham Parkway, and our green space in neighborhoods across the Bronx, cannot protect themselves. Like Dr. Seuss said so eloquently, it is our job to protect them.

Like parks, we made great strides in improving housing. Our office has thrown its support behind major rezoning efforts that will lead to increased development in areas that are primed for new growth, including those in Bedford Park/Norwood and East Tremont and Third Avenues.

Over the course of my first two years as Borough President I have successfully leveraged approximately \$16 million in capital allocations into \$442 million in housing development. My support has facilitated the construction or preservation of over 1,800 units of housing, across 20 different projects of all types, including moderate-income homeownership, affordable mixed-income rentals, and supportive-housing for veterans, victims of domestic abuse and others with special needs. In fact, senior citizen housing represents the greatest number of projects receiving my support.

And we didn't just fund new housing projects; we also took steps to enhance and improve our existing housing inventory. Since I first became Borough President I have been working to assist the tenants living in neglected Bronx buildings. Many of these buildings were crumbling around them, while real estate speculators, interested only in profit, took advantage of, if not outright abused, hard-working Bronxites. In many cases, the treatment of these tenants rose, I believe, to the level of criminality.



I am well-aware of just how bad conditions were within the infamous Milbank and Ocelot real estate holdings—a member of my own staff was among those tenants who were being mistreated. Tenants within these buildings were denied basic human necessities—such as heat, hot water, and even locks on their doors—for weeks, if not months at a time.

This is unacceptable. Now we will be able to fight back early against real estate speculators who have abused the trust of both Bronx tenants and renters across the City. Last month, I joined with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg, and others to launch the "Proactive Preservation Initiative," a new program that will work to identify troubled buildings and make necessary repairs, before things get out of control and tenants are left in a hopeless situation. We will take advantage of these tools to ensure what we saw with Milbank and Ocelot—as well as other distressed properties—never happens again.

Just like our schools, we are working to make our housing healthier and safer. Consequently, we have put together a pilot program, investing half a million dollars to assist low-income buildings in our borough to convert from #4 and #6 heating oil to either clean-burning natural gas or #2 heating oil. Our first building—530 159th Street—is a 44-unit low-income cooperative currently in the process of conversion. This project and future projects like it, will not only reduce air pollution and energy usage through the consumption of cleaner fuel, but they will also help to keep housing affordable for low-income tenants while providing the market for green jobs, right here in the Bronx.

Burning cleaner fuel is one important way we can improve the health of Bronx residents. But we need to do more. As part of any major project in this City, developers must submit an environmental impact statement, which analyses the effects of physical construction on the surrounding area. But here in the Bronx, where we have some of the worst health indicators in the nation, that's not enough.

We are currently researching the incorporation of a health impact statement for every major development project. Such a report would explore the health effects of land use decisions, guaranteeing that significant analysis will occur prior to planning, zoning, and development. My staff and I are currently working with Council Member Arroyo, chair of the health committee, and other City Council members to develop the best way to move forward with this important proposal, that ensures that new development does not have an adverse impact on the health and well-being of our neighborhoods.

However, we are not waiting for the rest of the city; it is with the health of our borough in mind that we are already working toward the continued greening of the Bronx. We already require new projects to meet LEED certification in order to receive funding and I call on the rest of the City's elected officials to make this a city wide mandate. As we have already shown, we're not just talking about change for new construction but actually undertaking efforts to retrofit existing buildings to make them more environmentally-friendly, as well.

It gets better. We also administer the Bronx Initiative for Energy & the Environment, which works to help both new and existing businesses "green" their physical plant and make the Bronx a cleaner place. Last year, we approved five loans, totaling nearly half a million dollars. Also, through the Bronx Empowerment Zone, we approved 20 additional loans for more than \$2.3 million. For our smaller businesses we have the "springboard" program, which offers both low and no-interest microloans. More than \$50,000 has been approved through the microloan program, with much more to come this year.

My administration has and will continue to make intelligent economic development a reality. We have taken major steps to market the Bronx to new businesses, to support our existing businesses, and to grow the overall economy of our borough. A recent article in "City Hall News" commended our office for its focus on economic development, noting that the \$300,000 I allocated to support the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation has gone a long way towards the continued revitalization of the Bronx economy.

The proof is right in front of us. Since October 2009, our Business Initiative Corporation has provided 41 loans to Bronx businesses, totaling just over \$24 million. The BIC also has seven loans pending, which will push another \$5 million into our borough's economy.

In all, we have lent more than \$32 million since 2009 to Bronx businesses, from major corporations just entering the Bronx to mom-and-pop shops that have been here for years. In the past year the BIC has increased its lending by 52 percent... an impressive number at any time, but even more impressive during a down economy. Late last year our BIC was honored by the Small Business Administration as a "Bronze Lender" for their work in expanding borough business. At this rate, we'll be heading to gold in no time.

But these are more than just numbers on a page. These are the success stories of the new Bronx economy.

Right here in Mott Haven we have helped Verdero, an athletic apparel and equipment company with exclusive marketing rights to Major League Baseball. With a \$191,000 loan, Verdero will be able to increase their merchandise for the upcoming season, create new jobs, and expand their business beyond the borders of the Bronx.

In Hunts Point, specialty food supplier, Gourmet Guru, was able to outfit its brand new, state-of-the-art warehouse with top of the line, environmentally friendly equipment thanks to \$300,000 in loans.

We are changing the borough's power grid as well. Two companies, C. Kenneth Imports and Flat Rate Movers, took loans to install solar panels on their roofs. Both companies will not only save money by upgrading their energy supply, they will also reduce their carbon footprint.

In June, Down East Seafood in Hunts Point was able to purchase an all-electric, fully refrigerated delivery truck—the only such truck on the road today in New York City. The truck can travel 150 miles before being recharged, and produces zero emissions.

In September, we were awarded almost \$270,000 by the attorney general's office to develop a green roof, in partnership with ABC Carpet and Home, that will not only decrease the company's utility bills, but will also absorb rainwater and reduce storm water runoff pollution in the Bronx River.

Together with State Senator Klein, we were able to bring Cross County Federal Savings Bank to Van Nest. Not only will this branch offer area residents a new banking opportunity, it will also increase foot traffic on this important commercial strip.

We also helped to secure \$5 million in funding through the IDA for Jetto Cash & Carry, one of the most critical businesses in the region. If you buy groceries or eat in a restaurant in this city, chances are you've purchased something that originated at Jetto. This loan will give Jetto the ability to undergo a major "green" expansion at its Hunts Point facility.

Providing funding is not the only way we have helped Bronx businesses in the past year. For the first time ever, thanks to our advocacy, SCORE has come to the Bronx. Through the federal Small Business Administration, SCORE provides free counseling to start-ups, entrepreneurs, and businesses looking to expand.

Also this year, in partnership with the BOEDC, Major League Baseball and the New York Yankees held a seminar to increase their contractors and suppliers from the Bronx.

Each and every day the BOEDC acts as a clearinghouse for Bronx businesses. We do not just provide funding, but help with tickets, violations, infrastructure and a variety of other issues that all businesses, both large and small, are faced with. In fact, in the last year alone, the BOEDC provided assistance, financial or otherwise, to nearly 700 Bronx businesses. And that has made a real difference in our borough.

Much of this success can be attributed to the hard work of Marlene Cintron, president of the BOEDC, and her staff. Since Marlene was brought on a year ago, she has been working tirelessly to not only bring new business to the borough, but to offer opportunities for our existing businesses to grow as well. Thank you, Marlene.

We've also been doing more work to bring new visitors to the Bronx, through the Bronx Tourism Council. This year, the tourism council offered the first-ever eco tours of the Bronx. These tours give visitors the chance to take in the sights at Riverdale's Wave Hill, visit the wildlife at the Bronx Zoo, and canoe the Bronx River. Our parks are beautiful, our waterways are gorgeous, and why shouldn't we show them off?

The long awaited visitors' center at Poe Park is almost complete. This project, funded jointly by our office and City Council Member Rivera and scheduled to open in October, will create new public space where visitors to the Bronx will be able to get information not only on historic Poe Cottage, but the many wonderful attractions our borough has to offer.

When it comes to tourism, we had a pretty good year. More than two million people visited the zoo, with almost 700,000 visiting the botanical garden. People from all over the world, including yours truly, participated in this year's Tour de Bronx. Diners continue to flock to Arthur Avenue and City Island, and visitors to Woodlawn Cemetery can now take advantage of a new interactive audio tour that we helped to fund. Tourism means more money spent in our restaurants, more visitors to our major cultural institutions...more commerce in our borough.

Yet despite our efforts, the growth of our tourism industry faces a major challenge: we lack a world-class hotel. That is a problem we are trying tirelessly to fix. Just a few weeks ago the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium brought to the Bronx thousands of out-of-town visitors from as far away as Kansas. Unfortunately, fans of Syracuse and Kansas State football were unable to explore all the Bronx has to offer.

While a new hotel is not here just yet, we have seen movement on a number of fronts. We have been working diligently, in conjunction with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, to bring a top-flight hotel to the area near Yankee Stadium. We have begun discussions with multiple developers who have shown a keen interest in building a 200-to-300 bed hotel, complete with street-level retail, restaurants, entertainment, catering and convention space just blocks away from the stadium.

This development would serve as a new tourism hub for our borough, while creating hundreds of good jobs for Bronx residents and greatly enhancing the area surrounding Yankee Stadium.

As many of you have heard, the Yankee Stadium parking lots are facing severe financial problems. The parking fees being generated by the facilities are not enough to pay the debt on the bonds issued to pay for their construction. For the past two seasons, only about 60 percent of the available parking spaces have been filled. With the support of the Bronx Parking Development Company, which operates the parking facilities, we believe one of the older garages could be used for the hotel development. This would create an incredible win-win for the people of the Bronx and the parking company.

It will not be long before you can take in a Yankee game and walk just a few blocks to your Bronx hotel room.

And my office, together with Governor Andrew Cuomo as well as city and federal officials, is working to make sure that the Hunts Point Produce Market—and the thousands of jobs it provides—stay right here in the Bronx. While certain Machiavellian municipalities have attempted to woo the market away, we have made real progress in the past few months, and I am confident that a new deal with the market's tenants will be reached in the near future.

This spring, we will release a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. Last year, I announced the creation of a Kingsbridge Armory Task Force, which would be charged with developing a plan for the future of this historic structure.

Many have said that no one would ever be interested in the reuse of the Kingsbridge Armory. They are wrong. The interest in the armory we have seen has been amazing, and enthusiastic. We have heard from healthcare, cultural and educational institutions about the use of the building. The film industry has expressed great interest, and many studios from across the city, such as Kaufmann-Astoria and Silvercup, came to us with plans that would duplicate their success elsewhere right here in the Bronx.

We heard from one developer, New York Arena Management, who wants to convert part of the armory into a sports arena. Officials from the YMCA also visited us, interested in replicating their success at the Park Slope Armory in Brooklyn.

Nobody can argue that Fordham Road, which sits one subway stop away from the Kingsbridge Armory, would not have been devastated by a retail mall. In the summer, shoppers would have abandoned Fordham Road for the air conditioning...in the winter, the same would be said for the heat. A covered, climate-controlled shopping mall...the end of Fordham Road as we know it. And all at taxpayer expense.

There are alternatives. In October, New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service chose the Kingsbridge Armory for a study through its highly competitive Capstone Program. The Capstone Program is very well-respected, so much so that multiple city agencies have used its services to design and plan major projects. For several months, Capstone has been providing our task force with valuable support as we move forward on developing a new plan for the armory. The report of this task force must be the cornerstone of a new RFP, and I invite the mayor to join with me to responsibly redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory.

Responsible redevelopment means that whatever plan we choose has a direct positive impact on all citizens, not an elite few. Right now, the Bronx has a poverty

rate of 28.5 percent. A recent report by the Fiscal Policy Institute found the bottom 90 percent of city income earners make 34.5 percent of all money made in the city.

In contrast, the top one percent of the City's income earners make 44 percent of all money made in New York. In fact, the same study noted that between 1990 and 2007, hourly wages in this city actually fell almost nine percent.

These numbers are even more shocking when one looks at just how much development has taken place during the past decade. Since 2002, more than \$11 billion in new development took place in the Bronx. Yet we still have the highest poverty rate of any urban county in the United States. How do we address this? What is the solution to this huge income gap? How do we make these development-dollars work for "One Bronx?"

We have a real problem in this city. This is why I am leading the fight to pass the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers" Act, a bill that would require developers who receive heavy taxpayer subsidies for their projects to provide a "living wage." Not only is this the right thing to do to lift our people out of poverty, it is sound economic policy.

A study of 15 cities with similar "living wage" laws, by the Center for American Progress, found that wage standards, such as the requirements put forward in this bill, do not have a negative effect on job creation. This report is not the only credible research we have on the positive effects of a "living wage" law. Professor Robert Pollin of the University of Massachusetts has done extensive research on "living wage" laws. He has found that such laws give workers more money to save, allowing them to lower their debt and make much-needed purchases.

Fiscal conservatives should join me in support this legislation. As Pollin's research demonstrates, wage standards reduce reliance on food stamps, welfare, and other government assistance.

Twenty-nine members of the City Council have signed on to this bill, putting us another step closer to making "living wage" the law. This year I will work to ensure that the City Council holds hearings on this legislation, so that we may begin the discussion on changing our city's wage structure in earnest. It is time to hold hearings on this legislation, and for the City Council to bring it to a vote. The people of New York City cannot afford to wait.

We've worked to improve the quality of life for all Bronxites. And we also worked throughout last year, to make sure all Bronxites were counted by participating in the United States Census. Through our efforts, we were able to bring the total number of Bronx residents who were counted to 65 percent, up from 56 percent in the last Census. Census participation is critical to ensuring that we obtain our fair share of funding and resources, and I am proud that so many Bronxites heard our call and made their own voices heard.

The Census affirms the great diversity we enjoy in the Bronx; a diversity that must always be celebrated and used to unite us. In October, a brutal anti-gay attack in University Heights against three young men brought the Bronx into national focus. This horrific moment of atrocious violence was sickening, and pushed a diverse group of Bronxites into action.

But even the ugliest moments brought out the best of our borough. In response to this event and several other bias incidents, my office, together with Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson and the police department, have created a task force, to be made up of clergy and community leaders from all faiths, ethnicities and sexual orientations, designed to stand together in the face of future hate crimes. Not only will this team act to show Bronx solidarity in our most trying times, it will work to educate Bronxites on the definition of a hate crime, how to report a hate crime, and how we can work together to prevent such incidents in the future.

Yes, we are deeply committed to the concept and reality of 'One Bronx.' That same month, I wrote to President Obama, urging him to make the long-awaited repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which prevented LGBT Americans from serving openly in our armed forces, a reality. The repeal of this law hit close to home for me, as my own niece had been forced to resign from the Navy for no other reason than being openly gay. Late last year Congress finally passed a repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which President Obama then signed into law. I am happy to report that many members of the borough's LGBT community, including my niece, are planning to reenlist in the military thanks to this courageous act.

This was a major step forward. We cannot tolerate any step back. I have often spoken of "One Bronx," where we all work together to promote the best of the borough, while also standing up as a whole to push back against what hurts us. The spirit of "One Bronx" was on display in November, when Community Board #10 condemned these attacks. This horrific incident happened on the other side of the Bronx, yet this board stood up and urged all Bronxites to join together and combat all acts of violence and discrimination. This is the epitome of the "One Bronx" mentality, and I urge all community boards to follow Community Board #10's lead and pass a similar resolution showing their commitment to a peaceful, unified Bronx.

These actions, as well as other efforts by Bronxites from all walks of life, will show the world that we are united as "One Bronx." We can disagree with one another on the issues, but those disagreements must be respectful. And we do not and will not tolerate any act of violence against a fellow Bronxite, especially when that violence is related to race, religion, or sexual orientation.

"One Bronx" is about coming together. "One Bronx" is about different, diverse communities standing as one. "One Bronx" is about supporting our efforts to improve every one of our neighborhoods.

This past year nothing filled me with more pride—and illustrated the spirit of the "One Bronx" mentality—than the enormous response that we received for our "Peace in Our Streets" initiative. This past fall we led hundreds of volunteers into neighborhoods that had been identified by the police department as hotbeds of gun violence. This initiative promoted the NYPD's 866-GUN-STOP program, which collects tips on illegal guns and offers individuals a \$1,000 reward when that information leads to an arrest.

We walked the streets and spoke to people about crime in their neighborhood. We went door-to-door in some of our most challenging public housing developments and handed out information on this program. We reached thousands of Bronxites, and the message we heard from them was loud and clear: they are tired of being terrorized in their neighborhoods... they are tired of keeping their children inside, for fear that they will be struck down by a stray bullet... they are tired of the violence. I agree...enough is enough.

And our efforts have already begun to pay off. Last year, the police received 181 tips through this hotline, resulting in the confiscation of 79 guns, 158 arrests, and



rewards of \$50,000 paid out to concerned tipsters. These numbers would not be possible without the help of the hundreds of volunteers who joined us, to work for an end to violence in our Borough. Many of you are here today, and I ask that each of you stand up and be recognized. You are the heroes among us, people who quietly work to make the Bronx a better place. Our "Peace in Our Streets" initiative would be nowhere without all of you. We will be back on the ground in just a few short weeks, continuing to spread our message of peace to new communities. I urge all of you to join with your neighbors and join us on the streets.

The Bronx has indeed come a long way during the past 30 years, and we have all played a major role in that renaissance. In the early 20th century, the Bronx was known throughout the world as a borough of neighborhoods, of families, of strong communities working together for the common good of their hometown. Great art, literature, and cultural achievements have come from the Bronx.

In *The Jazz Singer*, which was the first movie in the history of film to feature sound, the lead character assures his mother that when he becomes a successful Broadway star, they will leave Manhattan and move to the luxury of the Bronx. Great authors, from Edgar Allen Poe to Mary Higgins Clark, have all made their home here. Great entertainers, such as Al Pacino, Aventura, Willie Colon, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Regis Philbin, all have Bronx roots. We are the home of Nobel Prize winners, like Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, and of Pulitzer Prize winners like David Halberstam. Internationally renowned fashion leaders, like Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, as well as and pioneers like Herman Badillo, Colin Powell, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, have all called the Bronx home. When hip-hop took the world by storm, it did so from right here in the Bronx.

It is time to let the world know once again that the Bronx is a place of success. We face challenges—in education, in the economy, in making our borough a greener place. But we are all committed to the rebirth and continuing revitalization of our Bronx—the place we call home.

This year, we will continue to build our economy into a force to be reckoned with. We will not listen to the naysayers who say it cannot be done in the Bronx... instead, we will show them how.

We will continue to fight to make our schools better, both in curriculum and in environment. We will not listen to those who say our children are already doing as well as they can...we will show that they can do better.

We will fight to make sure that more Bronxites are able to support their families and rise out of the clutches of poverty. We will not listen to those who say that poverty is an inevitable part of life in the Bronx...we will show them that those chains can be broken.

There are success stories all around us. But the best is yet to come. Please join me on this journey...our journey to a thriving "One Bronx."

God bless you, God bless the Bronx, and God bless the United States of America!

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851 Grand Concourse Ste. 301

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-3500

[Email Borough President Diaz \(mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov\)](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov)



**STATE OF THE BOROUGH 2012**  
**Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President**  
**February 23, 2012**

Today, for the third time, we join to recount our past year of working together to make our shared home—the Bronx—a better place to live, to work and to raise a family.

This past year, we spent a great amount of our collective time and effort advancing a bold agenda for the future of the borough—on economic development, on education, on transportation, and across the many issues that face our neighborhoods.

We said we would bring new business to our borough, take advantage of our underutilized assets and grow our economy in a smart, sustainable way. And we have.

We said we would put forward a real plan for the future of our City's public schools. And we are.

We said that we would change the way business is done in this City, by ensuring that taxpayer handouts are used not only to enrich developers, but to enrich everyday New Yorkers as well. And we did.

We have executed a holistic vision for the current and future development of our borough, one focused on intelligent investments that make sense not only for individual neighborhoods, but for the entire borough. Through comprehensive planning and community collaboration, we are reshaping the Bronx and advancing a strong agenda for its future.

Where better to begin than with our borough's flourishing "green" economy, which has been the cornerstone of my administration. We have made it our policy that we will not fund a project unless it complies with "green" industry standards. This increases the demand for green jobs and supplies, and drives the green economy in our borough. It also ensures a healthier Bronx.

Our commitment to a greener, healthier borough continued this year. My administration leveraged almost \$6 million in capital funding into hundreds of units of housing, including senior citizen housing in Hunts Point and home ownership opportunities at the Via Verde co-ops on Brook Avenue. This project, which was highlighted in *The New York Times* as a leading model of sustainable development, will offer state-of-the-art living space for Bronx residents with an eye towards a healthier environment.

But it gets even better. This year, not only did we put our funding dollars into worthy green projects, we recruited a major "green" manufacturer to Hunts Point. In November, I was proud to announce that Smith Electric, an all-electric truck manufacturer based in Missouri, is moving their operations to the Bronx, thanks to the efforts of my administration and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

Not only does Smith Electric represent a major manufacturer choosing the Bronx as its new home, but the move will also create more than 100 green jobs, right here in our borough.

Now, Smith Electric will need customers to purchase those trucks, and they have already begun negotiations with our newest Bronx neighbor, FreshDirect. We have secured a strong written agreement with FreshDirect, one that will secure jobs for Bronx residents, a greener environment and stimulate economic activity in our borough. Not only will FreshDirect bring 3,000 total jobs to the Bronx, they will expand their business to neighborhoods across the borough. Over the next five years, FreshDirect plans to convert their entire delivery fleet to a cleaner, greener one.

One day, it is my hope to see a fleet of zero-emission FreshDirect trucks, built by Bronxites and driven by Bronxites. This is an unqualified victory for the Bronx. To top it off, in Hunts Point we will soon see an alternative fuel station—one that will offer services to electric vehicles—thanks to a collaborative effort between my office and the City's Economic Development Corporation.

Do you see how things are coming together? These three projects join together perfectly. This is smart economic development, and this is just the beginning.

Since we arrived in Borough Hall our BIC, the lending arm of the BOEDC, has lent more than \$33 million. That money has been leveraged into \$88 million in new investments and more than 1,200 new jobs. These numbers are so significant that the BIC has been recognized by *Crain's New York* as one of the top lenders not just in the City, but across the entire State.

We have changed the way business is done in the Bronx, and it shows. Major companies are making their way to our borders, to take advantage of our able workforce. In the past three years we have seen unprecedented interest in the Bronx, and a major influx of private development dollars into our borough.

For example, Metropolitan Realty Associates has announced that it will build a major new facility at the site of the former Stella D'oro cookie factory. This project will include several high-level national retailers, will serve as a major traffic hub for the entire Broadway commercial corridor, and create more than 400 jobs in the process.

Across the borough, but just down the block from us today, Prestige Properties has announced the imminent expansion of the existing retail mall at Bay Plaza, the first such construction in New York City in almost 40 years. This mall will be anchored by a new Macy's department store, and is expected to create more than 2,000 construction jobs along with more than 1,700 permanent jobs. It will also provide new shopping opportunities to Bronx residents and visitors from across the region.

We are rewriting our history through new development, as well. When United States President Jimmy Carter visited West Farms in 1977, he witnessed firsthand a blighted, rundown Charlotte Street. Today, that area is filled with dozens of private homes. This year, my administration helped clear the way for a plan that will complete the revitalization of the West Farms neighborhood, approving the largest private rezoning in Bronx history, just down the block from Charlotte Street.

That rezoning will allow for Signature Urban Properties to bring \$350 million in new investment to West Farms, by transforming an underutilized industrial area into a dynamic, mixed-income residential community. The project will feature nearly 1,300 new housing units, 30,000 square feet of retail space and a new school, creating more than 400 jobs in the process. This development will also include new public space, have a heavy “green” component, and will serve as the blueprint for what we want to see from developers in this county.

We have also been working to strengthen and retain our existing businesses, especially at the Hunts Point Produce Market. Last year, I noted the importance of this economic engine to the City, and this year my office facilitated an agreement between the City and the market’s tenants, giving us the time to put forward a long term deal that will maintain Hunts Point’s status as the premiere produce market in the world for decades to come.

In December, at our urging, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that his administration will allocate \$29.5 million in funding through his Regional Economic Development Councils for the redevelopment of the market, as part of a larger infusion of \$37 million in State dollars into our borough. This is in addition to the city’s \$87 million commitment to rebuild, modernize and green the Hunts Point Produce Market.

This much is clear— if our goal was to make the redevelopment of the Hunts Point Produce Market a high priority at all levels of government, then we have succeeded. This market feeds the entire region, and is directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of thousands of New Yorkers. Working together with our colleagues in the City, State and Federal government, along with business leaders from across the State, we will keep this economic engine right here where it belongs.

We said we would keep the Hunts Point market in the Bronx, and we did. We brought Fresh Direct to the Harlem River Yard. In both cases, the Bronx stood up to New Jersey and soundly defeated them. Twice in the past year, New Jersey lost a food fight.

We have seen unprecedented cooperation with the Bronx at all levels. This past year we negotiated with Cablevision to ensure that the future of Bronxnet, our own public broadcasting service, will remain strong. My administration was able to secure a new agreement that not only provides Bronxnet with the financial resources it needs to grow and prosper, but also showcases Cablevision’s commitment to serving as an exceptional corporate citizen.

This is not small change. Over the next decade Bronxnet will see an infusion of more than \$30 million in capital and programmatic funding, providing it with the financial support it needs to upgrade and expand its facilities and technology. These plans include the creation of three additional sites. At these new locations, Bronxnet would be able to continue to train hundreds of Bronxites for careers in media while expanding their programming options to Bronx residents.

And we aren’t stopping there. We said we could do better than a mall at the Armory and we proved it. Last year, my administration, together with Councilman Fernando Cabrera, announced the creation of the Kingsbridge Armory Task Force. In collaboration with NYU’s Capstone Program, we released our much anticipated report in June. The report explored the

feasibility of a number of potential uses—including recreation, green manufacturing, and even a film studio—that would work at this historic structure.

We reviewed a diverse group of proposals, shared our findings with the Bloomberg administration, and they listened. In January, Mayor Bloomberg and I announced the release of a new RFP for the Kingsbridge Armory. This RFP lets developers explore a wide spectrum of uses, allowing us to bring a project that will enhance and complement the surrounding community.

The future development of the Kingsbridge Armory will serve as the foundation for the revitalization of the Northwest Bronx, in ways that a retail mall never could. I am confident that, working together with this administration, we can and will bring a new tenant—and living wage jobs—to this highly valuable and unique Bronx asset.

Such major projects cannot happen on their own, but require collaboration at all levels of government and community alike. In that regard, I would like to introduce you to our new Bronx City Planning Commissioner, Orlando Marin. Orlando has the right combination of knowledge, principles and expertise to help push our aggressive development agenda, and I welcome him to our team.

While we are indeed pushing for the major developments that will serve as the anchors of our borough's economy, we are nurturing our small businesses as well. For instance, our administration has thrown its support behind the emerging Westchester Square Business Improvement District, and we will work together with that organization to help improve the business climate in that hub of activity.

Through the BOEDC, we have helped more than 1,000 businesses in one way or another this year. We helped through permit assistance, filing out MWBE forms, or even a microloan. We know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we will continue to support their growth.

And one way to help them grow is to bring them new customers, from all parts of the region. Tourism is a great way to help our borough's economy, and my administration and the Bronx Tourism Council will continue to partner on unique, innovative events that increase visitors, revenue and attention to our borough.

In 2011, we supported the landmark status of the Woodlawn Cemetery and brought salsa back to Orchard Beach with "SalsaFest." Both helped to bring new visitors, and new commerce, to our borough. We also hosted our borough's first-ever restaurant week, "Savor the Bronx." With the help of our partners in the New York State Restaurant Association, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and American Express, dozens of borough eateries participated in this inaugural event, offering foodies and epicureans alike a chance to sample the great cuisine the Bronx has to offer.

Our tourism efforts already attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to our borough each year. This year, we'll bring even more.



Another big attraction is on the way. The golf course at Ferry Point Park will finally see its completion, thanks to an agreement we reached last month. This partnership between the Parks Department and developer Donald Trump will create a PGA Championship-level golf course that will not only serve as an amenity to the Throggs Neck community, but will stand out as a major hub for tourism in our borough once completed.

In the near future, drivers entering the Bronx from the Whitestone Bridge will not see a barren landfill, but a top quality golf course. This course will not only draw tens of thousands of players from across the world, but major pro golfers like Phil Mickleson and Vijay Singh.

This new golf course just adds to the growing list of attractions bringing people to the Bronx. Through our long standing institutions like the zoo and the botanical garden, or with newer events like the Pinstripe Bowl or concerts featuring Paul McCartney, the Big 4 of Heavy Metal, Madonna or Pink Floyd's "The Wall," tourism is growing in the Bronx. Yes! We are changing our brand, and becoming known for gourmet restaurants, first-rate events and top-notch cultural institutions.

Isn't this great time for a first-class hotel to come to the Bronx?

In September, the BOEDC was authorized to solicit interest in hotel development at one of the parking lots near Yankee Stadium. Several excellent proposals were put forward to us, and we have passed them on to the City for the consideration of a future RFP. The long-held dream of a world-class hotel in the Bronx is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Our brand is changing in a variety of ways. Our borough's leadership has never been so united, and we are seeing results. For many years, various City and State agencies treated the Bronx as an afterthought. Nowhere was this more evident than at the MTA, which year after year, cut Bronx service and ignored necessary repairs in our borough, all while raising our fares.

This is starting to change. When I was a member of the New York State Assembly, I successfully fought for funding to rebuild the subway stations along the 6 line, and that work is coming to completion as we speak. In addition, we now have two strong Bronx advocates on the board of the MTA in Charles Moerdler and my good friend and predecessor Fernando Ferrer, and already we have seen a big difference in how we are treated.

In September, the MTA announced that the 149<sup>th</sup> Street subway station, one of the most heavily utilized stations in the City, will finally undergo much needed repairs. That only happened thanks to our joint advocacy.

And we didn't stop there. We know that greater connectivity to both traditional and emerging employment hubs is critical to our borough's future development. That means greater access from places like the Hutchinson Metro Center, to Midtown and Stamford, Connecticut. Working with the MTA, we have breathed new life into the plan to bring Metro-North railroad service to the East Bronx. This would include possible stations in Hunts Point, Parkchester, Morris Park and right here in Co-op City.

In the fall, we hosted a meeting of elected officials, business leaders and others to gauge their interest in such a plan. The feedback we received was uniformly positive. While some may be concerned with costs, in the long run this proposal would save money, as it would eliminate our borough's overreliance on buses. This year, we will continue to work with officials on all levels of government in order to make certain that this major project finally becomes a reality in the East Bronx.

While these projects are scattered across the borough, they work together to move the Bronx in a positive direction. We are enacting our conceptual "master plan."

Can you see this coming together? We are balancing the needs of individual neighborhoods with the needs of the entire borough, and our development agenda is moving forward because we are attentive to those concerns.

A retail mall may not work at the Kingsbridge Armory, but could be the perfect addition to Bay Plaza. What works in one location may not work for another. But all together, these projects are working for the Bronx.

The health of the Bronx is a major part of our agenda, as well. Year after year, we see statistics indicating that when it comes to health the Bronx is a leader in everything that is bad, from asthma to obesity rates and everything in between. In our efforts to combat that, we are showing our support to our many healthcare institutions by funding critical projects that are important to their growth, especially given the fact that the healthcare industry is our borough's largest employer.

Our funding lead to a major expansion of Urban Health Plan's headquarters on Southern Boulevard, the new ultrasound equipment at Lincoln Hospital and the relocation of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities. This is, of course, important work. But we need to do more. It is time for a boroughwide discussion on the health disparities that impact our communities.

That is why, this coming year, I am calling for a Bronx Health Summit. Like our economic development and education summits before it, this event will bring together the best minds on health and wellness from across the nation to devise a comprehensive plan to put the Bronx on the right track. We will hold this event next year, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our work to make the Bronx healthier has already begun. Last year, I announced that my administration, together with our City Council delegation, has taken steps toward making our building stock healthier and more environmentally-friendly. We recently hosted the first planning meeting on the development of a Health Impact Statement, a new Citywide policy guaranteeing that significant analysis will occur prior to planning, zoning, and development.

We are off to a good start on this proposed policy change, and this year my administration is committed to advancing this conversation. Together, we can determine how the utilization of a Health Impact Statement will lead to improved health outcomes not just here in the Bronx, but across the City.

Such collaborative efforts are the cornerstone of our success. We are willing to put forward our own ideas on a variety of issues, and work together to see them enacted. One such area is education, where despite the claims of some, we know that our public schools have, at best, remained stagnant over the past decade.

That is not to say that good things are not happening in individual schools across the Bronx and the City. Each of us can point to a student, a teacher, a principal or a school that is raising the bar on performance, and making us proud of our public schools.

I can point to quite a few, myself. At P.S. 48 in Hunts Point, the students in the music program bested 500 schools from across the nation to land a \$50,000 prize as part of a contest connected to the popular television show “Glee.”

At Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School, Kate Belin has been recognized as one of the top math teachers in the five boroughs by the Fund for New York City. Her work revamped that school’s curriculum, tailoring it to the specific needs of her students.

And, of course, right here at Truman, Principal Sana Nasser has presided over a renovated building, new planetarium, a popular cooking program and a school on the rise—a high school that can serve as a model for our entire borough.

These are great examples, and my office is working to help every school see similar success. That is why, for the third straight year, the highest percentage of our capital funding, 30 percent, went to our borough’s public schools.

Since I took office in 2009, my office has funded new computers, smart boards and other technology upgrades in schools all over the Bronx. We funded major library upgrades at the M.S. 135 campus in Morris Park and at the Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship. We built a new playground at P.S. 69 in Clasons Point. We’ve even funded upgrades to auditoriums and performance spaces in public schools across the Bronx, including the room we are sitting in right now.

This year, I named Monica Major, who had represented us so admirably on the Panel for Educational Policy, to serve as my new director of education. At the same time I appointed Wilfredo Pagan, a longtime education activist, to replace Ms. Major on the PEP. Together, they are the eyes and ears of my office on the critical issue of education.

And we have a great deal of work to do. In all five boroughs, there are significant issues that need to be addressed.

Last year I announced that we would host a summit on education, which was held this fall. At that event we heard from hundreds of individuals and organizations at all levels of the borough’s education network, many of whom put forward interesting, innovative ideas on improving school performance for Bronx children.

One thing that came up, over and over again, was that parents do not feel like their voices are heard in the public schools. Parent engagement is perhaps the most important aspect of public education. If parents are not involved, our children fall behind. My administration has already begun to address this.

This year, in partnership with Mercy College, we funded a new, innovative program known as the “Bronx Parent Center.” This center is focused on family and leadership development in our public schools. This initiative has also funded two parent centers at P.S. 46 and P.S. 85, both in the northwest Bronx. Such a program could become a model for similar partnerships across the City, and I thank Aramina Ferrer, who first brought this partnership to my attention.

We will also work to expand education options for our children in their earliest years. This includes ensuring access to gifted and talented programs for all students who qualify, and expanding early childhood education opportunities. Early childhood education is a right, not a privilege, and we will push the Department of Education to offer these options to every family.

We must also expand our “Career and Technical Education,” or CTE programs, in our high schools. A perfect model of what CTE could look like in our borough is the Association for Energy Affordability, an organization that I funded. The Association for Energy Affordability works to train Bronxites for careers in the growing “green” economy, offering young men and women first-hand experience in construction, manufacturing and other important aspects of the growing labor field. Wouldn’t a similar program be a real asset to our high schools?

Next week, we will release the full report from this summit; an agenda that will outline the changes we believe must be made in order to better serve our students. We will present these recommendations to Chancellor Walcott, and we will stand together and push for meaningful change on education. We will make the system work for children across the five boroughs.

We not only support our public schools, but our charter schools as well. In my first “State of the Borough” address, I spoke of the need for charter school operators to focus not only on their own well-being, but that of their neighbors.

We have seen a model for such partnership grow at the John F. Kennedy High School campus, where New Visions for Public Schools has opened two charter schools. Rather than keep to themselves, New Visions went out of its way to reach out to the public schools also housed in the building.

Now, the entire culture of the school building is changing, and students throughout the campus are able to take advantage of the support systems New Visions offer. This is a model of public/charter collaboration, and one I hope can be expanded across the borough.

We also need to focus on higher education. This is magnified in immigrant communities, and is of special concern for Bronx students. We cannot—we will not—give up on these students.

Often, these young people drop out of high school because they erroneously believe they will not be able to pay for college. The Board of Trustees of SUNY took a great first step last month by



passing a resolution supporting the expansion of the state's Tuition Assistance Program to all students, regardless of immigration status. This is why I stand with the Governor and echo the call for a New York State Dream Act!

Investing in education is the most important anti-poverty instrument at our disposal. But it is not enough on its own. We have too many people working multiple jobs just to get by. The economic subsidy policies of the City must be invested in jobs that offer individuals a chance to live the American Dream. This year, we were successful in our efforts to make our economy work for everyone, and not just the privileged few. We have come to an agreement with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and the "Fair Wages for New Yorkers" Act will become law.

Soon, when major economic development projects solicit heavy taxpayer subsidies, they must pay their employees a "living wage." Speaker Quinn and a large majority of the City Council emphatically endorsed the fundamental premise of our position. If you take heavy taxpayer subsidies you must do better by your workers.

Let me be clear: what we have developed with our partners in the City Council and the Living Wage NYC Coalition, will be the strongest "living wage" law in the United States. Mayor Bloomberg should join our efforts, and join the majority of New Yorkers who support this bill, and sign it into law when it lands on his desk. As the *The New York Times* put it when they endorsed our legislation in December, "this bill makes sense."

Look how far we have come in just two years. Look how much we have changed the conversation on development and income equality. But this is just the beginning. In the coming years we will expand our push to level the playing field in our State.

The same broad coalition that pushed for a living wage—of clergy, labor, community, elected officials and the general public—must remain united, and join the effort to raise our minimum wage. We must stand together and carry our fight from the Kingsbridge Armory up to Albany, and build on our momentum. We will not listen to the arguments of those defending the status quo.

All of us, together, as "One Bronx," have done the hard work of developing our ideas for a better Bronx. Almost 65 percent of those who took our 2011 Bronx Wellness Survey said they had a "positive" or "confident" outlook on life in the Bronx, illustrating what we already knew.

Things are not always good, but even in our most trying times we have worked to make things better. In recent weeks we have seen a spate of high-profile incidents between the police and the community, actions that threaten to derail the progress we have made on police/community relations over the past decade.

We cannot and will not tolerate police misconduct. We must demand that our police department is better trained to work with our communities in a respectful fashion that honors the dignity of life. At the same time we must passionately support the hard work of the overwhelming majority of men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line to protect law-abiding citizens each and every day.

While there has been a great deal of protest over police behavior in the past few weeks, the fact remains that most Bronx residents want to see the police in their neighborhoods. In our survey, the overwhelming majority of Bronxites said the main way to control crime in our streets was to give our borough a greater police presence.

That is why we will continue our necessary work with law enforcement and community leaders to curb illegal gun violence in our neighborhoods, through our “Peace in our Streets” program and other initiatives, to make sure they are safe for everyone.

And the Bronx is a place for everyone. Last year, I spoke of the need for our borough to come together in the face of hate, following a horrific anti-gay attack in the west Bronx. This year, I was proud to cut the ribbon at the Bronx Community Pride Center’s new space at the Rev. Ruben Diaz Gardens on Kelly Street. What I saw that day was Bronxites of all ages, races and sexual orientation standing together to celebrate the success of one group as though it was their own.

There was no division. There was no hate. There was only “One Bronx,” as it should be.

That positive energy, that confident outlook on life, and that spirit of partnership and community, is what we are going to need to make sure our seeds take root, and that the tall trees of our economy, our education system, and our healthcare system grow for years to come.

I’ve seen those partnerships bear fruit already, as my administration has worked with dozens of elected officials, community groups and others to make the Bronx a better place during the past three years.

Working together with our community boards, we were able to push participation in our survey to the highest levels, higher than the city of Philadelphia was able to reach on their own survey. Working with community organizations across the Bronx, we were able to host amazing events celebrating the wonderful cultures that make up our beautiful borough—be it Irish, Italian, Jewish, Muslim, Puerto Rican, African-American, South Asian, Dominican, Garifuna, Mexican and more.

We partnered with Assemblyman Carl Heastie to give our livery cabs legal protection and allow for street hail access in all five boroughs. We worked with State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson to advance a major rezoning in the Williamsbridge and Baychester communities. We joined with State Senator Gustavo Rivera to launch the Bronx CAN health initiative. Through our capital funding, we partnered with Council Members Helen Diane Foster and Maria del Carmen Arroyo to bring a green roof to the new Highbridge Middle School.

We’ve funded major renovations and technology upgrades in schools across the Bronx, partnering with City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera. We are working to return public access of the Jerome Park Reservoir with Assembly Members Jose Rivera, Naomi Rivera and Jeffrey Dinowitz. We have stood with Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson in her efforts to help victims of domestic violence.

On Metro North's expansion we stand united with City Council Member Jimmy Vacca, the chair of the transportation committee, to advance our plan. We will work with State Senator Jeff Klein to raise the State's minimum wage, and with Congressman Jose Serrano to expand the Bronx River Greenway.

Thanks to legislation put forward by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, we are working to retrofit Bronx homes with energy upgrades, making our borough a greener place. We are fighting to keep our post offices open with Congress Members Eliot Engel and Joseph Crowley.

With Councilman Cabrera and Assemblyman Nelson Castro, we are making sure our faith-based organizations can continue to rent space in our public schools, as they have for decades.

We funded close to 100 senior centers and programs across the Bronx this year, and we are working to make sure our seniors have continued access to these valuable programs with State Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. We are battling violent crime in our streets with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo.

And on living wage, we would have been nowhere without the hard work of City Council Members G. Oliver Koppell and Annabel Palma, the prime sponsors of this important legislation.

Indeed, our elected officials are united as never before, working to make the Bronx an even greater place to live, to work and to raise a family. But we cannot do it alone.

We need all of you, together, to help ensure that new business finds a friendly face in the Bronx.

We need all of you, together, to work to make our borough a greener, healthier place, by changing our attitudes and making small adjustments in our lives.

We need all of you, together, to nurture our youth and encourage them when they do well, but to also take responsibility and act when they need to do better.

We need all of you, together, police and community alike, to work for a safer environment in which to raise our children, while doing so with mutual respect.

We need all of you, together, to join our fight to guarantee that City tax dollars are spent wisely, and have a greater rate of return for our taxpayers.

And we will do this as partners. We need to do this as a team. Vince Lombardi, a great football coach with strong roots here in the Bronx at Fordham University, once said, "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society."

Take a look around this room. Can you see the amazing team we've assembled? Can you see how our agenda is coming together, thanks in no small part to all of you? We have a great Bronx team right here, our own version of the New York Yankees or the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. Our elected officials, our businesses, our community groups, our non-profits and

our neighbors are united as never before. We are working together, as a team, to implement the good ideas our borough needs to grow in the short term, and thrive in the future.

Together, as a team, we will move the Bronx forward into a new age of success. And together, as a team, we will win.

Thank you, God Bless the Bronx, and God Bless America!



**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS**  
**RUBEN DIAZ JR., BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

Good morning!

I am proud to stand here today, for the fourth time, to deliver my annual “State of the Borough” address.

I stand before you, honored and humbled, to have your full faith and confidence as we lead the Bronx into a new age of success and prosperity.

I stand before you fully aware of the tremendous contributions of those who came before us, while also building for future generations.

I stand before you as the president of a borough which has taken tremendous steps towards a brighter future.

And I stand before you today at the Monroe campus, here in Soundview, where it all started for me. I never thought, so many years later, I would serve as the chief executive of my hometown.

The Bronx has come a long way in the last few decades. Crime is down, investment is high, our neighborhoods are cleaner, and our economy is growing.

In my first term we have taken every step and opportunity available to advance the New Bronx, and we are succeeding.

What is the New Bronx? The New Bronx is a place that is safe — safer, than many major cities. The New Bronx is a place where crime continues to drop to record lows.

The New Bronx is a place with stellar infrastructure, and a willing workforce.

The New Bronx is a place of diversity, where a full 40 percent of all of our residents were born in another country—and we embrace that diversity.

The New Bronx is a place where you can enjoy world-class cultural and recreational opportunities, or eat a top-notch gourmet meal.

The New Bronx is a place where we have put more than \$94 million in direct capital funding into nearly 300 projects, creating jobs, thousands of housing units, rebuilding our schools and improving our parks.

The New Bronx is a place where, together with Marlene Cintron, the president of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation; and its lending arm, the Business Initiative

Corporation of New York; we have leveraged \$60 million in loans into over half a billion dollars in investment.

The New Bronx is a place that saw almost \$1.5 billion of new investment last year, and more than \$4.5 billion since 2009. The New Bronx is a place where we have helped to create or retain thousands of new jobs, and will create thousands more.

That, my friends, is the New Bronx.

We're outlining a new agenda in education, health and economic development, and wherever possible we are merging all three. At the same time, we're ensuring that business in our borough adheres to sustainable development standards.

We are growing by leaps and bounds. We are seeing significant progress in our efforts to make the Bronx an even greater place to live, work and raise a family. We are moving forward.

The arrival of my administration in 2009 meant a new paradigm. We would use every means at our disposal to insure that business as usual was no longer the norm.

In this New Bronx, that had to change. We needed to become more aggressive in attracting new businesses, while also encouraging those companies to hire Bronxites. We needed better wages and more local subcontractors, so that all corners of our borough could prosper.

For example, we've delivered FreshDirect and Smith Electric, and they will do business together, as the former purchases zero emission trucks from the latter. We will see major commercial hubs built in Kingsbridge and Throggs Neck, and the borough's first ever indoor mall in Bay Plaza. At every turn we are providing direct recruiting services to these companies and the many others that have chosen to make the Bronx their home.

What we accomplished this year will have a profound and lasting effect on the borough. With assistance from the New York City Industrial Development Agency, we've secured 18 projects that will result in another \$550 million in capital expenditures. These projects will retain and or create more than 5,000 permanent jobs, in addition to thousands of construction jobs.

For example, Montefiore Medical Center is building a \$230 million office tower in the Hutchinson Metro Center. This development will create hundreds of construction jobs and new healthcare jobs, and my office was proud to help make it happen.

We were also successful in expanding medium-sized businesses, such as Manhattan Beer Distributors, Smith Electric, and Baco Enterprises, which is a steel instruments manufacturer. These three projects combined will provide more than 700 jobs.

Expanding the depth of the borough's food industry, we attracted seven new retail and wholesale food businesses, including Foodfest Depot, --R Best Produce, a FineFair supermarket, --Krinos Food, --Big Farm Corporation, --a new Fairway bakery, -- and, as I mentioned earlier, FreshDirect. We've seen Bronx Brewery break ground on a new facility in Port Morris, bringing our borough its first brewery since 1968.

In partnership with Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council we secured a capital allocation of \$400,000 for a new organic produce facility and rooftop garden in Oak Point, operated by Gotham Greens. And when the Hunts Point Produce Market renovation is finally underway, the Bronx food industry will continue its undisputed role as the bread basket of the tri-state area and a super-generator of jobs.

Now, big projects may make the news, but in fact we are assisting businesses of all sizes.

The BOEDC continues to give microloans to smaller companies, and in August I was proud to stand with our U.S. Senator, Kirstin Gillibrand, to call for new tax breaks for start-up companies.

Perhaps the best way to help small business is to bring customers through their doors, which is why we hosted our second annual "Savor the Bronx" restaurant week in partnership with the Bronx Tourism Council, an important event following the incredible loss of business they saw in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

Tourism remains a great way to help our small businesses grow, and this year we expanded on many of our existing programs while also introducing new ones. We launched a new tourism publication, *The Bronx Now!*, aimed at bringing visitors from the entire region to the great attractions in our borough. We will see an expanded *Salsafest!*, new Spring tours, and an even bigger Bronx Week.

And there's more. 2014 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bronx County...an occasion I'm sure we will all want to celebrate. In the coming weeks, I will announce the formation of a commission that will help guide a year of events commemorating this milestone.

None of this is possible without an active Bronx Tourism Council, and its dedicated director. With that said, I would like to officially introduce everyone to Olga Luz Tirado. Ms. Tirado is an award-winning communications professional, and I am thrilled to have her as part of our team.

And let me explain how we all work together. In October, one of our borough's most well-known eateries, Tony's Pier, was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The day after the storm, I saw the damage firsthand, and directed my office to assist them. The BOEDC has been coordinating with the City's Economic Development Corporation and other federal agencies, like FEMA, to make sure they get help. Once they've rebuilt, the Bronx Tourism Council will be there to bring them a crowd. And I'll be first in line.

This is all part of our conceptual master plan, a plan we have put into motion in my first term...a plan that leads to complementary development and good job opportunities for the people who live here.

Such a model offers significant benefits for the entire City, especially in our commitment to "sustainable" development. Superstorm Sandy has pushed climate change, and the need for environmentally-friendly development, to the forefront. As I've said before, I will not fund a project unless it contains a comprehensive "green" design.

Since taking office we have put more than \$25 million of our capital budget into 35 different housing projects, creating thousands of construction jobs and housing units in the process. For example, we are revitalizing Borinquen Court in partnership with the Westside Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing. We are replacing the roof, rebuilding apartments and assisting with a total green renovation.

Another approach we have utilized to achieve cleaner housing and reduce unhealthy emissions has been through our Solar Thermal Initiative, which we kicked-off this year with a \$400,000 capital allocation. This pilot program helps residential buildings install Solar Thermal Hot Water systems, reducing the costs of heating domestic hot water in multi-family buildings.

Such efforts have garnered us national and international attention. In fact, this year the prestigious Big Apple Brownfield Awards recognized three major Bronx projects for their environmentally-friendly components, while also presenting me with their distinguished service award, for my longtime commitment to sustainable development.

These programs are just the beginning of our plan to retrofit the Bronx while hastening green job creation. That's why today I am proposing that we create a fund that will leverage our capital dollars with existing programs at the federal, state and city level, so that more residences can take part in what we are doing. We have to be smarter with how we spend vital tax dollars so we can create more sustainable housing, so that everyone can recoup the remarkable savings that come over time.

We're not just greening our buildings and our commercial vehicles, we're also working to green our mass transit system as well.

That's why this year we took on another project, one that has been contemplated in the Bronx for more than 40 years, and moved it further along than ever before. Today, we are closer than we have ever been to expanding Metro-North in the eastern corridor of the Bronx.

We've always heard that the people of the Bronx were united in their deep desire to see this happen. But that support was made clear this fall, when hundreds of residents of Hunts Point, Parkchester and Morris Park—and over a thousand residents of Co-op City—showed up at public hearings to support this plan.

Last year, I spoke about how transformative this project would be...how it would open our borough up to new development, employment and housing opportunities. That has not changed. We need this. Over the past year, I have been in constant contact with our borough's elected officials on this proposal, and everyone agrees. In fact, the governor's NYS 2100 commission, formed in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, has recommended this project as a critical component in hardening our transit infrastructure.

This year, we will push for its full funding in the MTA's upcoming five-year capital plan. The dream of Metro-North service in the East Bronx must become a reality now.



Metro-North service to the East Bronx is not the only long-awaited projects that are coming to life in our borough. After years of advocacy, we will finally see a first-class hotel opened in our borough next year.

I am pleased, and I am sure you all are as well, to welcome the Marriott hotel chain to the campus of the Hutchinson Metro Center, where the company has announced plans to build a 125-room Residence Inn. In the past, those visiting family and others in our borough have found themselves looking for places to stay in Westchester and Manhattan. This hotel will keep them in the Bronx.

Our development interests extend to our schools, as well. Since 2009 we have funded nearly 150 education projects at nearly \$21 million, helping to rebuild infrastructure and bring new technology to the borough's public education institutions.

Without great schools, we would not have national chess champions at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics, or one of the nation's top debate teams at the Bronx High School for Law, Government and Justice.

Without great schools, we would not see success stories like the Green Bronx Machine at Discovery High School, where teacher Steve Ritz has built a citywide model for green education. In December Steve was honored with a Chevrolet GREEN Educator Award, and I was thrilled to present it to him.

Also in December, we named a longtime parent advocate as our borough's new representative to the Panel for Educational Policy. Robert Powell is a resident of Wakefield and a parent at Lehman High School, which I attended. Over the years he has demonstrated a serious commitment to the betterment of our public schools. Welcome to our team, Robert.

Robert and I—and all of you—have more to do. We have an aggressive agenda to improve our schools, and we have put forward serious ideas for the future of public education. Last March, we teamed up with Truman High School and Mercy College to launch the Bronx Achievement Pact, an innovative new educational initiative that aims to raise high school graduation rates, enhance college readiness and maximize college enrollment by pooling resources and offering high school students a chance to earn early college credits.

We are also working to make the specialized high school admissions process more equitable, and in May we released a report highlighting Bronx students' severe underrepresentation in Specialized High Schools as a consequence of inadequate test preparation and other factors.

This report called for the Department of Education to expand test preparation options in our most disadvantaged communities. It also called for increased gifted and talented programs and the creation of alternative methods of admission to specialized high schools. Two of the best public high schools in the United States—the Bronx High School of Science and the High School of American Studies at Lehman College—sit within our borders. Yet our kids are unable to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities such schools offer.

That must change, and that change must begin right here. Already, this report was used in the lawsuit filed by the NAACP seeking to bring equity to the City's admissions process for these schools. We know that some of the brightest middle school students in the City, if not the nation, live here in the Bronx. It is time for the Department of Education to give those kids the resources with which to succeed.

Bronx children must have access to great education opportunities, ones that lead to high-paying careers.

The facts are clear. We have a significant disconnect between the skills needed to compete in the economy and those available in the workforce. In 2010, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or STEM fields accounted for 64 percent of all specialty-employer visa requests nationally. Locally, that translated in 50,000 jobs.

Can you imagine if just half of those jobs were filled by Bronxites? Our borough needs a new school that can prepare our children for these careers. A school like the P-TECH school in Brooklyn. It is a six year high school, grades 9 to 14, where the curriculum is driven by professionals from IBM and the students graduate with a degree from New York City College of Technology.

They are doing college level work in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We need a school like this in the Bronx and we cannot afford to wait.

The Bronx is ripe for growth in this field, and we have all the essential parts for a vibrant tech start up sector to take hold and expand. In fact, it is our goal to partner with Hostos Community College so that their plan to build a new Allied Health and Science Building becomes a reality. We will work with the next mayor to see that happen.

It is also time for all of us to ensure that our kids—and our adults for that matter—are physically able to succeed. That is why this year we will host our first-ever health summit. Like our education and economic development summits before it, this event will help us outline a path forward on the major challenges that face us, such as asthma and obesity.

This is a paradox. How is it that our borough's largest employer is the healthcare industry, that we are home to some of the most prestigious medical institutions and centers of care in the world, that we house a medical school conducting life-changing and life-saving research, but yet we have some of the worst health indicators in the nation?

We have a number of questions that need to be answered, and we won't be able to accomplish everything in one day. But together, we will organize a day of substantive discussion on the topic of healthcare, and outline a blueprint for change for our constituents.

Speaking of our constituents, my office's constituent services unit, last year alone, helped Bronxites with more than 3,400 individual cases. Since 2009, the unit has handled more than 12,000 cases.

This is what it means to be an elected official—to help people—be it the community that's asking for help with traffic improvements, or the father who needs to register his child for school, or the mother who needs a job.

This is what we're in it for, and I'd like to take a moment to thank my constituent services staff for all they do.

Economic development is growing. We're creating new jobs. We're getting healthier. Good things are happening in our schools. At every turn, the New Bronx has seen dramatic improvement. Yet we are still fighting the stereotypes of a previous generation. It is time we bury the idea that the Bronx is unsafe.

In January, my office released statistics that showed a dramatic reduction in violent crime. In 2012, the Bronx saw its lowest murder rate since 1963. In fact, we are dramatically outpacing cities like Boston, Newark and Philadelphia in preventing violent crime. And we of course want to thank Commissioner Ray Kelly, Assistant Chief Carlos Gomez and the entire NYPD for their efforts to make the Bronx safer.

It is so important that we use these statistics to show the world how far we have come. It is time for us to take greater ownership of our brand --to elevate the Bronx brand.

When individuals or groups seek to invoke the past to describe our hometown, let them know that it is not the truth.

Yes, the Bronx has improved, and violent crime has dropped dramatically. However, we do not live in a vacuum. The national conversation on gun control needs to address the culture around gun ownership. Isn't it incomprehensible that no one questions regulations for toy guns, but we do for real guns? Why does any Bronxite—in fact any American—feel the need to own a gun?

Does it make sense... that someone who has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor is eligible to own a gun? Why do the youth of our city think that a gun can solve their problems? Maybe they need to visit the morgue, to see exactly what this trajectory leads to!

I support the President and our Governor in their efforts to ban assault weapons. I also introduced a resolution, which passed unanimously, calling for a full study of our City's pension investments, so that we can identify just how much of those funds are fueling gun profits.

And we must thank our State delegation for moving so quickly to pass the NY SAFE Act, putting our state at the forefront of tougher gun laws. New York always leads the way, and they proved it last month. Take a bow!

We cannot stop there. We must work with our partners in government at all levels to make sure that the President's plan to require criminal background checks for all gun sales becomes law.

We must support microstamping, allowing police to match ammunition used in crimes to the gun it was fired from. It's also time to limit the number of guns and amount of ammunition an individual can purchase at any given time, and to require a drug test to get a gun license.

We must also be willing to help the police take guns off of our streets by seeing criminals put in jail. And we did that, continuing our "Peace in our Streets" campaign this year, reaching out directly to Bronx residents to encourage them to report illegal guns in their neighborhoods.

Solving the gun problem goes hand in hand with lower recidivism rates in our borough and our City. Statistics show us that we have a significant population of repeat offenders.

My office is dealing with this issue on two fronts. In June, we received funding from the State Department of Criminal Justice Services to implement the first ever Bronx Reentry Taskforce. I would also like to thank the Governor, Senator Gustavo Rivera, Senator Hassel-Thompson, and Assemblyman Eric Stevenson. As a result of our advocacy, the Fulton Correctional Facility will be transformed into a unique and comprehensive one-stop-shop for services for those released from prison. Through these initiatives we will help these individuals lead a productive life, and do our best to keep them from returning back to prison.

We must also ensure that those who engage in gun violence are not allowed to escape the spotlight. Today, I propose the creation of a new gun crime registry, with reporting requirements similar to those as sex offenders. The registry would be available online, and would require perpetrators of gun violence to keep updated records with the police regarding their living and employment arrangements. Law-abiding citizens ought to know who among us is responsible for gun violence, and this initiative will do just that.

This issue affects me so greatly, because I love the Bronx so much. I often tell school groups how inspired I am to be borough president, having grown up in the Bronx and spent my entire life here.

In this borough, we have the most kindhearted, caring citizenry anyone could ask for, and nowhere was that more clear than in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

The Bronx was not hit as badly as other communities. Yet those who were affected found a comforting shoulder and a ready hand in their neighbors. Bronxites went to Staten Island to help homeowners dig through the wreckage, while delivering toys at Christmas to children in Rockaway Beach. This borough's response in the face of Hurricane Sandy, the charity and love we showed our neighbors in the wake of this devastation, made me more proud than anything else to be your borough president.

We are doing great things. We are ushering in new development, and seeing long-coveted projects come to life right before our eyes. We have encouraged companies to move to the Bronx, not only from other boroughs but from other states and countries, while strengthening the economy for businesses that are already here.

We've fundamentally transformed the way our City does business with our tax dollars and passed a "living wage," in partnership with Council Members Annabel Palma and G. Oliver Koppell.



We have outlined real reforms for our public schools, and for restoring the promise of our specialized high schools for all students, all while providing tens of millions of dollars in funding to our schools for equipment upgrades and new technology.

We have leveraged tens of millions more into thousands of new housing units.

We have seen major developments--and new jobs they bring--in every corner of the Bronx.

We have outlined a plan, together with the MTA, to bring Metro-North service to the east Bronx, and will work with State Senator Jeff Klein to make that happen.

We have realized the promise of a major hotel chain making its home in our borough.

And we do all of this with an eye towards sustainable development, ensuring a healthier environment while also preparing our borough for the economy of tomorrow.

And the best is yet to come. In my next term we will continue to offer a bold, progressive agenda for the future of the borough, one that will see long-held dreams become reality and new ideas come to life.

In my next term we will continue to make the Bronx a greener place, as our businesses switch their truck fleets to electric, our buildings convert to cleaner fuel, and solar power become ubiquitous.

In our parks, we will continue to join companies like AT&T to bring wi-fi to more outdoor spaces. With Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz we will bring access to the Jerome Park Reservoir, and reopen the High Bridge for public use with Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson.

We will see the completion of the renovation of the Hunts Point Produce Market, so that this economic engine has the new home it deserves.

We will push to see our state's minimum wage increased, and work to pass "paid sick leave" legislation in our City.

With Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Mayor Bloomberg, we will bring responsible development to the Kingsbridge Armory.

We will continue to help our most vulnerable population—our seniors—having already put over \$4 million into 116 senior centers across the borough for daily meals, fitness training, tax assistance and even a new van at the James Monroe Senior Center with Assemblyman Marcos Crespo.

We will bring the PGA to our new golf course at Ferry Point Park with Councilman Jimmy Vacca, and a state-of-the-art tennis center to Crotona Park with Majority Leader Joel Rivera.

We will streamline our community board offices, using my task force's report as a guideline for greater productivity.

We will continue to support our libraries, which have seen their usage double in the past decade.

We will advance our "health impact assessment" legislation, together with Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

We will help our very own public television network—Bronxnet—as it expands in programming and capacity, opening its new studio operation in conjunction with Mercy College.

We will continue to pressure the City to clean our public schools, and to remove toxic PCB's from them.

There is so much to do, and so much I am proud of. Abraham Lincoln, perhaps one of our greatest presidents, once said that, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." Every single day we are working to build a new future for the Bronx.

Each day in our Bronx—the New Bronx—represents a great step forward to a better and more future. Good things are happening here, and there's more to come. We spent many years, many decades, building our borough. We've taken past successes and built upon them. Generation after generation of Bronxites—including many of you here today and our mayor Ed Koch—put in the hard work to make this borough what it is.

Look around you. Look at how the work has paid off. The seeds we planted so many decades ago are bearing fruit. And it doesn't stop there. We have to keep going. We must persevere. We must push forward. During the next four years we will—together as "One Bronx"—as a New Bronx, bring about meaningful change to our borough.

God bless you, God bless the Bronx and God bless America!

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS**  
**RUBEN DIAZ JR., BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

I am proud to stand before you today to deliver my annual “State of the Borough” address, here in one of the crown jewels of our city’s public education system, Hostos Community College.

Just a few weeks ago we officially kicked-off our full year of festivities and events celebrating the centennial of Bronx County. I stood with our City Council delegation to recreate the inauguration of our county’s elected officials back in 1914.

Our Bronx Chamber of Commerce presented my office with a plaque, outlining the tremendous growth our borough has seen over the past 100 years. And the Empire State Building, perhaps the most iconic symbol of this city, was lit in the colors of the Bronx to celebrate this great anniversary.

People are taking notice. We are opening minds and changing perceptions.

We will celebrate our heritage this year. But 2014 is not just about looking to the past. We will focus on the present, and develop smart plans for the future.

The Bronx is transforming, all around us. We are writing a new chapter of the history of our borough. And we are doing so in strong partnership with our institutions, businesses, elected officials, non-profits and, most importantly, the 1.4 million citizens who call the Bronx their home.

We do not stand still. We do not rest on our laurels. We are modernizing the Bronx—creating the “New Bronx”—and ensuring its strength and vitality not just today, but for centuries to come.

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, currency and stock certificates for countries and companies all over the world were printed in Hunts Point at the American Bank Note building. Today, that structure is home to the Sunshine Business Incubator, which has helped over 70 small companies take root through shared space and creative partnerships. That is the “New Bronx.”

Before anyone lived there, Co-op City was the site of Freedomland, a theme park that celebrated the history of the United States. This year, our borough’s first indoor mall, anchored by a brand new Macy’s, will open at Bay Plaza, creating hundreds of new jobs. That is the “New Bronx.”

For decades, the former landfill at Ferry Point Park was an eyesore. Drivers coming to the Bronx using the Whitestone Bridge saw piles of brown dirt as their welcome mat. Now, they will see the rolling hills of a lush, green golf course—a major new tourist attraction—with a first-class clubhouse and event space, created by the Trump Organization.

Donald Trump understands the power of his brand, and we are now partners. That is the “New Bronx.”

We have a great story to tell, especially when it comes to safety. The truth is on our side. In 2012, the crime rate in our borough was the lowest it had been since the early 1960's. Last year, we shattered that record.

We have made huge gains in crime prevention, and our reductions are setting the pace for the entire city. By certain metrics, the Bronx is a safer place to live than cities such as Philadelphia and Boston, and much safer than New Orleans or Washington, D.C.

But we have to rewrite outdated narratives. We have to think differently. If a politician in Paris decides to use our hometown to make a cheap political point, or a tour operator twists facts to make a quick buck, we will set the record straight. That is the "New Bronx."

We also have to make sure that our borough stays safe. For instance, we are reintegrating those who have faced legal troubles back into society. Last year, our reentry task force assisted more than 160 moderate and high-risk parolees with job training, housing placement, education and other services designed to reduce recidivism.

My Veteran's Advisory Council was also successful in creating a new "Veterans' Court" in Bronx County. This program serves as an alternative to incarceration, and will assist veterans whose felonies have resulted from mental or substance abuse problems arising from military service and steer them into treatment programs.

Another example is by enhancing security at our public housing developments, which can deter crime and improve quality of life for over 100,000 Bronx tenants. This year, we put more than \$5 million into providing seven NYCHA developments with various upgrades, including Middletown Plaza, Eastchester Houses, the McKinley Houses and others.

We have also put forward legislation designed to curb criminal activity. This year, we will renew our call for a statewide public "gun offender registry," similar to the private one that already exists and is used by the NYPD.

With Council Member Vanessa Gibson, chair of the City Council's Public Safety committee; as well as State Senator Jeff Klein and Assembly Members Carl Heastie and Jeffrey Dinowitz, we will pass this law.

Legislation can make us safer, but crime reduction starts on our streets. Nothing helps decrease crime more than a well-trained, professional police department, functioning in tandem with a civic-minded citizenry.

Yes, we have the greatest police department in the world. We owe our NYPD a strong round of applause for their efforts to keep us safe.

They cannot do it alone. The populace of the Bronx has played just as important a role in lowering crime. We owe ourselves a round of applause as well.



Safer streets, safer neighborhoods, a safer Bronx, requires a strong partnership between the people who live here and the police officers that serve us. We can always do better. And we must do better when it comes to “stop and frisk.”

Our new mayor understands how harmful “stop and frisk” can be, and is committed to reform. I stand ready to work with Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner William Bratton, in their efforts to reshape “stop and frisk” in a way that keeps our neighborhoods safe, but does so with respect.

There are other ways to rebuild the trust between the community and the police. We are doing this by creating new community partnerships, and healthier Bronxites, through an innovative program we launched in January, called C-BALL—the Community Board Athletic Leadership League.

The goal of C-BALL is to promote physical activity through basketball while facilitating engagement within our community boards and with city agencies, such as the NYPD. Our first game took place in January, and I am proud to say that I joined the elected officials team, but sad to say that we lost. It’s safe to say that none of us will be heading to the NBA anytime soon.

C-BALL is just one way we’re making our borough a healthier place. We held our first ever health summit last year, and nearly 1,000 individuals from all over the nation joined together that day to listen, to voice their concerns about health issues in the Bronx, and to begin outlining a plan of action. We are joining the City Council to push an expanded “paid sick leave” bill, and will redouble our efforts to require a “health impact statement” for construction projects this year.

We partnered with the Food Network and Cablevision to promote healthier eating in our schools, and our CAN initiative continues to help Bronxites make the small healthy changes in their lives that will eventually lead to big results. Through these projects and more we are creating a model for healthy living through community engagement, right here in the Bronx.

Our schools—where future generations of engaged citizens are created—are another key to a great city. Working with our education consortia, my office continues to meet with school and university leaders at every level to discuss capital needs, curriculum and the shared issues that face our public schools.

We’ve done some great work in our borough, thanks to the input and advice of these consortia, and I am grateful for their efforts. Since taking office in 2009 we have put almost \$24 million into 173 education projects at all levels. I’ve seen firsthand how important this can be, not just to a school and its physical plant but, more importantly, to the students who spend their days inside.

In October, I cut the ribbon on a new computer lab at P.S./M.S. 194 in Castle Hill, a project for which I provided over \$100,000. The students were awesome. They displayed their computer expertise, showed off their Powerpoints, and even did a little Tweeting. They were engaged, and our funding helped to make that possible.

Partnering with Chancellor Carmen Fariña, my office and our consortia will continue to identify

schools like this that are in need of upgrades, especially technology upgrades, and provide them with the necessary funding to make those improvements.

Big changes are coming at the Department of Education. For the past 12 years, we've seen an education system dictate from the penthouse, rather than engage from the ground floor. We've seen an education system that did not properly engage parents and the community-at-large, while outright denigrating the leaders of our classrooms--our teachers.

It is a new day. Greater involvement, and greater transparency, are coming to Tweed. In cooperation with the new administration, we will push for our schools to reach new heights of success.

When given the opportunity and the resources, our children do succeed. When given a chance, we develop geniuses in the Bronx, such as the students at the Bronx Design & Construction Academy. These students are one of just five winners across the entire world of the Zayed Future Energy Prize for green development. They flew all the way to Dubai to accept their award, and we are proud to have them with us today, right here in the Bronx.

How we acquire those resources has been a topic of some discussion as of late. Should we create new taxes, or should we use existing funds to give our students a necessary leg up? What's important is that universal pre-K is implemented, and it's time to take the politics out of this proposal. It's time for Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo to compromise on universal pre-K. Our children deserve no less.

Our borough has a long, rich history when it comes to education. The numerous world class colleges that call the Bronx home have earned us the nickname "The Borough of Universities." We have institutions with amazing alumni communities, such as The Bronx High School of Science and DeWitt Clinton High School, where former graduates still play a major role in the life of those schools to this day.

Unfortunately, right across the street, one example of our borough's great history in education is crumbling before our eyes. It is an absolute disgrace that the City allowed P.S. 31, one of the most iconic school buildings in our city and my own alma mater, to fall into such disrepair that it is scheduled to be torn down.

This past summer I walked those halls again. What I saw was incredibly disheartening. These were the very rooms where I fell in love with learning, and where teachers like Mr. Poloso and Ms. Rosen, and our great principal Mrs. Russo; helped set me on the path to where I am today.

With that said, it is time for innovation. The city must issue a new RFP for the P.S. 31 site. This RFP should examine whether or not the building can be saved, and should also explore a wide variety of uses for the site in order to stimulate street life and blend in with the neighborhood.

The lower Grand Concourse is an exciting place these days. Hostos Community College is planning a major new Allied Health & Science Building just down the block, a project I believe is so important to the future of our borough that I have committed more than \$2 million in capital

funding to its completion

With the right neighborhood engagement, and the appropriate community benefits agreement, I can even see a new soccer stadium a few blocks from here.

Given all of this new development, we have to do more to influence growth. That means continuing to implement our conceptual master plan for the redesign of The Bronx. That means smart, sensible planning—planning with a purpose—that makes the most of our available amenities. It is time for the creation of a new waterfront district along the Harlem River between 138<sup>th</sup> and 149<sup>th</sup> Streets, one that would lead to development similar to the Brooklyn Bridge Park. Bronxites should have quality waterfront access, and this project could make that happen.

We must also fight for the future of the Bronx General Post Office. Many of us tried to stop this sale. Legislative efforts in Congress to protect this facility were useless, and we are now faced with a daunting task. We cannot allow Washington bureaucrats to simply sell one of our most cherished assets to the highest bidder. This is a public asset, and its liquidation cannot be carried out behind closed doors.

We do have options. We have met with several developers that have put forward innovative ideas for this space. Doing what's best for our borough requires us to move on good ideas, rather than wait for things to just happen on their own. In order to get the best possible project, in order to see the best possible ideas move forward, we must stand up and we will be heard.

We've done so much in the last four years. And I must take a moment to acknowledge the amazing new venture that will bring the world's greatest ice sports complex to our borough, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center.

This project will bring \$300 million in private development funds, living wage jobs and the strongest possible community benefits agreement ever written to our borough. I have to thank Council Member Fernando Cabrera, former Council Member Oliver Koppell, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Community Board #7, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, and the hundreds of residents and organizations who contributed to this victory. We have set a new standard for responsible development.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is "planning with a purpose." That, ladies and gentlemen, is the "Diaz Doctrine."

The world's largest ice sports center is one example of what can happen when we think differently. It's time we all "think different...think the Bronx."

It's time we embark on our innovative ideas. It's time to bring ferry service to Soundview. This plan would open up new transit options for thousands of Bronx commuters. A recent study found the Soundview route to be among the most promising ferry sites in the city, and noted that property values and new development has grown faster at current ferry locations. Working with Council Member Annabel Palma, we will see similar growth here.

It's also time to expand Metro North access to the East Bronx. This has been a vision in the minds of Bronxites since the 1960's, and we have never been closer to making it happen. New stations in Co-op City, Parkchester, Hunts Point and Morris Park would make the Bronx more attractive to new businesses while opening up new employment opportunities across the region for our residents.

In May, I joined Senator Klein and other community leaders to release a report on the immense impact this expansion will have on the Bronx. It showed that this plan will create 5,400 new jobs, increase home values by more than \$140,000 per home, and increase business activity in the Bronx by more than \$1 billion.

In his "State of the State" address in January, Governor Cuomo himself made this a priority of his administration. Let me be crystal clear...nothing is more important than making this long held vision a reality.

We've accomplished a great deal, together, over the past four years. We've created more than 14,000 jobs, and will create thousands more with the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. We've placed nearly 1,500 Bronx residents into available jobs through our workforce development programs.

We've invested more than \$600 million in housing, building nearly 13,000 new units. We've created projects like the Bronxchester Urban Renewal in Melrose, a LEED certified development that will bring us nearly 1,000 mixed-income housing units of all sizes, retail and community space, and a new skate park. Projects like this contribute to the continuing growth of the "New Bronx,"—a place of boutique hotels and green development.

We've helped to create more than \$75 million in loans through our Business Initiative Corporation, helping companies of all sizes expand in our borough. Our parks are greener, having seen more than \$100 million in capital upgrades in my first term. Crime is lower, our streets are cleaner, and thanks to the Bronx Tourism Council, thousands of new visitors are taking a new look at the "New Bronx."

This is our year, ladies and gentlemen. In 2014, we are going to show the world that the "New Bronx" is more than just rhetoric. It's a movement. This is our centennial celebration. And we are going to have the most productive year our borough has ever seen.

We will revisit the Cross Bronx Expressway, and develop a plan to rehabilitate and redesign this road so that it works for our borough, and is no longer an eyesore.

In partnership with Council Member James Vacca, we will rid our streets of their most common summer nuisance, dirt bikes. With Council Member Palma and the entire delegation, we will expand our "living wage" bill to bring labor harmony to city developments and give more people an opportunity for success.

We will develop a plan to allow Bronx residents more access to their waterfront, with a goal of



allowing one to walk, run or bicycle without interruption from Pelham Bay Park all the way to Riverdale.

We will increase recreational activities in all corners of the borough, and will welcome two new YMCA centers in Williamsbridge and the 149<sup>th</sup> Street Hub. We will join Governor Cuomo in his call for a renters' tax credit, and provide relief for the more than 80 percent of Bronxites who do not own their own homes.

We will, together with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo, demand a DREAM Act for New York State. If they can do it in New Jersey, why not here? We will create a new specialized portfolio high school for Bronx students—one that does not rely solely on a high stakes test to gain admission, and we will join Mayor de Blasio in his call for increased STEM options for our students.

2014 is our centennial. We celebrate 100 years as our own county, the youngest county in New York State. However, our story starts 375 years ago, when Jonas Bronck landed in Mott Haven, becoming the first European settler north of the Harlem River.

The early 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the need for a crossing between our borough and Manhattan. That bridge—the King's Bridge—is long gone, but its name lives on in that thriving community.

The fight for freedom from the crown came later. Our own Gouverneur Morris joined the brave men who publicly declared their independence from the British, and the minutemen fought valiantly at the Battle of Pell Point. Many of the heroes who battled for that freedom—Heath, Putnam, Greene—are memorialized in our street names.

The 1840's saw the completion of the High Bridge and the founding of Fordham University. In 1846, Edgar Allen Poe sought refreshing country air, and moved near today's Grand Concourse.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the purchase of the land that would become some of our greatest parks—Van Cortlandt, Pelham Bay Park, Crotona Park and others—ensuring that our residents would forever have amazing outdoor space, and shaping our neighborhoods for centuries to come.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the completion of our bridges and highways, the extensive infrastructure that makes us so attractive to new business today. The Jerome Park Reservoir opened, the Morris Park Racetrack was closed, and the original "House that Ruth Built" was completed.

Throughout this our population was in flux. We started with the Dutch and the Germans, and later saw major emigration from Irish, Italians and European Jews. African-Americans and Puerto Ricans came after, and today we see Dominicans, Albanians, Mexicans, Garifuna, Bangladeshi, Africans and many others joining the great Bronx melting pot.

Hip-hop and salsa were born here, but let's not forget, so was doo-wop. We are the home of Willie Colon, Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa and Dion & the Belmonts. We are a place of bacalaito and burek, pizza and pastrami. We have seen tremendous changes during throughout

our history, and we are a stronger community for having embraced that change.

And no time is that more apparent than today. We are a place of growth, a place where new business is moving and existing businesses are expanding. We have seen hundreds of millions of dollars in new housing, and thousands of new jobs. We are seeing major new projects built here, and even bigger ideas on the horizon. We're getting safer. We're marketing ourselves as a destination, and we're receiving national and international attention for our efforts.

A major newspaper in Switzerland says The Bronx is "filled with gardens and artists' lofts." In Ireland, they say that The Bronx is "bursting with energy" and a "place on the rise." In Spain, they write The Bronx "isn't what it was...it's *better!*" And in Germany they declare, "The Bronx is Back!" Clear across the globe, people are appreciating the "New Bronx!"

But I cannot do it alone. Our centennial is a time to celebrate our shared ideas, and our shared sacrifice, for the betterment of our borough. Colin Powell, who went from an apartment on Kelly Street to the highest levels of power in Washington and the Bronx Walk of Fame, once said. "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

We know what we want to see in our borough. Our dreams are laid out before us. Over the past four years, if not the past four decades, we have put our own sweat, our own determination and our own hard work into rebuilding and redesigning our borough, into realizing our dreams of what The Bronx can be and will become.

Over the next four years, we will go even further. We will build on this strong foundation, so that 100 years from now, when our successors observe the bicentennial of this county, they will look back at our work and see it as a watershed moment.

They will look back and see a time when the people of this borough—regardless of race, gender, creed, sexual orientation—came together with a common cause, a common dream, and worked as "One Bronx" to develop the "New Bronx."

Our Bronx.

**STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS  
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ JR.  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

Welcome to my sixth annual State of the Borough address, and welcome to our newest destination, the largest indoor shopping center in New York City, The Mall at Bay Plaza.

We've seen unprecedented, transformative growth since I became the borough president.

We have built nearly 16,000 new units of housing, and have created more than 15,000 new jobs.

City Island was named the best neighborhood in the entire city by the real estate blog Curbed. J-Lo tore the house down at Orchard Beach. Anthony Bourdain highlighted our borough on CNN. We even have our own hot sauce. Tourism is up 14 percent...even the president of Israel came to the Bronx.

Unemployment is down nearly five percent since 2009. Investment is at a record high.

And we even made history with our very own speaker of the New York State Assembly, my good friend, Carl Heastie!

The state of The Bronx is stronger than it has been in decades.

We are maximizing our assets, while improving our quality of life.

For decades, this citadel of commerce was nothing more than a parking lot. Now it is an economic engine, and home to nearly 2,000 new jobs. When I walk around this mall I ask employees, "Where do you live?" The answer, over and over again, is "I live in The Bronx." That's because more than 90 percent of the jobs here have gone to Bronx residents.

In our 2011 quality of life survey, we demonstrated that Bronxites often left the borough to shop because they were dissatisfied with our local options. This shopping venue is an immense improvement. Keeping those spending dollars here in the community is having a big impact.

In its first six months this mall saw its sales rise 20 percent over initial projections. Bronxites have embraced this mall in tremendous fashion. And we know that consumer spending equals job growth.

Our efforts are bearing fruit. What we are doing is working.

Together, we are making great things happen.

We are helping all businesses, small and large. For example, Marlene Cintron, President of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, was able to convince Prestige Properties to extend the lease of the Bagel Cafe in Bay Plaza. This preserved a small, beloved neighborhood

institution.

In October, the community was up in arms when the future of Barnes & Noble, our only bookstore, was in doubt. Consequently, we acted. I mediated an agreement between the bookseller and Prestige Properties, to keep it open for our community for years to come.

Now, I'd like to take a moment to thank Sam Shalem and Prestige Properties, our hosts today, for all they have done for The Bronx. They heard our united voice. They put people over profits.

Youngwoo & Associates is another major developer that has made a significant commitment to our borough. They purchased the former Bronx General Post Office and we are working hand in hand with them, our elected officials, Hostos Community College and Community Board #4 to unlock the potential of this landmark as an innovative new commercial and community space. The GPO will feature quality retail tenants, first-class office space and preserve the continued operation of postal services.

To the west of here, the Kingsbridge National Ice Center is progressing. This is a game changing redevelopment. It will activate a long-dormant landmark and create living wage jobs. My office and the BOEDC have been working diligently with KNIC and its leadership, including hockey legend Mark Messier and gold medalist Sarah Hughes, on construction, permitting and programming. Soon children from all over The Bronx...from all over the region...will be skating to new heights.

In Soundview, we will see the development of New York State's largest television and film studio in partnership with York Studios. This nearly 300,000 square foot, state-of-the-art space will feature eight new sound stages. It will be built green, and will host hundreds of new jobs.

Our food industry is another key to putting more Bronxites to work. For too long, the fish and meat markets at Hunts Point, and other borough food manufacturers, have been forced to store their perishable goods all the way in New Jersey. Therefore, they incur great expense to cross the bridge every day. These markets are responsible for thousands of jobs. These markets feed the entire region.

We must make sure they can remain competitive. It is time for the city to develop a plan to build a new freezer facility in Hunts Point. This will allow our markets to expand, lower costs for consumers, reduce truck traffic and pollution, create hundreds of new jobs and keep more revenue in The Bronx.

Just before Christmas, we finally broke ground at the future home of FreshDirect. We have improved this project since it was first proposed. FreshDirect has one of the most fuel efficient delivery fleets in the city. They accept EBT on their website, a unique program that is among the first of its kind in our nation. They now deliver to the entire borough. Freshdirect could help end food deserts and reduce obesity. They will bring at least 1,000 new jobs. They will save and create thousands more.



The time to build is now. We are moving forward.

All types of development are coming to our borough, from retail and industrial to medical and professional. In the east Bronx, we will see a new, nearly two million square foot office expansion at the Hutchinson Metro Center. This \$550 million complex will include professional and healthcare jobs, a bio-tech incubator, community facilities and more. Estimates indicate that this project will generate thousands of new jobs, and I am proud to support Simone Development in this transformative endeavor.

When it comes to getting Bronxites jobs, we have already done so much. But there is even more to be done.

According to Census data, just 18 percent of working age Bronxites have a bachelor's degree, compared to 33 percent statewide and almost 60 percent in Manhattan. Our challenge is clear. We have to do more to improve the employability of Bronxites at all levels, regardless of their education or personal history.

We are working with our schools to align curriculum with the jobs in demand. This year, we partnered with our principals consortia to convene a Career and Technical Education forum at Bronx Community College. This event allowed our public school principals to participate in a discussion with some of the leading employers across the region.

At the former site of the Fulton Correctional Facility, we have developed a multiservice center for our borough's formerly incarcerated population. In partnership with the Osborne Association, we will help those coming back from prison find work, get the services they need, and rebuild their lives.

The BOEDC has also partnered with the governor and the State Department of Labor to develop a new program, "NY Works." This program puts Bronxites looking for jobs into direct contact with potential employers in The Bronx. Since that initiative was launched in August, we have made more than 4,000 job placements. Without a doubt, these are tremendous numbers.

This initiative has been so successful that Governor Cuomo committed an additional \$10 million in funding. We are bringing together development and job placement like never before.

We are taking advantage of the Harlem River in new ways, creating strong blue-collar jobs while also building new employment and housing opportunities from Mott Haven to Fordham Road.

A complete metamorphosis of the Harlem River waterfront is coming. Last year, both my office and SOBRO issued reports highlighting the promise of this underutilized area. From just south of the 3rd Avenue Bridge all the way to 149th Street, we found the opportunity for thousands of housing units of all kinds, new waterfront access and park space.

The opportunity does not end there. There's more. To the north we have Fordham Landing. This site could host up to one million square feet of mixed-use development, including housing of all

types, community space and additional waterfront and park amenities. This is a great site for a public/private partnership, and we will work with the owners and future developers to activate and revitalize the northwest Bronx.

One of the great features of Fordham Landing, is that it has great Metro-North access. And speaking of Metro-North, in advance of our four new East Bronx Metro-North stations we are examining rezoning opportunities in these neighborhoods. I must once again thank the Governor for including these stations in MTA's five-year capital plan. I am also grateful to our borough's MTA board members—Fernando Ferrer and Charles Moerdler—for their continued advocacy on this issue. It is time for the State Legislature to approve the capital plan, so that this phenomenal transit upgrade can become a reality.

These ideas have the potential to completely invigorate our borough. Better and greener housing...new and more efficient commuting...jobs of all kinds...more access to the waterfront. That's my master plan for The Bronx.

The Bronx has never been more open for business. If you're looking to invest, the time is now.

At the same time, we are ensuring those investments create better paying jobs, as well. Last year, we joined with Mayor Bill de Blasio to increase the living wage for workers at City-funded developments to \$13.13 an hour, building on our victory at the Kingsbridge Armory. And I support Governor Cuomo's call to raise the minimum wage, and to increase it at a higher rate in New York City.

Job creation and economic development are not our only focus. We are also advancing a robust policy and legislative agenda designed to make life better and safer for our residents.

Late last year, the city announced LinkNYC, a proposal to transform public payphones into Wi-Fi kiosks. We found the original plan to be deficient in several ways. Wi-Fi speeds in Manhattan would have been incredible, while the other boroughs would have seen slower speeds and slower rollouts.

We were not going to accept a high-tech "poor door." First, I issued a report critiquing various deficiencies in the LinkNYC proposal. Then, with Comptroller Scott Stringer and my fellow borough presidents, we negotiated a better LinkNYC not just for The Bronx, but for the entire city of New York.

Thanks to our advocacy, under this new plan The Bronx, as well as Upper Manhattan and Staten Island, will receive more high speed kiosks. Due to my recommendation, the city will enact a solar-powered pilot program in our borough to improve the network's resiliency. Now LinkNYC will work for everyone.

We're tackling an important public health issue. I'm sure the ladies here today, and even some of the men, have been getting their manicures and pedicures. I have to admit I've gotten my nails done before. . If you regularly visit a salon, then you know that some of them can be unsanitary.

This past summer, a relative of mine was forced into the emergency room after a pedicure led to a serious infection. When I speak to people about this issue, every one—every single person—has their own horror story about a friend, a family member, or even themselves, who visited a salon to look good, and ended up with a major health issue.

We have seen numerous cases of staph infections, hepatitis and other illnesses. Doesn't the evidence demand more oversight? I think so.

That's why, in September, we announced a set of legislation that would introduce a letter-grading system for cosmetology businesses. The new system will be modeled after the current letter grading system used to monitor restaurants and food service establishments. Our legislative package includes not only letter grades for salons and spas, but a call for increased training options and for a "Customer's Bill of Rights." This legislation was introduced at my behest by Council Member Rafael Espinal, and is supported in Albany by State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

We are making sure that all stakeholders, including businesses, are involved in crafting this proposal. Already, we have partnered with the New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce to hear their concerns.

Moreover, we have heard from numerous businesses who support this legislation, and who want their industry to be cleaner and safer. In partnership with my colleagues in government and responsible business owners, we will spend this year pushing for a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for customers and employees alike in our beauty spas and nail salons.

From healthier salons, to a healthier Bronx, we continue to make great strides in greening the borough. The Bronx River is cleaner than ever. We've lead the way in solar panel installations. I've invested millions of dollars in LEED certified new housing. But we must aggressively green our older housing stock and retire dirty boilers, if we're going to bring down air pollution and reduce asthma.

We need to utilize capital dollars in smarter ways. Last year, we proposed, to HPD an innovative partnership with Village Power Financial which would leverage a revolving fund with private sector investment to accelerate the greening of large residential buildings. This partnership would make tax dollars go further than ever before, through the power of "impact investing."

Impact investments are ventures made with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental benefit, alongside a financial return. With Council Member Andrew Cohen, we will identify eligible buildings. We believe this proposal will clean our environment, create new jobs, reduce energy cost, and in the long run, keep our city affordable.

We are looking not only to do well, but to do good.

We will also continue our push for a citywide and statewide public felony gun offender registry. Last year, unfortunately, our proposal for a statewide database was halted in Albany. This year,

with State Senator Jeff Klein, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, and Council Members Costa Constantinides, Ritchie Torres and Paul Vellone, we will redouble our efforts to expose those individuals who would commit gun crimes to public scrutiny.

Our borough is safer today than it has been in decades. For two straight years we saw the total number of homicides in The Bronx drop below 100 for the first time since the early 1960's. That would not be possible without the NYPD, working hand-in-hand with a concerned citizenry.

Let me be clear, when a police officer does wrong, I will speak up. When justice is not served, I will protest. But I know that the majority of our police are doing great work. I know they are keeping us safe. I know they are putting their lives on the line for us.

On the evening of January 5, two of our finest in the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct were responding to a robbery at the end of their shift. They both, unfortunately, were greeted by the bullets of two thugs. The results could have been horrible, as we saw in Brooklyn. They could have paid the ultimate price. Thank God they are ok. Thank God they are able to be here with us today.

Please give a round of applause to Police Officers Andrew Dossi and Aliro Pellerano!

This coming year, we will continue to articulate and execute a vigorous agenda. We will encourage our youth to have their voices heard, and to take advantage of a new law that allows individuals as young as 16 to be eligible for appointment to our community boards.

We will continue to modernize our housing stock. Last year, I put nearly \$3 million in capital funds towards housing, helping to build 600 affordable units. Our green developments, such as Via Verde and Arbor House, are nationally recognized for their design.

I have committed funding to the city's first ever development designed specifically for LGBT seniors. I am excited that SAGE and HELP USA are about to embark on this innovative development in our borough. I am committed to be a borough president for all people, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

But to truly bring transformative housing development to The Bronx, we have to examine not just available space, but space that does not even technically exist.

My office is putting together a report examining the possible decking of three Bronx train yards—149<sup>th</sup> Street, the Grand Concourse yards near my alma mater, Lehman College, and the 1 train yards connecting Riverdale and Kingsbridge.

We will examine possible costs and potential density, and will take the first step towards creating new space as a key component of our city's housing and economic development future.

Mr. Mayor...if they aren't interested in Queens, why not try The Bronx?

We will make sure that the housing we develop works for everyone, so that we are able to retain



our growing professional class. We do have a population of skilled professionals. We must provide more amenities to retain them, so that their employment status and purchasing power stays right here where it belongs.

We must finally act on the redevelopment of the Sheridan Expressway. We have seen the success of converting highways into boulevards with pedestrian crossings, such as those found on the West Side of Manhattan. It will not only provide for new housing development opportunities, but will improve pedestrian safety and access to parkland along the Bronx River, without compromising access to the Hunts Point Market. The State can no longer drag its feet on the future of the Sheridan.

We will get healthier, as well. Recent studies rank our borough number 62 of New York's 62 counties in health indicators. We must change this. Today we are launching a social media campaign. This initiative will challenge all Bronxites to encourage one another to adopt a healthier lifestyle. So when you eat a healthy lunch, or get in a good workout, hashtag #NOT62! on social media. Let's start trending toward a healthier Bronx together!

The Bronx, unfortunately, remains one of the centers for HIV transmission. I am committed to changing this and have created an HIV Roundtable to assist us in staying on top of the latest developments in HIV/AIDS and to initiate innovative approaches to help those living with HIV.

As part of our continued efforts to support our seniors, we are announcing a special partnership with the City Department of Finance SCRIE and DRIE Out-Reach Team. Our staff will visit 10 buildings this year to inform and enroll Bronxites in these two important programs. Participants will have their rent frozen. Consequently, the City of New York will provide their landlord a property tax credit which is equal to the amount of future rent increases. We will make sure our seniors can stay in their homes.

We will continue to fund worthy projects. My administration has provided more than \$126 million in capital funding to over 360 projects since 2009. Last year alone, we provided \$9 million to 25 different endeavors, including security upgrades at NYCHA buildings and affordable housing in every corner of The Bronx.

In our schools, my office has provided more than \$26 million to 180 different institutions. With these funds, we are making our schools work better for all of our children by providing them with new computers, smart classrooms and science labs. But a strong education system requires not just an updated building. We must also ensure we are doing everything we can to nurture the minds of young Bronxites. We must ensure that they have every opportunity to excel.

Building on our success at Barnes & Noble, we will do more to put books and Bronxites together. We will continue to expand access to gifted and talented programs, so that children in every Bronx neighborhood are exposed to the strongest curriculum at an earlier age. With AT&T, we will expand our work with "Chess in the Schools," and bring this wonderful mental exercise to more students.

We will make sure that our high school students are afforded the best possible education, regardless of their performance on a single standardized test. There is an inverse relationship between the racial makeup of our public school population and the population of our specialized high schools—including the Bronx High School of Science.

The New York Times reported last year that just 21 Hispanic students—and just seven black students—were offered entry into Stuyvesant High School's freshman class. What is even more shocking is that those numbers were down from the previous year. How could a number already so low get even lower?

I am optimistic that, working with Chancellor Carmen Farina, we can change this. In 2012, I issued a report calling for equal access to test preparation for public school students, and I echo that call today. We can do even more.

It is also time to create new specialized high schools, one in each borough, which would use a portfolio admissions system to choose its freshman class. These schools must also guarantee admission to the top two students in each public middle school. We must ensure that the best and brightest from every community have a chance to excel.

Last year The Bronx Tourism Council, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, put The Bronx on the map...literally. Not only do we now have a Bronx visitors map, but we are seeing sleek wayfinders on our streets. We will continue to promote the amazing cultural opportunities our borough has to offer on the national and international stages. Travel operators, writers and editors from South America, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands have come to discover and write about The Bronx, further solidifying our borough as a travel destination. With a number of new strategies and the upcoming, first-ever comprehensive, "Bronx Visitors Guide," we will continue to attract new visitors in 2015!

We will encourage everyone, regardless of their status, to show the world they are a real New Yorker by getting their official NYC ID.

With the BOEDC, local elected officials and other stakeholders, we will develop plans to improve the Kingsbridge retail corridor along Broadway. We will study the revitalization of our city's epicurean epicenter, the Arthur Avenue Retail Market. We will examine the future of the Cromwell/Jerome corridor, and consider ways to increase housing and commercial opportunities that will complement the existing community.

We will connect our neighborhoods across the water, by implementing ferry service in Soundview. And we will connect our communities across the land, as we work to bridge both halves of Van Cortlandt Park over the Major Deegan.

And we will, with our Congressional delegation, see to it that my predecessor and friend, Herman Badillo, is memorialized in the renaming of the Morrisania Post Office—a fitting tribute to his trailblazing record in Congress.

If we put in the effort, if we advance a strategy and work assiduously to see it enacted, nothing is impossible.

We can improve police/community relations. We can build a strong legislative agenda that makes this city a cleaner, safer place. We can create new jobs.

We can do all of this.

In his famous address before the Democratic National Convention in 1984, our late governor, Mario Cuomo, spoke passionately about the importance of government in the lives of everyday Americans.

He said, "We believe in a government that is characterized by fairness and reasonableness, a reasonableness that goes beyond labels, that doesn't distort or promise to do things that we know we can't do."

He said, "We believe in a government strong enough to use words like 'love' and 'compassion' and smart enough to convert our noblest aspirations into practical realities."

His words still resonate today. His words resonate within me, as I work with our civic and elected leaders, non-profits, first responders, our community boards, and every single one of the 1.4 million people who live here to make The Bronx a better place to live, work and raise a family.

So we move forward. We move forward, in the spirit of Herman Badillo and Mario Cuomo. We move forward, understanding that we can design and enact a transformative agenda for our future while also respecting the hardships and the glories of our past.

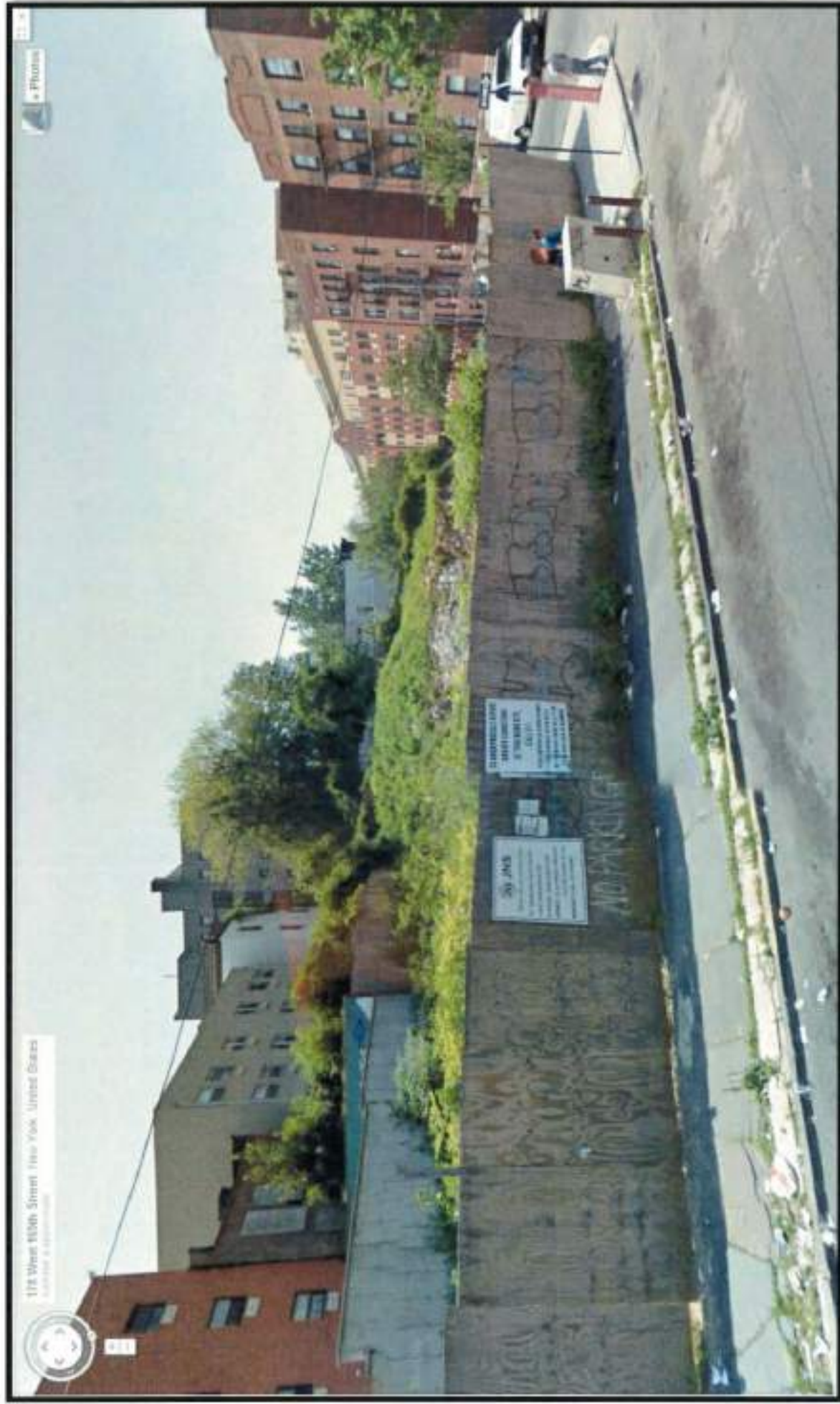
Look at where we are today. Look at the hundreds of Bronxites working here this morning. Look around you at this tremendous structure, and the new opportunities it has brought to our borough.

We can. And we will. Because we deserve it.

Thank you!



**Site # 41: 180 W. 165<sup>th</sup> Street**





[illegible]



## An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois. A red rectangle highlights a specific property located on the east side of a street, just north of the Harrison River. The map shows a dense grid of streets and houses. Labels on the map include 'Major William Francis Deegan Expy', 'Harrison River', and 'Major Deegan Expy'. The river is visible at the bottom of the image, and the surrounding area is filled with residential buildings and greenery.





**Site # 42: 1084 Ogden Avenue**



**Site # 43: 2264 Morris Avenue**

[illegible]



**Site # 43: 2264 Morris Avenue**





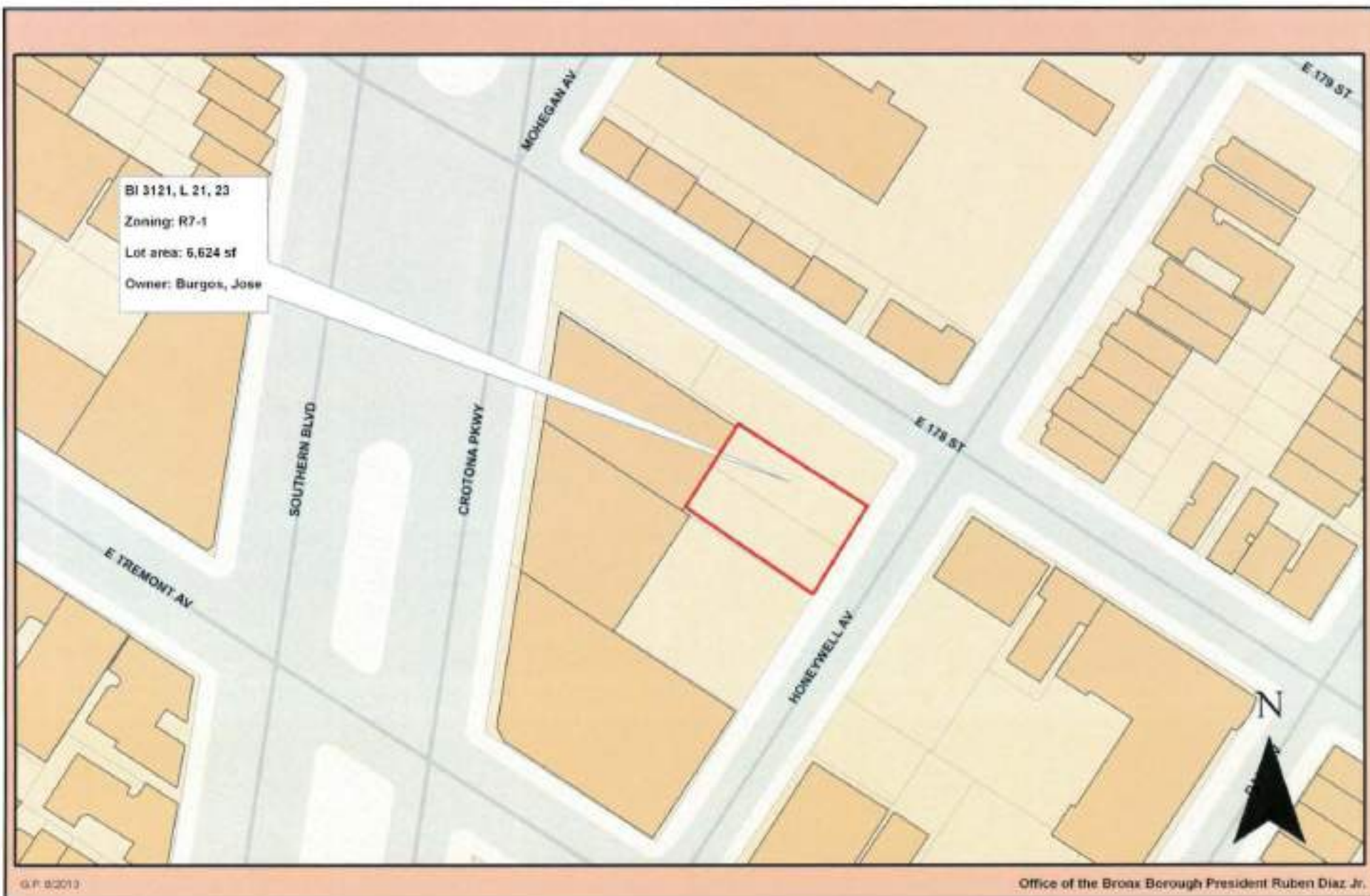
**Site # 43: 2264 Morris Avenue**



2264 Morris Avenue, New York, United States  
address & neighborhood



## Site # 44: 1981-1985 Honeywell Avenue





**Site # 44: 1981-1985 Honeywell Avenue**





**Site # 44: 1981-1985 Honeywell Avenue**



# Site # 45: 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue E.

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Search for a location:

**BRONX Block 3213 Lot 19**

[Hide Additional Information...](#)

- Find Nearest
- Building & Property Information

Sorough: BRONX Block 3213 Lot 19  
 Police Precinct: 52  
 Census: 980 MORRIS (DEVELOP)

Address: 150 VAN CORTLANDT AVE E 1040E  
 Lot Area: 20067 sq ft  
 Lot Frontage: 180.67' Lot Depth: 100'  
 Year Built: 1950 (estimated)  
 Number of Buildings: 1  
 Number of Floors: 1  
 Gross Floor Area: 1,250 sq ft (estimated)  
 Residential Units: 0 Total # of Units: 1  
 Land Use: Parking Facility  
 Zoning: R6  
 Commercial Overlay:  
 Zoning Map #: 10

[View at City Planning PHOTO 11-2-2013 and other city agency records](#)

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- [Building Profile](#)
- [Building Footprints/Location](#)
- [Neighborhood Information](#)
- [Elected Official Information](#)

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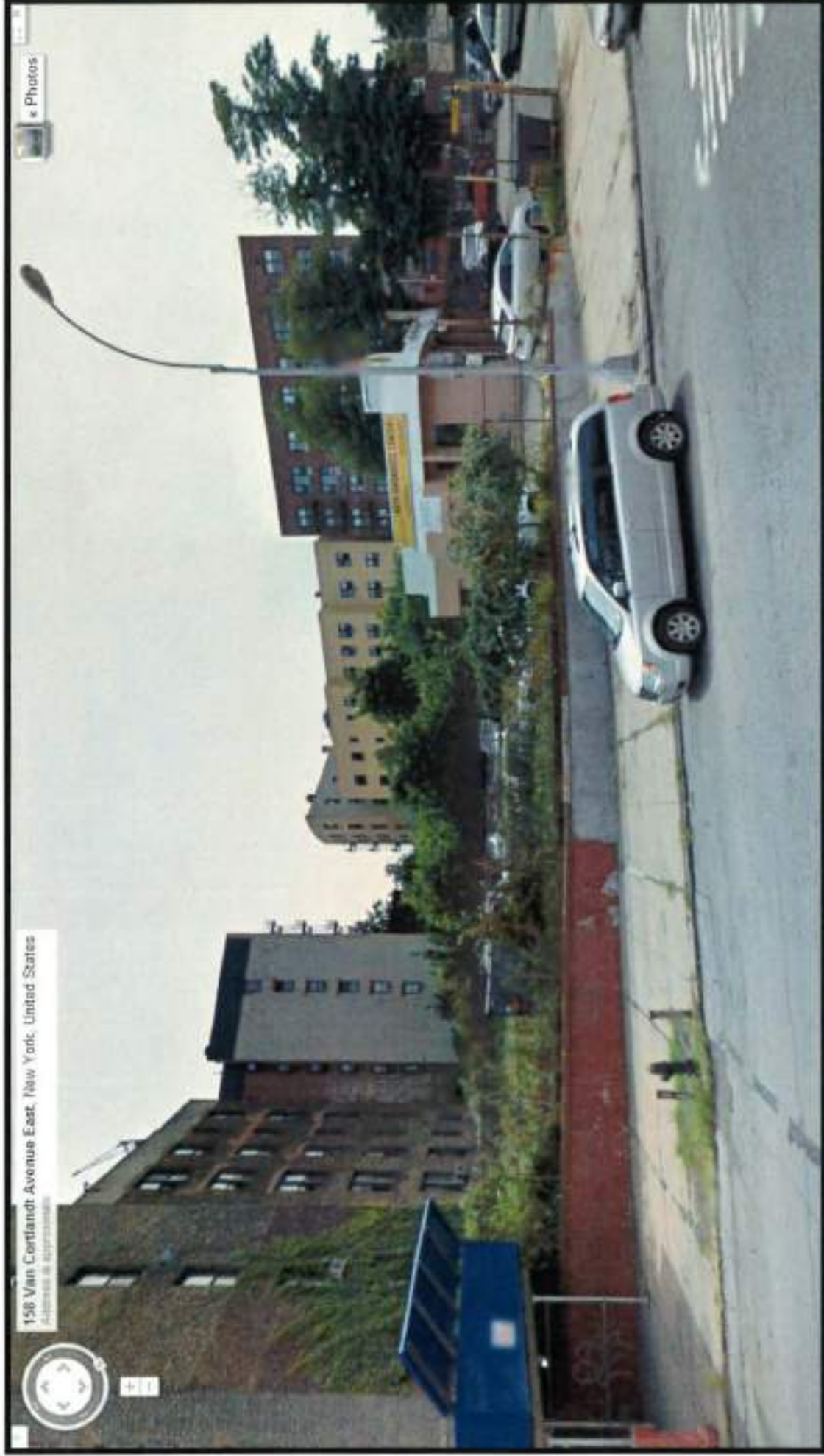


**Site # 45: 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue E.**





**Site # 45: 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue E.**



# Site # 46: 3211 Webster Avenue

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Search for a location:

**BRONX Block 3354 Lot 41**

**Hide Additional Information**

- Find Nearest
- Building & Property Information

Borough: BRONX Block: 3354 Lot: 41

Police Precinct: 52

Owner: C R S CONSTRUCTION CO.

Address: WEBSTER AVENUE 10407

Lot Area: 21700 sq

Lot Frontage: 200' Lot Depth: 104'

Year Built: unknown

Number of Buildings: 0

Number of Floors: 0

Gross Floor Area: 0 sq (estimated)

Residential Units: 0 Total # of Units: 0

Land Use: Vacant Land

Zoning: R7B

Commercial Overlay

Zoning Map #: 10

Visit [NY City Planning, PLUTO 1502 \(2015\)](#) and other city agency portals

[Link to More Information](#)

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[Building Profile](#)

[Building Restrictions/Violation](#)

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- Elected Official Information

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**Site # 46: 32111 Webster Avenue**

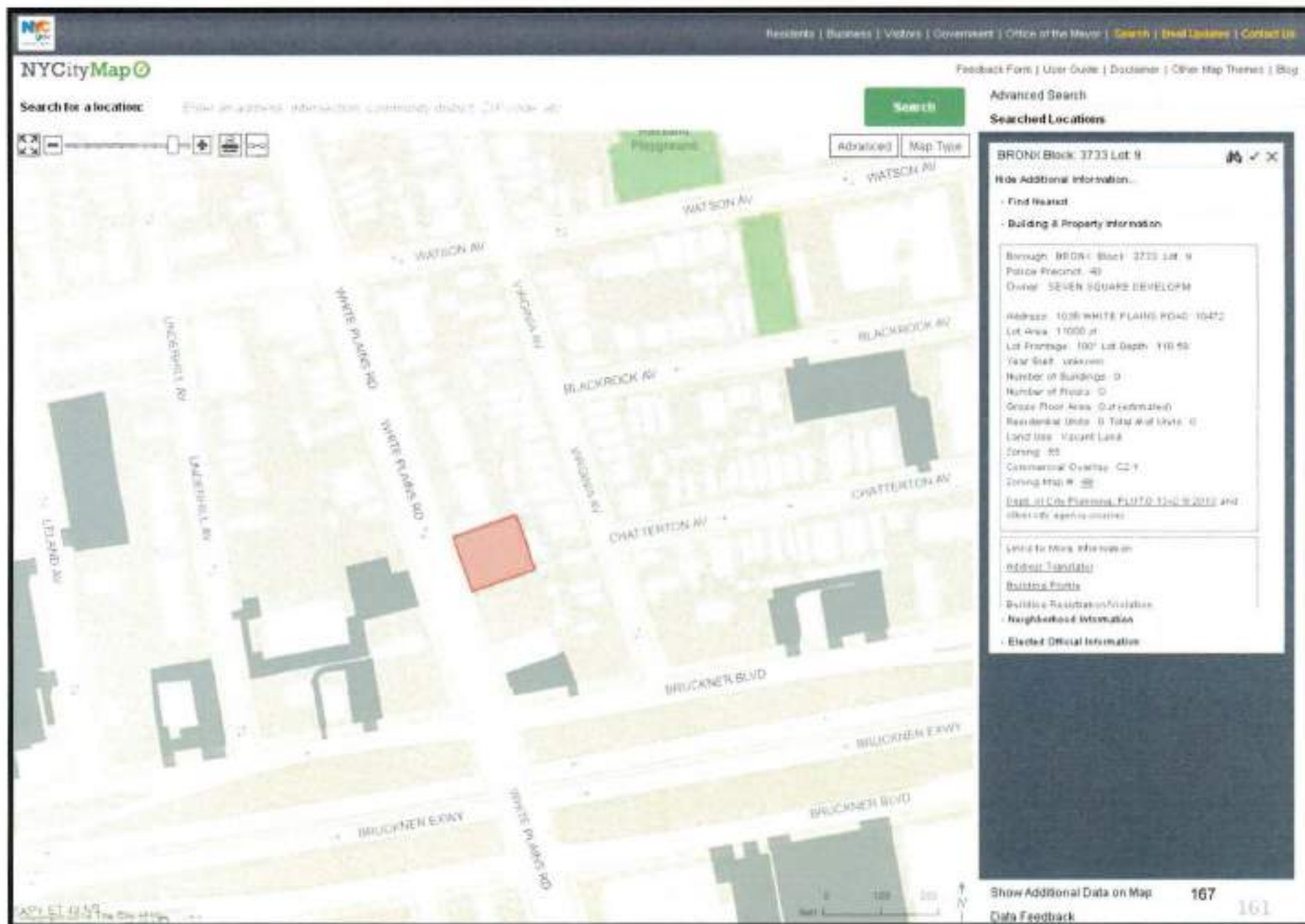




**Site # 46: 3211 Webster Avenue**



# Site # 47: 1024-1036 White Plains Road



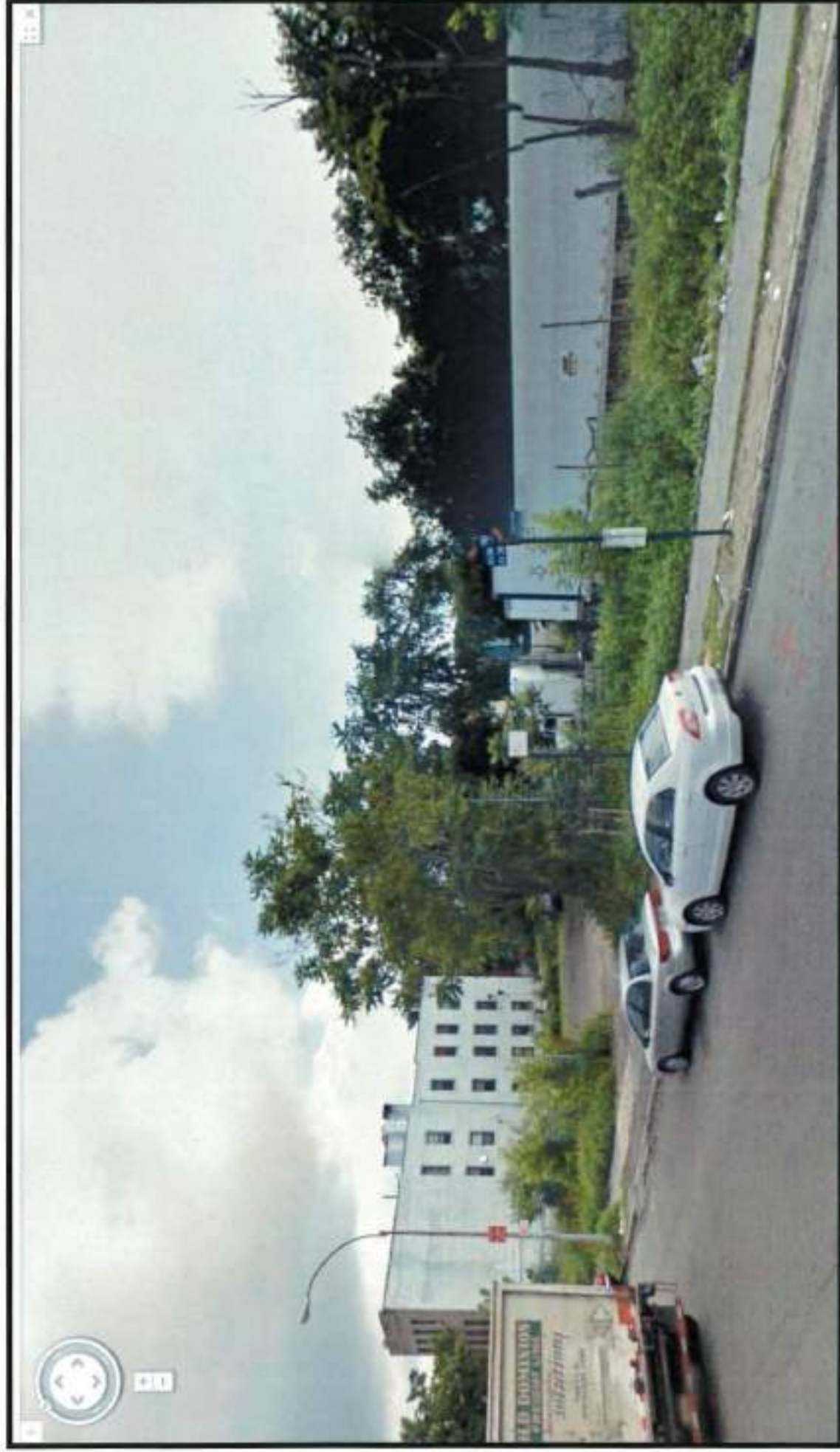


Site # 47: 1024-1036 White Plains Road





**Site # 47: 1024-1036 White Plains Road**



## Site # 48: 1600 Pelham Parkway South

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Search for a location:  Enter an address, neighborhood, community district, ZIP code, etc.

**Advanced Search**

**Searched Locations**

**BROWN Block: 4223 Lot: 30**
☐ ☒ ☐

[Hide Additional Information...](#)

- Find Nearest
- Building & Property Information

Borough: BROOKLYN Block: 4223 Lot: 30  
 Police Precinct: 49  
 Owner: PELHAM PARKWAY TOWERS  
 Address: 1600 PELHAM PARKWAY SOUTH 10461  
 Lot Area: 13526 sq ft  
 Lot Frontage: 152.65' Lot Depth: 100'  
 Year Built: unknown  
 Number of Buildings: 0  
 Number of Floors: 0  
 Gross Floor Area: 0 sq ft (estimated)  
 Residential Units: 0 Total Retail Units: 0  
 Land Use: Vacant Land  
 Zoning: R6A  
 Commercial Overlay:  
 Zoning Map W: 95

[See List of City Planning PLUTO Data 2013 and other city agency records](#)

[Link to More Information:](#)

[Address Translator](#)  
[Building Profile](#)

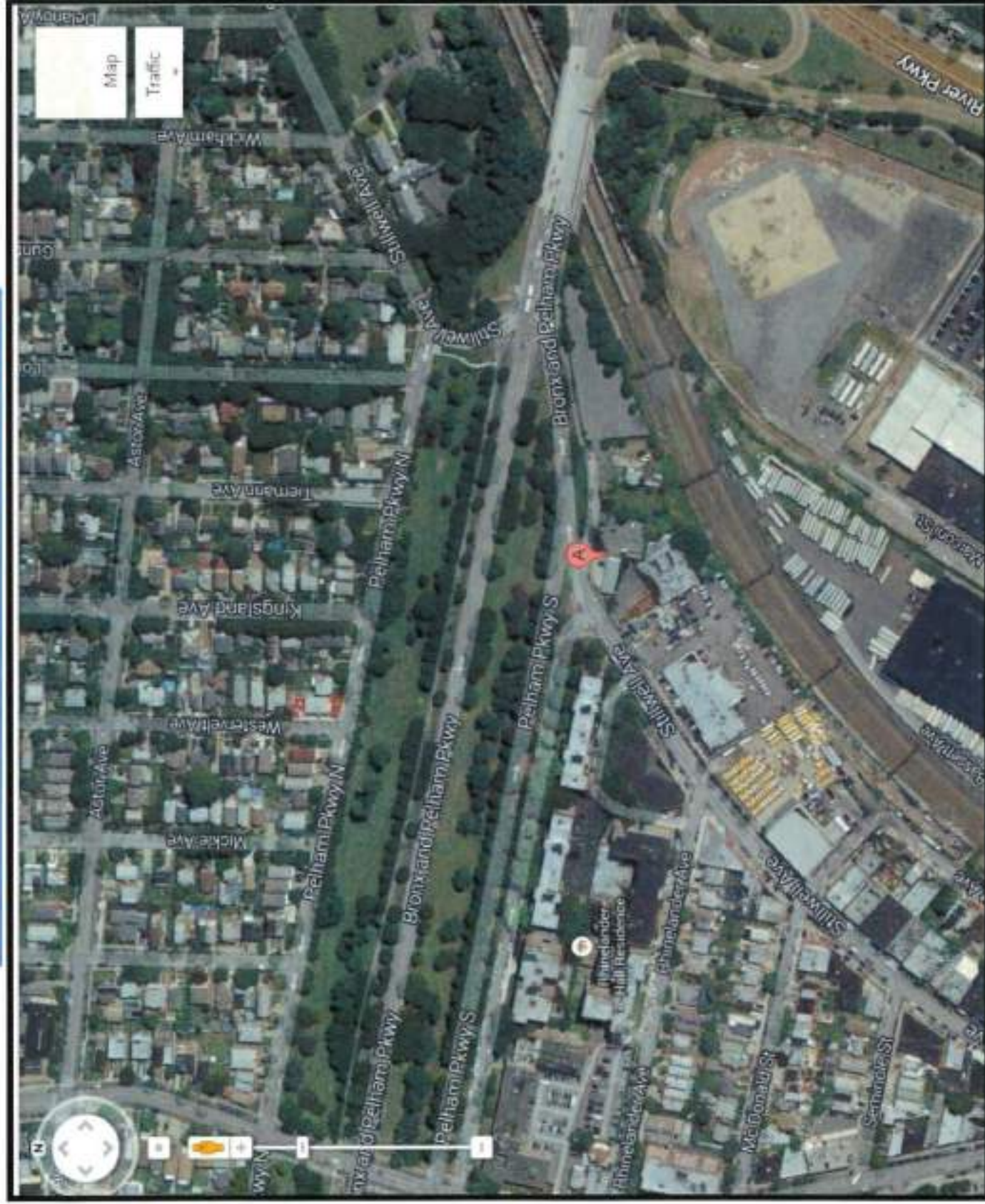
- Neighborhood Information
- Related Official Information

[Show Additional Data on Map](#)  
[Data Feedback](#)

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## Site # 48: 1600 Pelham Parkway South





## Site # 48: 1600 Pelham Parkway South



# Site # 49: 615 Thwaites Place

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Search for a location:

### Advanced Search

#### Searched Locations

BRONX Block: 4340 Lot: 95

Hide Additional Information...

- Find Nearest
- Building & Property Information

Borough: BRONX Block: 4340 Lot: 95  
 Police Precinct: 49  
 Owner: TARI-LAND DEVELOPMENT  
 Address: 615 THWAITES PLACE 10467  
 Lot Area: 2400 sq  
 Lot Frontage: 50.67' Lot Depth: 100  
 Year Built: unknown  
 Number of Buildings: 0  
 Number of Floors: 0  
 Gross Floor Area: 0 (estimated)  
 Residential Units: 0 Total # of Units: 0  
 Land Use: Vacant Land  
 Zoning: R7-1  
 Commercial Overlay:  
 Survey Map #: 25  
[Dept. of City Planning, PLUTO 2012 © 2012 and other city agencies licensed](#)

[Link to More Information](#)  
[Address Translator](#)  
[Building Profile](#)  
[Building Restrictions/Violation](#)

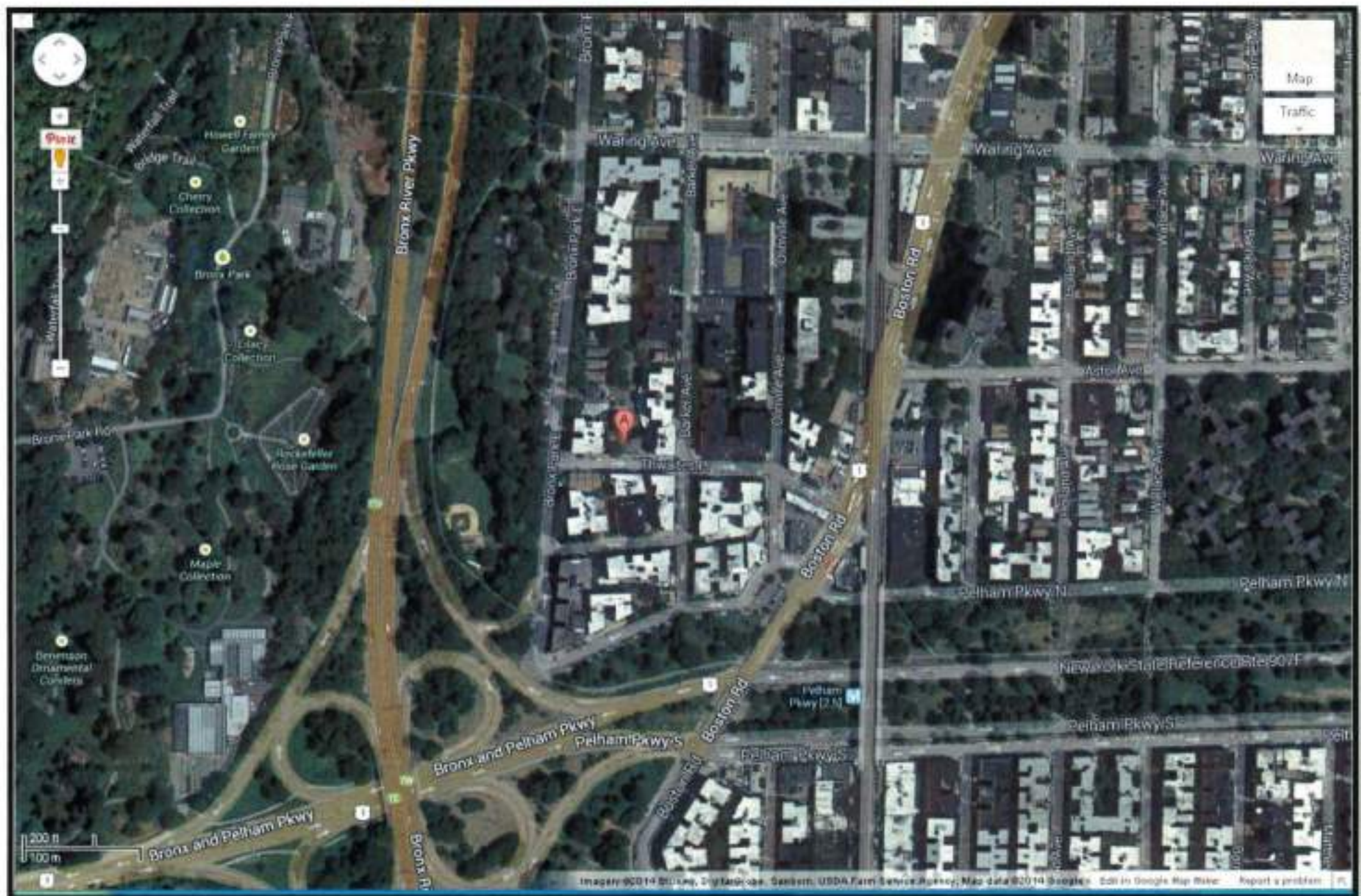
- Neighborhood Information
- Related Official Information

[Show Additional Data on Map](#)

[Data Feedback](#)

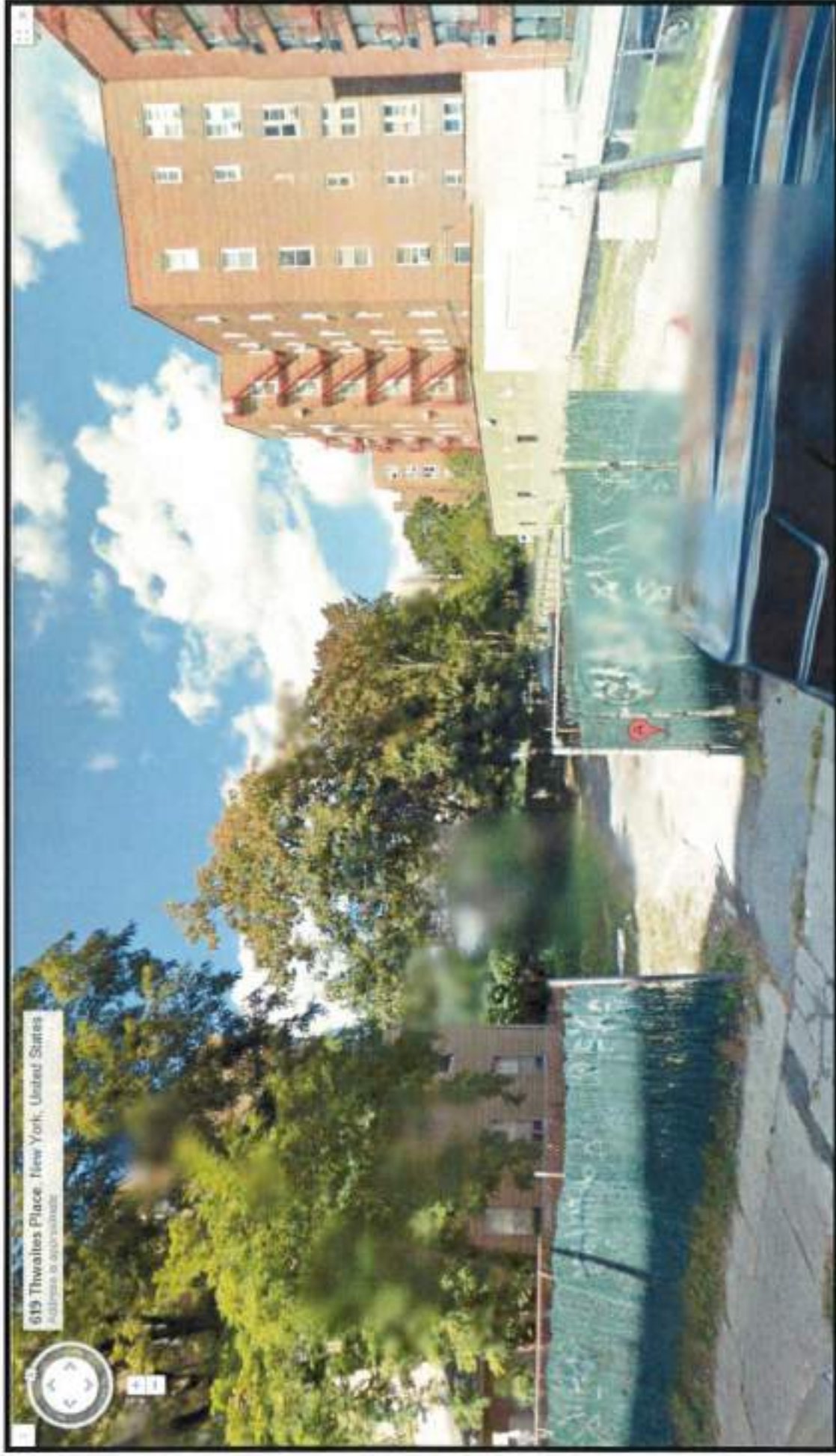


## Site # 49: 615 Thwaites Place





**Site # 49: 615 Thwaites Place**



615 Thwaites Place, New York, United States  
Address is approximate



# Site # 50: SW White Plains Road and E. 216<sup>th</sup> Street

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**NYCityMap**

Search for a location:  Enter an address, intersection, community district, ZIP code, etc.

**Advanced Search**  
**Searched Locations**  
 BRONX Block: 4647 Lot: 43

Hide Additional Information...

Find Nearest

**Building & Property Information**

Borough: BRONX Block: 4647 Lot: 43  
 Police Precinct: 47  
 Owner: PAUL/PAUL AUGUST REALTY  
 Address: 3607 WHITE PLAINS ROAD 10407  
 Lot Area: 3340 sq ft  
 Lot Frontage: 61.82' Lot Depth: 112.67'  
 Year Built: 1925  
 Number of Buildings: 1  
 Number of Floors: 1  
 Gross Floor Area: 4,205 (Estimated)  
 Residential Units: 0 Total # of Units: 0  
 Land Use: Industrial and Manufacturing  
 Zoning: B7a M5A  
 Commercial Overlay: C2-4  
 Zoning Map #: 38  
[Dept. of City Planning PLUTO 2012 and other city agency controls](#)

Links to More Information:  
[Address Tracings](#)  
[Building Profile](#)  
[Building Rehabilitation/Insulation](#)  
 Neighborhood Information  
 Elected Official Information

Show Additional Data on Map

Data Feedback

176

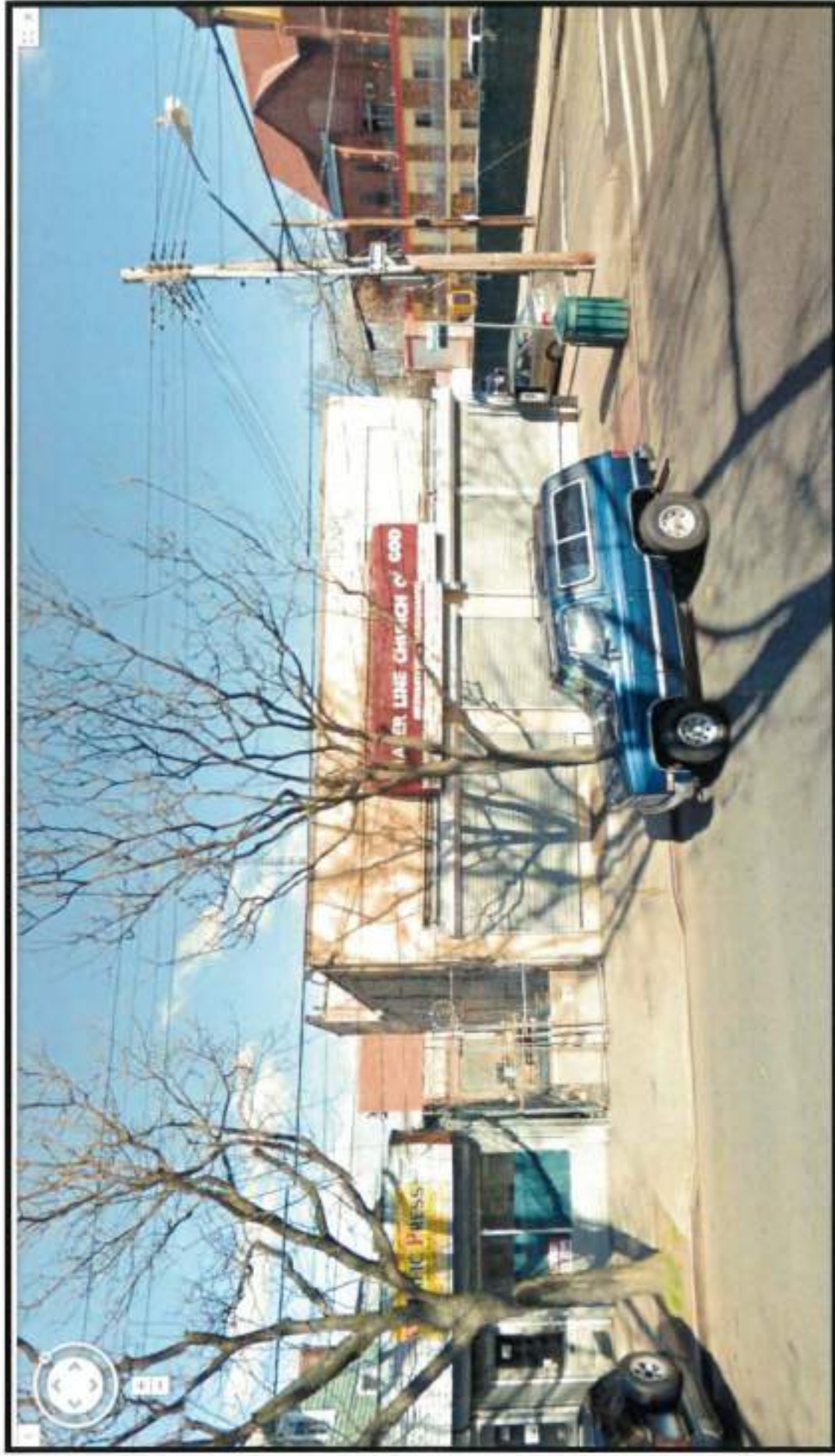


**Site # 50: SW White Plains Road and E. 216<sup>th</sup> Street**





**Site # 50: SW White Plains Road and E. 216<sup>th</sup> Street**

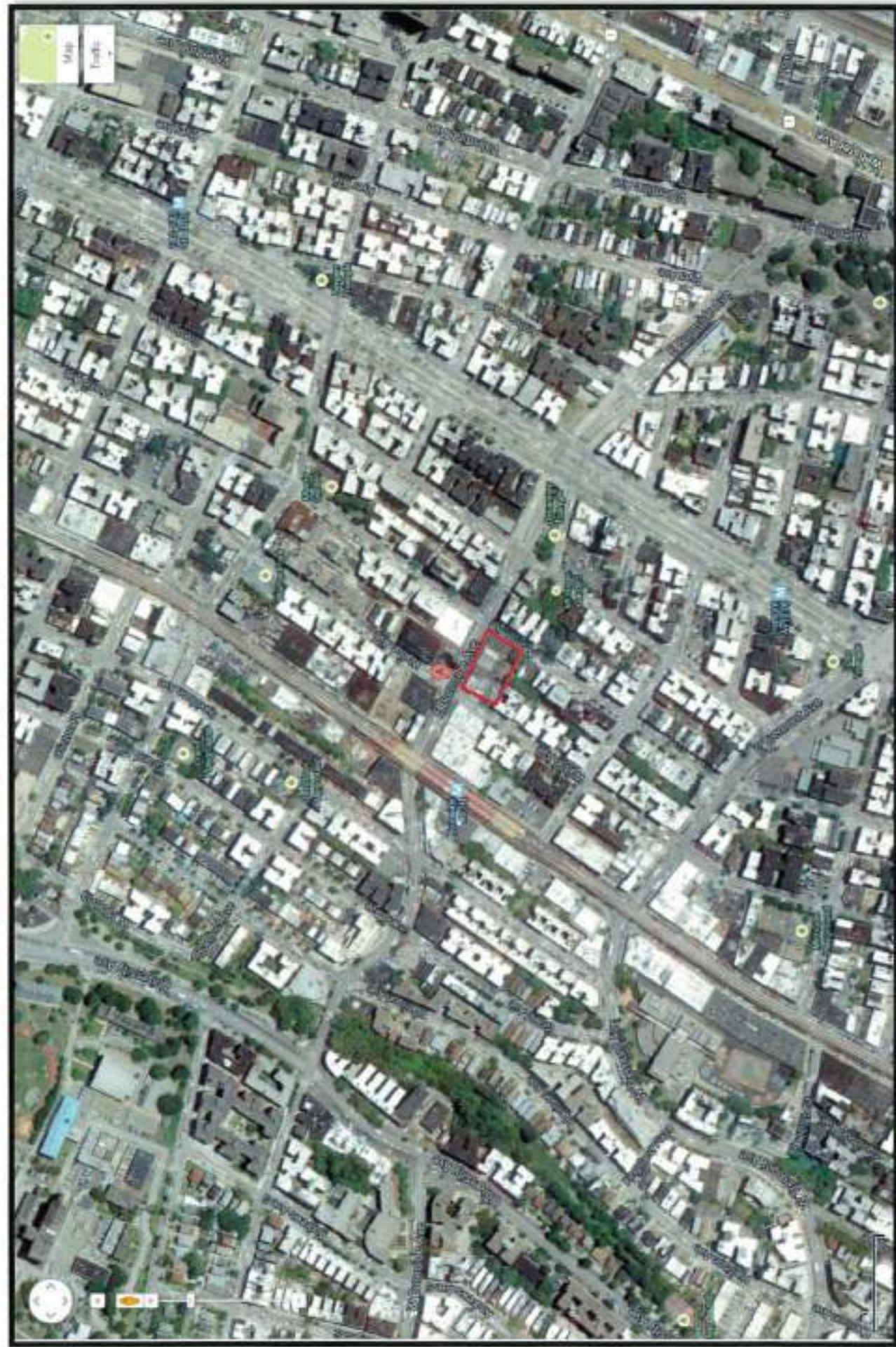


## **VII. Emergency Property Declarations**





**Site # 51: 66 E. Burnside Avenue**





**Site # 51: 66 E. Burnside Avenue**



#### 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promote transformative economic development and job creation opportunities throughout the borough with sustainable practices and a living wage.

- Support the redevelopment of the city's food distribution infrastructure to both assure its primacy as the center of this industry in the region and transform it into a more efficient and sustainable operation that will continue to generate good paying jobs for Bronx residents far into the foreseeable future.
  - Support the redevelopment of the Hunts Point Market
- Support the development of a full service hotels reflective of the redevelopment and ascendancy of the borough over the last two decades.
  - Prioritize flag franchises and locations within the commercial hubs near transit and the Civic Center of the Borough
- Recruit and support job generating firms into the four borough's industrial zones.
  - Zerega
  - Bathgate
  - Port Morris
  - Hunts Point
- Support commercial retail, public transit accessible development that capture sales revenues and municipal remittances, facilitate sustainable local shopping, afford recreational amenities for healthy lifestyles and provide both work space and employment options close to home.
  - Bartow Avenue Site (Mixed-use Site)
  - HUB Project
  - 230<sup>th</sup> Street Site (Local Retail)
  - 238<sup>th</sup> Street BJ's
  - Kingsbridge Armory (Community Amenity of Historic Value)
  - Whitestone Cinema Site
  - Brush Avenue Target Mall
  - Hutchinson Metro Center (Office Park)
  - The Bronx General Post Office Building
- Support land use development policies that establish connections with the borough's historic heritage, geographical features, commercial hubs, and transit infrastructure to facilitate mixed use, mixed income development, economic activity and quality of life.
  - West Farms Road and Loral Sites parallel to the Bronx River;
  - Southern Boulevard and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - Crossroads Plaza at E. 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Southern Boulevard
  - Support development and public access along the Harlem River Waterfront for residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities.
  - Significant business development operations in The Bronx also flow through the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC). The BOEDC



serves as economic development consultants for the Office of the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. When a business wants to find out what benefits a Bronx address offers; need assistance in finding the right site; recruiting employees or accessing federal, state or city benefits; is looking for a low-cost government loan to help your company grow; or assistance in implementing cost-saving, environmentally-friendly projects; whatever your need or the size of your business, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) can help.

Most recently, the BOEDC, Borough President Diaz and State Senator Jeff Klein announced the creation of the Bronx Revolving Loan Fund. This new small business lending program administered by BOEDC, has nearly \$500,000 in loans available to local small businesses -- of all sizes and sectors -- across The Bronx. The loans, ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000, can be used as working capital, for the purchase of machinery or equipment, inventory and accounts receivable.

In 2014, Senator Klein secured \$500,000 in state funding to jump start the availability of loans to Bronx-based business owners and entrepreneurs. With credit availability continuing to top the list of concerns for small businesses in The Bronx and across New York City, The Bronx Revolving Loan Fund aims to simplify the process and provide quick and easy access to capital.

The new lending program marks the first economic development initiative administered by BOEDC that does not place eligibility requirements like size or location on the condition of the loan. Eligible candidates consist of businesses registered in The Bronx for two or more years, including small retail businesses, construction companies, restaurants, technology firms, healthcare providers and more. Additional facts about the program are provided below.

#### **The Bronx Revolving Loan Fund**

##### ***Eligible Borrowers:***

- *Any small business located in The Bronx.*
- *Must be a legally registered business for at least two years.*

##### ***Eligible Uses:***

- *Funds can be used as working capital, for the purchase of machinery or equipment, inventory or accounts receivable.*

##### ***Terms of the Loan and Interest Rates:***

- *Two to five years, depending upon the size of the loan and the use of the funds, at prime plus 2%.*

##### ***Fees:***

- *Application - Loans less than \$25,000: \$100.00; Loans \$25,000 and above: \$250.00.*
- *Closing - Applicants will be charged a \$100.00 fee to cover the cost of UCC filings.*

##### ***Equity Participation:***

- *10% Collateral.*
- *First security interest on assets.*
- *Personal and corporate guarantees.*

Since 2009, The Bronx has seen more than \$7 billion in total development. A copy of the borough president office's annual development report is attached.

Office of the Bronx Borough President  
Ruben Diaz Jr.



2009-2014  
Bronx Annual Development Report

February 2015



# Report Highlights

- 2014 investment in the Bronx remains vigorous. This year's total investment of \$1,131,338,709\* is 26% higher than last year's figure of \$894,534,593. Investment has remained strong every year since 2009.
- In 2009-2014, \$7,212,257,484 was invested in the Bronx.
- From 2009-2014, 16,428 new housing units have been developed in the Bronx. During this period, 8,568 residential units have been subsidized, representing 52% of all units. 48% of all residential units developed have been unsubsidized, representing 7,860 units.
- There has been a steady increase in unsubsidized residential development over the years and we have broken last year's record of 63% unsubsidized units, with a total of 69% unsubsidized units this year. This represents 2,547 unsubsidized units out of 3,697 total housing units developed in 2014.
- Approximately \$100 million more was invested in the top ten projects of 2014 than for these projects in 2013.
- Approximately 45 million square feet of floor area has been developed from 2009-2014.
- \$ 788 million has been invested in Residential Development in 2014, accounting for 56% of all investment.
- Institutional Development accounted for \$483 million in investment, making up 34% of investment.
- Commercial Development accounted for \$134 million of investment, making up 10% of all investment.

\*Does not include Bronx Hall of Justice, which cost \$275,000,000

Data and graphs represented in this report are from Borough President house number application records.



# Addresses Issued by Land Use Category 2014

## Commercial Development Highlights:

- 15 New Retail Stores
- 3 Restaurants
- 1 Bank
  - TD Bank: 1866 Westchester Avenue
- 2 Hotels
  - 501 Gerard Avenue (Hampton Inn)
  - 335 Grand Concourse (boutique)
- 4 Storage Facilities
- 5 Warehouse
- 1 Auto Laundry
- 2 Gas Stations

## Residential Development Highlights:

- 4 1-Family Houses
- 44 2-Family Houses
- 20 3-Family Houses
- 81 Multifamily Buildings, including:
  - 6 Supportive Housing Buildings
- 96 Alterations/Verifications

Commercial, 125, 31%

Institutional, 33, 8%

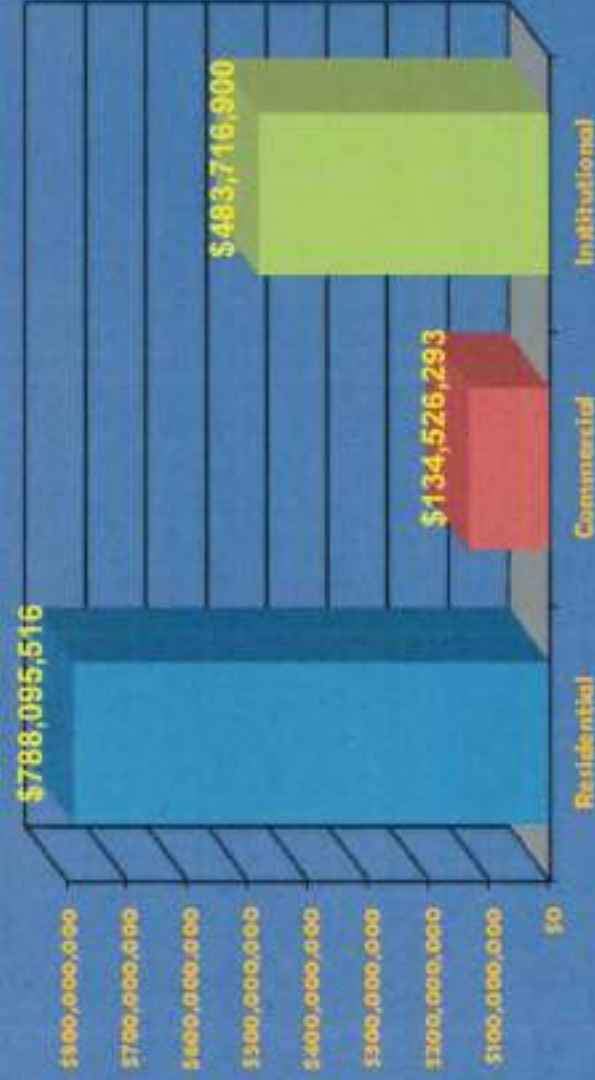
Residential, 247, 61%

## Institutional Development Highlights:

- Natatorium for Riverdale Country School
- 3 New Schools,
  - P.S. 317 (1028 White Plains Rd.)
  - Children's Aid Society Charter School (1232 Southern Blvd)
  - Metropolitan Lighthouse Charter School (180 W. 165<sup>th</sup> St.)
- 3 Campus Buildings
  - 2 Fordham University Campus Buildings
  - 1 BCC Campus Building
- Bronx Council on the Arts Gallery
- MTA Training Facility
- NYPD Training Facility
- St. Barnabas Building
- 1 Mosque

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDRESSES ISSUED IN 2014: 405**

# Investment (\$) By Land Use Category 2014



**NOTE: Total Investment in 2014: \$1,406,338,709\***

\*This figure includes the Bronx Hall of Justice, which cost \$275,000,000. Although it opened in 2009, they only filed for an address this year.

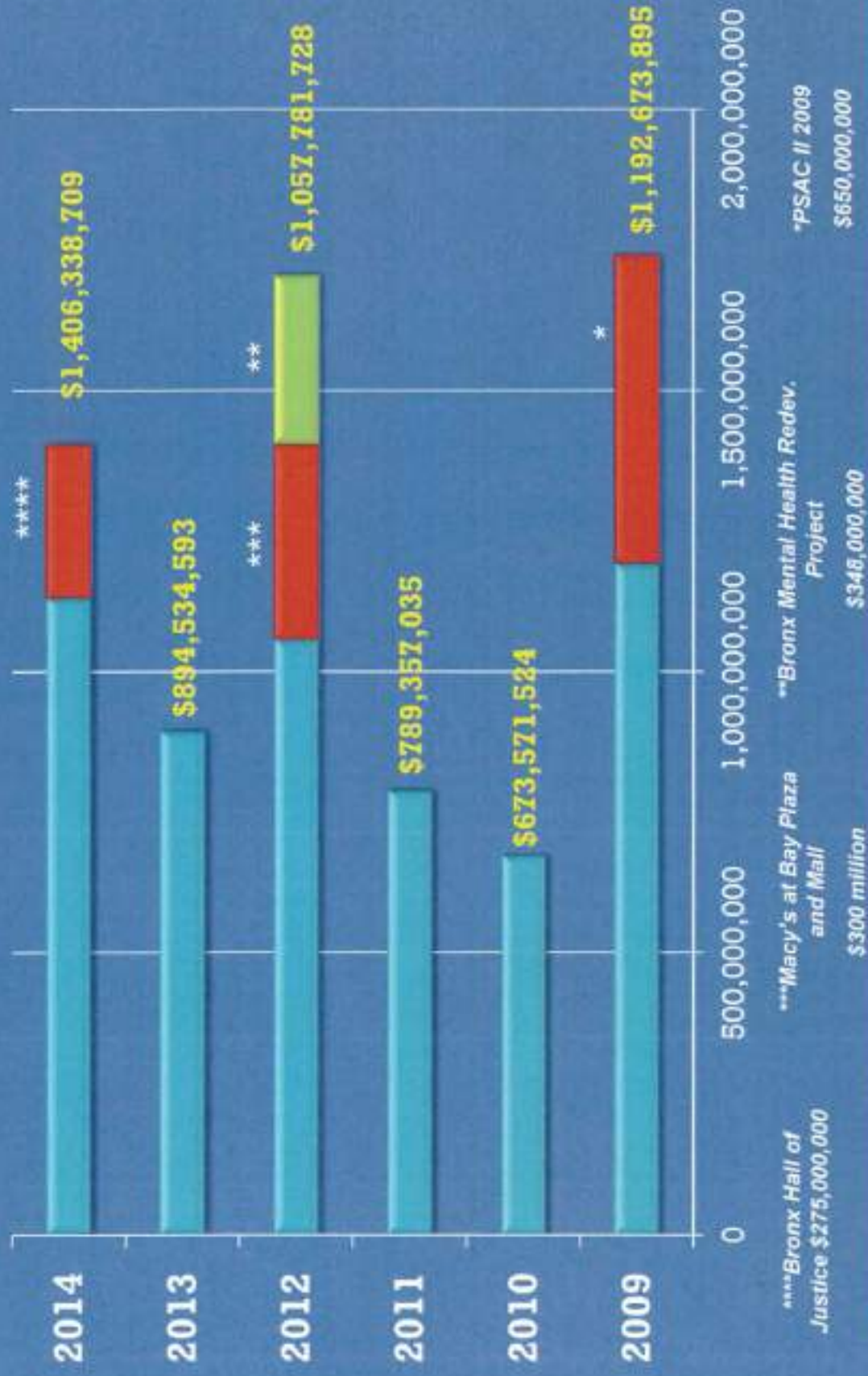


# Addresses Issued 2009-2014



**2,479 addresses have been issued in the past 6 years**

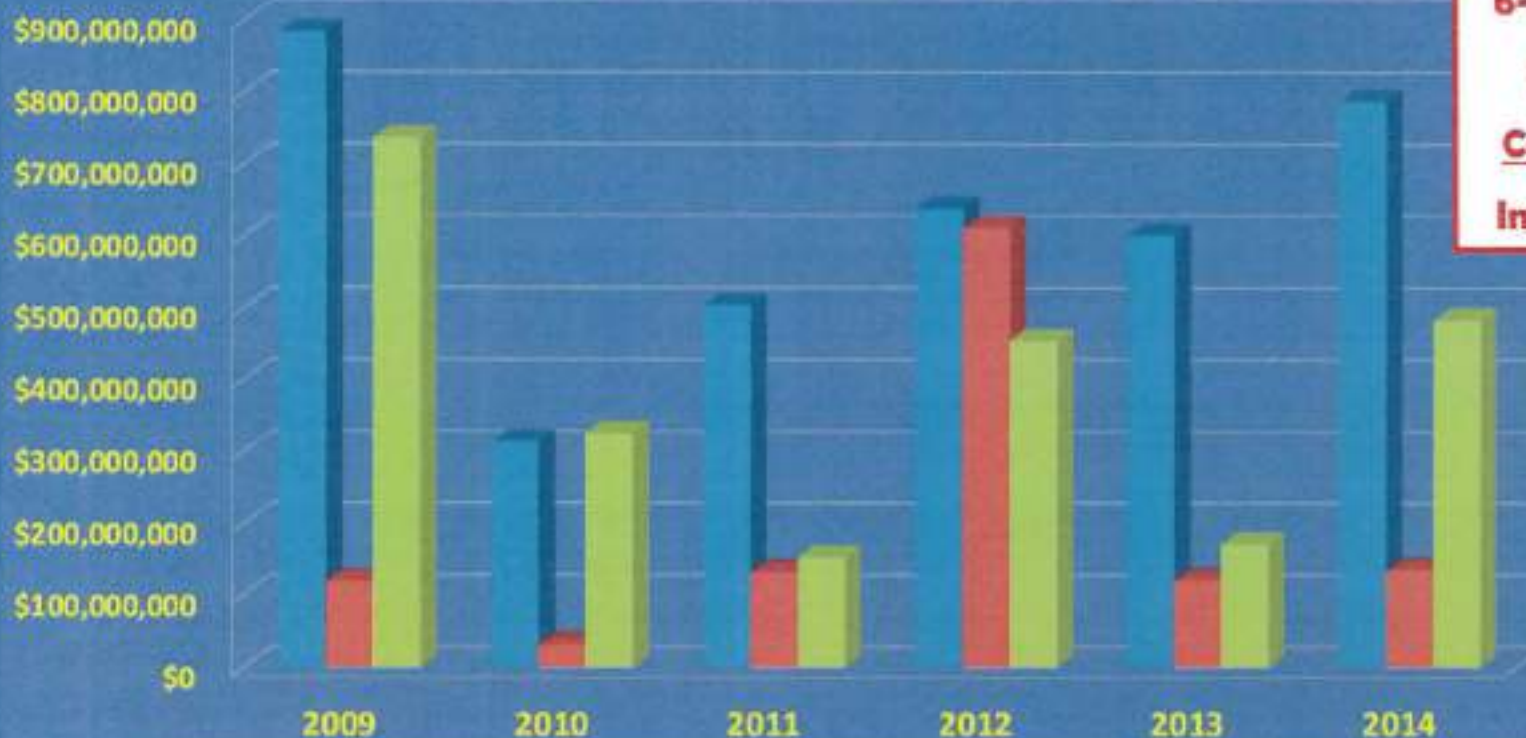
# Total Development Investment 2009-2014



**\$7,212,257,484 has been invested in the Bronx in the past 6 years<sup>191</sup>**



# Investment (\$) By Land Use Category 2009-2014

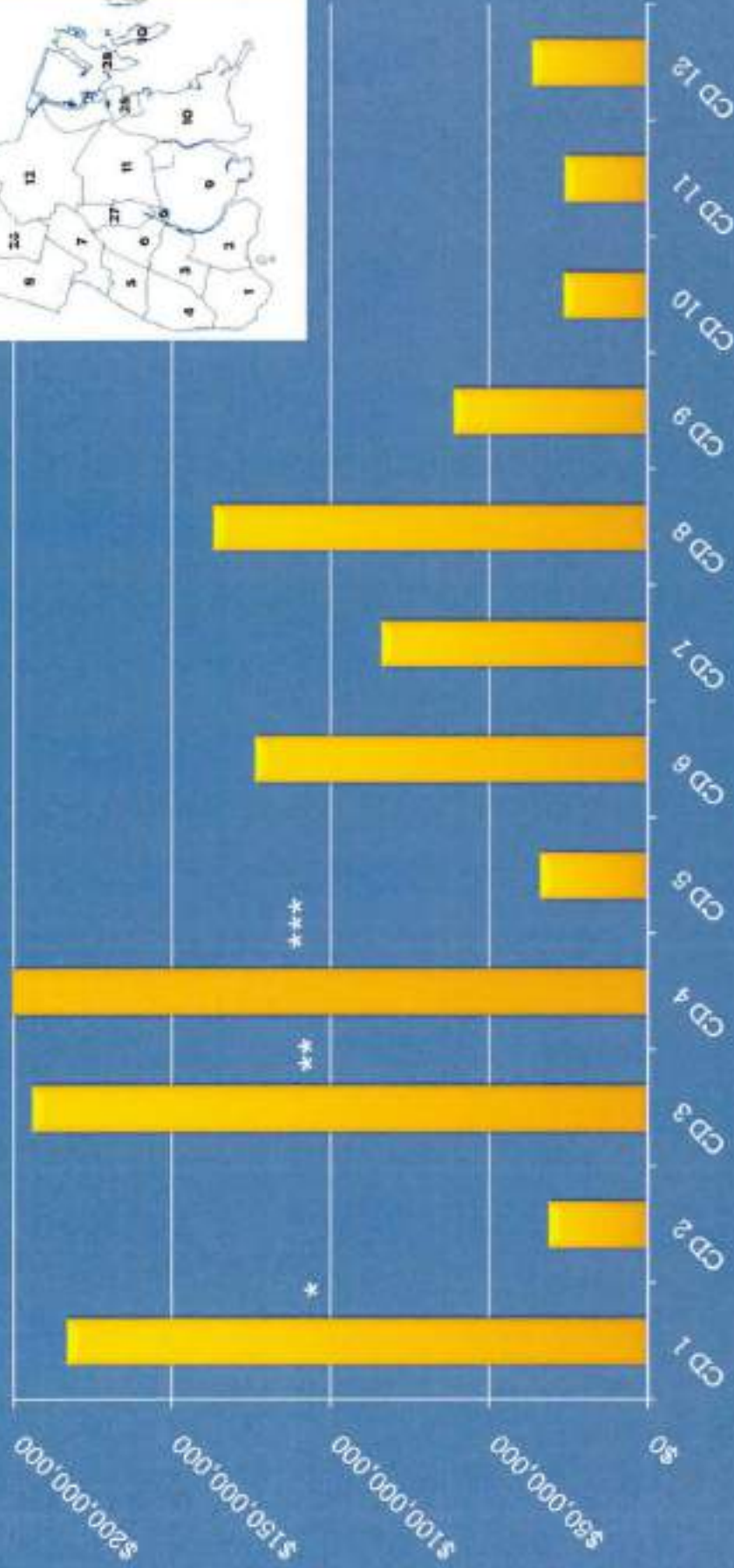


	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Residential	\$884,813,242	\$314,542,917	\$500,855,079	\$639,128,439	\$601,582,502	\$788,095,516
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Commercial	\$119,910,000	\$32,225,160	\$131,532,510	\$612,187,739	\$121,338,567	\$134,526,293
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Institutional	\$737,950,693	\$326,803,447	\$156,964,446	\$494,465,550	\$171,613,524	\$483,716,900

**\$7,212,257,484 has been invested in the Bronx in the past 6 years**



# Total Investment By Community District 2014



\*Crossroads Plaza is \$55,000,000

Signature Urban Properties \$58,000,000

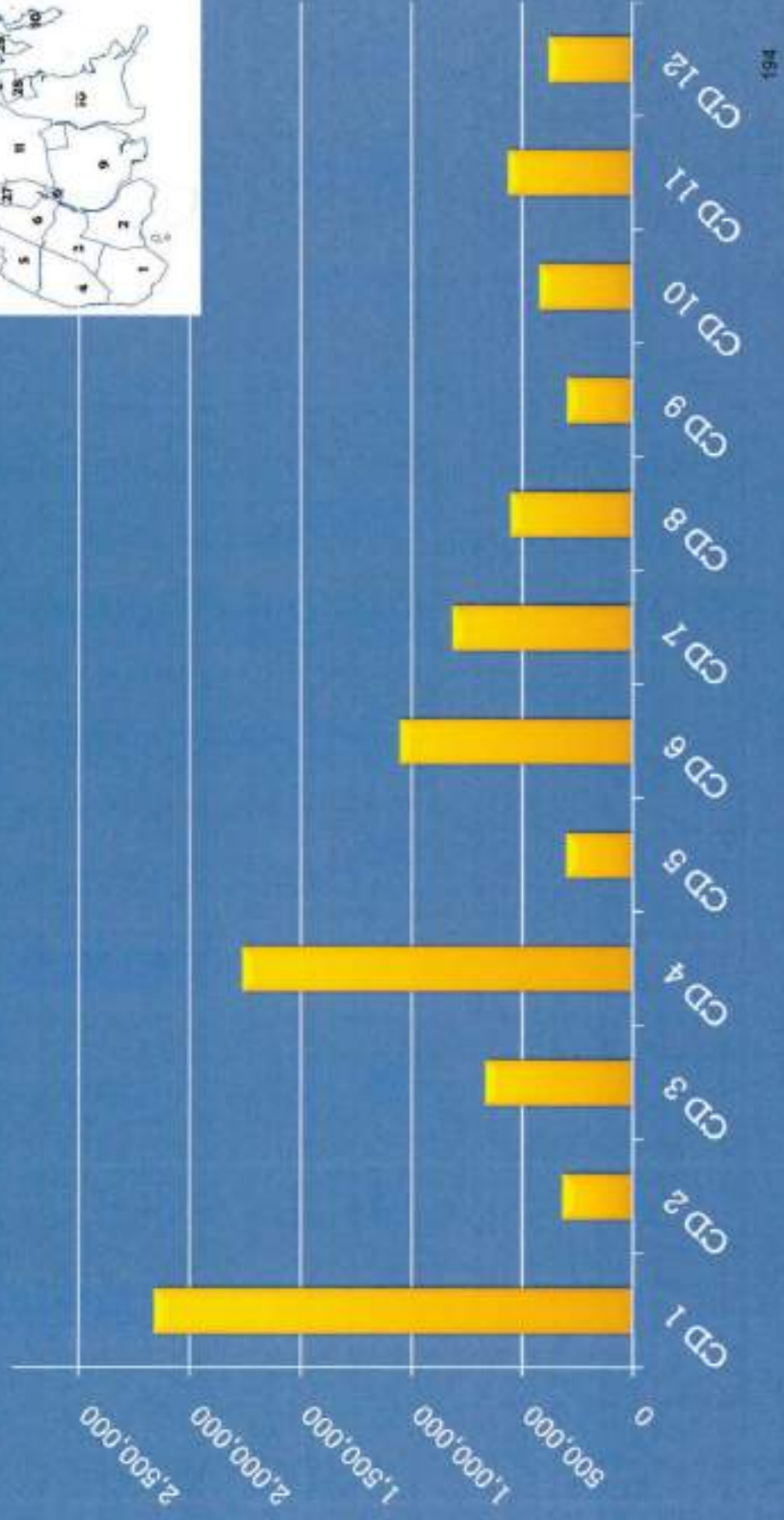
\*\*\*M. Melnick & Co. is \$58,000,000  
SUS/B&B Supportive is \$55,000,000

\*\*Melrose Site C is \$91,000,000

The Doe Fund is \$30,000,000

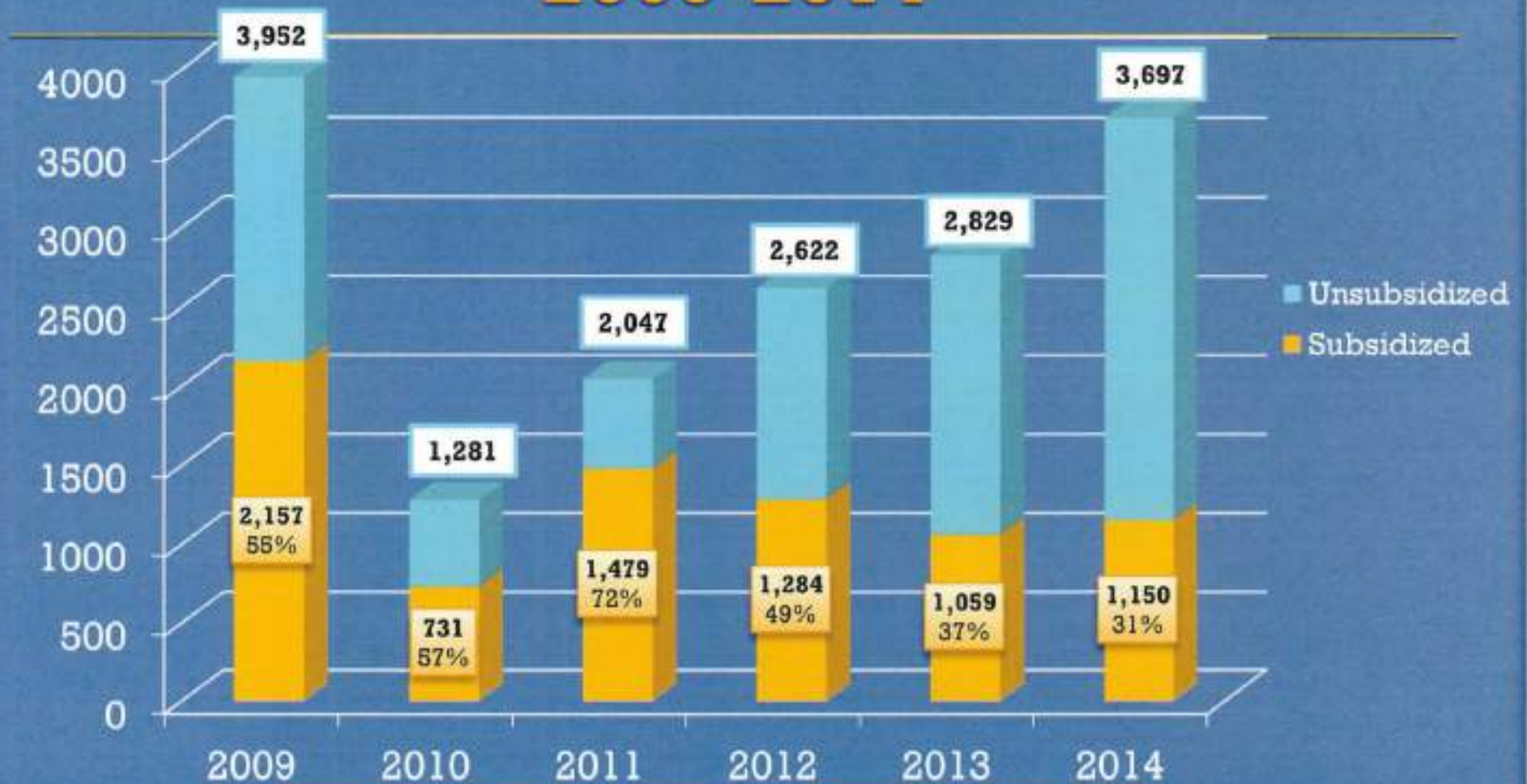
Children's Aid Society Charter School is \$27,000,000

# Total Square Footage Constructed By Community District 2014





# New Residential Units 2009-2014



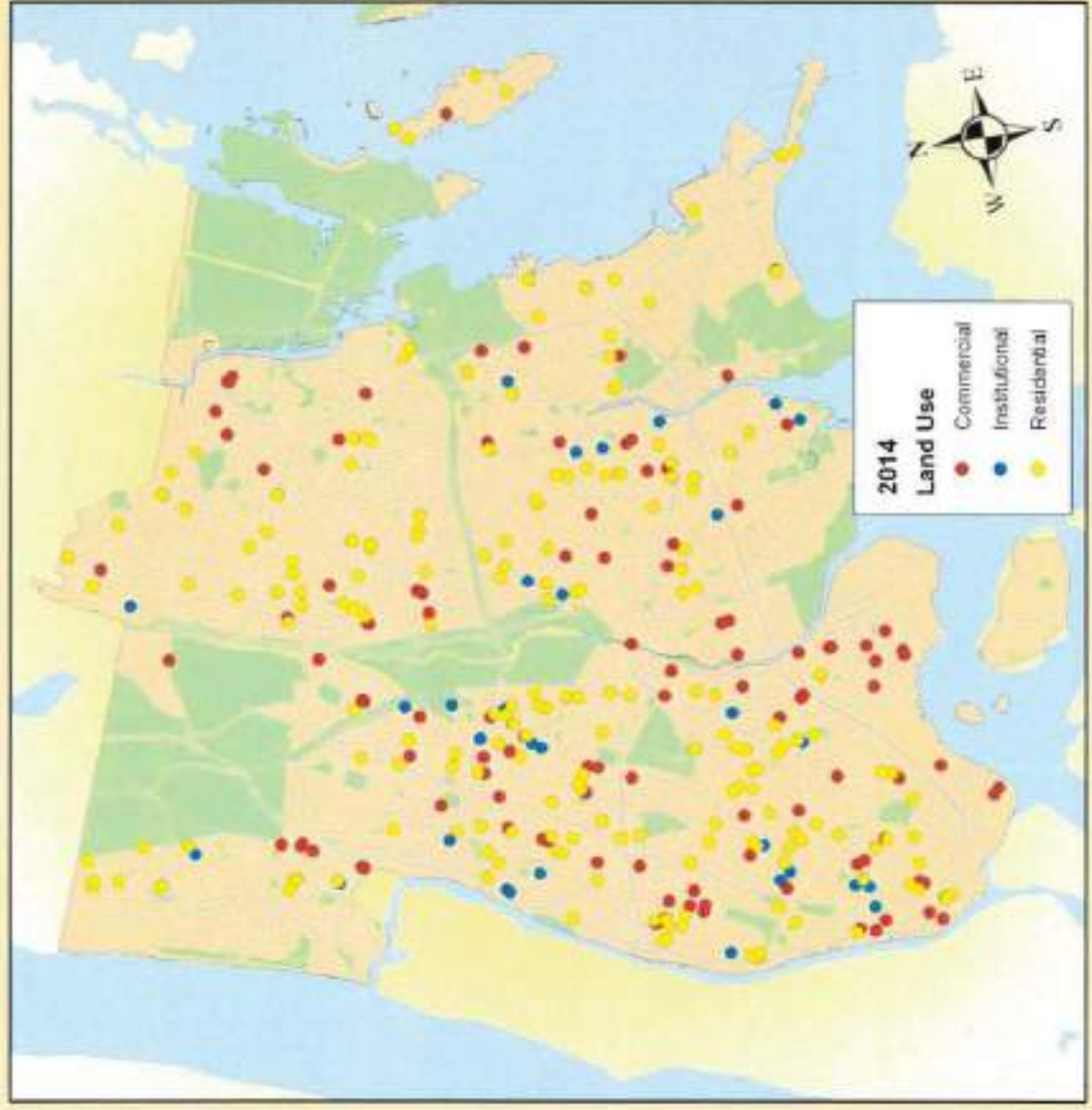
**NUMBER OF NEW SUBSIDIZED UNITS: 8,568 (52%)**

**NUMBER OF NEW UNSUBSIDIZED UNITS: 7,860 (48%)**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW UNITS: 16,428 (100%)**



# New Development in the Bronx 2014



# Top 10 Residential Developments 2014

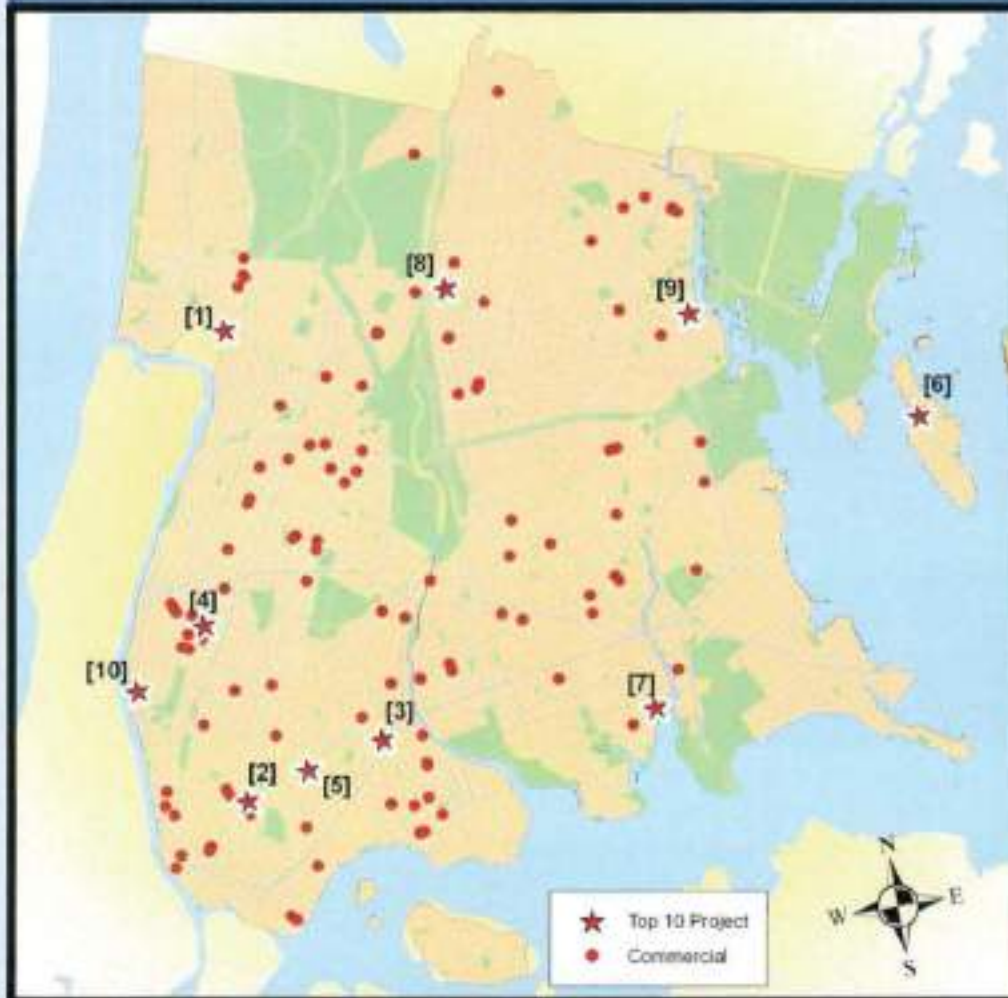


	Owner/Developer	Address	Dwelling Units	Investment
1	Phipps/ Briarwood/ The Bridge	432 E. 182 <sup>nd</sup> Street	262	\$91,000,000
2	M. Melnick & Co., Inc.	810 River Avenue	134	\$58,000,000
3	Services for the Underserved/ B&B Supportive	294 E. 182 <sup>nd</sup> Street	149	\$85,000,000
4	Douglaston Development	501 Southern Boulevard	136	\$85,000,000
5	The Bowery Residence Committee	233 Landing Road	336	\$34,000,000
6	Signature Urban Properties	830 Exterior Street	180	\$33,670,480
7	The Doe Fund	1420 Crotona Park E.	60	\$30,000,000
8	Jericho Project/B&B Supportive	2065 Walton Ave.	90	\$22,383,000
9	Common Ground	4275 Park Ave.	248	\$21,152,000
10	Acacia/Promesa	929 Rogers Pl.	51	\$17,000,000



# Top 10 Commercial Developments

## 2014



Map by BP Office

	Owner/ Developer	Address	Description	Investment
1	Signature Urban Properties	501 Gerard Ave.	Hotel Hampton Inn	\$24,419,080
2	Storage Deluxe	5470 Broadway	Storage/retail	\$16,000,000
3	Storage Deluxe	2301 Tillotson Ave.	Storage	\$15,000,000
4	Sanjay Patel	335 Grand Concourse	Hotel	\$8,000,000
5	Public Storage, Inc.	385 Gerard Ave.	Storage	\$7,909,728
6	David Blumenfeld	921 Hunt's Point Ave.	Stores	\$6,300,000
7	David Malanga	400 Walnut Ave.	Warehouse	\$6,000,000
8	Equity One	5520 Broadway	Retail/Restaurant	\$5,750,000
9	MTA/Gaelic Park	205 W. 240 <sup>th</sup> St.	Concession Stand for Gaelic Park	\$4,000,000
10	Equity One	5510 Broadway	Retail	\$3,750,000



# Top 10 Institutional Developments

## 2014



	Owner	Address	Description	Investment
1	Riverdale Country School	241 W. 252 <sup>nd</sup> Street	New Natatorium (Swimming Room Building) for Campus	\$100,000,000
2	NYC SCA	1028 White Plains Road	P.S. 317	\$49,399,000
3	Children's Aid Society	1232 Southern Boulevard	Children's Aid Society College Prep Charter School	\$27,000,000
4	Turner-Agassi Charter School Facilities/ Lighthouse Academies	180 W. 165 <sup>th</sup> St.	Metropolitan lighthouse Charter School	\$9,300,000
5	NYPD	100A Rodman's Neck Path	NYPD Training Facility	\$4,000,000
6	St. Barnabas Hospital	4487 Third Ave.	St. Barnabas Hospital Building	\$4,000,000
7	Muslim American Society	1912 Amethyst St.	Mosque	\$3,000,000
8	Fordham University	477 E. Fordham Rd.	Faber Hall	\$2,862,180
9	NYC EDC	1120 Commerce Ave.	MTA Training Facility	\$2,000,000
10	Fordham University	479 E. Fordham Rd.	Loyola Hall Student Dorm	199 \$1,975,000

# Top Ten Development Projects in 2014

	Owner	CB	Address	Description	Investment
1	Riverdale Country School	8	241 W. 352 <sup>nd</sup> Street	New Natatorium (Swimming Room Building) for Campus	\$100,000,000
2	Phippe/ Briarwood/ The Bridge	3	432 E. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Melrose Site C: 203 unit mixed use and 89-unit Supp. Housing	\$91,000,000
3	M. Melnick & Co., Inc.	4	810 River Avenue	134 unit Multifamily Building	\$58,000,000
4	Services for the Underserved/ B&B Supportive	4	294 E. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street	149-unit Supportive Housing	\$56,000,000
5	Douglston Development	1	501 Southern Boulevard	Crossroads Plaza 136 unit Multifamily Building	\$55,000,000
6	NYC SCA	9	1028 White Plains Road	P.S. 317	\$49,399,000
7	The Bowery Residence Committee	7	233 Landing Road	Supportive Housing and Homeless Shelter	\$34,000,000
8	Signature Urban Properties	1	530 Exterior Street	180-unit Multifamily	\$33,670,480
9	The Doe Fund	3	1420 Crotona Park E.	60-unit HIV Supportive Housing	\$30,000,000
10	Children's Aid Society	3	1232 Southern Boulevard	Children's Aid Society College Prep Charter School	\$27,000,000



Map by BP Office

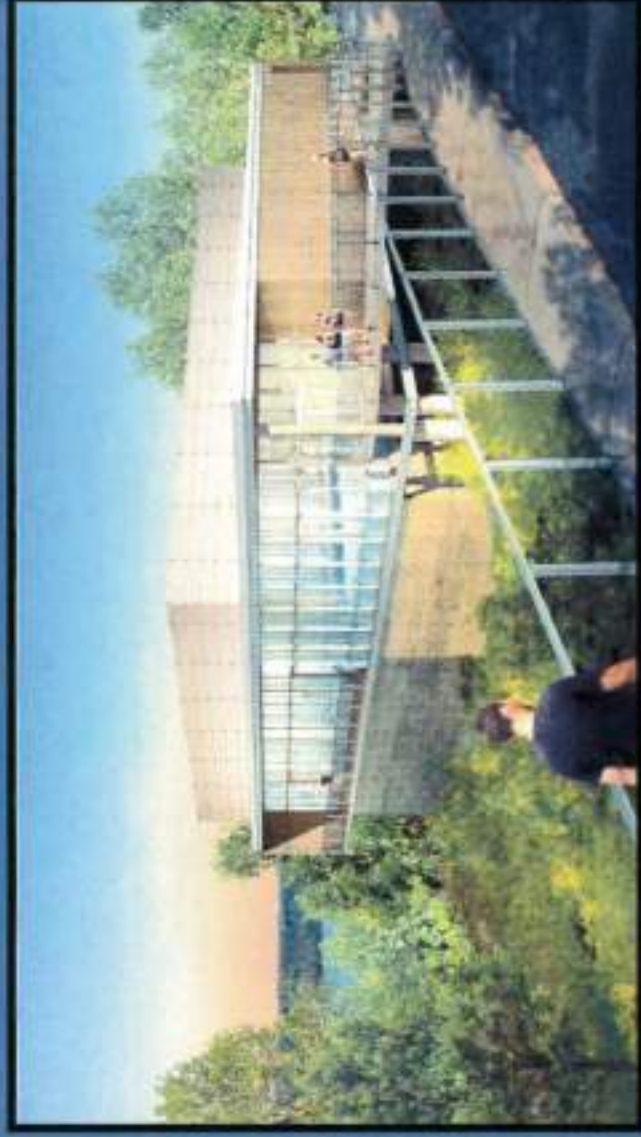


# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

1	Riverdale Country School: Natatorium	
Address Issued	241 W. 252 <sup>nd</sup> Street	
Floor area	13,087 sq. ft.	
Owner/Developer	Riverdale Country School	
Investment	\$100,000,000	



Google aerial map



Rendering provided by architect



# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

2	Melrose Site C: 203-unit mixed use and 59-unit Supp. Housing w/HDC, HPD Financing
Address Issued	432 E. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Units	262
Owner/Developer	Phipps/Brianwood/The Bridge
Investment	\$91,000,000





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

3	134-unit multifamily building w/HDC Financing
Address Issued	810 River Avenue
Units	134
Owner/Developer	M. Melnick & Co., Inc.
Investment	\$58,000,000





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

4	149-unit Supportive Housing with DOMH. HASA funding
Address Issued	294 E. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Floor Area	123,040
Owner/Developer	Services for the Underserved/B&B Supportive
Investment	\$55,000,000





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

5	Crossroads Plaza: 136-unit Multifamily Building with HPD/HDC funding	
Address Issued	501 Southern Blvd./500 Union Ave.	
Units	136	
Owner/Developer	Douglaston Development	
Investment	\$55,000,000	





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

6	P.S. 317
Address Issued	1028 White Plains Rd.
Floor Area	54,164 sf
Owner/Developer	NYC SCA
Investment	\$49,399,000



**PS 317X - Bronx**  
New Primary School



# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

7	136-unit Supportive Housing and 200-bed Homeless Shelter w/HPD/DHS Financing	
Address Issued	233 Landing Road	
Units	336	
Owner/Developer	Bowery Residence Committee	
Investment	\$34,000,000	





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

8	150-unit Multifamily w/HDC financing
Address Issued	530 Exterior Street
Units	150
Owner/Developer	Signature Urban Properties
Investment	\$33,670,450





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

9	60-unit HIV Supportive Housing w/HPD Financing	
Address Issued	1420 Crotona Park E.	
Units	60	
Owner/Developer	The Doe Fund	
Investment	\$27,000,000	





# Top Ten Projects By Total Investment

10	Children's Aid Society College Prep Charter School
Address Issued	1232 Southern Boulevard
Floor Area	73,588 sq. ft.
Owner/Developer	Children's Aid Society
Investment	\$27,000,000





## **6. PARKS & OPEN SPACE**

### ***Strategic Policy Objective:***

For many years the Bronx was officially known as the “Borough of Parks.” Boasting over 6,000 acres, 26% of its land area is mapped as public parks. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the City of New York was meticulous about maintaining park properties. During the second half of that century however, much of these properties fell into severe neglect due to profound budget challenges.

Since the year 2000 elected officials, local advocacy groups and federal government resources have reclaimed most of the borough’s parks as massive sums, approximately \$800 Million, of capital monies have been allocated for this purpose. Now, the remaining challenge is to maintain and improve what has already been achieved.

### ***Strategy #1: Expand Public Recreational Space***

- Retain improvement benefits realized through capital investment
- Coordinate funding with elected officials to maximize monetary investment potential
- Consult with Community Board members to prioritize capital investment needs

*Outstanding capital investment challenges are categorized into 2-sections; Create or Enhance:*

#### ***Create:***

- Construct Melrose Commons Park
- Design and construct Grant Avenue Park
- Construct Belden Point Park
- Complete construction of pedestrian bridge to Randall’s Island Park
- Design and construct public parks or waterfront easements along our Harlem River, East River, & Long Island Sound Waterfront
- Complete construction of the Bronx Greenway System
- Consider school yards as secure locations for recreational uses
- Construct a Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan within Van Courtlandt Park

#### ***Enhance:***

- Complete reconstruction of Park 52
- Complete construction of public facilities at Ferry Point Park
- Redesign Garrison Playground adjacent to the former P.S. 31 site & Hostos Community College
- Complete reconstruction of Starlight Park, including pedestrian bridges
- Reconstruct Cedar Playground
- Reconstruct Parque De Los Ninos
- Complete rehabilitation of the Highbridge
- Reconstruct the Edenwald Playground Mini Pool
- Construct the Fort Four Playground Comfort Station

- Reconstruct Orchard Beach Basketball Courts
- Reconstruct Plimpton Playground
- Reconstruct Noble Playground
- Upgrade all Bronx parks to satisfy ADA mandates
- Identify and maintain historic monuments, fountains
- Install new B-12 (or similar pole height) to improve park lighting & reduce vandalism

**Strategy 2: Address Operational Resource Deficiencies in Parks**

- Establish “one city, one standard” policy for all park facilities by:
  - Creating an “Adopt a Sister Park” in communities lacking financial resources this will:
    - ✓ Improve routine maintenance in smaller public parks
    - ✓ Encourage people from divergent communities to interact and share perspectives
    - ✓ Offer potential employment opportunities

Advocate for and encourage the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to undertake the following:

- Increase Parks Department operational staff to reflect the increase in properties maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation in Bronx County
- Publicize uniform guidelines for local community organizations interested in adopting and maintaining a public park
- Support and encourage Community Board review of park policies (i.e. barbeque, family gatherings, etc.)
- Establish a pragmatic and workable park-care program that can be monitored by community boards, elected officials and the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)
- Increase the presence of Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) officers in parks based on need
- Require the NYPD to respond to “quality of life” complaints taking place inside parks
- Allow NYPD cadets to patrol parks

A report outlining the office’s parks priorities is attached.

# **PARKS OF THE BRONX**

## **BOROUGH PRESIDENT BRIEFING FOR COMMISSIONER MITCHELL J. SILVER**



**Office of Bronx Borough President  
Ruben Diaz Jr.**

213

**March 17, 2014**



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2. Executive Summary
  - I- Borough President's Priorities
  - II- Proposed 4-Year Capital Investment Partnership Plan
  - III-Operational Priorities
  - IV- Waterfront Visions
3. Community Boards Visions & Observations
4. Photographic Addendum



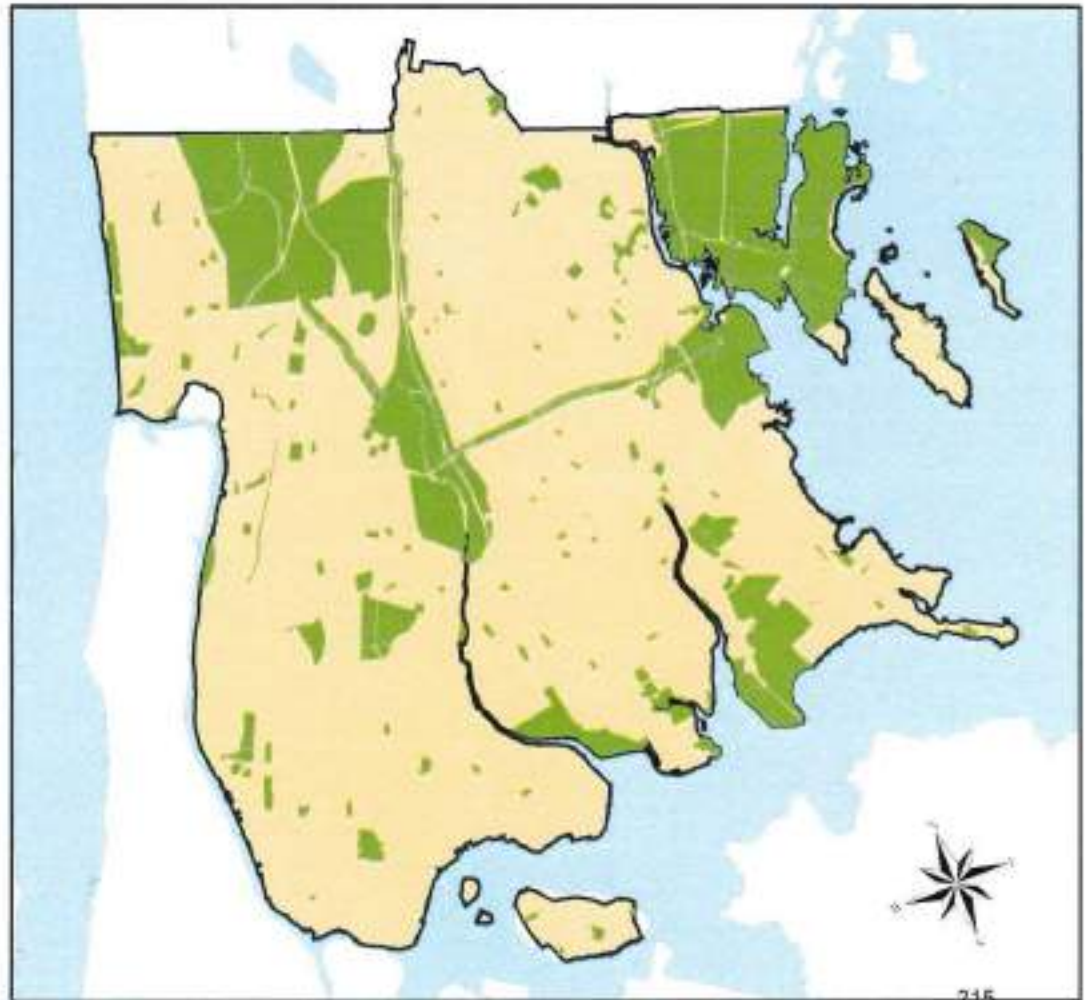
## 1. INTRODUCTION

# MAPPED PARKLAND IN THE BRONX

- *The Bronx has 6,965 acres of mapped parks*
- *4,581 acres are situated in community districts; CD's #7-#12, with a population of 799,283<sup>1</sup> or 174 per acre.*
- *1,666<sup>2</sup> acres in CD's #1-6 with a population of 581,414,<sup>1</sup> or 348 per acre.*

<sup>1</sup>Taken in 2010

<sup>2</sup>Does not Include Bronx Park 's 718 acres.





# **PARK AMENITY INVENTORY IN THE BRONX, NEW YORK**

■ <b>Total Number of Parks:</b>	<b>379</b>
■ <b>Total Number of Greenstreets</b>	<b>520</b>
■ <b>Natural acres of parkland:</b>	<b>3,043</b>
■ <b>Playgrounds:</b>	<b>220</b>
■ <b>Comfort Stations:</b>	<b>120</b>
■ <b>Drinking Fountains:</b>	<b>446</b>
■ <b>Athletic Fields:</b>	<b>189</b>
■ <b>Basketball Courts:</b>	<b>311</b>
■ <b>Pools:</b>	<b>10</b>
■ <b>Total Number of Park Properties:</b>	<b>899</b>



# NUMBERS IN BRONX PARKS



## Staffing Challenges:

**178 City Workers & Associate Park Service Personnel assigned to 379 parks**

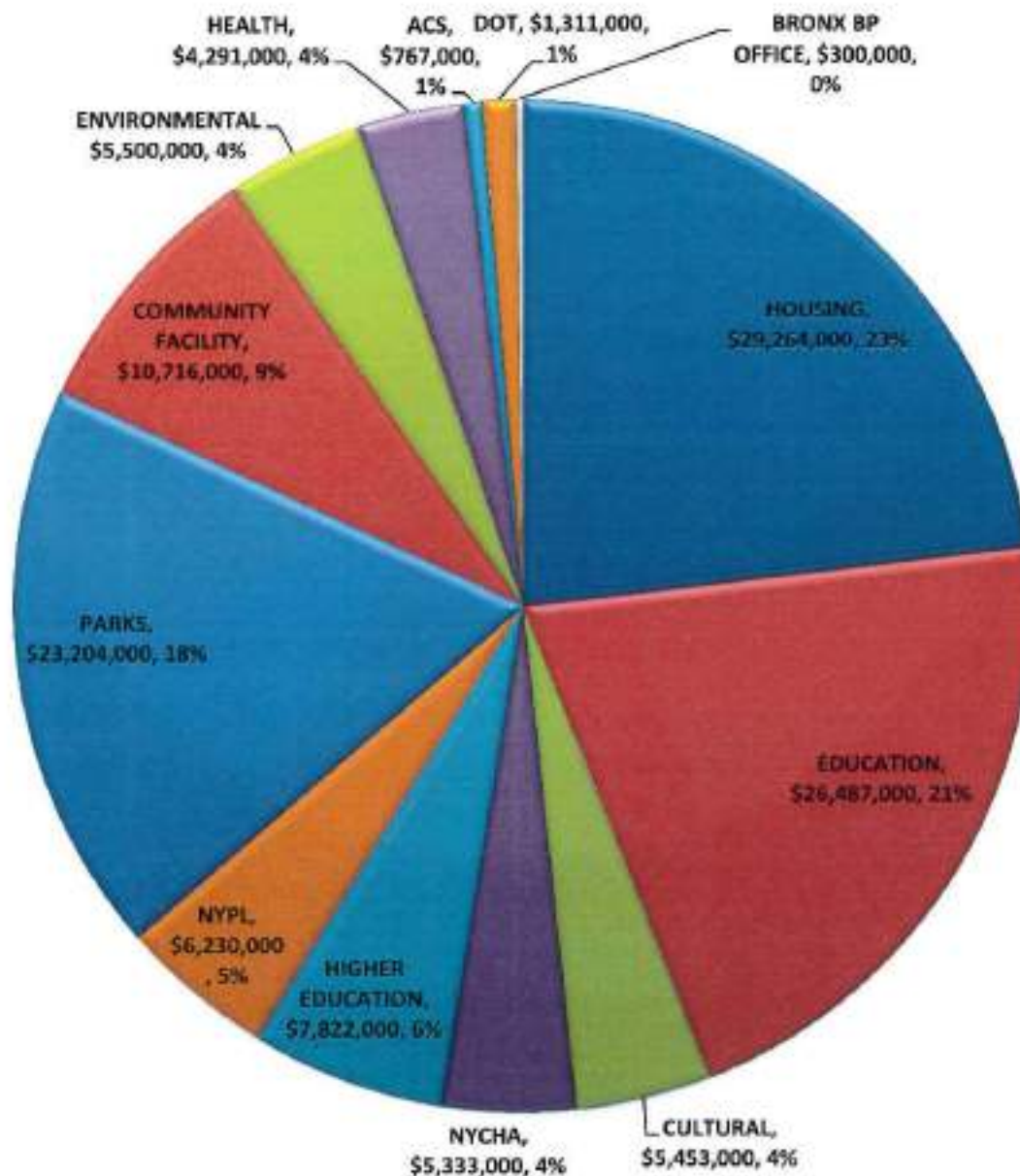
**55 Park Supervisors overseeing 899 park properties**

**23 Gardeners & Assistants caring for over 3,000 acres**

**25 Park Enforcement Patrol Officers to patrol watch over nearly 7,000 acres of mapped parkland**

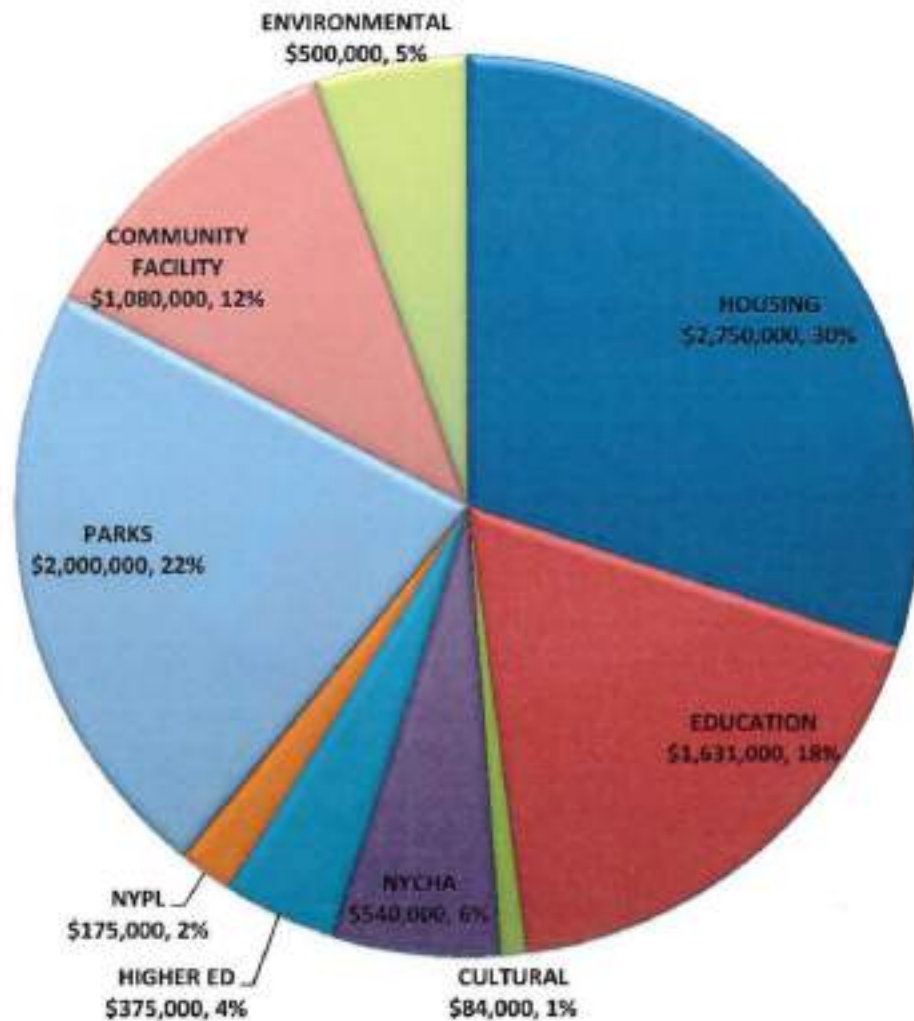
**13 Recreational Directors & 19 playground associates offering assistance in 220 playgrounds and 10 recreational centers.**

**Office of the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Recommended Budget Priorities  
FY 2010-2015**



CATEGORY	PROJECT #	REQUEST TOTAL	% TOTAL
HOUSING	41	\$29,264,000	23.1%
EDUCATION	180	\$26,487,000	20.9%
CULTURAL	20	\$5,453,000	4.3%
COMMUNITY FACILITY	20	\$10,716,000	8.46%
HIGHER EDUCATION	14	\$7,822,000	6.2%
NYPL	14	\$6,230,000	4.9%
PARKS	40	\$23,204,000	18.32%
HEALTH	9	\$4,291,000	3.39%
NYCHA	14	\$5,333,000	4.2%
EDC	4	\$5,500,000	4.34%
ACS	2	\$767,000	0.61%
DOT	3	\$1,311,000	1.03%
BRONX BP OFFICE	1	\$300,000	0.24%
TOTAL	362	\$126,678,000	100.0%

**Office of the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Recommended Budget Priorities FY 2015**



CATEGORY	PROJECT #	REQUEST TOTAL	% TOTAL
HOUSING	5	\$2,750,000	30.1%
EDUCATION	6	\$1,631,000	17.9%
CULTURAL	2	\$84,000	0.9%
NYCHA	2	\$540,000	5.9%
HIGHER EDUCATION	1	\$375,000	4.1%
NYPL	1	\$175,000	1.9%
PARKS	4	\$2,000,000	21.89%
COMMUNITY FACILITY	3	\$1,080,000	11.82%
ENVIRONMENTAL	1	\$500,000	5.47%
TOTAL	25	\$9,135,000	100.0%





## **2015 Bronx Borough President Discretionary Allocation Capital Park Investments for Fiscal Year 2015**

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<b>1. Edenwald Playground Mini Pool:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>2. Fort Four Playground Comfort Station:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>3. Plimpton Playground Reconstruction:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>4. Noble Playground Comfort Station:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>

**This allocation represents 22%, second only to housing at 30%**



# **I**

## **Executive Summary**

### **BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S IMMEDIATE PARK PROJECT PRIORITIES**

**These park projects are prioritized based on the following factors:**

- **Development History**
- **Strategic Planning Importance**
- **Extraordinary Cost**

#### **Melrose Commons Park Site 32**

**Current TDC \$7.5 Million (CD #1) (\$1.25 Million BP Funding)**

**Initially proposed in 1993-construction will likely commence in 2015**

#### **52 Playground**

**Current TDC \$5.7 Million (CD #2) (\$1 Million BP Funding)**

**Initially proposed in 2010-Phase 1 construction will commence in 2015**

#### **Grant Avenue Park Completion & Repair**

**Current TDC \$10.5 Million (CD #4)**

**Initially proposed in 1987, construction will be phased in. Completion date of this facility's full build-out remains unknown.**

## **II**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership**

---

**The need for a new capital development paradigm between local officials and the administration is necessary to efficiently design and construct parks. This objective is essential in order to minimize expense and to promptly return park property back to the community's use.**



## **4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership CD's 1 & 2**

### **Endorsement Key:**

Borough President (BP), Dept. Parks & Recreation (DPR), Community Board (CB)

---

#### **CD#1: Pulaski Park:** (BP, DPR CB),

- TDC: \$2.7 Mil.
- Funds Available: \$0
- Build Out of Port Morris Community

#### **CD#1: Sawmill Playground:** (BP, DPR),

- TDC: \$3.8 Mil
- Funds Available: \$0
- Within Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Area

#### **CD#2: Lyons Playground:** (BP,DPR),

- TDC \$4 Mil.
- Funds Available: \$0
- Adjacent to Public School 75

## 4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership CD #3



---

### **CD#3: Little Claremont Park:** (BP, DPR, CB),

- TDC \$2.1 Mil.
- Funds Available \$0
- Adjacent to Public School 42

### **CD#3: Printers Park Phase III** (BP, DPR)

- TDC \$1.5 Mil. Funds Available:
- Funds Available \$0
- Complete entire park build-out

### **CD#3: Seabury Park** (BP, DPR, CB)

- TDC \$950,000
- Funds Available: \$0
- Top priority of CB#3

### **CD#3: Railroad Park @ East 161<sup>st</sup> Street:** TDC Unknown



## **4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership CD's #4 #5 & #6**

---

### **CD#4: Plimpton Playground: (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC:\$1 Mil.
- Funds Available \$500,000\*
- Near Highbridge Voices Community Center

### **CD#5: Cedar Playground: (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC \$2 Mil.
- Funds Available \$1 Mil.\*
- Offers essential park space to underserved community

### **CD#6: Mapes Park Softball Field: (CB)**

- Cost to be Determined
- Offers a softball venue which are urgently needed in The Bronx

**\*Bronx Borough President Allocation**



## **4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership CD's #7 #8 & #9**



### **CD#7: Williamsbridge Oval Softball Field: (CB),**

- Cost to be Determined
- Offers essential softball venue which are urgently needed in the Bronx

### **CD#8: Fort Four Restroom (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC: \$3.1 Mil,
- Funds Available: \$500,000\*
- Offers youngsters essential services

### **CD#9: Parque de los Ninos: (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC: \$3.5 Mil.
- Funds Available: \$1.6 Mil\*
- Borough President's transformative priority

### **\*Bronx Borough President's Allocation**



## **4-Year Capital Investment Plan Partnership CD's #10 #11 & #12**

---

### **CD#10: Hoops in the Sun Upgrade: (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC: \$195,00.
- Funds Available: \$95,000\*.
- This project is a major venue for basketball at Orchard Beach

### **CD#11: Loreto Playground TDC (DPR, CB)**

- TDC \$4.1 Million:
- Funds Available: \$0
- Serves a community with many young families

### **CD#12: Edenwald Mini Pool Reconstruction (BP, DPR, CB)**

- TDC: \$1 Million,
- Funds Available \$500,000\*,
- Provides a "much appreciated amenity to the surrounding community."

**\*Bronx Borough President's Allocation**



# **Executive Summary**

## **III**

### **Operational Priorities**

#### **"One City-One Standard"**

---

- **The limitation of reliance on private resources in low income communities underlines the importance of government funding. Conservancies can do a great job, but can't make up the difference with revenues that are necessary to adequately maintain and preserve the benefits realized from public investment in communities lacking high profile private benefactors.**





# Operational Priority List

---

- **The following observations represent the most frequent comments provided by Community Board Managers in The Bronx:**
- **1) Increase the presence of PEP officers in all parks**
- **2) Improve coordination between NYPD & PEP to reduce gang activity in park facilities in/or near NYCHA housing**
- **3) Remove refuse and litter on a timely basis**
- **4) Address policy pertaining to barbeque activity**
- **5) Establish viable a tree pruning and stump removal schedule**
- **6) Maintain grass areas, "greenstreets" & planted medians**
- **7) Repair vandalized equipment and/or monuments**
- **8) Remove "downed" tree limbs following storms**
- **9) Survey all parks for "trip hazards" on walkways and paths**
- **10) Aggressively address rodent infestation**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **IV**

# **WATERFRONT PARKS**

**The Bronx is actively reclaiming its 75 miles of waterfront for recreational purposes**



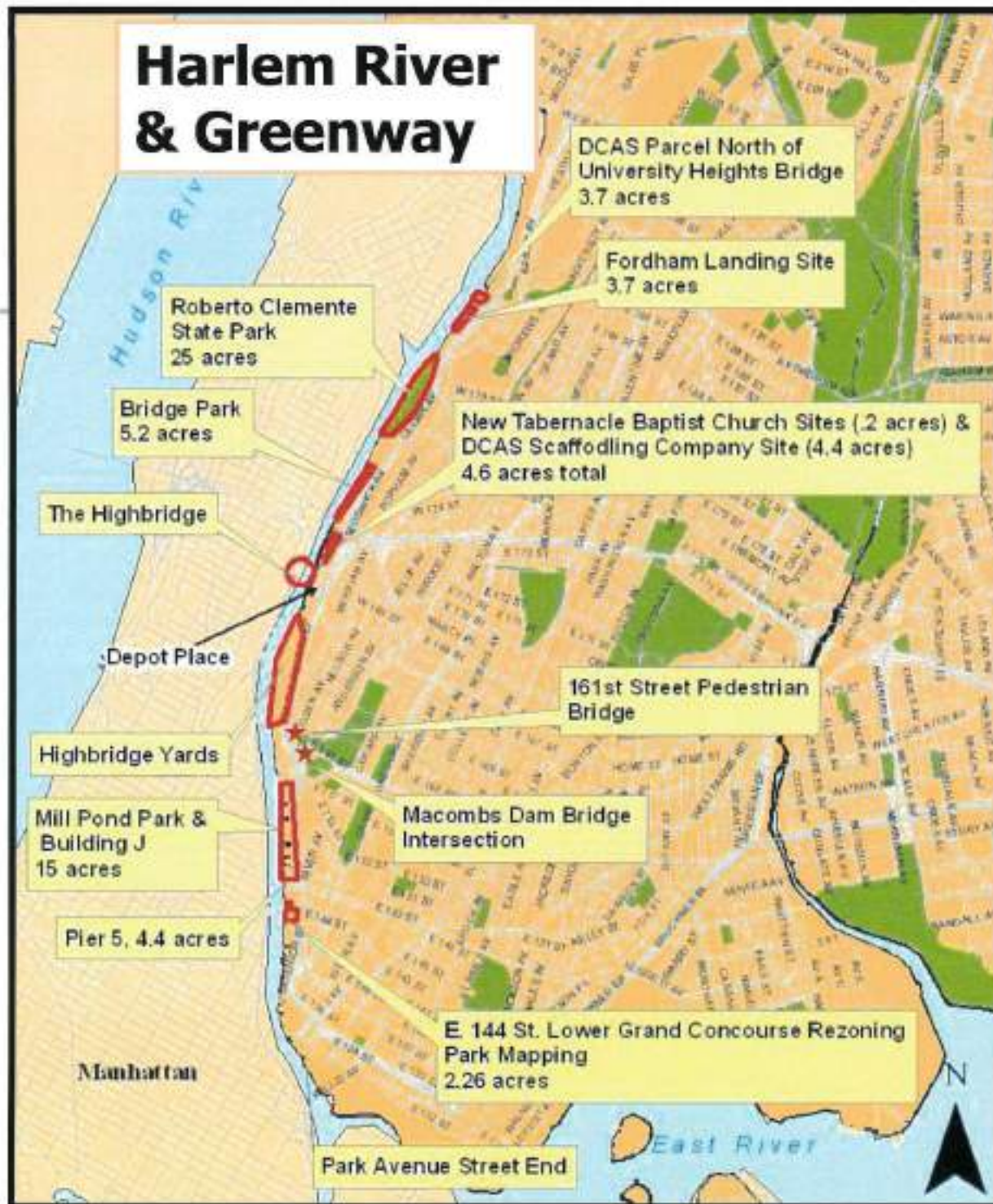
**Barretto Point Park on The East River (5 acres)**



**Roberto Clemente State Park on the Harlem River (25 acres)**

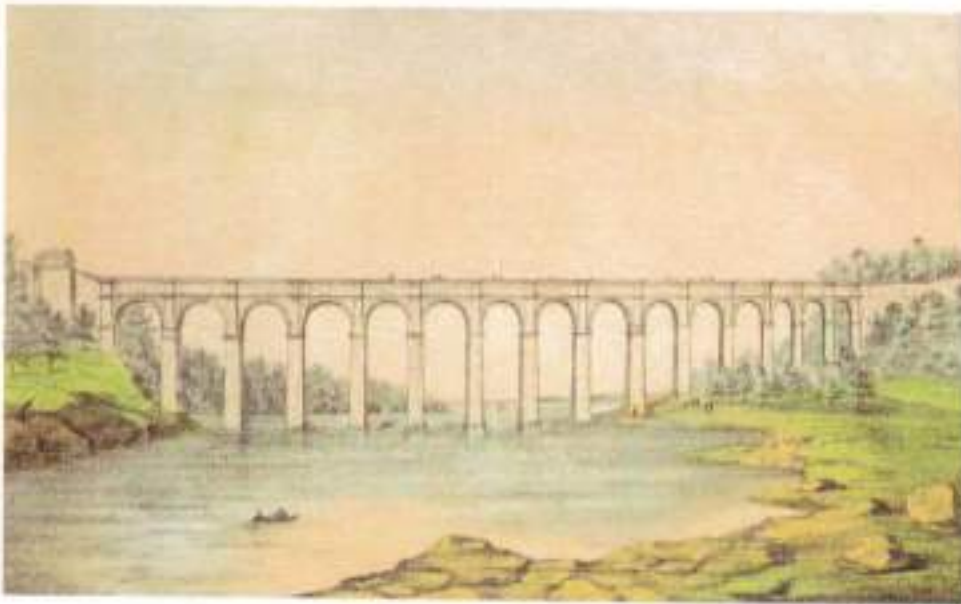


# Harlem River & Greenway





## Restoration of the Historic Highbridge



THE HIGH BRIDGE AT HARLEM, N.Y.



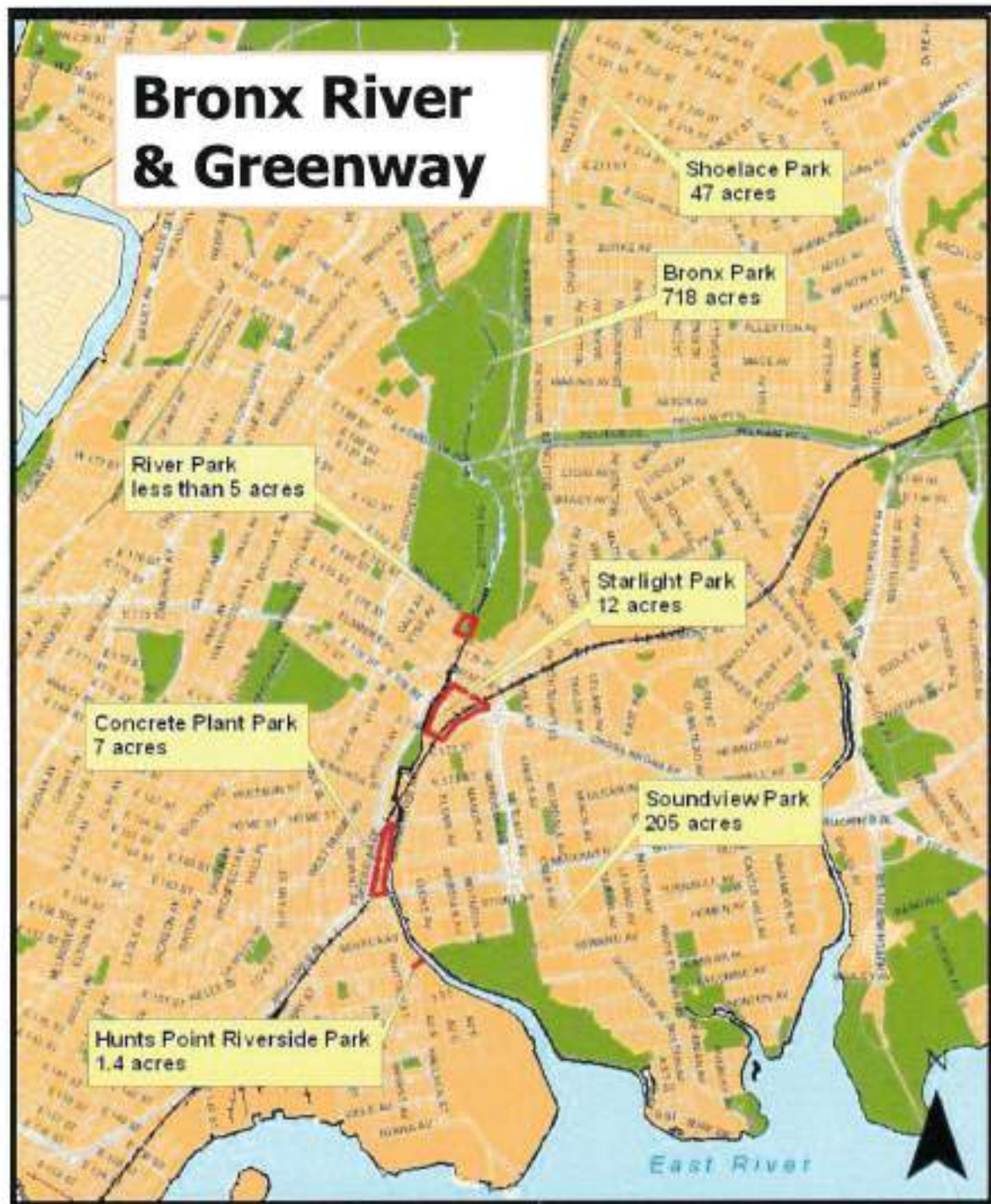
**Reconnecting The Bronx to its Waterfront  
Grand Opening In December, 2014**

# Mill Pond Park on the Harlem River





# Bronx River & Greenway





# BRONX RIVER RESTORATION

## Scope of Work Includes:

- Shoreline Naturalization & Implementation Underway
- Water Quality Restoration-Implementation Underway
- Bronx River Greenway-Implementation Underway
- Starlight Park Soil Remediation-Work Completed
- Concrete Plant Park-Work Completed
- Hunts Point Riverside Park-Work Completed





# East River & Long Island Sound



# A Community Eco Dock for the Bronx



## **Environmental science**



*Photos from Bay Ridge Community Eco Dock*

*Summer 2014 programs*

## **Educational vessels**



**What:** Unlocking the underutilized waterways for education and recreation

**Where:** Proposed for Barretto Point Park, Tiffany Street Pier

**How:** \$1 million (est.) capital construction cost;  
Programming sponsored by Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance



## The Landmark Pavilion at Orchard Beach Requires Major Restoration



# City Island Belden Point

**Challenge: Complete design and develop Long Island Sound lookout**



### 3. VISIONS AND OBSERVATIONS BY COMMUNITY DISTRICTS







## Capital & Operational Priorities

### I Capital Improvements:

1. Design & Construct Melrose Commons Park
2. Complete construction of pedestrian bridge to Randall's Island
3. Design & construct new park on Exterior Street at East 144<sup>th</sup> Street
4. Design and reconstruct Polaski Park
5. Design & landscape gateway parkland on E. 138<sup>th</sup> Street & Grand Concourse
6. Install soccer field & amphi-theater in Saint Mary's Park
7. Harlem River Access Plan to Improve Waterfront Access @ Lincoln Avenue

### II Operational Needs:

1. Coordinate with the NYPD to maximize security in parks
2. Increase supervised recreational summer activities in St. Mary's Park

# of Residents 2000/2010	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 82,159 2010: 91,497 +9,338	28,937 27,904 -1,033	34% 31%	60.79	1,351 1,505	\$500,000	\$16,000 \$20,867 +4,867

# Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 1





## Community District 2

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Redesign and reconstruct 52 Playground protecting community garden
2. Redesign and reconstruct Printers Park Phase III
3. Improve Rainey Park Lighting to improve security

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Establish supervised recreational activities in Rainey Park
2. Facilities are overused and require improved routine maintenance
3. Maintain planted medians in Hunts Point (Hunts Point Avenue)

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 46,818	15,787	30%	76	687	\$1,250,000	\$17,130
2010: 52,246	16,535	35%		619		\$20,887
+5,428	-748					+3,737



## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 2



## Community District 3



### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Reconstruct ball fields #4 & #5, & Playground #5 in Crotona Park
2. Redesign & construct Little Claremont Park
3. Redesign & construct Seabury Park
4. Redesign & construct Railroad Park @ East 161<sup>st</sup> Street

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Improve response time to park condition assessments
2. Increase presence of PEP officers
3. Expand recreational programming in Crotona Park
4. Reconsider the prohibition of barbeque activity in parks

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 75,683	25,732	34%	117	649	\$3,550,000	\$16,600
2010: 79,762	24,045	31%		681		\$21,449
+4,079	-1687					+4,849







## Community District 4

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

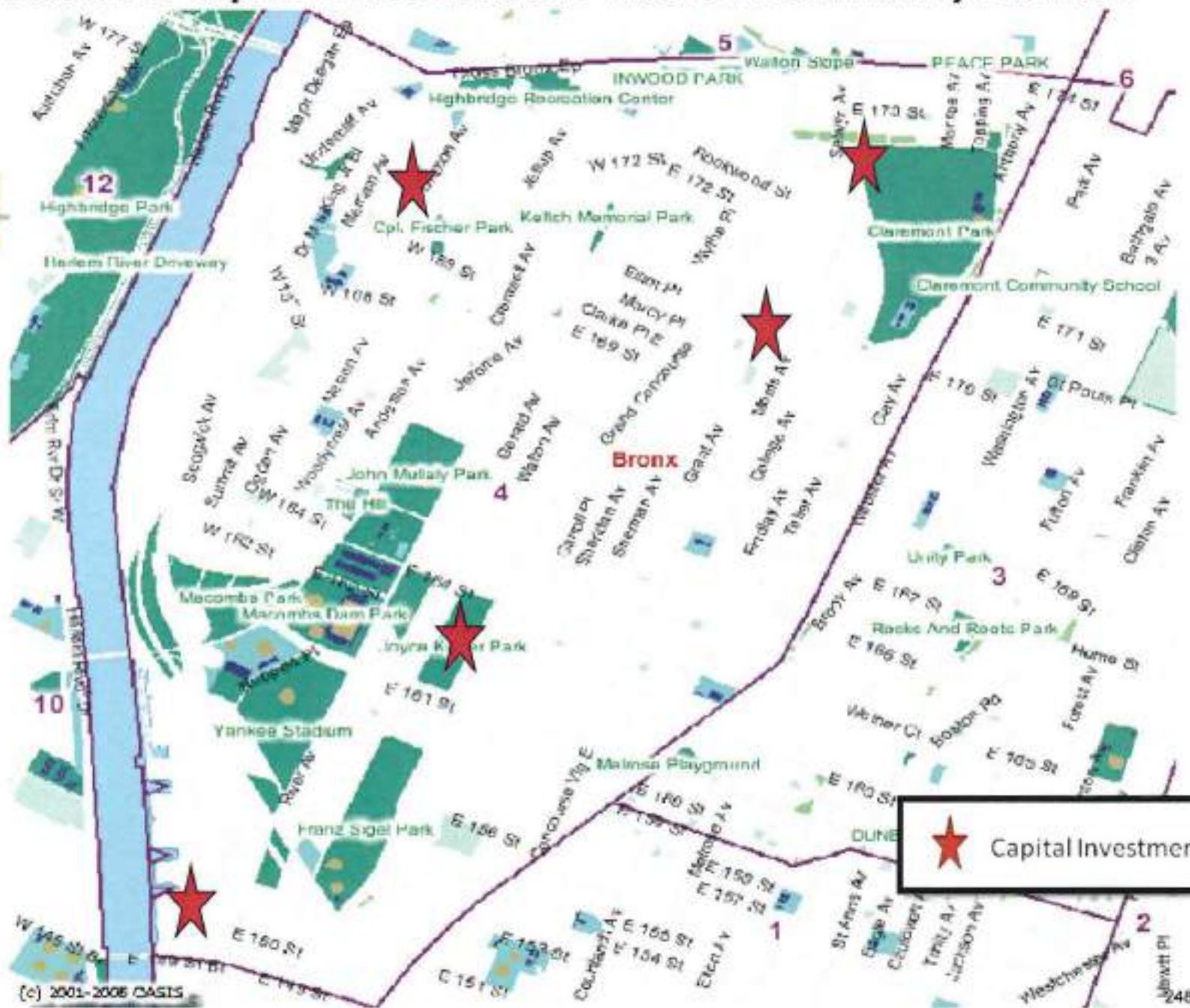
1. Complete and reconstruct all of Grant Avenue Park
3. Install decorative fencing around Joyce Kilmer Park
4. Design and construct Pier 5 (Mill Pond Park)
5. Repair parameter walls and sidewalks around Claremont Park
6. Install B-12 park lights throughout district and reduce vandalism
7. Design & reconstruct playground @ Plimpton Avenue Park

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Grand Concourse medians-maintain all planted areas
2. Increase presence of PEP officers to reduce gang activity in parks
3. Reconsider the prohibition of barbeque activity in parks

# of Residents 2000/2010	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income 2000/2010
2000: 139,560 2010: 146,441 +6,881	47,041 42,624 -4,417	34% 29%	179	818	\$3,000,000	\$21,275 \$25,834 +4,559

## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 4





## Community District 5

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Funding:

1. Aqueduct Lands-construct pedestrian greenway bridge over W. Burnside Avenue
2. Complete construct Harlem River Greenway
3. Install a restroom facility in Echo Park
4. Install "green" school yards for additional recreational space
5. Design and Construct Cedar Playground
6. Redesign and reconstruct University Avenue Malls

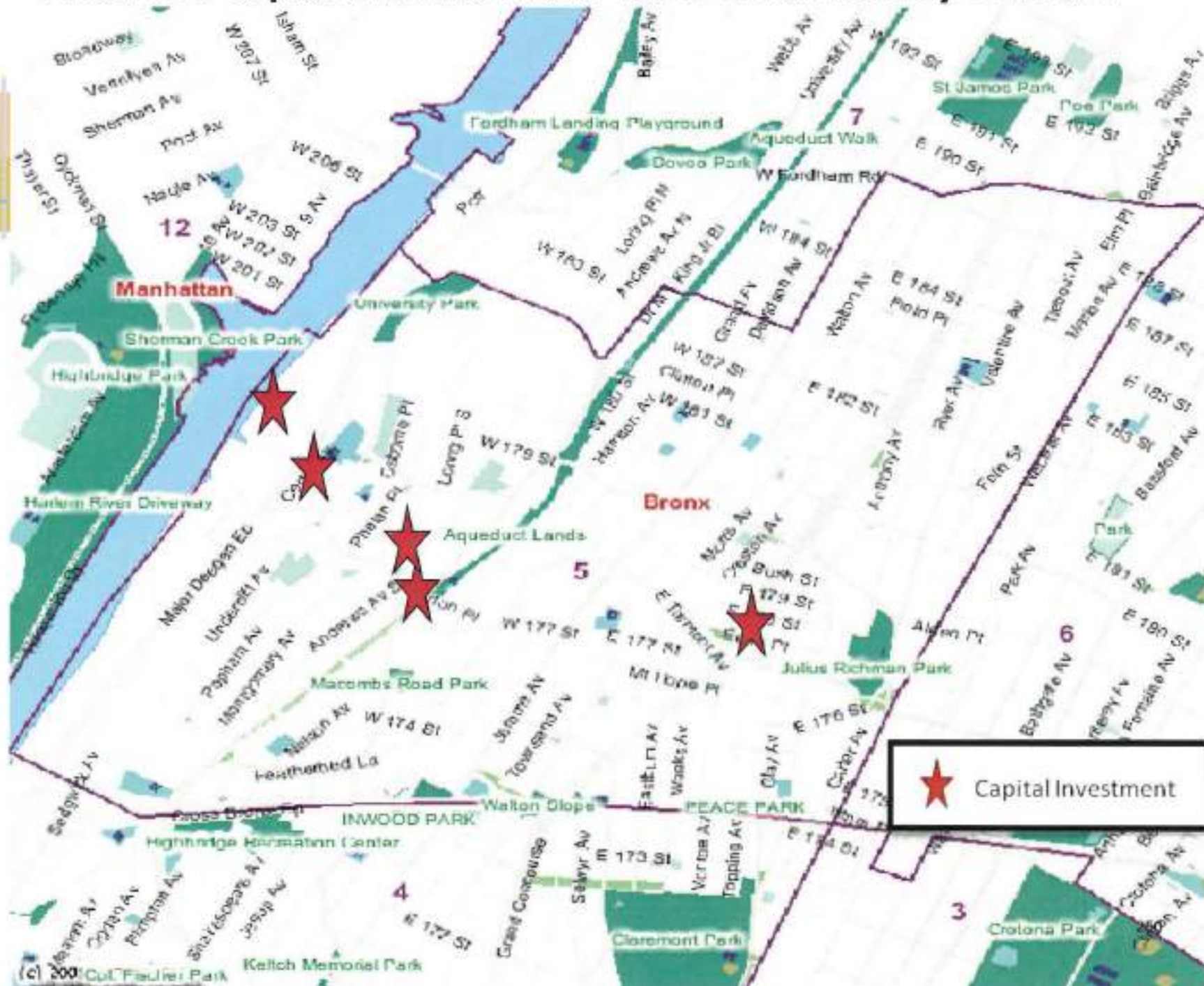
#### II Operational Needs:

1. Improve park security during "hot weather nights" to reduce gang activity
2. Reintroduce "parkies" for programming & security purposes

# of Residents 2000/2010	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 128,325	45,912	35%	22	6,054	\$1,998,000	\$20,620
2012: 128,200	38,328	30%		5,827		\$24,753
-125	-7,584					+\$4,133 <sup>249</sup>



## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 5



## Community District 6

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Design and Reconstruct softball field in Mapes Park
2. Design and Reconstruct Crotona Parkway Malls

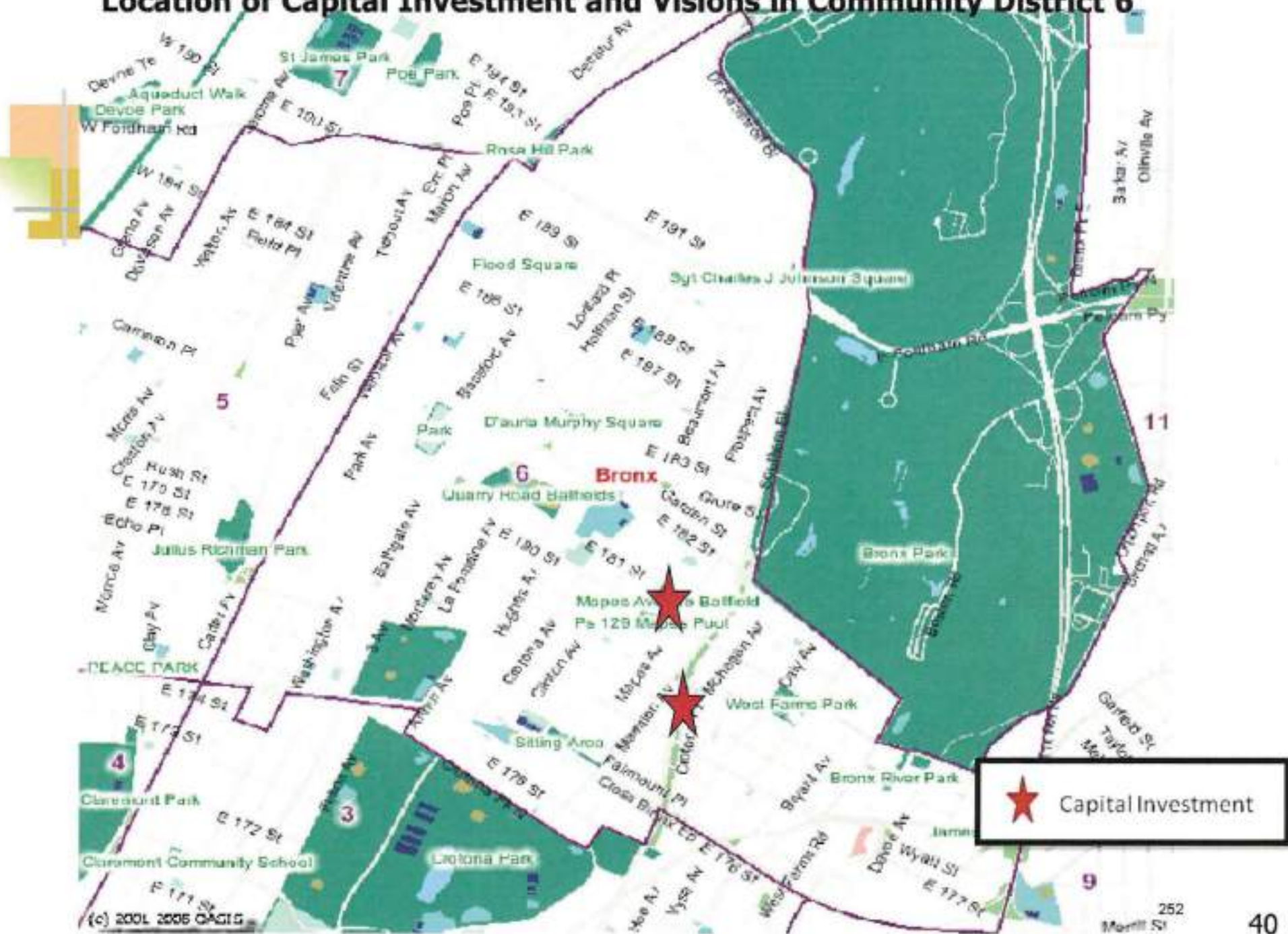
#### II Operational Needs:

1. Program recreational activities in parks
2. Provide life guard @ River Park & offer life preservers
3. Enforce dusk to dawn curfew in parks
4. Improve security at Vadallia & Ciccarone Parks to reduce gang activity

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 83,315 2010: 83,268 +47	25,683 25,466 -217	30% 30%	756.12* Includes Bronx Park	110	\$1,000,000	\$27,740 \$31,375 +\$3,635



## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 6





## Community District 7



### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

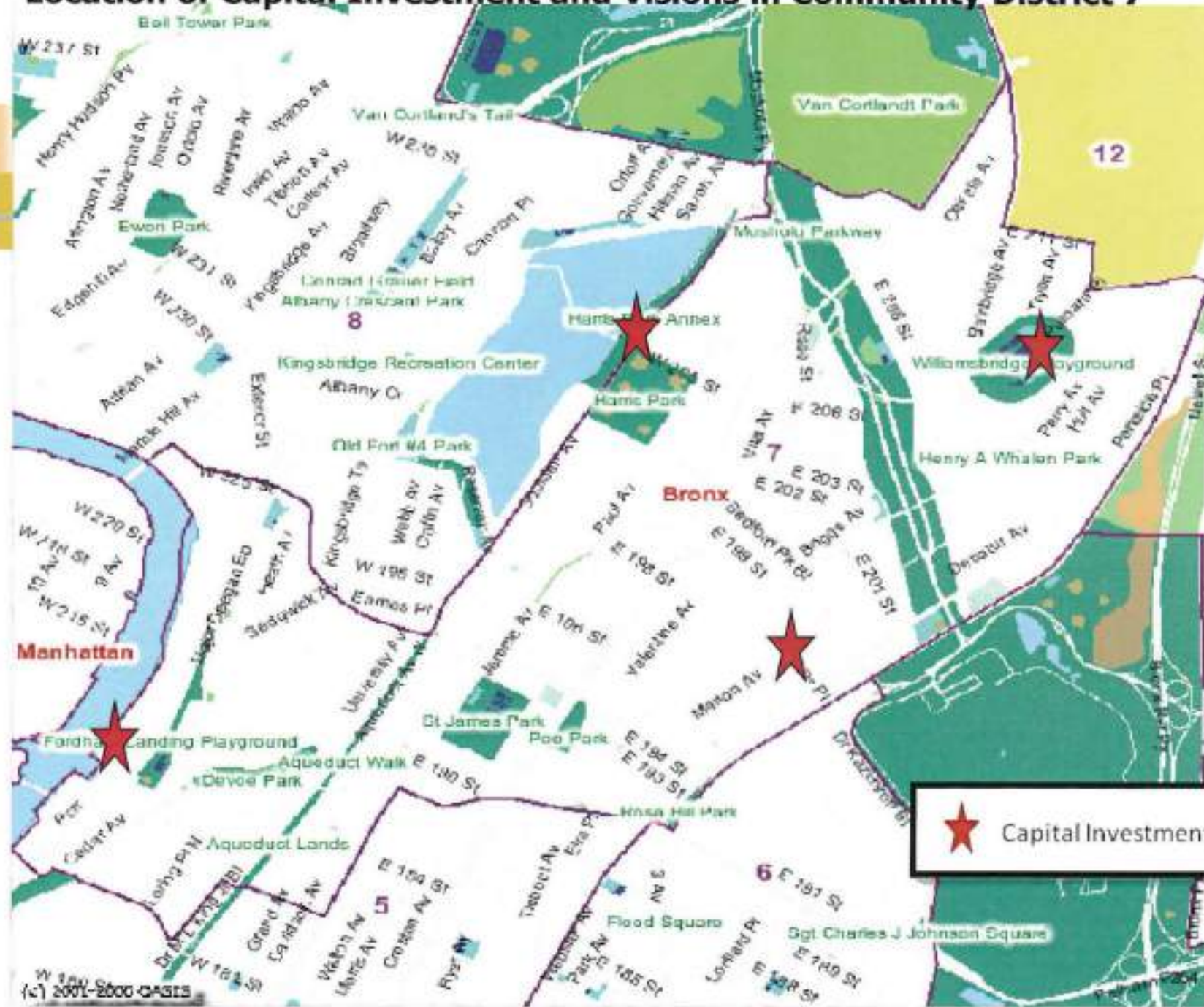
1. Design & construct softball field @ Williamsbridge Oval
2. Design & construct "Regatta Park" @ Fordham Landing
3. Design & construct access to Jerome Park Reservoir
4. Design & construct park at Oliver Place

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Expand PEP officers at St. James and Devoe parks to reduce gang activity
2. Coordinate use of Poe Park visitor center with Poe Cottage (both facilities should be managed by the same organization)

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2014	Median Household Income
2000: 141,418 2010: 139,286 -2,132	2000: 43,839 2010: 38,098 -5,741	31% 28%	312	446	\$425,000	2000: \$27,740 2010: \$30,231 + 2,491

## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 7





## Community District 8



### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Redesign and construct Vinmont Park & Softball Field
2. Design and reconstruct Van Cortlandt Park Stadium
3. Design and reconstruct Bailey Playground
4. Design and construct Fort Four Playground Comfort Station

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Establish day camp programming in Van Cortlandt Park
2. Improve security focusing in on illicit drug use
3. Improve security at Fort Independence Park

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 101,330 2010: 101,731 +401	2000: 22,292 2010: 20,522 -1,770	2000: 22% 2010: 21%	1,167	87	\$2,492,000	\$42,370 \$53,595 +\$11,225 255



## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 8



## Community District 9

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Complete construction of all phases of Parque de los Ninos
2. Continue restoration of Soundview Park
3. Continue restoration of Starlight Park
4. Continue reconstruction of Hugh Grant Circle (appropriate landscaping)
5. Design & construct Clason Point Park for proposed ferry service
6. Design & construct restroom for Noble Playground

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Improve park security by coordinating with the NYPD
2. Enforce "no swimming" on the Bronx River to prevent drownings
3. Evaluate and maintain Pugsley Creek Park to protect salt marsh
4. Install emergency call boxes in parks on the Bronx River

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 167,855 2010: 172,298 +4,443	50,356 45,780 -4,576	30% 27%	311	538 554	\$2,430,000	\$28,295 \$36,920 <sup>267</sup> +\$8,625







## Community District 10



### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Complete construction of Ferry Point Park
2. Complete construction at Belden Point
3. Complete roof construct of the Owen Dolan Recreation Center

#### II Operational Needs:

1. Enforce and apply lock @ dusk policies
2. Increase PEP officers assigned to Bronx Parks
3. Address barbeque policies & ways by which parks are used in the community

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 115,998	24,359	21%		201		\$41,950
2010: 120,392	24,252	21%	577	208	\$945,000	\$51,912
+4,394	+107					+\$9,962

## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 10





## Community District 11

### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Continue reconstruction of Pelham Parkway Malls
2. Continue reconstruction Van Nest Park
3. Construct veterans' memorial at Peace Park
4. Design & construct Loreto Playground

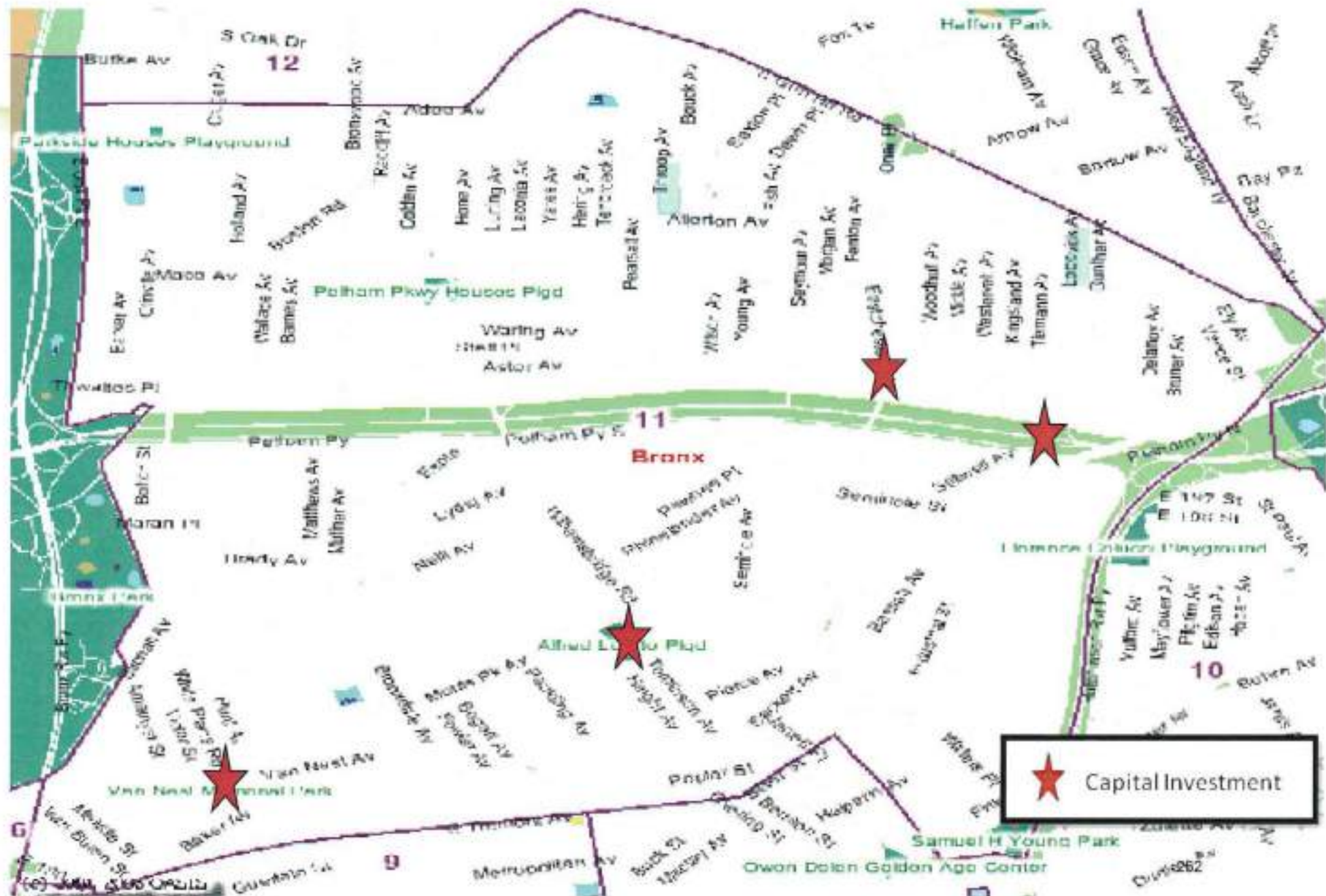
#### II Operational Needs:

1. Improve security at all parks by increasing the presence of PEP officers
2. Establish recreational programming
3. Increase the number of seasonal workers

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre	Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income	
2000: 110,706 2010: 113,232 +2,526	34,155 30,573 -3,582	37% 27%	123.09	1,003 920	\$500,000	\$35,755 \$43,601 +\$7,846	261



## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 11



## Community District 12



### Capital & Operational Priorities

#### I Capital Improvements:

1. Restore small pool at Edenwald Playground
2. Address erosion conditions at Haffen and Shoelace Parks

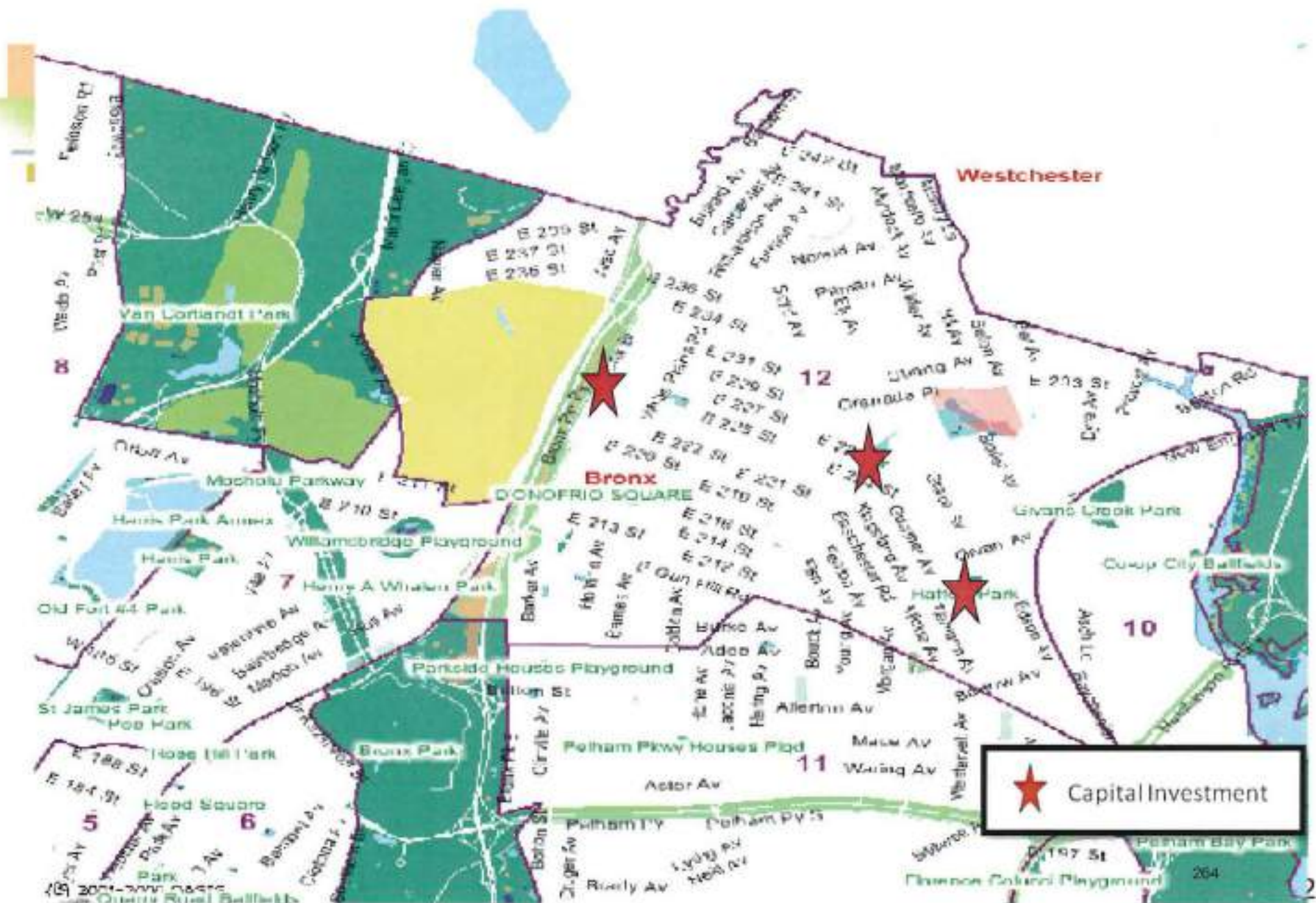
#### II Operational Needs:

1. Enforce dusk closing policy for all parks
2. Improve coordination between the NYPD and Parks Enforcement Officers
3. Establish recreational programming by reintroducing "parkies"

# of Residents	# Below 18	% Below 18	Acres of Parks	Persons per Acre		Boro President Funding 2009-2015	Median Household Income
2000: 149,077 2010: 152,344 +3,267	41,302 39,509 -1,793	27% 26%	60.00	2,484 2,539		\$1,550,000	\$36,870 \$43,601 +\$6,731

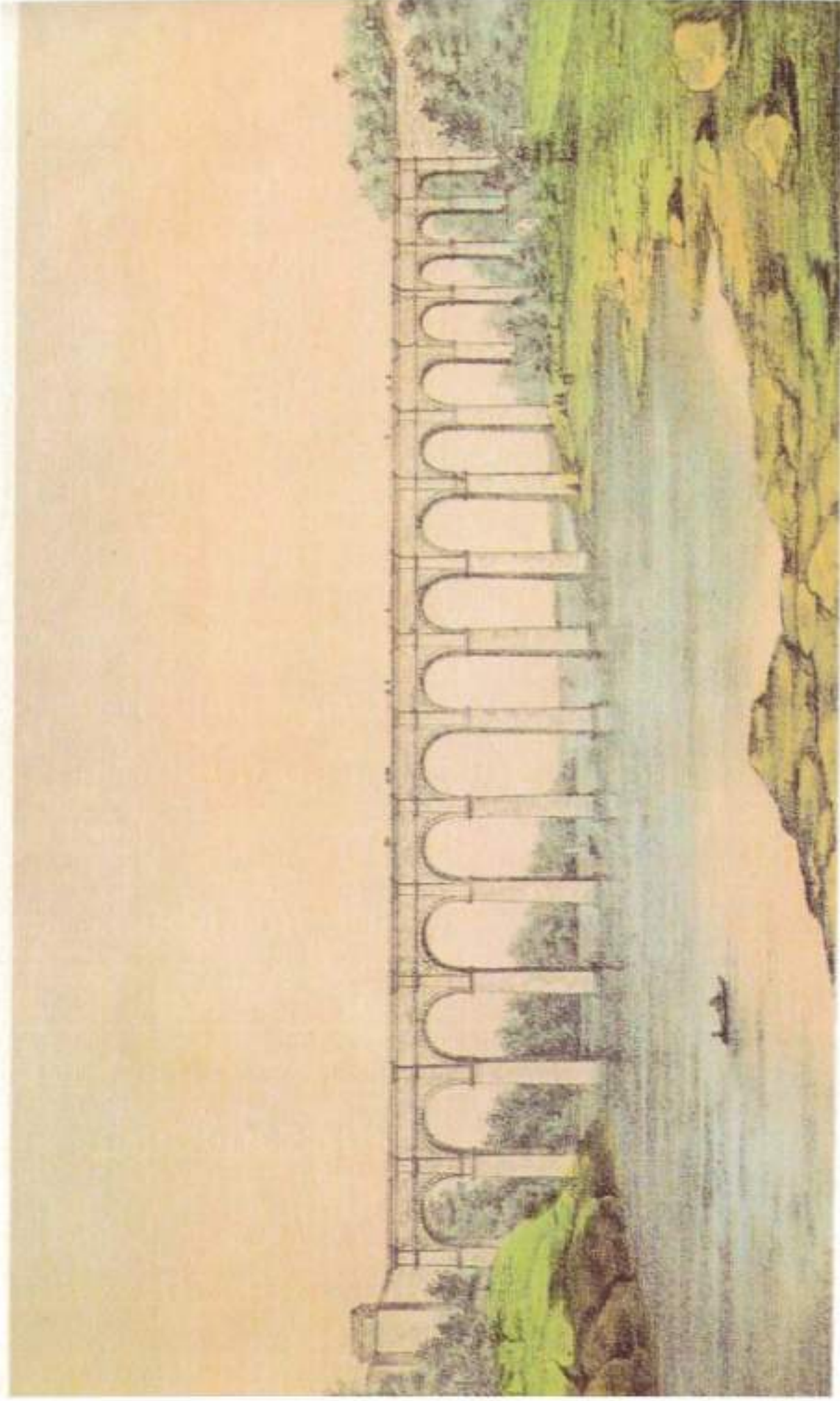


## Location of Capital Investment and Visions in Community District 12





#### 4. PHOTOGRAPHIC ADDENDUM OF PARK PRIORITY SITES



THE HIGH BRIDGE AT HARLEM, N.Y.

## 52 PLAYGROUND TOP PRIORITY



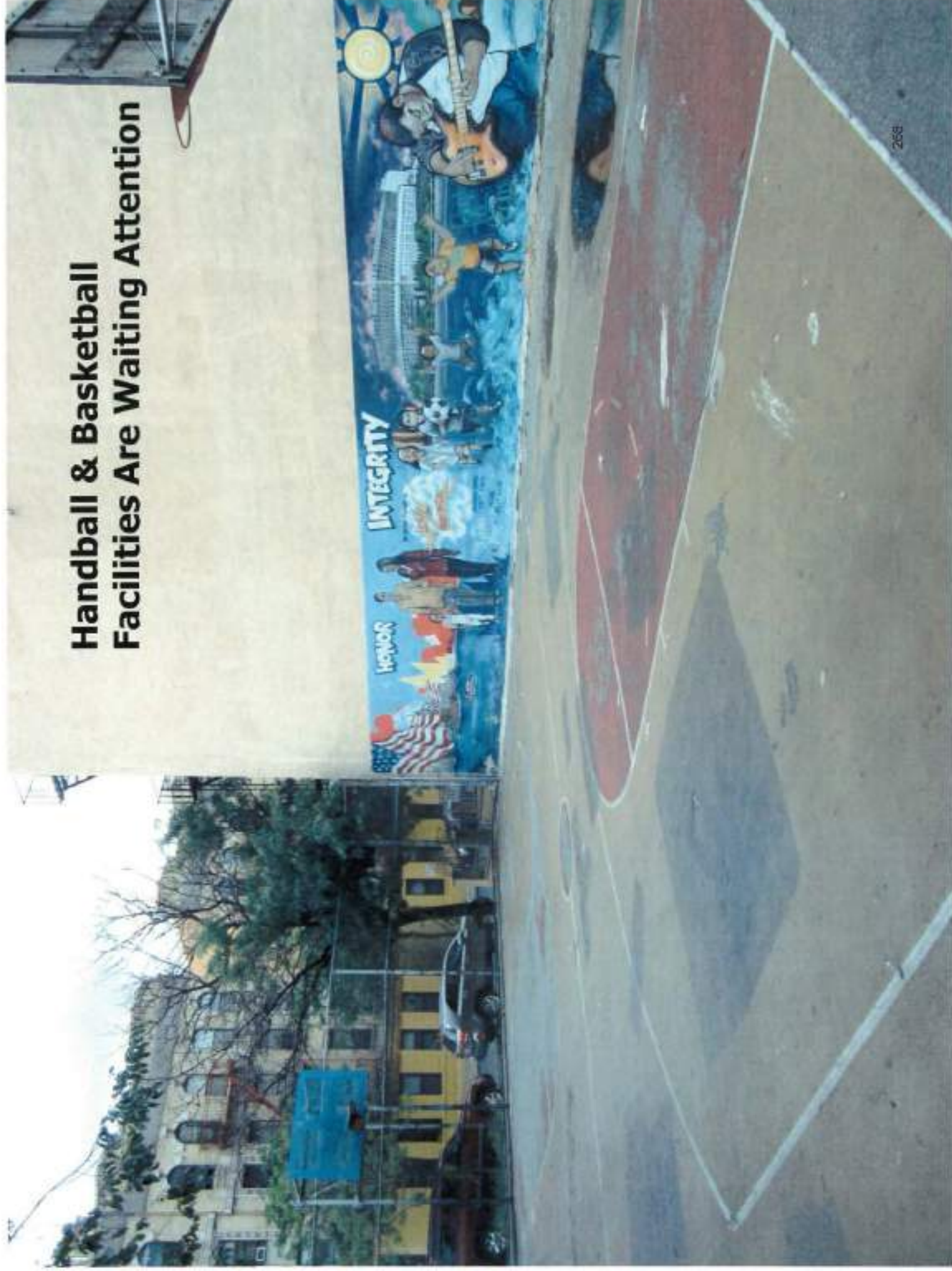


A photograph of an outdoor basketball court. The court is paved with reddish-brown material and has some faded blue and yellow markings. A chain-link fence runs along the back and sides of the court. Behind the fence, there are several parked cars and a row of red brick buildings. Large green trees are on the left side of the image. The sky is overcast.

**52 Playground Basketball  
Courts Will Be Entirely Reconstructed.**



## Handball & Basketball Facilities Are Waiting Attention

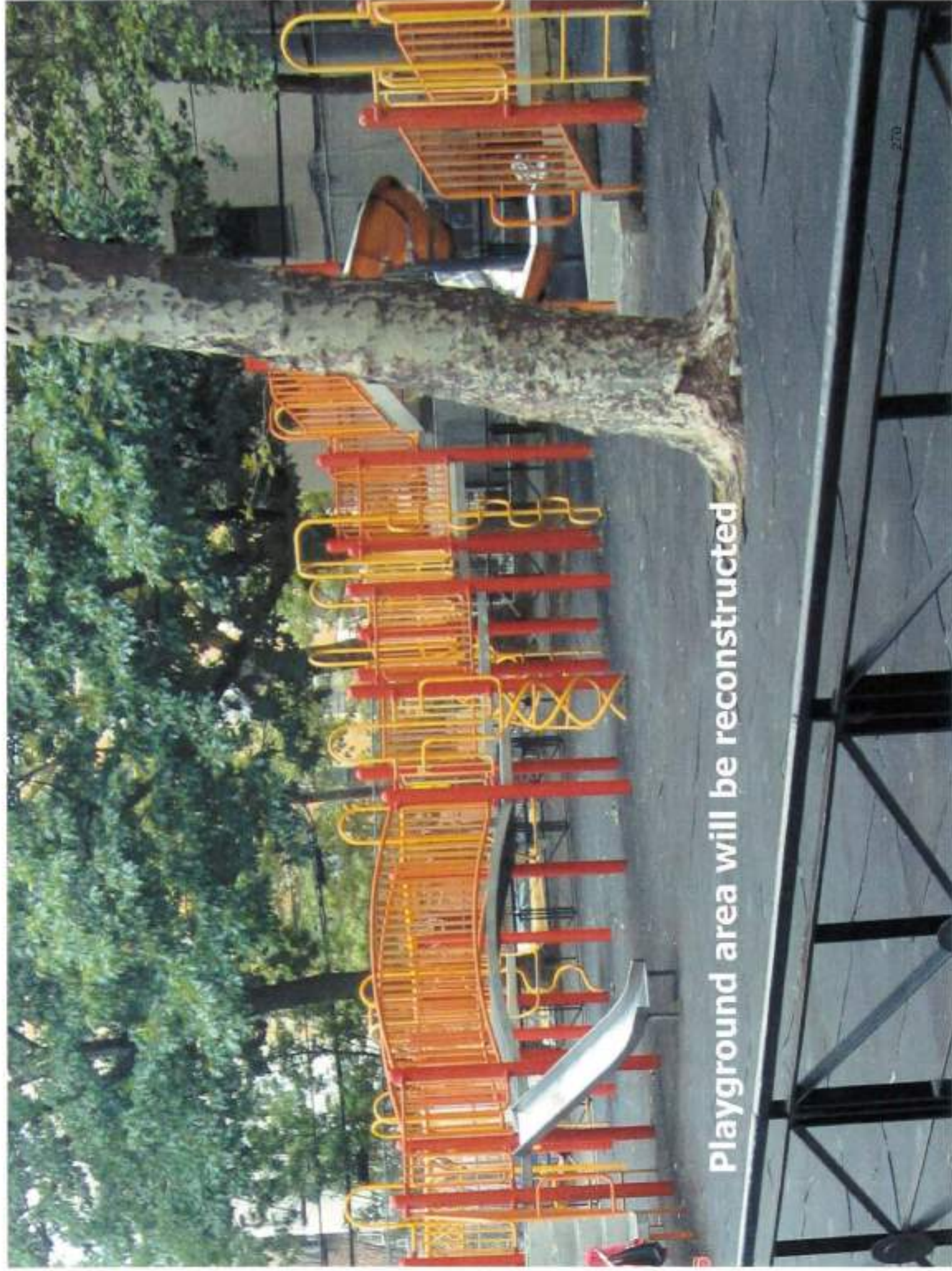




A photograph of a playground. In the foreground, there are three tall, blue, cylindrical pillars. To the left, a wooden structure is partially visible. In the background, there is a basketball court with a chain-link fence and a red brick building. The text "Outdoor Theater Hosts Popular Cultural Concerts & Cultural Events in 52 Playground" is overlaid on the right side of the image.


## Outdoor Theater Hosts Popular Cultural Concerts & Cultural Events in 52 Playground





Playground area will be reconstructed





**Chain Link Fencing Must  
Be History at 52 Playground**



# Melrose Commons

Total Budget \$4,340,000





# WELCOME TO GRANT AVENUE PARK





# **Transforming This Portion of Grant Avenue into a Park Must be a Top Priority**

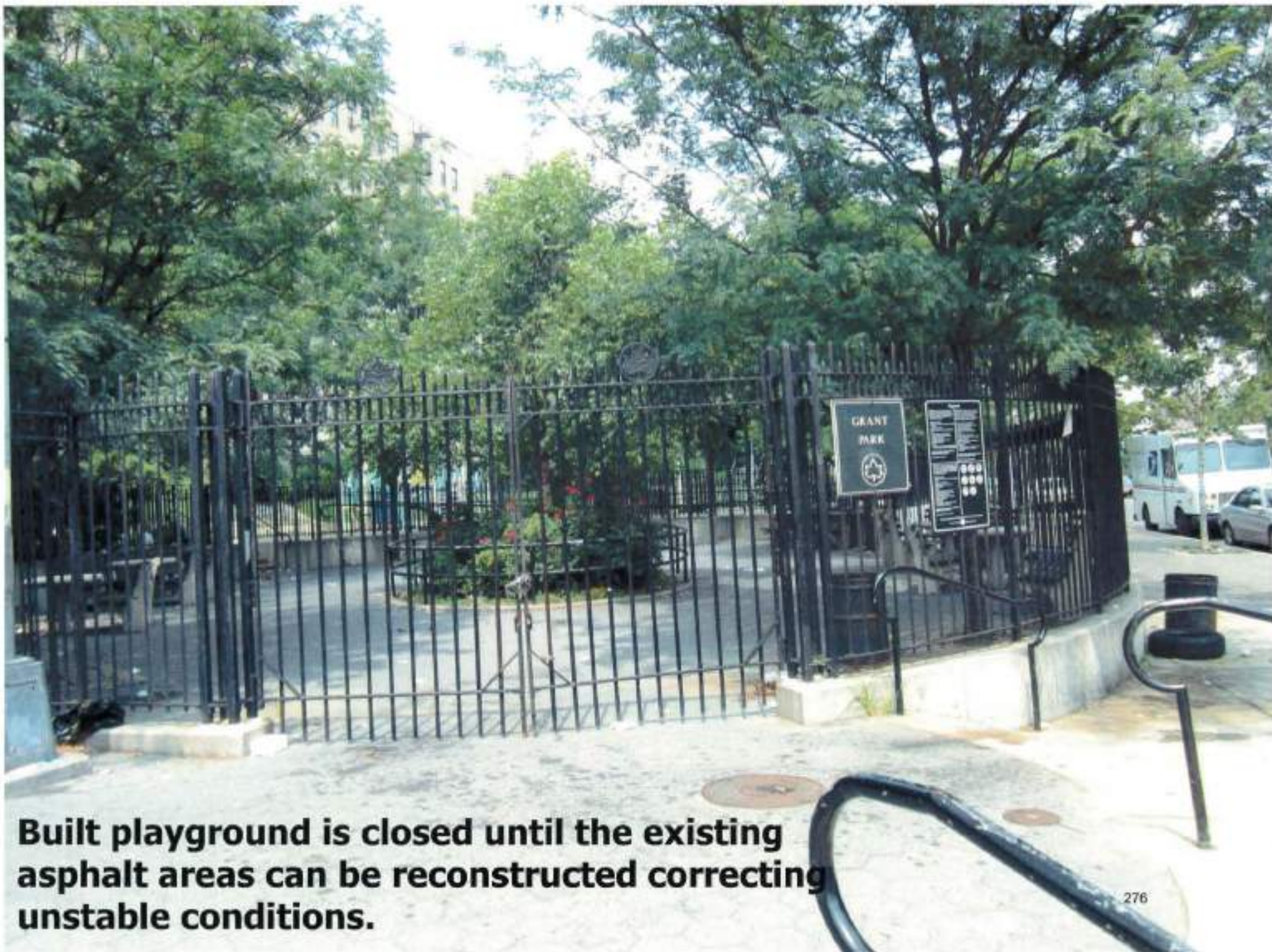




**Retaining Wall on the west side of Grant Avenue required reconstruction. Much of this grass area will be landscaped when funding is provided.**

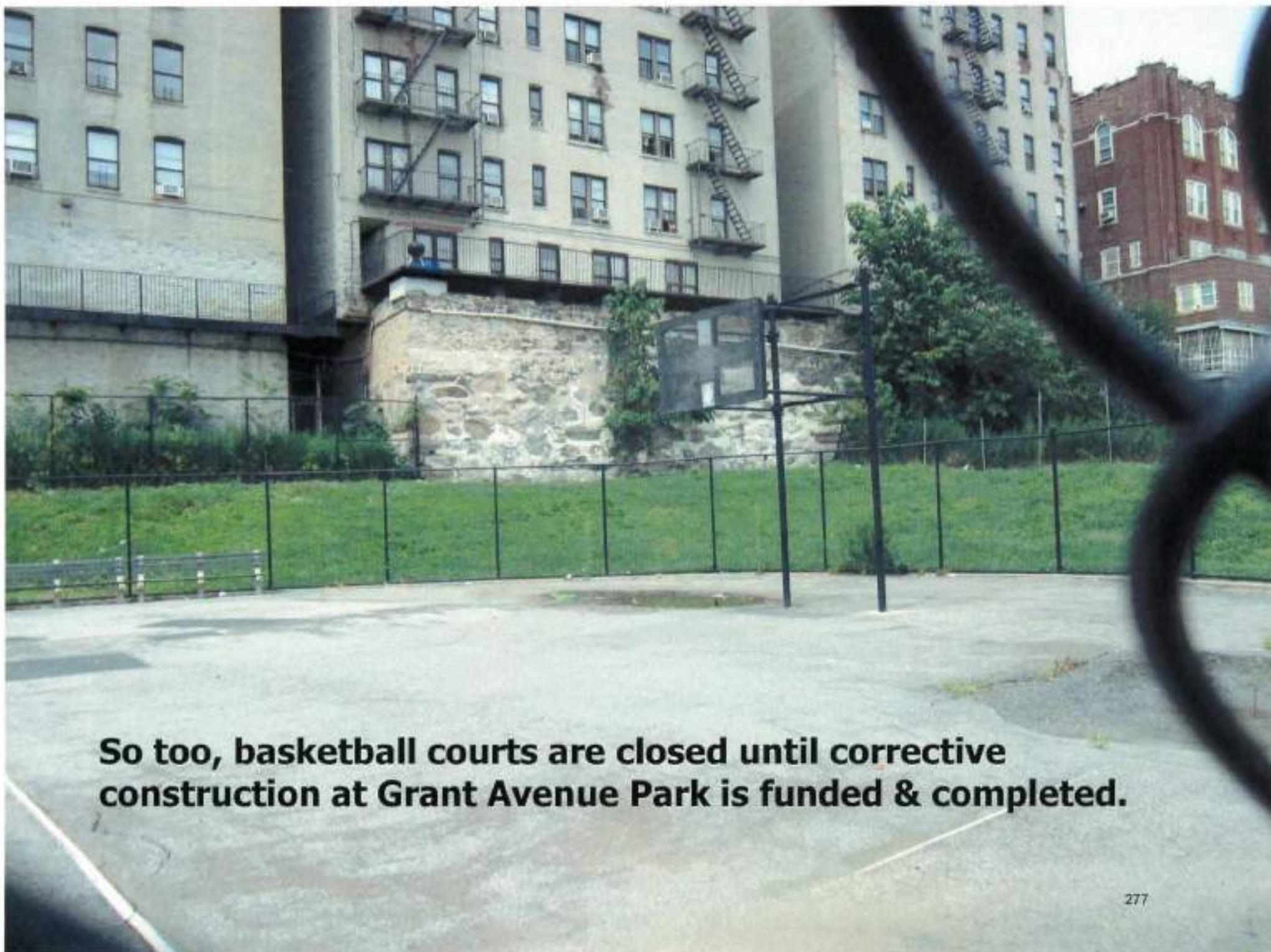






**Built playground is closed until the existing asphalt areas can be reconstructed correcting unstable conditions.**





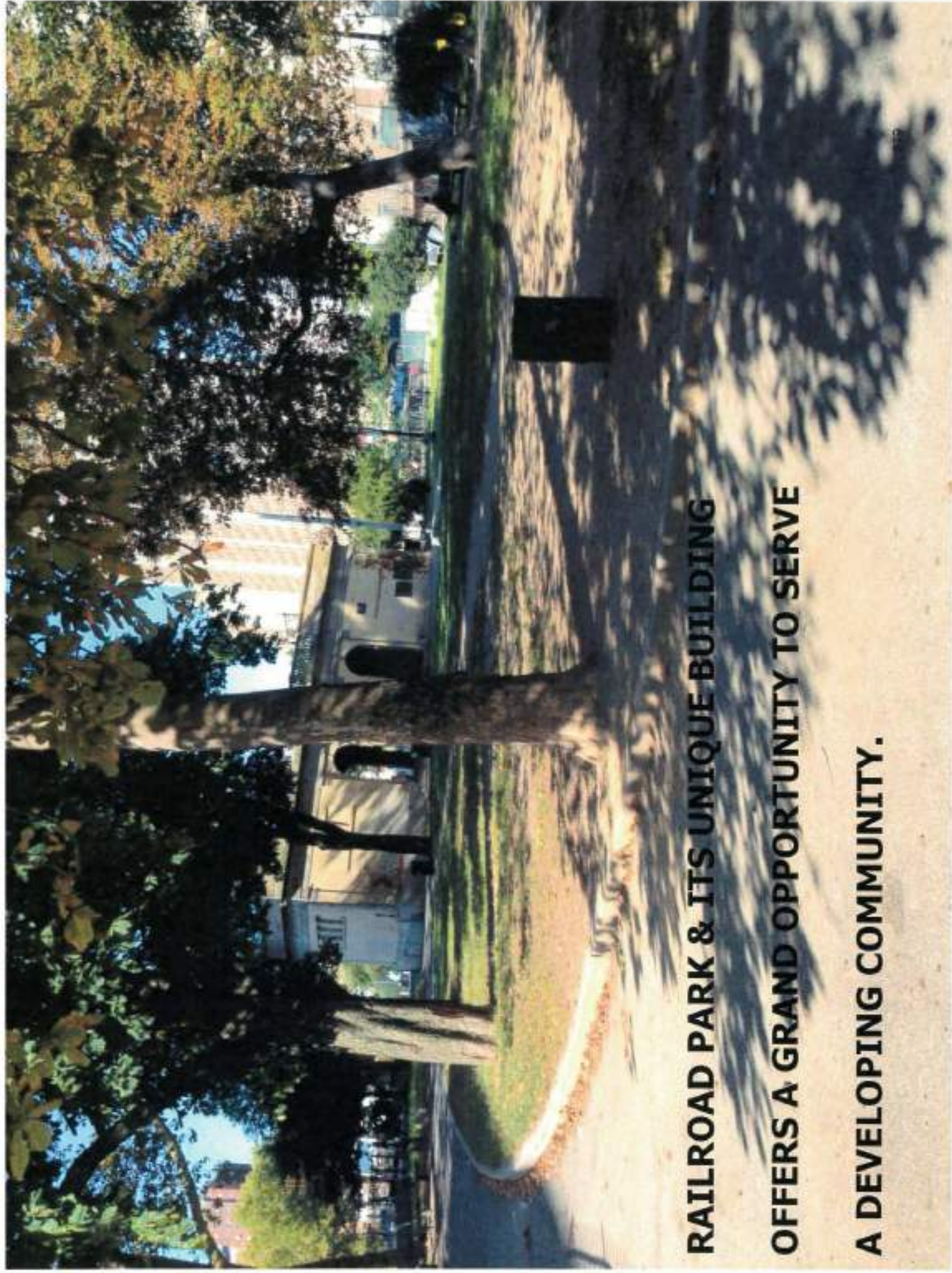
**So too, basketball courts are closed until corrective construction at Grant Avenue Park is funded & completed.**





**A closed playground eventually becomes a liability rather than an asset**





**RAILROAD PARK & ITS UNIQUE BUILDING**

**OFFERS A GRAND OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**

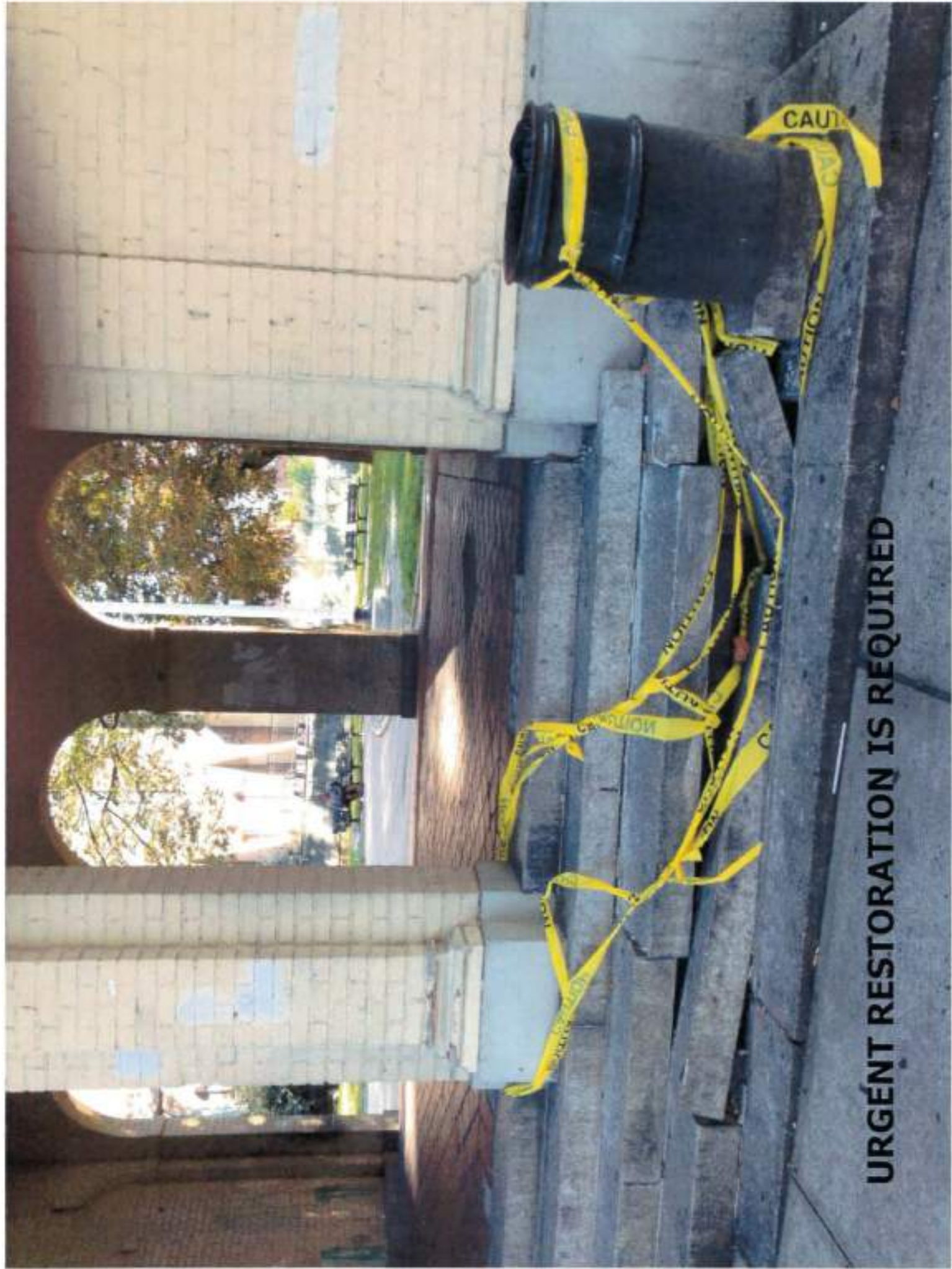
**A DEVELOPING COMMUNITY.**





**Consider This Building's Location on East 161<sup>st</sup> Street as an Asset**





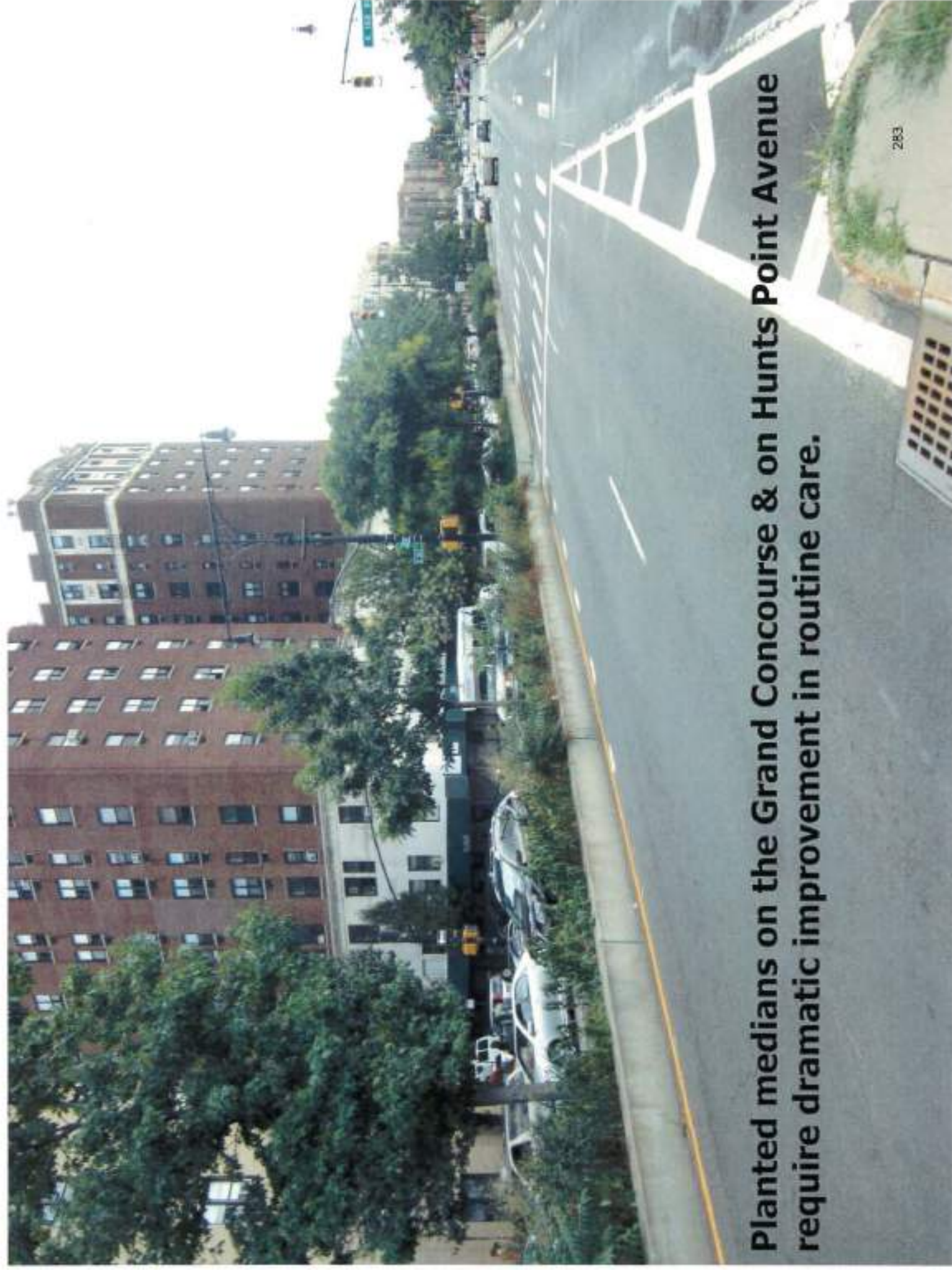
**URGENT RESTORATION IS REQUIRED**





**CROTONA PARK INDIAN LAKE IS SMOTHERING IN ALGAE**

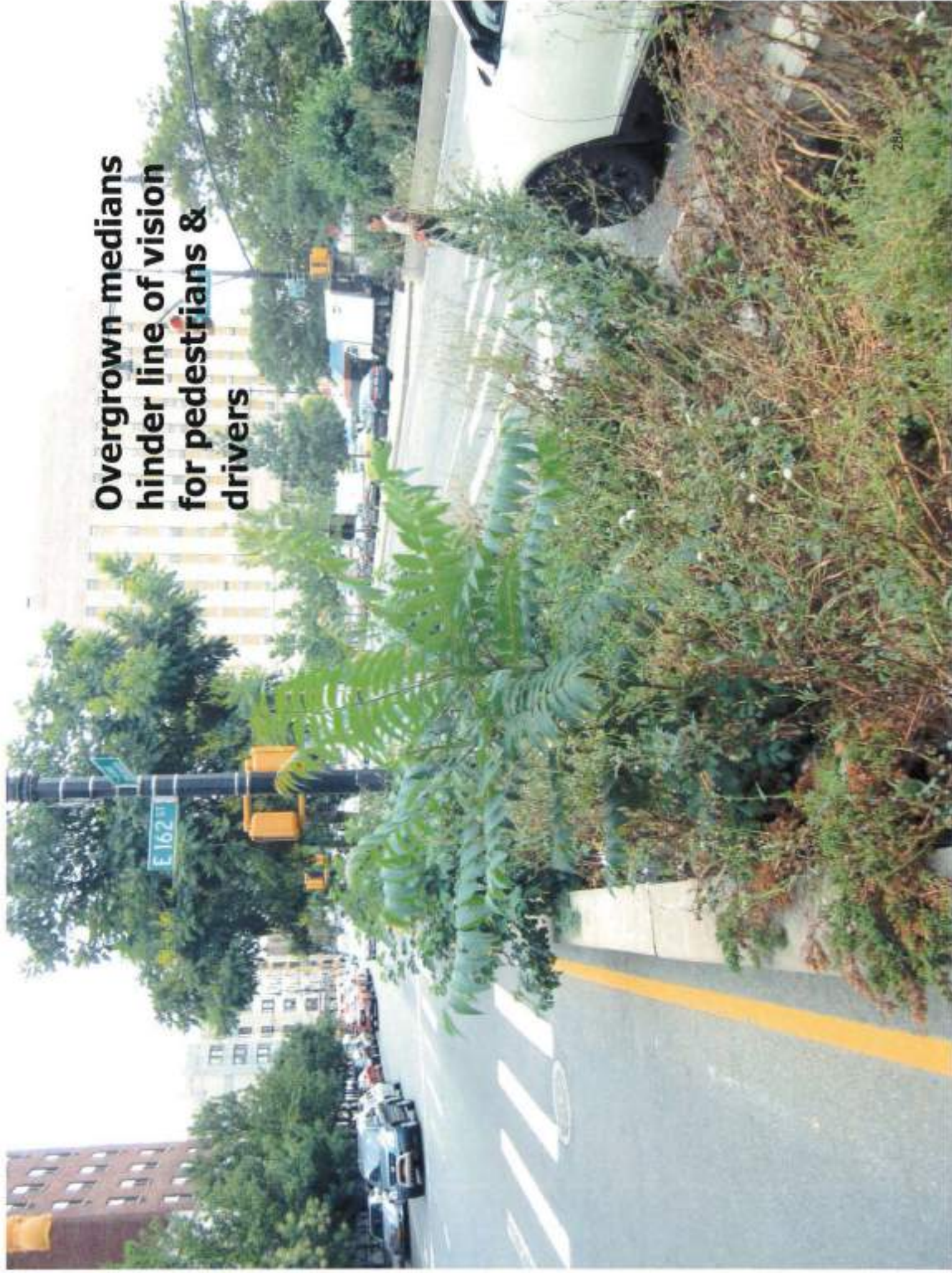




**Planted medians on the Grand Concourse & on Hunts Point Avenue  
require dramatic improvement in routine care.**



**Overgrown medians  
hinder line of vision  
for pedestrians &  
drivers**





## **8. The Bronx Waterfront**

### ***Strategic Policy Objective***

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century much of the Bronx shoreline was occupied by industrial facilities reliant on shipping and the transfer of goods from vessel to rail. Over time these essential functions diminished in use leading to abandonment and neglect. Deteriorating conditions were compounded further by the construction of interstate highways that as per the vision of Robert Moses, tracked shorelines on a parallel route beyond the city line.

With the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the value of waterfront properties for both recreational and commercial purposes is once again essential for a city that must take full advantage of its assets. This being true however, it is understood that such assets must not be vandalized, but rather be developed so as to be of benefit to our communities.

***Strategy #1: Identify locations for recreational and/or commercial use on:***

#### **The Harlem River**

- o East 144<sup>th</sup> Street @ Exterior Street
- o Pier 5 as a part of Mill Pond Park
- o Bridge Park
- o Depot Place
- o Roberto Clemente State Park
- o Fordham Landing

A report on the future development of the Harlem River waterfront, released by this office in 2014, is attached.

#### **The Bronx River**

- o Hunts Point Riverside Park
- o Soundview Park
- o Concrete Plant Park
- o Starlight Park
- o River Park
- o Bronx Park
- o Shoelace Park

#### **East River/Long Island Sound**

- o Clason Point
- o Castle Hill Lookout
- o Ferry Point Park
- o Beldon Point

- Collaborate with community based organizations that are aggressively seeking ways to improve community access to Bronx waterfronts and improve water quality.

### ***Strategy#2: Waterborne Transportation***

The introduction of commuter ferry services between Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan has proven very successful. Expanding such services to the Bronx can potentially reduce reliance on auto transit, expedite commutation for Bronx communities poorly served by subway or bus, and contribute to reducing carbon emissions and related contributors to asthma.

- Establish commuter ferry services between Clason Point and ports located on the East Side of Manhattan.
- Conduct a feasibility study on establishing ferry services to Yankee Stadium and ports located throughout the metropolitan area.
- Establish seasonal ferry services to City Island from Westchester and Manhattan.





# **THE SPECIAL HARLEM RIVER WATERFRONT DISTRICT**

*An Overview of the Opportunity on the Bronx Waterfront  
between East 138th Street and East 149th Street*

**Office of the Bronx Borough President  
Ruben Diaz Jr.**





## THE OPPORTUNITY ON OUR SHORE

Our borough has seen dramatic changes since I first became borough president in 2009. More than \$5.7 billion in new development of all kinds has happened here. We've created more than 14,000 jobs. We've invested more than \$2.9 billion in housing, building nearly 13,000 new units. All over the world, people are thinking differently about our borough. And here at home, the 1.4 million people who proudly call themselves Bronxites are embracing the "New Bronx."

In the past four years, my office has put forward a clear vision for the future of The Bronx—planning with a purpose—and that vision includes not only new development, but new amenities for our residents. The proposal to develop the Special Harlem River Waterfront District—between East 138th Street and East 149th Street—would accomplish these goals. Such a project would not only bring more than \$500 million in new development, over 1,500 new housing units and more than 3,500 new jobs to The Bronx; it would create new parks, recreation opportunities and business activity along an underutilized stretch of our waterfront.

The Special Harlem River Waterfront District presents an amazing opportunity for The Bronx. Working together, we can bring transformative development to our borough and new waterfront access to our shoreline. Over the next few years, my office will continue to aggressively push this development agenda, in partnership with our institutions, businesses, elected officials, non-profits and the 1.4 million citizens who call the Bronx their home.

It is time we realize the opportunity on our shore.

Ruben Diaz Jr.



- In 2009, the City rezoned the the Lower Concourse. This rezoning created a Special Harlem River Waterfront District (SHRWD) to encourage waterfront development along the shoreline of the Harlem River. The SHRWD consists of nine parcels from East 149th Street to where Park Avenue meets the Major Deegan Expressway at East 138th Street – an area of a little over a half-mile long.

- The rezoning is a dramatic departure from the Lower Concourse's industrial past. The rezoning encourages greater density and commercial and residential activity on vacant or underutilized industrial property, similar to the ongoing Brooklyn Bridge Park development.

- The waterfront of the Harlem River will change drastically under the new zoning, adding over 1.1 million square feet of residential space, 865,000 square feet of commercial space and 269,000 square feet of community space if built out to the maximum "floor area ratio" requirements.

- A mixed-use district will house thousands of residents, as well as numerous retail shops, theaters, restaurants and other street life activities and amenities. All new development will require the construction of a publicly accessible waterfront esplanade.

- Development of the SHRWD also calls for the creation of a waterfront park between 144th Street and 146th Street as part of any development.

- SHRWD development will feature a continuous public walkway along the Harlem River, and will create a new skyline along our borough's shoreline.

- The SHRWD allows for towers up to 400 feet in height on lots of 100,000 sq. ft. or more, providing for spectacular

waterfront views. It is projected that the SHRWD rezoning—which guarantees mixed-income housing through the inclusionary housing provision—can yield 1,529 new units of housing of all kinds, from market-rate co-ops to affordable units for families.

- New development at the SHRWD would bring more than \$500 million in new development to The Bronx while creating 3,544 jobs.

**“IT IS TIME FOR THE  
CREATION OF A NEW  
WATERFRONT DISTRICT  
ALONG THE HARLEM RIVER  
BETWEEN 138TH AND 149TH  
STREETS, ONE THAT WOULD  
LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT  
SIMILAR TO THE BROOKLYN  
BRIDGE PARK. BRONXITES  
SHOULD HAVE QUALITY  
WATERFRONT ACCESS, AND  
THIS PROJECT COULD  
MAKE THAT HAPPEN.”**

—Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.,  
2014 “State of the Borough”

- SHRWD is transit-friendly, located within walking distance to the 2,4,5,6,B,D subway lines, local and express bus routes and both the Hudson and Harlem Lines of the Metro-North Railroad.

- Nearby amenities within a few blocks of the SHRWD include Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Terminal Market Gateway Mall, Pregones Theatre, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Mill Pond Park, the Longwood Art Gallery, the future Bronx Children's Museum and the new Macombs Dam Park.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

*"(The Bronx)... is moving to create a waterfront showcase on its side of the Harlem River between 138th and 149th Streets; it would include an esplanade, a park, restaurants, stores, theaters and residential towers. The plan, which is still being developed, is meant to transform a largely desolate, industrial strip into a destination like Brooklyn Bridge Park."*

*"Imagine walking over to the waterfront on a hot summer night, putting down a blanket and watching a movie under the stars, steps from Yankee Stadium. Or moving into a gleaming new tower with stunning views of the Manhattan skyline and ready access to the Harlem River."*

*"An industrial stretch along Exterior Street, between 138th and 149th streets in the Bronx, is vying to become the borough's answer to leafy and tourist-friendly Brooklyn Bridge Park."*

*"...a bold step forward for the shores of the South Bronx."*

*"Similar to Brooklyn Bridge Park overlooking Lower Manhattan, the waterfront would be overlooking Upper Manhattan."*

### The New York Times

In South Bronx, Visions of a Bustling Shoreline—March 7, 2014

### DAILY NEWS

NYDailyNews.com

Ruben Diaz Jr. calls for redevelopment of South Bronx waterfront—February 24, 2014.

### THE REAL DEAL

NEW YORK CITY REAL ESTATE NEWS

Ruben Diaz Jr. pitches Bronx's answer to Brooklyn Bridge Park—February 25, 2014



Advocates Want Another Brooklyn Bridge Park... In The Bronx—February 25, 2014



Developers working with Bronx Borough President Diaz in hope of redeveloping South Bronx waterfront—February 26, 2014



## **10. Community Center Development Initiative**

As we roll-out the development of the new Bronx, we must take care to meet the needs of our reestablished and growing communities. This is even more important in 2014 and forward as we lend our voice of support for the Mayor's 200,000 units housing plan. We need to provide the social infrastructure to both facilitate and enrich our existing and growing communities. Towards this end, I have made the preservation and development of new community center facilities in the borough a strategic priority of my administration.

### **Part I Historical Overview**

Since the beginning of this administration we have prioritized the development of community centers as part of the foundation of strong neighborhoods. With the Mayor's Housing Plan ushering in greater density, we have reinforced the need for social infrastructure, such as community centers, as an integral part of healthy neighborhood development.

There are 12 organizations with 14 community center projects whose construction, rehabilitation, or expansion we are supporting. The projects are being developed through an array of financial partnerships that include the Department of Education directly with a not for profit organization, faith-based institutions, various city agencies, as varied as the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Parks and Recreation, developers of affordable housing, and organizations with a long history providing community center services to our communities.

We are also seeing these projects developed outside of the stand-alone established construction norm. In the Bronx, we are seeing community center facilities being realized as part of housing development, as part of an expansion or rehabilitation of existing facilities, in re-purposed buildings, on underdeveloped land owned by not for profit organizations next to their buildings, and also on land acquired and assembled by these organizations, and on parkland or city property. The innovation underway has been expansive and has to be, if we are to meet the social amenities of the new Bronx.

- A YMCA in the Northeast Bronx at East 229<sup>th</sup> Street Planned;
- A YMCA as part of the HUB Bronxchester Site Project Planned;
- Highbridge Voices – Funded FY 10 (\$750k)
- Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club on MLK Blvd & Randall Avenue Funded - FY 10 (\$1.5 M) & FY 13 (720k);
- Kingsbridge Heights - Funded FY 14 (\$410k);
- Mind Builders - Funded FY 10 (\$482k);
- New Settlement Campus Center Funded - FY 12 (\$1 M);
- Casita Maria Funded – FY 14 (\$339k)

- Bronx Works on the Grand Concourse – Funded FY 13 (\$500k) FY 15 (\$500k)
- Police Athletic League – Funded FY 11 (\$500k)
- Riverdale Neighborhood House – Funded FY 11 (\$500k)
- Children’s Museum – Funded FY
- Bronx River Arts Center – Funded FY

## **Part II: Project Highlights**

### **1. The Bronx Works Community Center Capital Renovation Project**

Primarily built in 1926, with additions in the 1950s, the BronxWorks Community Center was the first building acquired by the organization. In their 20 years of ownership, they have made many capital improvements to the building, such as restoring its front steps and facade, constructing an Early Childhood Learning Center, adding a play roof, and constructing and upgrading bathrooms and office space. The five priority areas currently being addressed with our assistance and that of former Councilwoman Helen Foster, and Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson are as follows:

1. **Roof replacement:** The roof had significant leaks, extensive enough to frequently flood the Center’s gym and cause disruptive leaks in office space. Its replacement was critical to preventing further structural damage to the building. In addition, a new roof will allow them to continue a popular Center activity, a hydroponic roof garden that contributed to the efforts of the Center’s after-school and camp programs to support environmental education, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), literacy learning, and teamwork.

**TDC: \$660,000 Funded with FY 13 allocation & privately raised funds.**

2. **Facade Repairs:** Fiscal Year 15 funding will be used to repair the facade of the community center building, which is in poor condition. The center is getting water penetration throughout the building. The facade will be repointed, receive new windows, and the bulkhead repaired.

**TDC: Minimum \$750,000 & Funded with FY 15 allocation of \$500,000, \$163,000 from Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, and privately raised funds.**

3. **Pool repairs:** They are in the process of installing a new and separate heating system for the pool, which currently uses the building’s main heating system. This current practice wastes energy because the heat needed to keep the pool temperature comfortable is often excessive for the rest of the building. They are also in the process of installing a new pool liner, thereby preventing leaks, which will conserve water; upgrade chlorination, filtration, and other aspects of the pool’s mechanical system; and install more energy-efficient lighting, which will brighten the looks of the area. All of this work will mean that they can continue to accommodate today’s greatly expanded and enthusiastic use of the pool for years to come (Received NY Times coverage).



**TDC: \$100,000 Funded by former Councilwoman Foster and privately raised funds.**

4. **Boiler replacement:** The boiler system is past its useful life and will be replaced in the spring. Replacing the boiler will allow them to use more environmentally friendly gas fuel, thereby reducing air pollution and improving the heating efficiency of the entire building.

**TDC: \$400,000 Funded by former Councilwoman Helen Foster & privately raised funds.**

5. **Elevator replacement:** The current elevator, which often breaks down will be replaced in the spring. It has been a problem especially serious for physically challenged people who use the Center. The elevator also runs on parts that are no longer manufactured, adding to its maintenance costs and posing risks that eventually it will become impossible to find the proper equipment for repair. A new elevator will be easier to maintain and more energy efficient.

**TDC: \$200,000 Funded by former Councilwoman Helen Foster & privately raised funds.**

**The total development cost for these five projects is approximately \$2.3 Million of which we are providing almost 50% of the funds.**

- In Fiscal Year 13 our office provided \$500,000
- In Fiscal Year 15 our office provided \$500,000
- In Fiscal Year 14 former Councilwoman Helen Foster provided \$750,000
- In Fiscal Year 15 Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson provided \$163,000
- BronxWorks has been raising private funding for the balance.

**6. New Settlement Community Campus**

- The Borough President Office has allocated a total of \$2.8 million to the building of the New Settlement Community Campus. FY 13 - \$400,000; FY 12 - \$1,000,000; FY 09 - \$900,000; FY 08 - \$300,000; FY 07 - \$200,000.
- The Total Development cost of the Community Center component was approximately \$16 million.
- The New Settlement Community Campus will offer a unique model for school and community facility development. New Settlement collaborated with the NYC School Construction Authority and Department of Education on the development of a 172,000 sq. ft. facility that will include two new public schools and an attached community center.

**Project Components:**

1. The School Campus comprises of an elementary school servicing grades pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and a High School servicing grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. The campus will also have a District 75 School. When fully phased in, the schools will eventually serve approximately 1,100 students.

2. In addition to its educational facilities, the campus will have recreational facilities providing activities for students and thousands of community members during afterschool and weekend hours in a densely populated section of the Bronx that lacks these services.
  - o The community center includes an indoor 75-foot five-lane swimming pool, educational green roof terrace, outdoor open and play space, dance studios, multipurpose classrooms, kitchen classroom, art gallery space, and amphitheater.

### **3. Programming Collaborations:**

- o New Settlement is also collaborating with four local schools to introduce second graders to swimming instruction, including P.S. 170, P.S.64, Family Life Charter School and Grand Concourse Charter School.
- o Additionally, New Settlement is partnering with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to bring swimming instruction opportunities those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis.
- o New Settlement has also partnered with Montefiore Hospital to establish a school-based health clinic that will be staffed by a full-time doctor, nurse, and mental health practitioner.

### **3. ArtsBrigde Project**

The Artsbridge Project is evocative of several themes, including:

- Collaboration between government and church in developing affordable housing on church property.
- The construction of senior housing, one of the last Section 202 HUD Senior projects in New York City (61 units).
- The development of a 25,000 Square Foot community facility.
- The ArtsBrigde Project is fostering the borough's economic development.

#### **I. Collaboration with the Archdiocese of New York**

Our office has a history of working with religious institutions. Our funding & ULURP support for the ArtsBrigde Project is a prime example of how we are collaborating with faith-based institutions to facilitate affordable housing.

#### **II. Construction of Senior Housing**

The ArtsBrigde Project has two components.



The first is a federal Section 202 Supportive Housing Program for the Elderly located at 1446-1458 Plimpton Avenue with 61 dwelling units. This is possibly the last or one of the last federal Section 202 projects to be developed in New York City.

An outdoor performance space with 8 parking spaces is also part of the project, but not attached to the building.

The **residential component** will have 24 hours concierge entrance coverage and security cameras as well as a community room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. The apartments will be located on the third to seventh floors of this mixed use building.

### **Borough President Office History of Support for Senior Housing**

This office has financially leveraged approximately \$145 Million with \$5.4 Million in capital allocations and 867 units of housing developed specifically for seniors over the last five years.

### **III. Construction of a Community Center**

The second component of the ArtsBrigde Project is an approximately 25,000 square foot child service center to be the new home of Highbridge Voices.

The **community facility** will be located on the first and second floors and the senior housing on the third to 7<sup>th</sup> floors. The most prominent feature of the community facility will be a 250 seat auditorium. The center will be open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday and on Saturdays. The center will permit Highbridge Voices academic and music program to double its current capacity of 120 children. The new center will also permit Highbridge to expand its spectrum of community services to include family case management during the time the Highbridge Voices Program is not in session, before 3 p.m. Highbridge Voices currently has 16 staff (4 FT). The children are not charged a fee for the programming, which raises its budget from Highbridge HDFC (2/3) and from fund raising efforts (1/3).

### **IV. ArtsBrigde Project Economic Factors**

- Total Development Cost of ArtsBrigde - \$26,279,555
- Construction jobs: 150 jobs directly related to the construction (Melnick Construction Co.)
- Highbridge Voices/ArtsBrigde Fulltime Jobs:
  - Phase 1 (current): 7 full-time/full time equivalent (FTE)
  - Phase 2 (2015): 3 additional FTE, total is 10 FTE
  - Phase 3 (2016): 5 additional FTE, total is 15 FTE
- Facility Management Fulltime Jobs: 6 jobs

#### **4. Kingsbridge Heights Community Center Expansion**

This \$2 million project is a 10,000 square foot expansion adjacent to the existing main building at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace. The new space will be used for expanded ACS funded early childhood services, including Head Start (3 to 4 year olds, 40 slots) and Baby School (3 months to 2 ½ years, 40 slots), a ACS funded borough-wide child sexual abuse prevention program (Quinn FY 13 funding \$50k) & NYS OPWDD funded program for developmental disabled children.

An initial early childhood services facility expansion of 6,000 SF immediately east of the site has been completed at a cost of \$600,000 with private funding. The project received federal funds for the furnishings. This initial building was recently expanded to service their Room to Grow Program for day care providers. There is a garden, play area, & amphitheater on the site as well. The Phase II project is located between the original and initial expansion facility. The project is also anticipating funding from the US Health & Human Services Administration (for early childhood services), private foundations & corporate donations.

**Our office provided** \$410,000 in FY 14 to the project, which also has \$100,000 from Assembly Member Dinowitz and \$1 million in assistance from Councilpersons Koppell (former) & Cabrerra. The balance of the funds has been raised privately. The project is in pre-development.

#### **5. Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club Upgrade & New Facility**

Our office provided funding to complete the construction of the 1835 MLK Blvd, Site - \$1.5 million FY10.

Our office also provided funding to undertake the renovation of the Air-Support Dome at the 1930 Randall Ave Site - \$720,000 FY13.

The Lucile Palmaro Clubhouse (Randall Avenue site), which opened in 1969, is the original Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club facility in the Bronx. It is the largest of Kips Bay's 10 direct service sites, enrolling approximately 70% of Kips Bay's membership. The Palmaro Clubhouse and the Frederic R. Coudert Sports Complex (MLK site) have unique amenities which are available to all Club members, irrespective of the Kips Bay location that they regularly attend.

The special facilities of the Palmaro Clubhouse and Coudert Sports Complex include Olympic swimming pool, air-conditioned performing arts hall, air-supported dome over cushioned turf, and the Bronx' only ice skating rink. On a periodic basis youngsters from all sites are transported to the Palmaro Clubhouse on Kips Bay's buses to use these facilities.



Responding to community needs, the services provided at the Lucile Palmaro Clubhouse and ten outreach locations are based on the principles of behavioral guidance and are intended to promote the general health, educational advancement, character development and leadership potential of its members. Responsibility is to provide 6 to 18 year old boys and girls with the programs and activities that instill a sense of competence, a sense of belonging, and a sense of power and influence.

A Statistical Glance at the membership of Kips Bay:

- 51% of members are living under the poverty level.
- 50% of the kids served live in single-parent households.
- 98% of our members are from ethnically diverse backgrounds.
- School District 8, where most Kips Bay members attend, has an on-time graduation rate of only 49%.

#### **6. Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center**

Our office provided \$482,000 in FY 10 for the renovation of the Old Municipal Building into a Community Center.

Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center provides quality Music, Dance, Theater, Voice, and Martial Arts classes for 400 students a year. Group and private lessons provide study in modern/jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, salsa, praise, and African dance forms, martial arts, saxophone, flute, clarinet, Suzuki violin, standard violin, guitar, bass, drum/percussion, keyboard, piano, and voice. In addition, Mind-Builders offers two workshop programs for teens, the Positive Youth Troupe musical theater program, and the Community Folk Culture intern research program.

Located in the North East Bronx, Mind-Builders is committed to maintaining both professional artistic standards, and a nurturing, engaging environment that develops the whole student while impacting their approach to life.

The North East Bronx is a vibrant, multicultural, family oriented area, built around small neighborhoods. It is predominantly an African American, Caribbean, and African community, with growing Hispanic and Middle-Eastern populations. It is a melting pot of people from all over the world and a perfect place for a community arts center.

Mind-Builders offers the families of these communities a trusted service of excellence, aspiration, and dependability. Their services are high quality and are made available to all children without regard to household income or skill upon entrance. This is the goal and mission that has kept Mind Builders a vibrant part of Bronx communities since 1978.

#### **7. Casita Maria Center for the Arts & Education**

The Casita Maria Center for the Arts & Education opened in September 2009, the first of a long series of projects to characterize our work in support of new, rehabilitated, and expansion community center development projects. Most importantly, this project demonstrated the value of a unique collaboration between community centers and the Department of Education. The project has two components.

#### **I. The Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists at Casita Maria**

- The complex is a 90,000 educational and cultural facility, which houses both Casita Maria and The Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists at Casita Maria
- The School Construction Authority SCA constructed and owns the building
- Casita will retain property ownership and gave SCA a 100 year ground lease, after which land reverts to Casita.
- Casita offices occupy the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and also have shared use of theater, classrooms, other school facilities.

#### **II. Casita Maria**

- Casita Maria was established 1934 in East Harlem, as a “settlement house” to serve Hispanics in NYC. It had been operating on this Simpson Street site since the 1950s.
- Casita Maria operates two main types of programs:
  - After school programs primarily in the arts and literacy for students 6 to 14 years old;
  - Community support (social services) for seniors and families.

Notable graduates include Tito Puente, “Cuban Pete”, Rita Moreno, Dave Valentin, & Judge John Carro.

The Borough President’s Office had contributed \$500,000 in capital funds towards the construction of the Casita Maria Center for the Arts & Education. The Borough President’s Office has also provided assistance for the build-out of the building’s arts facilities.

#### **8. YMCA East 229<sup>th</sup> Street Project**

We have joined with Assemblyman Carl Heastie and Councilmember Andy King in efforts to realize a state of the art YMCA facility at 1250 East 229<sup>th</sup> Street on property owned by the Agency for Children Services. The YMCA anticipates the project costing approximately \$40 million for a 40,000 square foot facility.

The YMCA serves 200,000 children citywide, half of which participate for free or at a token cost (75,000 under the Free Strong Kids Cards). Financial assistance is provided to families that can’t afford the fees. Regular fees are \$60 & \$40 a month respectively for families &



individuals. There are government partnerships that provide operating & fee assistance. Seventy percent of the operating costs come from fees.

The YMCA has the Adopt A School Program. The Castle Hill YMCA, for example, has after school programming at ten schools. The YMCA also partners with three medical institutions to address health issues. Governance structure provides for both Citywide and local Branch Boards.

City Hall is developing the parameters for the disposition of the site.

#### **9. YMCA Component at the La Central Bronxchester Project**

The YMCA is a component of a five buildings development with 985 Residential Units to be known as La Central as it will be located at the HUB/East 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Bergen Avenue. The YMCA Condo will be in **Building A** with approximately 48,000 Square Feet. The project is in the pre-ULURP process.

The 48,000 square feet YMCA will have two all-year-round indoor swimming pools. The YMCA is planning a double sized gymnasium; and all-purpose space for seniors, after school programming, teen center, and exercise space. Programming is for all ages and incomes. The programming of activities is comprehensive, including diabetes prevention, college preparation courses.

Financing is being facilitated by a public private partnership that includes government, the developer and the YMCA.

The residential component will not only offer 985 affordable units of all sizes, but also a comprehensive array of open space and sustainable features on at-grade as well as on roof-top terraces. Additionally, the development will have Photovoltaic & Cogeneration System. The photovoltaic & cogeneration system would be able to generate 500,000 Watts of power. This power would permit the running of the public area cooling, lighting, elevators and water purification systems in the event the building lost power for days.

#### **10. The Bronx River Arts Center**

The Bronx River Arts Center, located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue has been a mainstay of the borough's cultural arts heritage for over 30 years. Despite the travails of this rehabilitation project, it has remained steadfast in its commitment in serving our borough's young and mature artists alike in the West Farms neighborhood and beyond. The Bronx River Arts Center is also a steward of the Bronx River, which runs alongside the building and played an integral role in creating Drew Garden across the street, as part of the storied efforts to restore the Bronx River. It is fitting that my office and my associates in government provided the financial

assistance to make this project feasible as it stands as a beacon of inspiration for our aspiring artists in the restoration of the Bronx River, and indeed, the whole of The Bronx.

BRAC serves approximately 600 youth ages 5 to 19 years; another 150 adults from their 20s to post retirement age (Seniors) are also served, including partnerships with Bronx Works, Aquinas Houses, Bronx H.S. of the Visual Arts (Bronxdale), Emolior Charter School (West Farms), Mott Hall V Charter School (Soundview) & P. S. 57 – the Crescent School, Fannie Lou Hammer High School (West Farms).

The Bronx Borough President's Office has a lengthy and substantive project funding history on behalf of the project:

o FY 05	\$145, 000
o FY 06	\$405,000
o FY 07	\$513,000
o FY 08	\$900,000
o FY 11	\$706,000
o Total	\$2,669,000

#### **Design Elements:**

- o **4<sup>th</sup> Floor:** Education Space as well as portions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors (Classrooms);
- o **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor:** Co-working Studio Space to generate income;
- o **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor:** Co-Working Space & Computer Lab for Creative Industries & Environmental Organizations;
- o **1<sup>st</sup> Floor:** Gallery/ Multi-Purpose Space w/ cement floor;
- o **Backyard:** Garden has been completed using a WCS/NOAA Grant.

#### **The BRAC Rehabilitation Project has two Green Elements**

- 1. Environmental Education Garden in the back of the building** financed through the federal NOAA Grant of \$214,000);
- 2. The building will have Green Roof** financed in part by BOEDC's BIEE (\$49,000) & the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (\$88,000)

#### **11. PAL Webster Giannone Center**

Our office funded the PAL - Webster Giannone Center located at 2255 Webster Avenue in FY11 - \$500K for the installation of a new air conditioning system, fire alarm system, & Asbestos Abatement.



The Webster-Giannone Center's mission is to build, develop and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. By helping with the development of character, self-pride, responsibilities and creativity every child will be provided with endless possibilities to express themselves through art, recreation and socialization.

Webster PAL currently offers after school programs for children in grades 1st through 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as summer day camps, and teen evening programs during the school year. Children receive homework assistance, academic enrichment, arts & crafts, recreation, dance and game room. The youth also participate in Center, Borough and City-wide events where they learn the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork. PAL provides educational, recreational and cultural programs that inspire and support children throughout the year.

Located throughout the five boroughs, particularly in some of the city's most challenging neighborhoods, PAL Centers are a home away from home for young people in need of safe, supportive environments. PAL Centers are oases in their communities and stand as proof of PAL's long-term commitment to helping New York City's children.

#### **12. Riverdale Neighborhood House**

Our office funded the renovation (Green) of the Riverdale Neighborhood House (RNH) located at 5521 Mosholu Avenue in FY11 - \$500,000 to facilitate the expansion of their teen center. For decades, Riverdale Neighborhood House has provided a home-away-from-home for twelve to eighteen year-olds from our local community. It is a place for teens to call their own, to discover who they are – and who they want to become. Their model of youth development and life planning helps teens build the foundations for their educational and professional futures while gaining meaningful social experiences. Teens may also explore the creative arts by participating in special workshops in poetry, the visual arts and dance.

RNH will open their new *Community and Teen Center* during the fall of 2014. This upgraded facility will include a redesigned teen lounge with quiet study and computer rooms along with an upstairs gym and warming pantry.

#### **Youth Internships**

Internships are a great way to get a taste of a possible future career, learn from professionals, and have fun! The Riverdale Neighborhood House Youth Internship Program is designed for young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who wish to gain job skills, explore career opportunities, or gain a meaningful experience that can boost their resumes and/or college applications. Career Club, college information, peer to peer sharing, outings and recognition events are some examples of the different activities interns participate in. Applications are available in, September, February and May. Stipends are awarded.

**Recreation**

The Community & Teen Center is a well-equipped facility that provides a place to socialize and meet new people. Whether it is outside sports like basketball, or swimming, or inside activities like ping-pong, foosball, air hockey or billiards, there is always a game developing.

**Community Service/Volunteer Opportunities**

Opportunities to contribute time and passion—or complete community service requirements—are available at RNH. Young people can share their hobbies and interests, provide tutoring and/or homework help for children in their After School Program, make sandwiches for the homeless, or help out at special events.

**Leadership Development/Civic Engagement**

Teens take an active role in raising money for programs, participate in beautification projects to serve their community, assist staff, and advise management of program needs and issues.

**OST Program @ MS/HS 368 In-Tech Academy**

Riverdale Neighborhood House (RNH) in partnership with MS/HS 368 (In-Tech Academy) and OST (Out of School Time) is offering a FREE After School Program to all Middle School Students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

**13. Bronx Children's Museum/ Kid's Powerhouse**

Our office has provided the Bronx Children's Museum, known today as the Kid's Powerhouse one of our highest allocations for any project. In FY10 our office provided \$2.5 million for the Initial stages of major construction and renovation to Building J, located in Mill Pond Park, to create the Kid's Powerhouse.

In FY14 we augmented our initial allocation with \$500,000 to integrate crucial safety features, building infrastructure and exhibition foundations.

The Museum will open the KIDS' POWERHOUSE DISCOVERY CENTER in 2016. The Museum is one of few cultural institutions in the Bronx geared toward young children, especially those children and families who cannot afford — or would not normally visit — a museum. The Bronx has 250,000 children under the age of 9 years, and is the only borough in New York City without a children's museum facility.

The POWERHOUSE facility is in an old City-owned, decommissioned powerhouse built originally in 1925 and located within public park land, Mill Pond Park, on the Harlem River in the South Bronx just steps from Yankee Stadium. Situated on the second floor of the former power plant, in a beautiful 12,800 square foot LEED-certified historic building, Kids' Powerhouse will serve nearly 75,000 children each year and will feature bright, open exhibit



spaces; age-appropriate permanent and temporary interactive exhibits exploring the richness of the Bronx in the arts, culture, community, natural resources, greening and energy; flexible studio space for community gatherings and meetings; and offices for Bronx Children Museum staff.

At KIDS' POWERHOUSE DISCOVERY CENTER, children and families will interact with, learn from and create with local artists; participate in developing new exhibits; and get to showcase their work on-site and online.

Visitors might explore a river habitat inspired by the adjacent Harlem River and other Bronx waterways – perhaps by building a beaver dam, capturing energy from the water's flow, observing clues from animals living in and along the river or by tracing the water supply from the Catskills. A Community Gallery will invite visitors to engage in conversations, sparking dialogue and learning across generational and cultural lines. Visitors can explore a community garden, a greenmarket and diverse Bronx neighborhoods through cultural markers such as language, food and neighborhood celebrations.

## **11. The Beautification of The Bronx**

### ***Strategic Policy Objective:***

Urban environments are often characterized by concrete, black asphalt and un-kept public spaces. Today, more than ever before it is recognized by urban planners and landscape architects that this harsh profile need not be so. In many European cities much of the city-streetscape has been "reincarnated" as bridges, elevated roadways, step streets and even alleys are planted, painted, and creatively illuminated to become places people want to see rather than seek to avoid. As a world class city, New York is learning, watching and investing, so as to make many of our communities appealing. The challenge is to keep this effort going and to seek out ever more creative ways to bring a stroke of beauty into our neighborhoods.

### **Strategy #1: Beautify Our Public Streets and Shared Spaces**

- Increase Greenstreets in the Bronx
- Install planted medians in lieu of zebra striping, fencing or "Jersey barriers"
- Improve coordination of capital park projects with other agencies to minimize construction delays, capitalize on opportunities and reduce wasteful spending
- Eliminate opportunities for inter-agency wrangling as it pertains to maintaining public parks
- Encourage the DPR to coordinate maintenance functions of public parks that are within Business Improvement Districts (BID's) to improve maintenance and park programming
- Support maintenance programming with local community organizations ( i.e .New York Restoration Project).

### **Strategy #3: Create a Tree Canopy Across the Bronx**

Encourage the DPR to Undertake the Following:

- Require all community boards to submit a street-tree planting plan and schedule to the DPR
- Improve communications between the DPR and property owners, BID's, shopkeepers and schools
- Require the watering of street trees between June –September by property owners
- Require the fertilization of street trees by contractor during the first year following planting
- Establish a computerized tree inventory by installing bar-codes on each tree including:
  - Tree Species
  - Location (block & building address)
  - Age
  - Last Date Pruned & health issues (if any)

### **Strategy #4: Plazas are Places In Need of Beautification Too**



- Work with Community Boards, Business Improvement Districts, elected officials and city agencies to identify appropriate locations for plazas to include:
  - Trees and specimen landscaping
  - Sculptures
  - Benches
  - Locations for art displays
  - Public gathering and civic meeting venues
  - Passive activities, (reading, having lunch, etc)
- Identify resources necessary to maintain plaza areas
- Design, construct and complete all pending plaza projects in the Bronx, including:
  - West 181<sup>st</sup> Street at University Avenue
  - Fordham Plaza
  - Bryon Park
  - Roberto Clemente Plaza
  - Cranes Square
  - Hugh Grant Circle
- Identify additional potential plaza locations
  - 138<sup>th</sup> Street & the Grand Concourse
  - East side of the Grand Concourse at East 170<sup>th</sup> Street
  - West side of the Grand Concourse at East 175<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Grand Concourse at Fordham Road overpass
  - Fordham Road at Creston Avenue
  - Pelham Bay Park #6 Train Terminus-Amendola Plaza

#### **Strategy #5: Improve the Visual Landscape**

##### **Government Properties**

- Consider the use of natural greenery to shield parameter fencing
- Consider elevated subway structures and highway viaducts as locations for creative art work installations
- Illuminate high profile buildings (Bronx County Building)

##### **Private Properties**

- Encourage the reintroduction of foundation plantings
- Support a tax incentive for the inclusion of a green-roof on private properties
- Enforce all zoning prohibitions on commercial signage and advertising canopies

#### **Strategy #6: Celebrate Parkways, Boulevards and Avenues in the “New Bronx”**

Across the Bronx most people define their community based around a specific address which is derived from the name of an avenue, boulevard or parkway. Likewise, the scope and scale of development that defines a community is most often determined by the profile of a specific street. Consequently, how a community interacts with their avenue or boulevard is vital for how their quality of life will be defined, both by themselves and by those they may know.

- Identify the necessary funds to complete the reconstruction of the Grand Concourse between East 175<sup>th</sup> Street and Moshulu Parkway.
- Design and construct a new Edward L. Grant Highway that includes planted center medians.
- Design and reconstruct the University Avenue Center Medians to include their greening.
- Design and construct a new vision for Webster Avenue that capitalizes on its width by including additional street trees and pedestrian crossing & bus stop safe havens.
- Design and construct a planted median on the Grand Concourse between East 139<sup>th</sup> Street to East 161<sup>st</sup> Street (originally Mott Avenue).
- Install plantings to enhance the visual profile of interstate highways & parkways (i.e. the Cross Bronx Expressway, Bronx River Parkway south of Fordham Road)
- Establish a street light design plan for the Bronx, the goal of which is to install decorative lighting equipment that enhances the streetscape of a neighborhood (i.e. Metropolitan Avenue in Parkchester)
- Design and construct planted areas that separate vehicular traffic from bicycle uses (use 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan for a model). Consider St. Ann’s Avenue for this initial endeavor



## **12. Transportation**

### ***Strategic Policy Objective:***

The introduction of mass transit services to the Bronx during the first 20 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prompted a wave of development and prosperity not realized anywhere else within New York City. Indeed, as the construction of the Interboro Rapid Transit (IRT) concluded in 1918, this was followed by a massive influx of people to the Bronx for the first time. Consequently, between 1920 and 1930, the population of Bronx County increased by 536,000 people, making this borough the fastest growing in New York City and one of the state's most prosperous counties.

Today, in 2014 mass transit is the lifeblood of the Bronx. The borough is poised to once again capitalize on its existing and massive subway infrastructure, expand railroad operations and explore new means of waterborne transit for commutation purposes.

### ***Strategy#1: Improve Mass Transit Infrastructure and Services***

#### **Subways**

- Establish a viable plan to rehabilitate all underground stations in the Bronx
- Establish a viable plan to maintain all station facilities in the Bronx to prevent unsightly blight, vandalism and vagrancy
- Expand the number of ADA compliant stations in Bronx County by working with Business Improvement Districts, Community Boards and elected officials. Key locations to consider and partners to work with include:
  - All subway terminus stations allowing for easy passenger transfer from subway to vehicular travel
  - All stations that are intersected by an SBS route
  - Fordham Road -"D" Train (Fordham Road Business Improvement District, Monroe College)
  - Mosholu Parkway – 4 Train (Montefiore Hospital, Jerome Avenue-Gun Hill Road Business Improvement District, Tracey Towers residents, DeWitt Clinton High School).
  - Burnside Avenue – 4 Train (Burnside Avenue Merchants Association, Bronx Community College)
  - 149<sup>th</sup> Street Grand Concourse - 2,4,5 Trains ( Lincoln Hospital, Hostos Community College, Gateway Shopping Center)
  - Gun Hill & White Plains Road-2 & 5 Trains
  - Parkchester, East 177<sup>th</sup> Street-6 Train
- Consider elevated structures for revenue producing functions through the use of LED-technologies that can alter advertisements to reflect the community through which a train is passing or advance a city-wide announcement for an increased amount of financing paid to the MTA

- Make better use of mezzanine spaces where such space is available (notably on the “D” line)
- Improve the coordination of train line passenger transfers to minimize waiting time for passengers
- Improve Metro Card technologies to minimize double-charges and expedite passenger passage
- Expedite installation of train-time information on the “D” Line
- Facilitate the use of cell phones within all underground stations in the Bronx

### **Bus Transportation**

- Expand the installation of SBS services in the Bronx by:
  - Establishing service to LaGuardia Airport via Webster & Third Avenue
  - Considering SBS service on Tremont Avenue between George Washington Bridge bus terminal & La Guardia Airport
- Expand express bus services between Westchester County and the Kingsbridge Ice Center (Kingsbridge Armory)
- Install “green delays” for buses passing through a signalized intersection

### **Metro North Commuter Railroad**

- **Establish railroad services to the East Bronx via the existing Amtrak facilities with station stops at Co-op City, Morris Park, Parkchester, Hunts Point**
- Expand one-seat transportation between Fordham & Connecticut stations
- Consider the sale of air-rights on Park Avenue to improve local development & increase revenues for Metro North
- Explore one-seat transportation via Metro North between the Bronx & New Jersey
- Design a comprehensive railroad station-stop at 149<sup>th</sup> Street junction between railroad and subway facilities
- Eliminate the appearance of blight at all stations & railroad right-of-ways in the Bronx
- Consider placing transit police at locations where rear-door entries may be problematic, (i.e. near high schools)
- Install LED advertisement panels that change as buses pass through varying communities

## **Strategy #2: Reduce Impact of Interstate Highways on the Health and Well Being of Bronx Communities**

### **Cars, Trucks & Highways**

#### *Strategies*



- Improve traffic flow on all roadways to minimize wasteful consumption of fuel and reduce air pollution
- Expedite construction of the Oak Point entrance-exit services for the Bruckner Expressway to facilitate direct access to the Hunts Point industrial areas
- Construct "Sheridan Boulevard" as proposed and by the New York City Department of City Planning and Department of Transportation
- Design and construct a new east-west traffic service road on 174<sup>th</sup> Street for local use and for the introduction of a new east-west bus line.. Consider the State of New York's Department of Transportation Plan that "covers or decks over" the Cross Bronx corridor between University Avenue & Webster Avenue and thereby reduces noise, congestion and pollution created by the Cross Bronx Expressway Install landscaping treatments on the Cross Bronx Expressway where appropriate.
- Expand the requirement of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to consider how interstate highways impact Bronx communities, focusing on:
  - Cost of health care prompted by asthma, cancer, etc.
  - Financial impact on local property values, development potential of adjacent sites, property tax revenue
  - Study how the business community relies on the interstate network in the Bronx (i.e. Hunts Point Market reliance on such highways)
  - Study how rail and waterborne transportation can be implemented to reduce reliance on vehicular modes.
- Encourage the MTA to conduct a comprehensive study to determine how interstate roadways can include venues for light rail or mono-rail systems (i.e. the "air train" service in Queens). Consider the Bruckner Expressway – New England Thruway location between the Pelham Bay #6 Train terminal & Co-Op City, as well as on the Cross Bronx Expressway.

#### **Strategy #5: Commuting by bicycle in Bronx County**

The recent introduction of "CitiBike" in Manhattan demonstrates how successful bicycling across New York can be. To date, there are no formal plans to introduce this program to the Bronx. It is therefore essential that a comprehensive effort to expand this option beyond Manhattan be initiated. This matter gains additional credence given the anticipated opening of a pedestrian-bicycle bridge between the Bronx and Randall's Island and the Highbridge between the Bronx and Manhattan. As such, in addition to the recreational benefits these new crossing will offer, they may provide a viable means of commuting for those who would prefer bicycles to cars or subways.

- Identify locations for the installation of bicycle sharing sites
- Consider how bicycle sharing can facilitate their use for commutation purposes
- Establish a way-finding sign program directing cyclists to sharing stations
- Introduce car-free days on major residential streets (i.e. Grand Concourse Family Day)

- Include the installation of separated bicycle lanes where routes for commutation purposes can be mapped (i.e. St. Ann's Avenue over the Bronx Kill or University Avenue over the Harlem River).
- Install speed detecting devices that show actual speeds to the driver in areas prone to such activity that are also used by cyclists

#### **Strategy #6: Step Up The Pride of Our Step Streets**

- Identify funding for decorative lighting, fencing and establish a working schedule for the prompt removal of debris and snow, graffiti and repair vandalized hardware (railings etc.)
- Collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation to evaluate the installation of plants trees.
- Identify and collaborate with adjacent property owners and residents the purpose of which is to monitor activities on step-streets and assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the staircases.

#### **Strategy #7: Create Welcoming Gateways to Bronx County**

- Inventory gateway locations where high volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic enter the Bronx (i.e. Grand Concourse at East 138<sup>th</sup> Street).
- Identify resources to:
  - Construct and maintain improvements
  - Design landscaping plan with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation
  - Install way-finding information for pedestrians and cyclists at entry points to the Bronx
  - Consider working with the Transit Authority to include an announcement on subways when trains pass into one borough from another

#### **Strategy #7: Bridges Bringing People to Places**

- Construct the East 153<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge
- Identify pedestrian bridges requiring redesign to minimize accidents and blight
- Construct the new City Island Bridge and adjacent park



### **13. The Environment**

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

Our strategy is to address the long-term environmental degradation in the Bronx. We need to restore land, air and water for living, working and quality of life today and for the next generation of Bronx citizens. Restoration of our environment by addressing conditions that threaten the public health also provides an opportunity to create the amenities, infrastructure, and employment opportunities necessary for thriving communities.

#### **Strategy #1: Assure the quality of drinking water and reduce negative impacts of our water infrastructure on Bronx communities.**

- Work with Hunts Point Monitoring Committee to minimize negative impacts of the Hunts Point wastewater treatment plant on the community.
- Work with the Croton Water Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee to ensure proper project management and minimize any negative community impact.
- Support a prohibition of hydraulic fracturing in the NYC drinking watershed and throughout New York State.

#### **Strategy #2: Improve the quality of Bronx waterways through reduction of storm water outflow.**

- Support green infrastructure in the Bronx via collaboration with NYC Department of Environmental Protection, funding allocations, sustainable building policy, and community partnerships.
- Support integration of green infrastructure for storm water into citywide policies for buildings, public space and parks development through advocacy and legislation.

#### **Strategy #3: Reduce air pollution to improve public health and the environment.**

- Convert #4 and #6 oil-burning buildings to #2 or natural gas through funding allocations and partnerships with utility providers, non-profits and state and city agencies.
- Encourage policies for the usage of biodiesel in all city fleet vehicles (school buses, emergency service vehicles, sanitation vehicles, etc.) through advocacy and legislation.
- Support development of new alternative fuels site in Hunts Point in partnership with NYC EDC and the Hunts Point Cooperative Market.
- Establish ferry service for the Bronx as an alternate transportation method to cars.

- Support Pennsylvania Station Access plan as another alternate transportation method to cars.
- Work with NYC DOT to develop bike lanes in the Bronx.

**Strategy #4: Reduce energy usage and foster the development of renewable energy sources.**

Increase the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings through funding allocations, partnerships with city agencies, energy efficiency organizations, businesses and housing developments.

- Provide assistance for the conversion residential heating plants from #6 fuel to #2 or gas.
- Provide assistance for the installation of solar thermal panels.
- Require all development to be certified green in order to qualify for Borough President Office funding.

**Strategy #5: Facilitate wholesome food availability in the Bronx**

- Support city's building zoning bonus for Supermarkets in underserved neighborhoods afforded and financing assistance under the Fresh Program.

**Strategy #5: Increase the amount of open space and greenways in the borough**

- Develop new green spaces in the borough through partnerships city agencies and local organizations and funding allocations.
- Ensure implementation of parks funded by the Croton project.
- Collaborate with community groups, community boards and city and state agencies in the development of the various Bronx Greenways, including the Bronx River, South Bronx and Hudson River Valley, Hutchinson River, Mosholu Pelham, & Soundview to Ferry Point Park Greenway.
- Support the construction of the Randall's Island Connector

**Strategy #6: Develop waterfront access throughout the borough**

- Collaborate with city agencies, community boards, community groups in the development and implementation of the City's and Bronx Waterfront Plan and Waterfront Revitalization Plan requirements.
- Support implementation of the Lower Grand Concourse Rezoning Waterfront District's access requirements.



#### **Strategy #7: Clean up contaminated Brownfield sites.**

This office committed to addressing environmental degradation in the Bronx and restoring land to productive use to foster the economic ascendancy of the borough and its people. Restoration of Brownfields not only clears our environment of conditions that threaten the public health of my constituents, but also provides new housing amenities, infrastructure, and employment opportunities necessary for thriving communities. Below are statistics on the progress being realized in The Bronx.

Large scale development on properties, known as brownfields – former parcels that were avoided but are now being made productive by the elimination of their hazards has now become routine.

In concert with a state and city programs, the voluntary rebirth of these sites have yielded a large part of new development that has been taking place in the last several years.

Each year these programs have continued adding to the steady stream of new projects rescuing formerly underutilized and undesirable places. 2014 surpassed 2013 in number of new applications with sixteen predominated by large new building projects that will add to our affordable and supportive housing. Overall, in 2014, more than \$ 300 million was invested in the Bronx under these programs and more than 1,000 new housing units are being created. Since 2009, Brownfield investment has totaled over \$2.3 billion.

- Collaborate with city and state agencies, developers and community organizations to investigate, remediate and develop new uses for Brownfield sites throughout the Bronx.
- Collaborate with city and state agencies, the business community and local organizations on the borough's Brownfield Opportunity Area initiatives, including along the Harlem River and in Port Morris.

#### **Bronx Awarded Big Apple Brownfield Awards**

In 2013 The Bronx, once again, won several Big Apple Brownfield Awards, demonstrating that Brownfield remediation projects in the Bronx are yielding real and significant results. The Big Apple Awards recognize significant development projects realized on remediated Brownfield sites. The 2013 winners are listed below:

- The Economic Development Award went to an eight-story, 110-unit building at 920-924 Westchester Avenue;

- The Innovation Award Prospect Court went to an eight-story, 58-unit building at 1224 Prospect Avenue, whose remedial plan had to overcome some challenging geology; and
- The Affordable Housing Award to Cortlandt Crescent went to a seven-story, 217 unit building at 383 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street.

A report on brownfield development in The Bronx is attached.

**Strategy #8: Reduce the volume and impact of solid waste on the borough.**

- Work with the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board, “the Borough President’s Environmental “Kitchen Cabinet” to review applications for solid waste businesses in the borough.
- Work with local and citywide environmental justice organizations to assure full implementation of the city’s Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan.
- Promote awareness and enforcement of city recycling regulations in the Bronx as well as reuse, and reduction.



# OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT - RUBEN DIAZ JR.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT  
2009 - 2014

Presented by the Bureau of Planning and Development  
December 2014



# Opening Remarks by Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr.

This Brownfield report contains significant statistics indicative of prosperous growth in the Bronx. Majority of the Bronx's economic growth is driven by residential investment, followed by Institutional and Commercial. Furthermore, proportionally high amounts of investment have been allocated to the Community Districts 1, 3, and 10. The high concentration of investment in this area simply tells us that there are signs of a booming economy in the South Bronx, and such growth seems positioned to grow in the correct trajectory for our "New Bronx."

The following figures in this report illustrate the healthy redevelopment of Brownfield sites; most importantly, they enumerate how distinct areas of the Bronx have benefited from land reuse, as appropriated by additional employment and total investment. Such figures can be seen as broken down by Community District or Land Usage categories.



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# Report Highlights

- As of June 2014, \$220,000,000 has been invested in the Bronx, which is comparable to the 2010 and 2012's figures of \$174,443,000 and \$188,035,000, respectively.
- Since 2009, Brownfield investment has totaled over \$2.2 billion. In all, community districts 1, 3, and 10 benefit from highest investment.
- A total of 3,290 residential units have been added since 2009, with community districts 1 and 3 experiencing highest amounts of residential unit construction.
- Since 2009, \$1.3 billion was invested in Residential Development, accounting for 62% of all investment.
- \$593 Million was invested in Institutional Development, accounting for 28% of all investment.
- \$212 Million was invested in Commercial Development, accounting for 10% of all investment.
- A total of 5,770 jobs have been created in the past five years as a result of Brownfield remediation.



# BROWNFIELDS

## NYC BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM (BCP)

- As defined by the EPA, Brownfields are the “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be contaminated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”
- The NYC Office of Environmental Conservation (OEC) assists property owners and developers remediate contaminated property and facilitate redevelopment.

# BROWNFIELDS SITES BY COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Brownfields in Each Community District											
CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	CD6	CD7	CD8	CD9	CD10	CD11	CD12
16	11	18	5	4	4	6	4	4	5	1	11

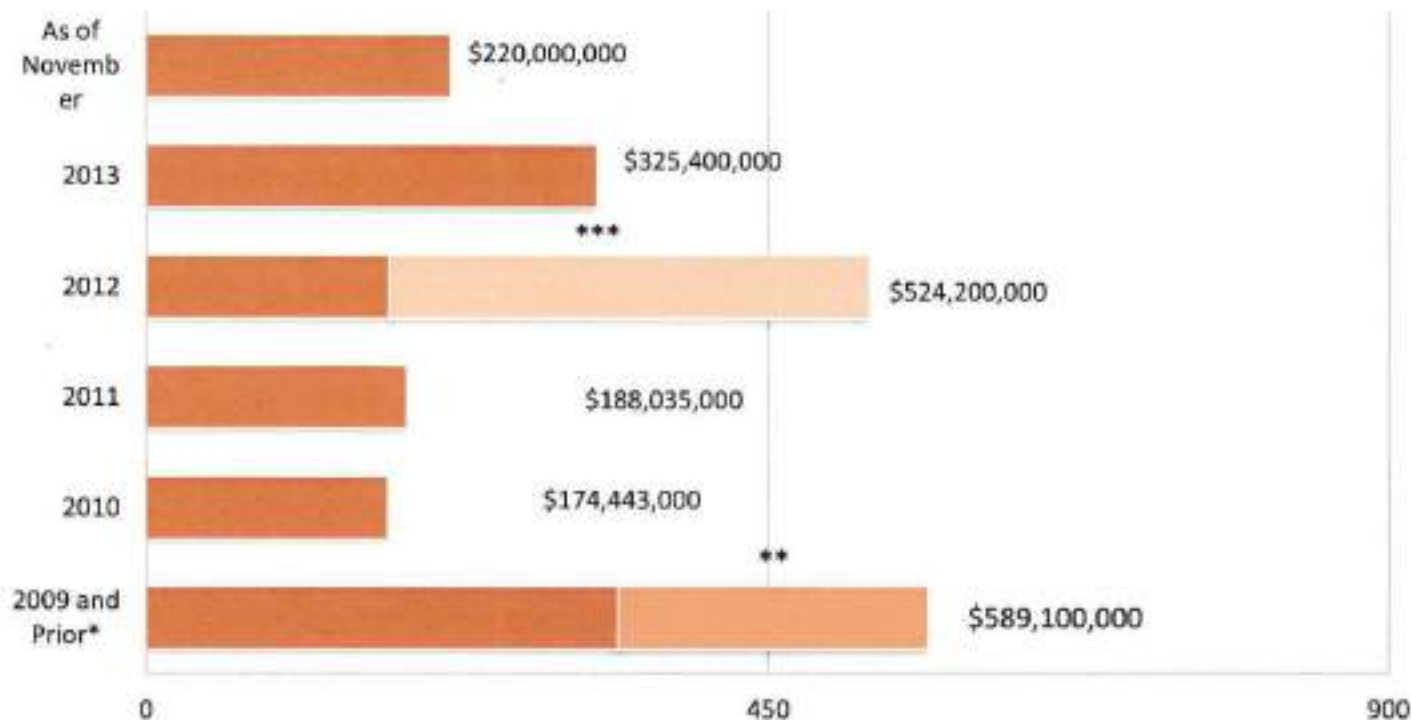
There are currently **90** total Brownfield sites located throughout the borough. The majority is concentrated in the southern Bronx, where historically higher intensity of commercial, industrial, and manufacturing uses have operated.





# Total Investment on Brownfield Redevelopment 2009 -- June 2014

## Total Brownfield Redevelopment Investment 2009-2014



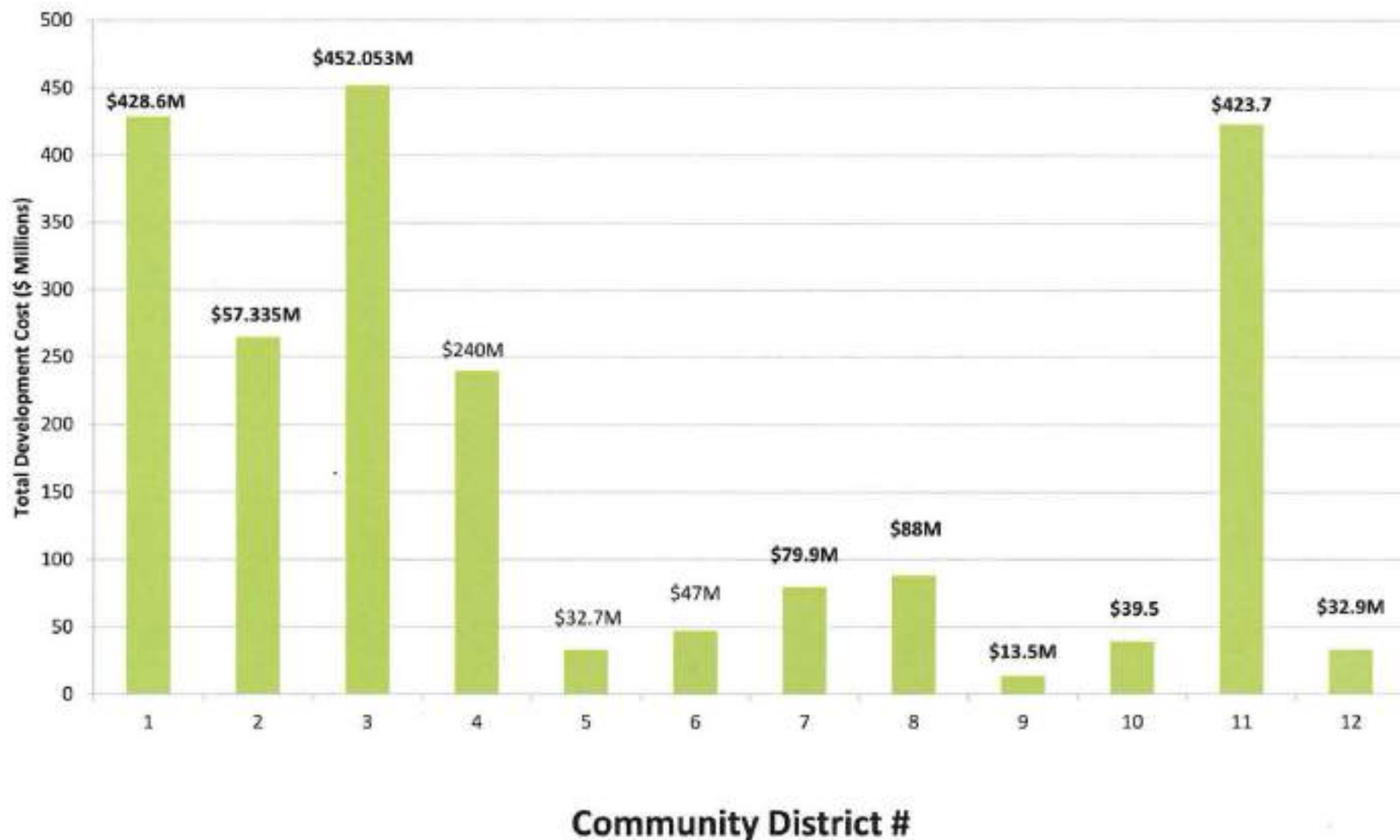
\*\*\*Bronx Mental Health  
Redevelopment Project  
\$348,700,000

\*\* Mott Haven School Campus  
\$225,000,000

\$2,228,378,000 has been invested in Bronx brownfield redevelopment in the past 5 years.

*\$2,228,378,000 has been invested in the Bronx Brownfield redevelopment in the past 5 years.* <sup>321</sup>

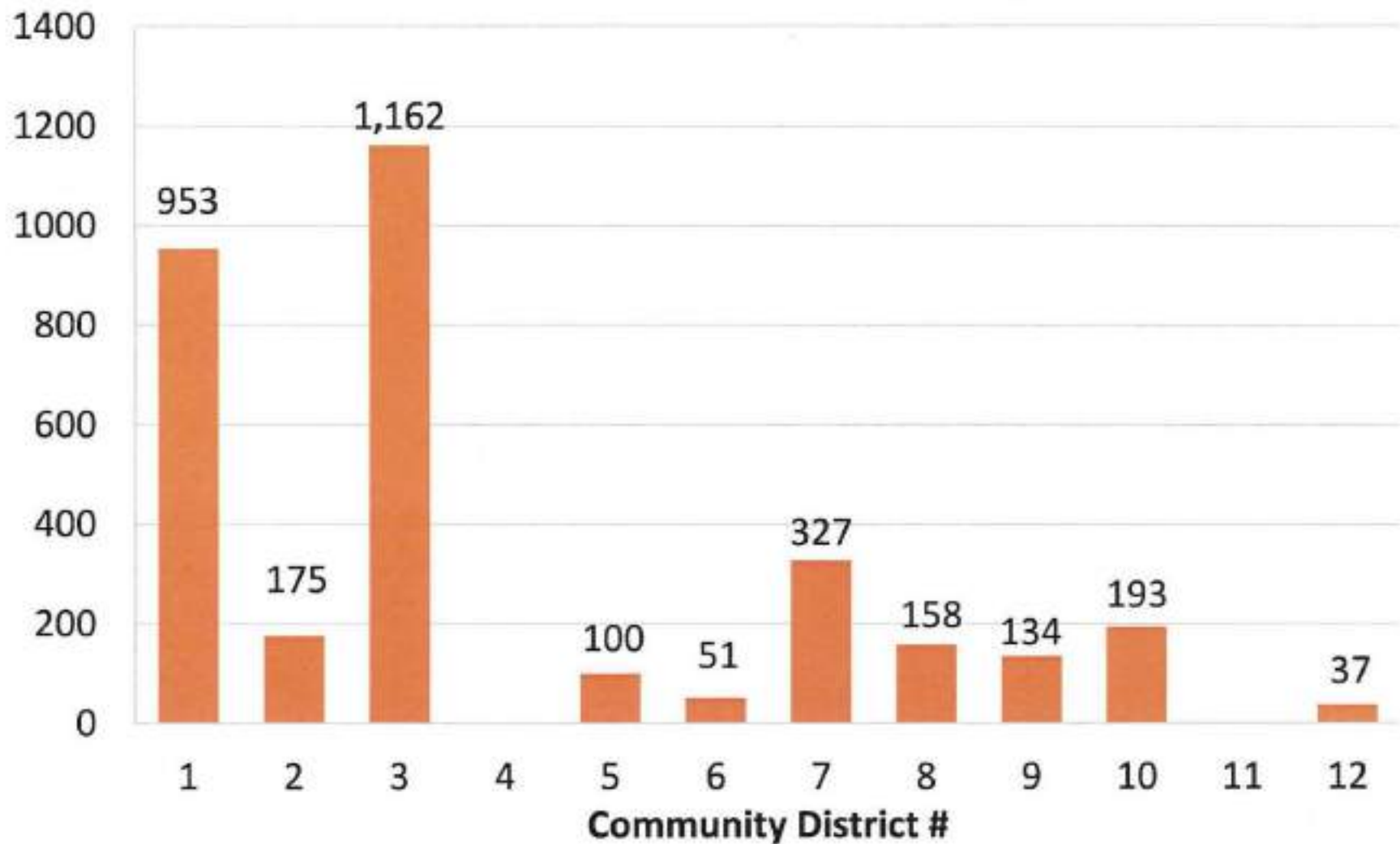
## Total Brownfield Investment by Community District 2009 - June 2014



\* Most CD #11's investment comes from BMHC Project \$348 Million.



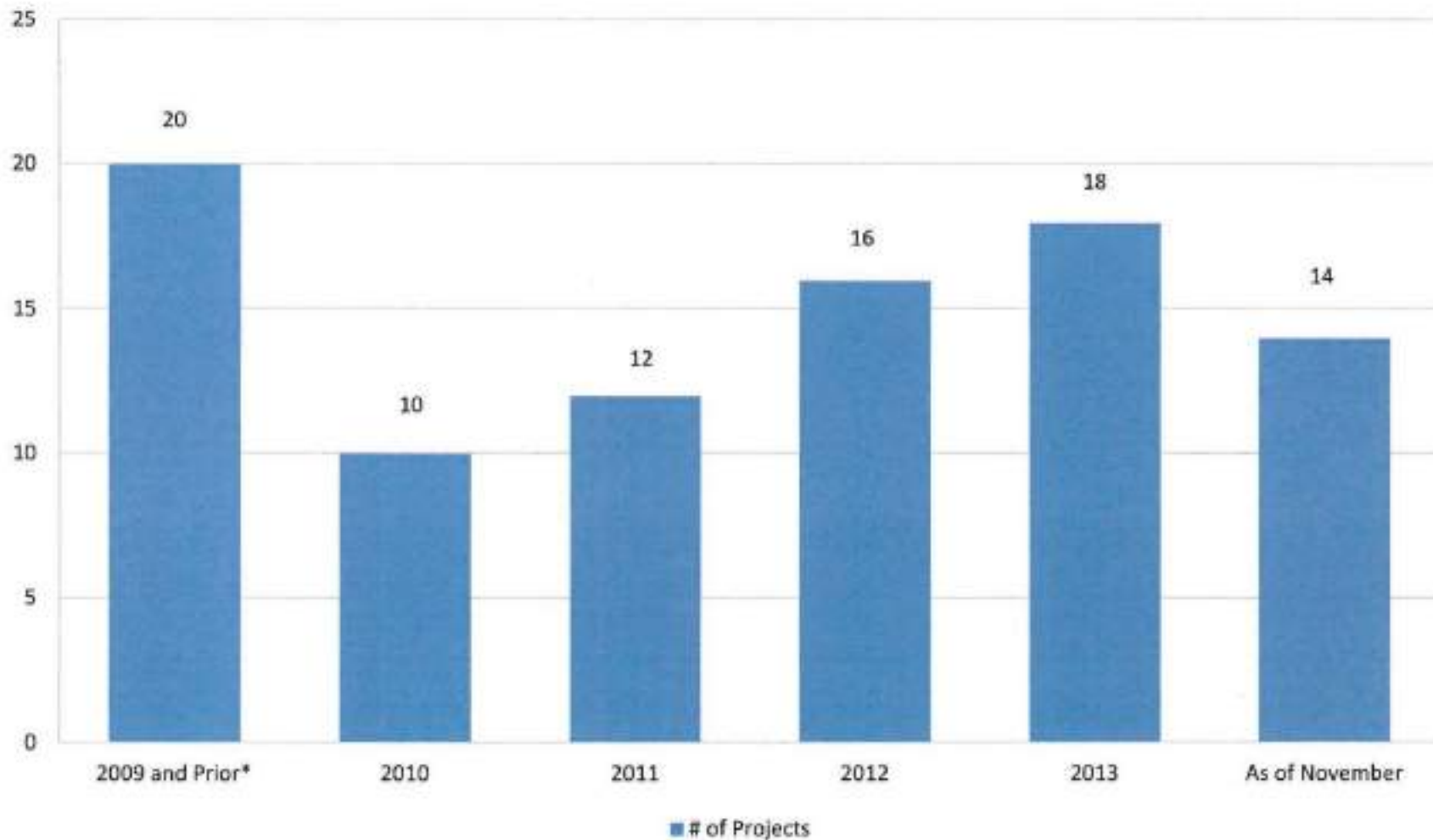
## New Residential Units by Community District since 2009



*A total of 3,290 residential units have been added on Brownfield redevelopment sites in the past 5 years.*

# Number of Brownfield Redevelopment Projects Per Year

Total Number of Projects

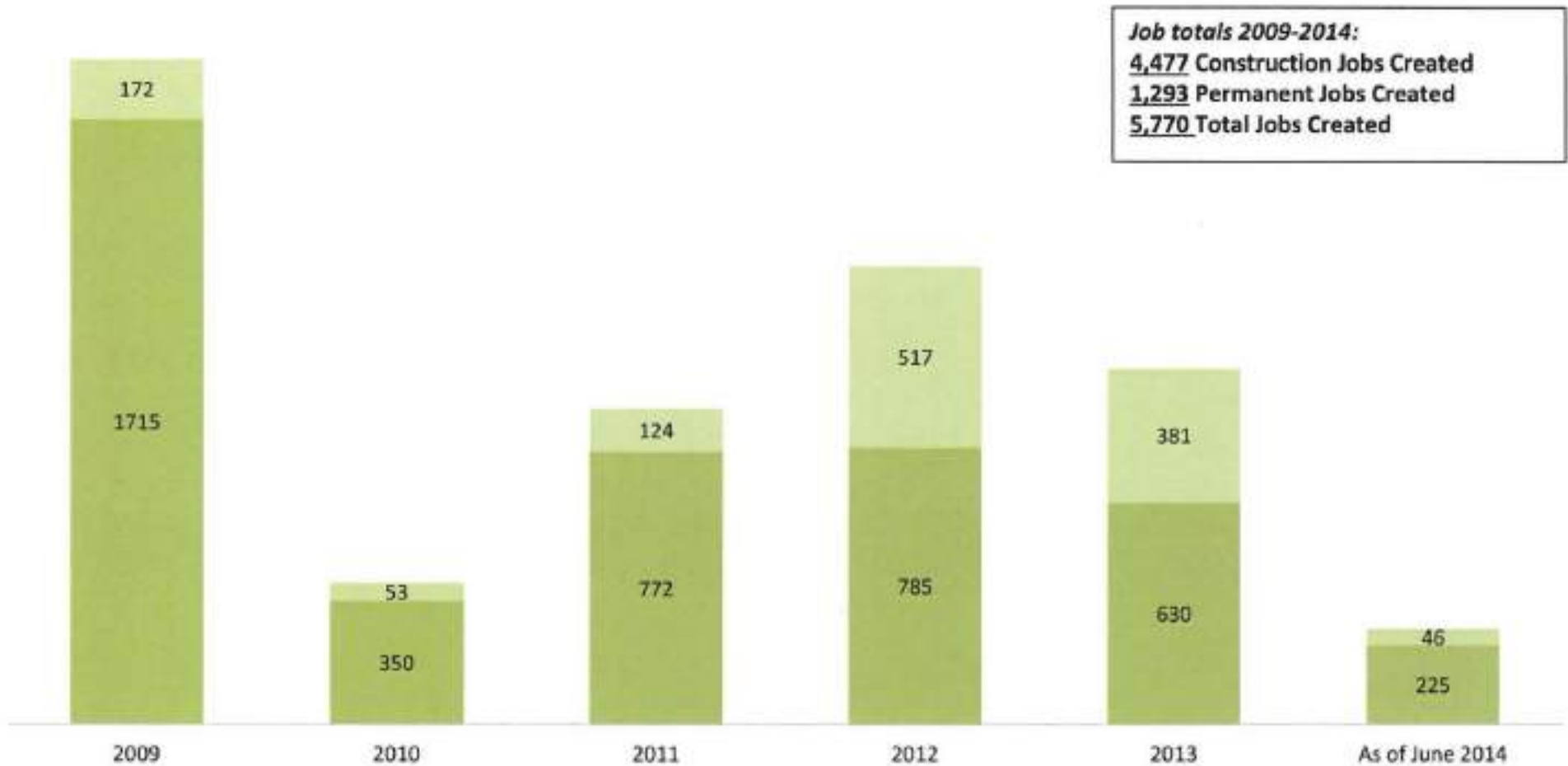


**A total of 90 Brownfield projects have been proposed from 2009 - June 2014.**



## Jobs Creation 2009-2014

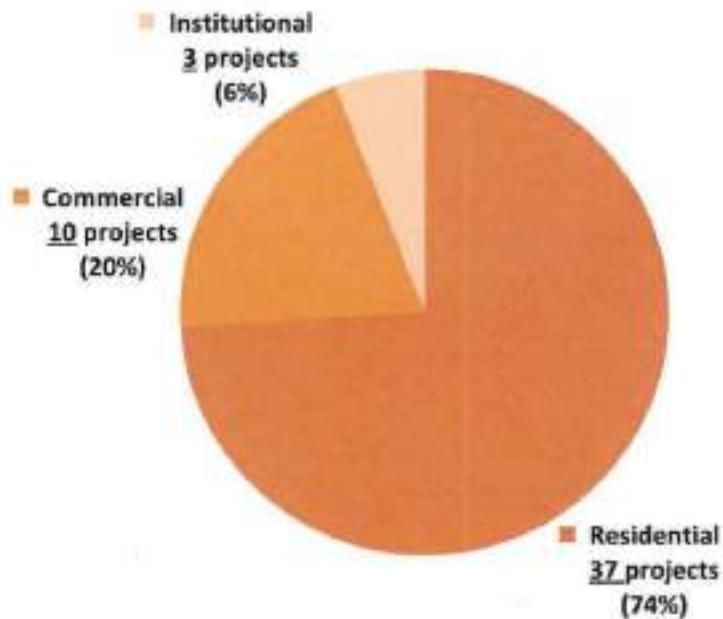
■ Construction ■ Permanent



***A total of 5,770 jobs were created by Brownfield redevelopment projects in the past 5 years.***

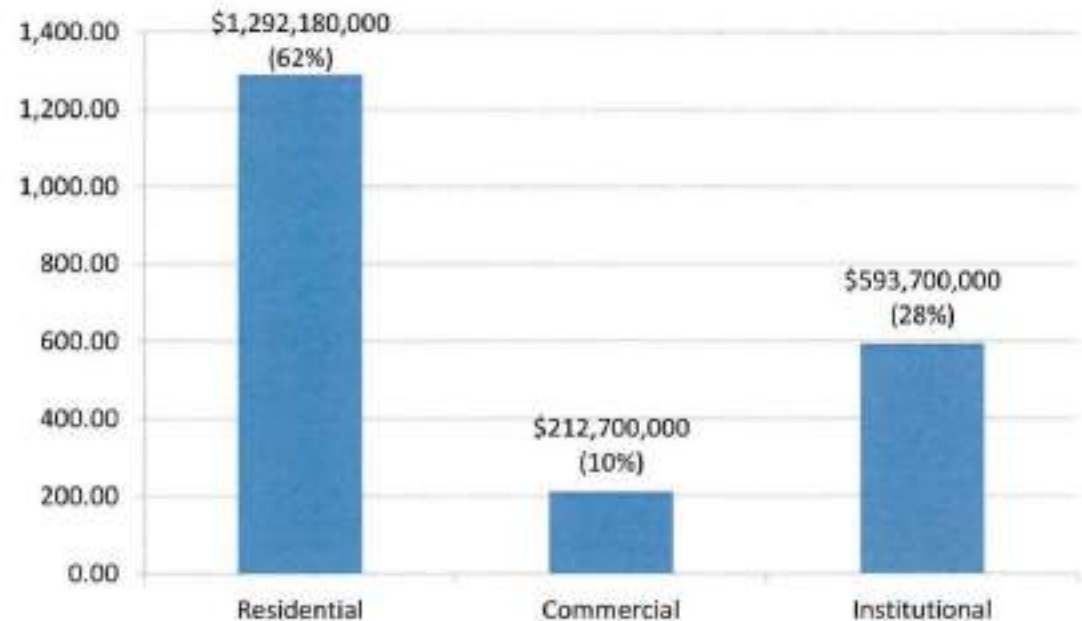
# Investment by Land Use Category 2009 - June 2014

## Total Projects Per Land Use



Total: 50 Brownfield Projects

## Total Investment Per Land Use





## Top 10 Development Projects 2009-2014

Project	Owner/Developer	CD	Address	Description	Investment
Bronx Mental Health Redevelopment Facility	New York State/Spector Group	10	1500 Waters Place	Health Facility	\$348,700,000
Mott Haven Campus	NYC Dept. Of Education	4	730 Concourse Village East	Educational institution/facility	\$225,000,000
Bronx River Arts Center	Common Ground/Mountco Construction	6	4275 Park Avenue	Two affordable housing/residential buildings	\$130,000,000
Via Verde	Lettire	1	700 Brook Avenue	Mixed Residential & Commercial building	\$98,800,000
Courtlandt Corners	Phipps Houses	1	875 Melrose Avenue	Mixed Residential & Commercial building	\$93,000,000
Courtlandt Crescent	Phipps Houses	3	383 East 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street	7-story affordable housing	\$83,000,000
Compass Residences	Monadock Development	3	1512 Boone Ave	Two buildings for residential/retail use	\$76,000,000
Morris Court	Azimuth	1	250 East 144 <sup>th</sup> Street	Two 6-story residential buildings with retail space	\$75,000,000
Plaza 163	Procida Companies	1	445 East 163 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Retail Mall	\$56,400,000
The Crossings	The Prusik Group	2	925 Hunts Point Ave	Retail Mall	\$26,000,000

## Top Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



1	Bronx Mental Health Redevelopment Facility
Address Issued	1500 Waters Place
Floor Area	1,231,455 sq. ft
Owner	New York State
Investment	\$348,700,000

## Top Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



2	Mott Haven Campus
Address Issued	730 Concourse Village East
Description	4 schools housing 2,310 students
Site Area	6.5 Acres
Owner	NYC Department of Education
Investment	\$225,000,000



# Top Brownfield Projects 2009-2014

4275 Park Ave



Renderings by COOKFOX Architects, LLP

3

## New Affordable Housing Developments

Address Issued 4275 Park Ave & 411 E 178<sup>th</sup> St

Units 13-Story, 248 affordable units + 8-Story 171 Affordable Units

Owner Common Ground & Mountco Construction

Investment \$137,000,000

## Top Ten Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



4	Via Verde
Address Issued	700 Brook Avenue
Units	222 Mixed Income Units – 71 Co-ops and 151 Rental Units
Developer(s)	Phipps Houses & Jonathan Rose Companies
Investment	\$98,800,000

## Top Ten Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



5	Courtlandt Corners i & ii
Address Issued	868 Courtlandt Avenue and 875 Melrose Avenue
Units	323 Affordable Units
Developer	Phipps Houses
Investment	\$93,000,000



## Top Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



6	Courtlandt Crescent
Address Issued	383 East 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street
Units	217 Affordable Units
Developer	Phipps Houses
Investment	\$83,000,000

## Top Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



7	Compass Apartments – Phase I
Address Issued	1512 Boone Ave
Units	237 Affordable Units
Developer	Signature Urban Properties
Investment	\$76,000,000

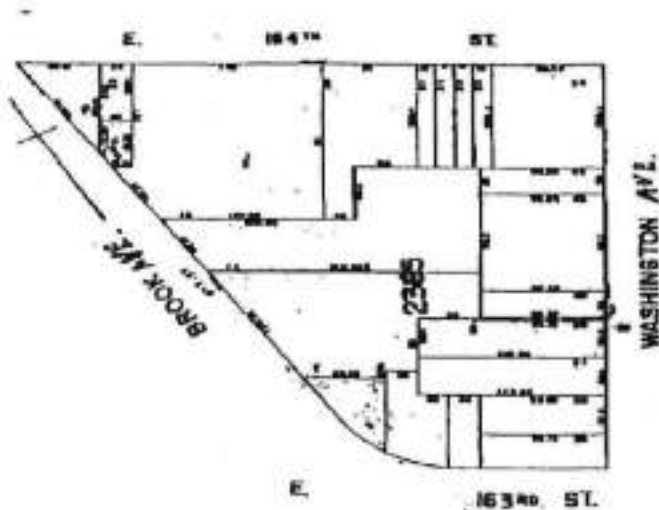
## Top Ten Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



8	Two 6 story Residential
Address Issued	250 East 144 <sup>th</sup> Street
Units	197
Developer	Azimuth
Investment	\$75,000,000



## Top Ten Brownfield Projects 2009-2014



9	Plaza 163
Address Issued	445 East 163 <sup>rd</sup> Street
Floor Area	45,157 sq. ft.
Units	159 Residential Units – 37,000 sq. ft. Retail
Developer	Procida Realty & Construction
Investment	\$56,400,000

337

# AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

## 2012 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

The following three Brownfield Sites, located in the Bronx, won 2012 Big Apple Brownfield Awards from the NYC Brownfield Partnership:

- Anheuser-Busch Distribution Center, Hunts Point (Economic Development Award)
- Crotona Park Apartments, Southern Boulevard (Affordable Housing Award)
- Via Verde, Brook Avenue (Green Building Award)

Source: For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :



# 2012 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Anheuser Busch Distribution Center



Economic Development Award  
Anheuser Busch Distribution Center  
Food Center Drive, Hunts Point

For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :

# 2012 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Via Verde



Green Building Award

Via Verde

700 Brook Avenue

222 Mixed Income multifamily

Developer: Phipps Houses & Jonathan Rose Companies

Total Development Cost: \$98,800,000

For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :

# 2012 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Crotona Park Apartments



Affordable Housing Award  
Crotona Park Apartments

For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :



# Notable Brownfield Sites

## 2013 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

The following three Brownfield Sites, located in the Bronx, won 2013 Big Apple Brownfield Awards from the NYC Brownfield Partnership:

- 920-924 Westchester Avenue Apartments, Westchester Avenue (Economic Development Award)
- Prospect Court Housing, Prospect avenue (Innovation Award)
- Courtlandt Crescent, Courtlandt Avenue (Affordable Housing Award)

Source: For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/>:

# 2013 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Westchester Avenue Apartments

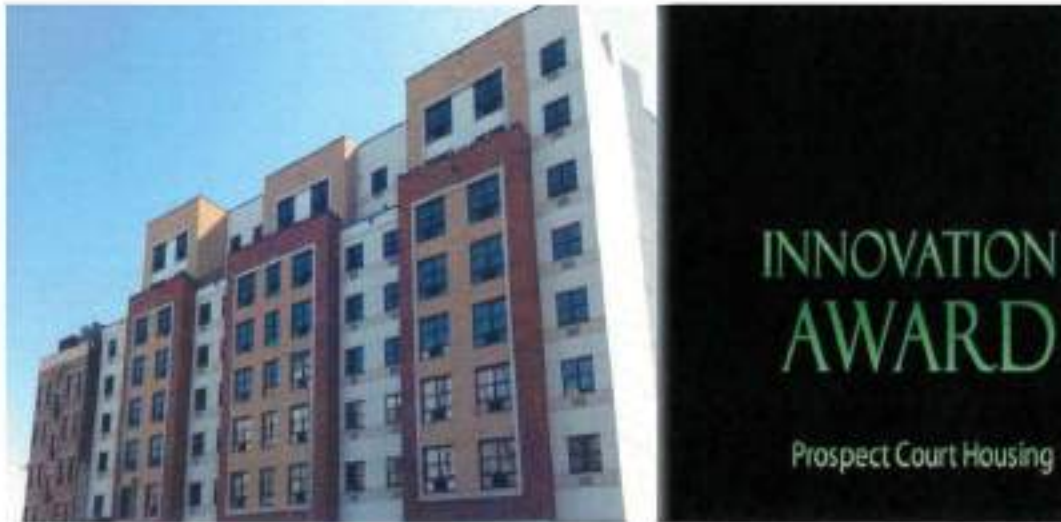


Economic Development Award  
920 Westchester Avenue  
110 unit multifamily  
Developer: MJM Construction Developers  
Total Development Cost: \$36,000,000

Source: For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :

# 2013 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Prospect Court Housing



Innovation Award  
Prospect Court Housing  
58 unit multifamily  
Developer: Great American Construction Corp.  
Total Development Cost: \$230,400,000

Source: For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :



# 2013 BIG APPLE BROWNFIELD AWARDS

## Courtlandt Crescent



Affordable Housing Award  
Courtlandt Crescent  
383 East 162<sup>nd</sup> Street  
217 unit multifamily  
Developer: Phipps Houses  
Total Development Cost: \$83,000,000

Source: For further details about the Big Apple Brownfield Awards visit the NYC Partnership Homepage at <http://www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/> :

## **15. Health & Human Services**

The office of Borough President Diaz is engaged on health and wellness matters in a variety of ways.

### **HIV/AIDS**

The Bronx, unfortunately, remains one of the epicenters for HIV transmission in New York City. We are committed to changing this and have created an HIV Roundtable to assist my office in staying on top of the latest developments in HIV/AIDS and to initiate innovative approaches to combating this, building upon the incredibly successful Bronx Knows HIV Testing campaign from a few years back.

Our office has issued a survey to Bronx medical providers to assess their knowledge of and work with PEP and PrEP, two under-utilized tools in fighting HIV transmission. PEP, much like the morning after pill, can stop you from becoming HIV-positive when you have been possibly exposed, and PrEP, much like birth control, can allow your body to resist infection if taken properly.

We will utilize these tools to reduce transmission in the Bronx and our new Bronx Realness After Dark, night HIV testing campaign is building upon the great work of the Bronx Knows campaign.

### **#NOT62**

At his 2015 “State of the Borough Address,” Borough President Diaz announced his “#Not62” Initiative, aimed at improving social and economic factors that will help promote more positive health behaviors within for Bronx residents, including help attain better access to clinical care as well as well improve social and economic factors.

The initiative comes on the heel of the County Health Ranking & Roadmaps Report, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin, that showed Bronx County ranked last place – 62 out of 62 New York State counties – which measures important aspects of population health.

“This is unacceptable,” said Borough President Diaz. “We must change this. ‘#Not62’ initiative is looking to challenge all Bronxites to encourage one another to adopt a healthier lifestyle.”

The Bronx Borough President’s office has partnered with the Bronx Health REACH, the Bronx District Public Health Office, Montefiore Medical Center and the CUNY Institute for Health Equity at Lehman College, among others, as part of the initiative to change how Bronx residents go about living healthy.

The goal of “#Not62” is to bring together major stakeholders across multiple sectors to address the determinants of health, improve the health outcomes of Bronx residents, and have the Bronx move up in the county health ranking in three to five years.

"#Not62" will utilize a social media campaign as part of its outreach efforts, seeking to engage Bronx residents as a whole, encouraging all those who live, work, play, and pray in our borough to share their health related tweets, pics, messages, and posts on social media using the hashtag #Not62.

The "#Not62" campaign hopes residents will motivate on another by posting their healthy meals, favorite workout routines, health tips, favorite restaurants that promote healthy options as well as connecting Bronxites to resources to encourage healthier lifestyles.

"So when you eat a healthy lunch or get in a good workout, hashtag '#NOT62!' on your social media," said Borough President Diaz. "Let's start trending toward a healthier Bronx together."

More information on the #Not62 campaign is attached.

#### **Changing Attitudes Now Health Initiative**

Since 2011, The Bronx CAN (Changing Attitudes Now) Health Initiative has brought together individuals, elected officials, government agencies, doctors and health providers, places of worship, community gardens and community centers, schools, civic-minded groups and physical fitness centers of all kinds to promote the types of behaviors that lead to healthy lifestyles.

The goal of the Bronx CAN Health Initiative is to have all members of our community – young and old alike – build healthier lives, free of ailments like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease.

As part of the initiative community members are encouraged to set their own health goals, be it losing weight, exercising a few times a week or vowing to eat healthier.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Beginning in 2002, the Bronx Borough President's Office has made the issue of Domestic Violence a top priority policy area. Several initiatives were created to help raise awareness of domestic violence and the resources available to its victims with the goal of empowering and informing them.

The Bronx DV Advisory Council was formed in 2003 as a grant mandated Council to advise and consent on the work of our DV grant partners. It has since then grown to be the major clearing house and information sharing resource for everything domestic violence related in the borough. Our office chairs the Council and works intimately with its host the Bronx Family Justice Center to meet quarterly and ensure pertinent issues make it to the agenda



**#Not62**  
**The Campaign for a Healthy Bronx**  
**One-Pager**

**Background**

The 2014 Robert Wood Johnson County Health Ranking Report ranked the Bronx 62 out of the New York State's 62 counties. #Not62 is a collaborative effort led by Bronx Health REACH, the Bronx Borough President's Office, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Bronx District Public Health Office, Montefiore Medical Center, and the CUNY Institute for Health Equity at Lehman College, in response to that finding.

**Mission:**

The goal of #Not62 is to improve strategic health outcomes for Bronx residents by 2020, around positive health behaviors, access to clinical care, social/economic factors, and the physical environment. This initiative builds on two previous efforts- the Bronx CAN (Changing Attitudes Now) Health Initiative, and the Bronx-wide Campaign to Reduce and Prevent Obesity.

**Strategies**

#Not62 will bring together stakeholders from across multiple sectors within City government, the business community, healthcare providers and community-based/faith based organizations to address the determinants of health. In the next 5 years #Not62 will:

- Guide key decision makers with interests in the Bronx on ways to integrate a public health framework into existing work;
- Obtain pledges from all those who live, work, pray, and play in the Bronx i.e. residents, schools, community and faith -based organizations, corporations, public agencies, etc. to sign on to the #Not62 Pledge:  
**"I (entity) pledge to live, work, play and pray in a manner that improves the overall health of Bronx county..."**
- Support related public outreach/public awareness campaigns:
  - Produce and disseminate RWJ County Health Ranking video – completed October 2014
  - "We CAN" bus shelter campaign – launched October 2014
  - Bronx Week – May 2015
  - Bronx Changing Attitudes Now (Bronx CAN) – an ongoing borough wide initiative of the Bronx Borough President to engage Bronx residents to embrace a healthy lifestyle
  - Present We All Want Healthy Children to staff and client base
  - Social Media Campaign

If you are interested in learning more about #Not62, please go to the website of any of the partners listed below:

Bronx Borough President  
[www.bronxboropres@nyc.gov](mailto:www.bronxboropres@nyc.gov)

The Institute for Family Health/Bronx Health REACH  
[www.bronxhealthreach.org](http://www.bronxhealthreach.org)

Montefiore Medical Center  
[www.montefiore.org](http://www.montefiore.org)

Bronx District Public Office  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/dpho-homepage.shtml>

CUNY Institute for Health Equity at Lehman College  
[www.lehman.edu/cuny-health-equity](http://www.lehman.edu/cuny-health-equity)

## 17. Sustainability

### Strategic Objective:

Borough President Diaz has made green sustainable and resilient development an unequivocal priority of his administration and has utilized several mechanisms for achieving a healthier Bronx through affordable housing development. These include his overall **sustainable policy**, **financially supporting** green housing projects with funding from his office, and **supporting innovative approaches** to achieving green housing. These serve to support our efforts as a county to be part of the solution to achieve a cleaner, healthier, more resiliency and sustainable place to live, play and work. A copy of our office's complete Sustainable Development Policy is attached.

Among the sustainable development strategies of the Bronx Borough President's Office are the following:

### Strategy #1: Green Sustainable Affordable Housing Preservation & Development

#### A) Sustainability Policy

Borough President Diaz seeks incorporation of environmentally sustainable design in development projects supported by his administration. The borough president requires certified sustainable design for any housing development receiving funding from his office, impacting a total of 3,248 units since the beginning of his administration in 2009.

#### B) Financial Support

Overall, Borough President Diaz has (FY 09 to 14) allocated 22.6 percent of his budget for housing development, for a total of \$26,514,000. These allocations have leveraged \$890,791,000 in investment and yielded 36 projects with sustainable features, including green roofs, solar panels, thick membrane walls, high efficiency boilers and appliances, and active design.

#### C) Innovative Approaches to Achieving Green Housing

##### Heating Oil Conversion Initiative

Among Borough President Diaz's successful green housing initiatives is his **Heating Oil Conversion Project**, which assisted a 44 unit low-income housing cooperative shift from a dirty Number 6 fuel boiler to clean gas heating system. His allocation \$121,000 in Fiscal Year 2011 for 530 East 159<sup>th</sup> Street HDPC Cooperative helped leveraged \$465,000 in building-wide energy saving improvements. This initiative not only brought us a much cleaner healthier building, but



helped preserve affordable homeownership housing right in our Community District #1/Mott Haven neighborhood.

The Bronx Borough President's Office will build upon the achievements of this initial project with five additional buildings. We are once again collaborating with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Consolidated Edison, and the Association for Energy Affordability to replace dirty fuel pollution spewing boilers with new and cleaner fuel heating systems. These buildings are located in Community Districts #2 (Hunts Point), #5 (Morris Heights), #7 (Norwood), and #12 (Wakefield), and will also help 347 households preserve their affordable homeownership co-op and rental units. One of these is a development built under the Mitchell-Lama Program. Borough President Diaz has committed \$900,000 to date (FY11 & FY 13) to this initiative.

It is our hope that we can collaborate with the Mayor's Office Clean Heat Initiative to expand upon this sustainable conversion strategy.

#### **Solar Thermal Initiative**

Another approach Borough President Diaz has utilized to achieve cleaner housing and reduce unhealthy smoke stack emissions has been through his **Solar Thermal Initiative**, which he kicked-off in FY 13 with a \$400,000 capital allocation. This pilot program involves the office working with the Department of Housing Preservation, Enterprise Community Partners, an organization that helps not for profits as well as entrepreneurs develop and preserve affordable housing; as well as several private and community organizations to install Solar Thermal Hot Water systems. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the costs of heating domestic hot water in multifamily buildings. Reducing energy usage will also help improve air quality in the Bronx. Enterprise will benchmark these properties and monitor savings and system performance. We are currently working with a list of 15 buildings with a total of 766 units to see which can benefit from a solar thermal system.

#### **Eastchester Heights Conversion Celebrated**

A number of signature projects have been successfully completed this year to city-wide acclaim. Among these was the conversion of the **Eastchester Heights Development** in Community District #12. Eastchester Heights is a 114 building complex with 1,416 apartments located on five city blocks. It was designed pursuant to the planned communities design model and constructed in 1933. Borough President Diaz joined the former administration in recognizing the conversion of the complex to cleaner fuel when the Clean Heat Program was announced at the site. The initiative features low-cost financing to facilitate cleaner fuel conversions. The Borough President is pleased to note that he has been advancing conversions in the Bronx for almost four years now.

The complex burned approximately 900 gallons of Number 6 fuel annually, one of the city's top ten users of heavy oil. The conversion of this affordable housing development from dirty number six fuel to cleaner fuel at a total cost of approximately \$4 million is estimated to save 25 to 30 percent in fuel costs and reduce carbon emissions by 60 percent.

#### **Big Apple Awards Swept by The Bronx**

Another notable recognition for the Bronx's greening efforts came from the **Big Apple Awards**. All three of 2012's awards were made to Bronx projects, two of them residential. The first of these was the Affordable Housing Nomination for 1800 Southern Boulevard. This project was the result of collaboration between Exact Capital, a private investment group; SoBRO, a South Bronx-based non-profit local development organization; and Joy Construction Corporation, a leading developer and contractor with a proven track record in the affordable housing arena and extensive experience in the Bronx. These entities formed a partnership to realize the revitalization of this former gasoline station that for years had a blighting impact on the community.

Representing a \$23 million investment, including \$790,000 from Borough President Diaz's capital budget, the Southern Boulevard project now consists of an 83,800 square foot, seven-story mixed-use building offering 64 residential units, commercial, and community use space.

The second residential project to receive the Big Apple Award was Via Verde, which received the organization's Economic Development and Collaboration Nominations. Via Verde is a 222 unit residential development with 71 co-ops and 151 affordable rental apartments. The project also has a community facility of approximately 5,500 square feet, to be used by Montefiore Medical Center, as a wellness center as well as retail space. The building is designed in three parts – a 20-story tower at the north end, two six to 12-story mid-rise buildings in the middle, and three to four story townhouses to the south. The Total Development Cost was \$65,975,000 for rental units and 33,118,000 for Co-ops.

In June 2007, the Jonathan Rose Companies, Phipps Houses, Grimshaw Architects and Dattner Architects were the winning developer-architect team for New York's first design competition for affordable and sustainable housing. Borough President Diaz is proud to have collaborated on this project through a \$1.5 million capital allocation.

These projects are superior examples of sustainable development and what Brownfield remediation and redevelopment can do to revitalize our neighborhoods. The clean-up and restoration of these sites into productive community use has been transformative. These sites have weathered decades of environmental degradation that now include new housing, retail services, new open green space and engines of job creation and commerce. As if to underline the aspirations of the Bronx, they also include cutting edge sustainable technologies that are setting the standard for New York City.

This office is committed to addressing long-term degradation throughout the Bronx, and we are pleased to have partnered with each of the recipients with capital assistance.

### **Green Development Fund**

Borough President Diaz's office is currently looking into establishing a Green Development Fund to bridge the financial gap between the installation of standard windows in the rehabilitation New York City Housing Authority developments and the cost of super high efficiency fiberglass windows.

In partnership with Village Power and Council Member Andrew Cohen, this new fund would leverage public and private funds to provide "green" retrofits to existing housing stock.

The Bronx's Green Buildings fund, a partnership with Village Power Finance, an innovative new platform for financing clean energy projects, will use public funds allocated by the Borough President to catalyze private investment in the retrofits of these buildings

Owners of these affordable housing units, will, in turn, agree to maintain the affordability of these units for 20-30 years, helping to stem the dwindling supply of affordable housing in the city. Our office is currently working with HPD to identify a proper mechanism for this new funding plan. A presentation on this program is attached.

### **Strategy #3: Sustainable Business Development Practices**

Borough President Diaz has made sustainable business development practices a centerpiece of his administration. Among the most noteworthy sustainable projects are the **Alternative Fuels Station**, the **Freight Expansion**, and **regional commuter transportation**.

#### **A) Alternate Fuels Station**

The introduction of an alternative fuel facility in Hunts Point is the achievement of a dream for the area to wean off from the impact of fossil fuels choking the residents of Hunts Point and the rest of the South Bronx. As an elected official who has long advocated for greener and healthier solutions for the borough, Borough President Diaz is thrilled that delivery trucks, as well as the general public, will not only have a variety of alternative fuels to choose from but have the opportunity to convert their vehicles to utilizing cleaner, greener fuels. The Borough President was especially pleased that there will be 11 electric stalls that will help promote the use of electric vehicles in the area. He was also happy that the facility will not only offer greener solutions, but that the facility itself will achieve LEED Silver status, an impeccable example of green efficiency. Borough President Diaz strongly urged that the lessees install bioswales or rainwater capture system to ensure runoff is minimized as the site is located in a Coastal Zone Management Area.



Borough President Diaz was pleased to know that the applicant has agreed to work with the New York City Department of Transportation to conduct a post-construction transportation study to help mitigate any possible impact of additional traffic congestion. Additionally, he urged that the operator, Atlantis, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation engage in an outreach campaign to businesses in and around Hunts Point to alert them of the alternative fuel opportunities and conversion facility this site offers.

Borough President Diaz also encouraged local hiring by the operator, who already has a strong presence in The Bronx.

In 2011, Borough President Diaz strongly recommended approval of the ULURP application and will seek to assure its development.

### **B) Freight In Hunts Point**

Borough President Diaz has been a stalwart supporter of the efforts to bring freight rail modernization to the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market. In 2011, he provided the strongest of supportive language on behalf of the project. The Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market (Produce Market) is New York City's premiere intermodal produce transfer and distribution facility, unique in that it is one of the few terminal produce markets in the North America that receives produce deliveries via rail. The proposed rail improvements project is expected to reduce both fuel dependence and greenhouse gas emissions. This project is part of a comprehensive effort by the City of New York and the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market Cooperative to modernize the freight rail infrastructure, in conjunction with a larger project to redevelop the existing warehouse facilities at the market.

With 670 businesses and over 13,000 employees, the Hunts Point Peninsula is a thriving industrial location in the South Bronx with convenient access to the rest of the region. Approximately a third of the peninsula is occupied by the City's primary food distribution facility, the 329-acre Food Distribution Center (FDC), which is administered by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where over 115 wholesalers generate more than \$3 billion in sales annually.

Opened in 1967, the Produce Market occupies 105 acres within the FDC, and consists of four primary warehouse structures, two adjunct warehouses, and various administrative and maintenance structures, making it the largest produce market of its kind in the country. The Produce Market supplies over 60 percent of New York City's fresh fruits and vegetables, and over 20 percent of the region's fruits and vegetables. By maximizing freight rail transportation at the Produce Market, the City would decrease the effects of truck traffic on the environment and the surrounding community, and modernize current wholesale distribution and business operations.

It is anticipated that the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market Freight Rail Modernization will allow the Produce Market to increase the number of annual rail loads of produce to the Market by 77 percent, avoiding over 120 thousand annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in New York City that would be generated by trucks transporting the same amount of produce. In addition to the fuel saved, the avoided VMTs translate into an annual net reduction of almost six tons of nitrogen oxides and three tons of carbon monoxide among other criteria pollutants. While the air quality improvements associated with the project will be felt nationally they are especially important to Hunts Point, where at least 12,000 trucks rumble through or around the South Bronx each day.

### **C) East Bronx Railroad Service to West Manhattan's Penn Station**

Borough President Diaz is committed to establishing Metro North Railroad service to Co-op City, Morris Park, Parkchester and Hunts Point as the legacy project of his administration. Indeed, making this happen is his administration's top priority for 2014. He thanked Governor Cuomo for his announcement in his State of the State Address on January 8<sup>th</sup> that he was committed to achieving Metro North access to the East Bronx.

Approximately 160,000 Bronxites reside within one mile of the four stations now being reviewed for railroad transit operating on the existing Amtrak facilities. This service would offer Metro North passengers one-seat access to Manhattan's Penn Station, while also giving East Bronx residents car-free transportation to employment centers in Westchester and Fairfield Counties. It is also conceivable that once this service is established, a passenger boarding at Co-op City could enjoy a one-seat commute to Newark or even Trenton, New Jersey. Similarly, commuters now living as far away as Bridgeport, Connecticut, would realize direct railroad transportation to Manhattan's west side, eliminating the time consuming subway ride now necessary. Equating what subway transit did for the Bronx during the 1920's, it is easy to understand that utilizing existing infrastructure, railroad services to the East Bronx will revolutionize and expand the borough's economy, while also improving air quality, reducing traffic congestion and subway overcrowding.

## **Sustainable Development Requirement for Projects Receiving Bronx Borough President Capital Funding**

This memorandum sets forth the mandate that projects meet certifiable sustainability standards to receive Borough President capital funds. The mandate applies primarily to housing and community facilities. Relevant programs establishing sustainability criteria are: NY State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) Energy Star rating, Enterprise Green Building Criteria, the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental & Energy Design (LEED) standards and New York City's Green Building Law. All four can be combined with funding programs, such as Con Edison, NY State Green Buildings Tax Credit and Federal tax incentives to reduce cost burdens. Developers seeking BP capital funds should be required to attain certification under one of the identified programs.

Project design must be independently certified before funds are dispersed.

- LEED rating of silver or higher
- NYSERDA Energy Smart Label
- Enterprise Green Building Criteria
- New York City Green Building Act standards

### **NY State Energy Research & Development Authority**

NYSERDA offers Energy Star programs for single and multi-family buildings, new construction and substantial renovation. [www.GetEnergySmart.org](http://www.GetEnergySmart.org)

- Must join with a NYSERDA-certified Modeling Partner to and track design (by computer model) for achieving energy savings
- Efficiency measures include
  - Increased insulation
  - High efficiency heating and cooling systems
  - Energy saving appliances and lighting
  - High performance windows and doors
  - Innovative technologies (advanced meters, renewable energy, combined heat & power systems, etc.)
- Grants and loans for projects achieving 20% energy reduction over the norm
  - Grants up to \$30,000, plus \$1.75-2.00/gross heated sq. ft., for affordable units
  - Grants up to \$20,000, plus \$1.25-1.50/gross heated sq. ft. for market rate units
  - Loans available at 6.5% for various energy-saving infrastructure options

### **Enterprise Green Communities Program**

Enterprise Community offers grants, loans and Low Income Housing Tax Credits to qualifying low income housing development following a Green Communities Criteria Checklist composed of mandatory and optional features. This comprehensive program involves location, site improvements, water conservation, energy efficiency, environmentally beneficial buildings, healthy living environment, and operations and maintenance. [www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org)



- Grants up to \$1,000 times the number of low-income units in a project, plus \$3,000 (not to exceed maximum grant amount) as an allowance toward the costs of reporting project data, or \$50,000 total.
  - The portion of the grant to be used for planning costs may not exceed \$25,000, or \$500 times the number of low-income homes-whichever is less.
- Loans for predevelopment, acquisition and construction
  - Early predevelopment up to \$35,000, 0 interest, 18 month term
  - Predevelopment from \$50,000 to "several hundred thousand", 6.5% interest, 36 month
  - Acquisition up to \$3 million, 6.5% interest, Predevelopment from \$50,000 to "several hundred thousand", 6.5% interest, 36 month
  - 36 month term Construction up to \$3 million, 6.5% interest, 36 month term
- Enterprise has available dedicated equity funds (over \$375 million nationwide) provided by LIHTC investors to invest in qualified Green Communities housing projects nationwide. Stated targets include:
  - Projects involving new construction of residential units or rehabilitation at an estimated cost of more than \$3,000 per unit.
  - Projects subject to firm site control.
  - Rental housing projects reserving at least 25 units for renters with incomes below 60% of AMI.
  - Homeownership projects with at least 15 homes to be sold to buyers with incomes below 80% of AMI.

### **Leadership in Environmental & Energy Design**

LEED is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council, a building industry coalition to promote sustainability. Once a developer registers a project with LEED, it is evaluated by the USGBC according to prerequisites and performance benchmarks ("credits") in five categories of performance: Sustainable Sites, Energy and Atmosphere, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Materials and Resources. Projects are awarded Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification depending on the number of credits they achieve. [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

Full LEED certification cannot be granted until project construction is complete. Demonstration of LEED compliance and commencement of the certification process affirmed by an outside evaluator could substitute for final certification.

### **New York City Green Building Act**

New York City Local Law 86 mandates levels of sustainability for new capital projects whose final design is approved after January 1, 2007. The regulations apply to city-owned buildings, and private developments that receive more than \$10 million in city funding or 50% of project cost. The law's preamble projects that it will affect some \$12 billion in construction over ten years. [www.nyc.gov/ddc](http://www.nyc.gov/ddc)

Key provisions:

Non-residential capital projects with over \$2 m construction cost, design and construction to achieve LEED silver or higher rating

- Exception for schools and hospitals require the lesser LEED "Certified" rating
- Mayor may publish alternative standards that "are not less stringent than the LEED standards..."

Additional energy saving requirements:

- Capital projects, except schools, with construction between \$12m and \$30m must be designed and constructed so as to reduce energy costs by at least 20%, + 5% more reduction if estimated payback 7 years or less\*
- Capital costs, except schools, over \$30m must be designed and constructed to reduce energy costs by at least 25%, + 5% more reduction if estimated payback 7 years or less \*
- Capital projects involving schools, \$12m or more, must be designed and constructed to reduce energy costs by at least 20%, + 5% more reduction if estimated payback 7 years or less\*
- Boiler installation/ replacement \$2m or more must be designed to reduce energy costs by at least 10%
- Installation or replacement of lighting systems \$1m or more must be designed to reduce energy costs by at least 10%
- Installation or replacement of HVAC systems \$2m or more must be designed to reduce energy costs by at least 5%
- Installation or replacement of plumbing systems \$500,000 or more must be designed to reduce energy costs by at least 30%

Exceptions: High hazard, industrial, stadiums, prisons, residential, sheds

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\*"...as determined by methodology prescribed in LEED energy and atmospheric credit 1 or the New York State energy conservation code, whichever is more stringent." Local Law No. 86



# The Bronx Clean Energy Initiative

A Partnership of The Office of the Bronx Borough President & Village Power Finance

The Hon. Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014



# Macro Trends Driving Green Investment



## Investment Crowdfunding



*"Crowd funding may supply the rooftop solar projects with \$5 billion of investment within five years, **more than 50 times the amount raised to date.**" (Apr 2014)*

**Bloomberg**

## Impact Investing

**Forbes**

*Per the Rockefeller Foundation "A new study by GIIN and JP Morgan showed that surveyed participants had expected commitments of almost \$13 billion, **up from \$10.6 billion last year**, in impact investments. That's a 19% increase." (June 2014)*



## Divesting Assets from "Brown Energy"



*"Seventeen foundations controlling nearly **\$1.8 billion in investments** have united to commit to pulling their money out of companies that do business in fossil fuels." (Jan 2014)*

**The  
New York  
Times**

# The Bronx Clean Energy Initiative (Bx CEI)

## Our Vision

*“Accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency and green energy projects for housing providers and community organizations across the Borough of the Bronx.”*

# Your Partner: Village Power Finance



**Village Power's Platform matches**

**Organization** that want  
**clean energy** with



**Investors** seeking  
**clean energy**  
investments

to create **long term, safe, cash-generating** investment vehicles



# Village Power: Increasing Traction

- 2013 (Q 1-2): Market research, vetting plan
- 2013 (Q3): 3 MW in pipeline (\$10M)
- 2014 (Q1): Launched Platform (beta)
- 2014 (Q2): 2 projects under contract (\$1.9M)
- 2014 (Q2): First project closed and under construction
- 2014 (Q2): 9 MW in pipeline (\$29M, 35 projects, 7 states)

- 2014 (June):



Currently negotiating for grant award from DOE (up to \$500,000)

# Technical Partner: **BRIGHT POWER**



- Founded in 2004, >50 employees
- Benchmarking 15,000 buildings in our proprietary EnergyScoreCards tool
- Performed over 1,000 energy audits
- Managed energy efficiency upgrades for over 150 properties
- Installed over 30 commercial solar energy systems in NYC area
- Consulted on over 35 new construction developments including La Central and Via Verde (pictured below)



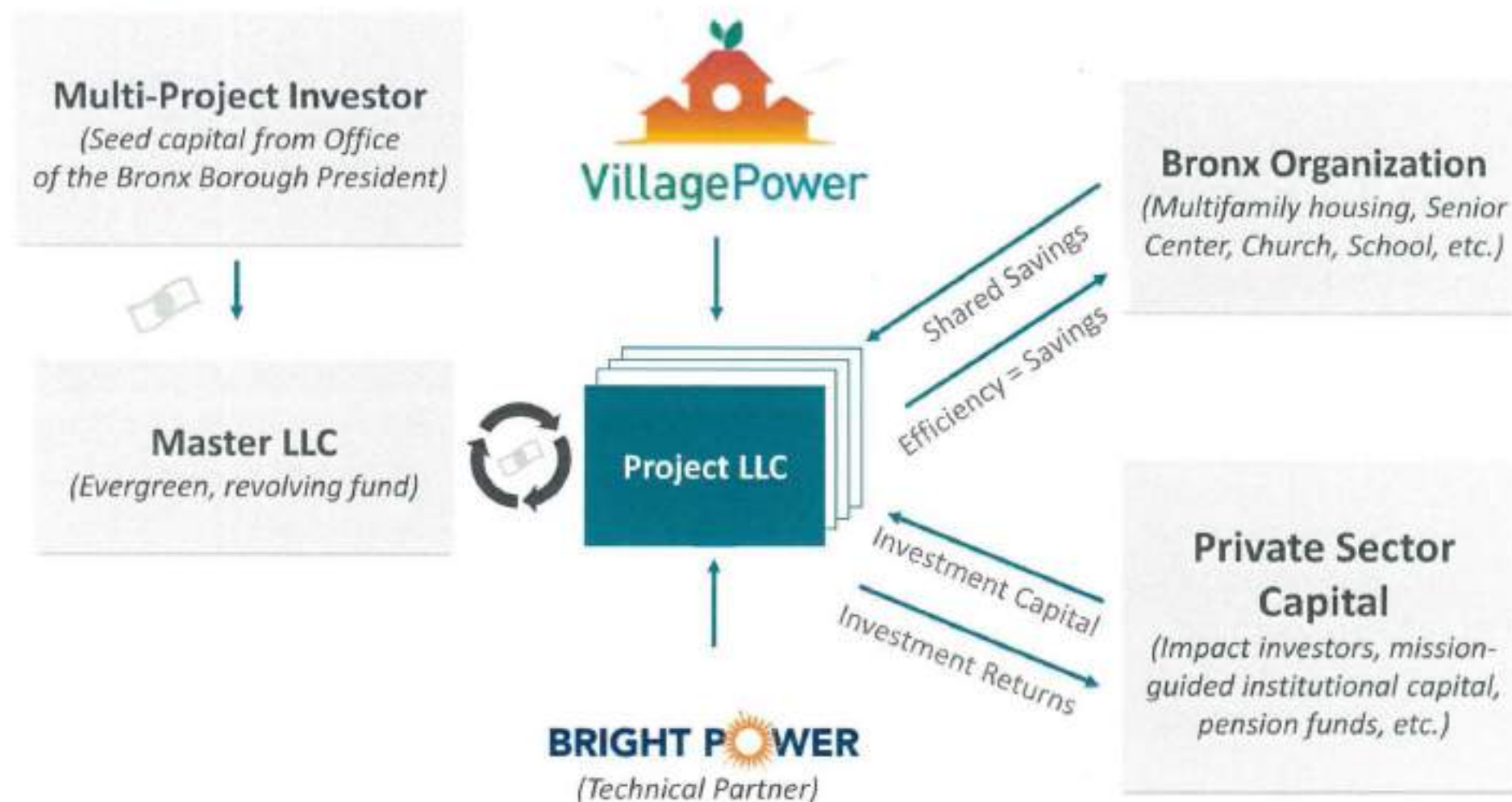
# An Actionable Plan

## Phase One

- Capital allocation from the Bronx Borough President to provide seed financing for 5 efficiency/clean energy projects.
- Impact-oriented private capital will be sourced to invest alongside Bronx seed capital.
- Returns on Bronx seed capital to be redeployed into further projects, creating a revolving, evergreen fund.

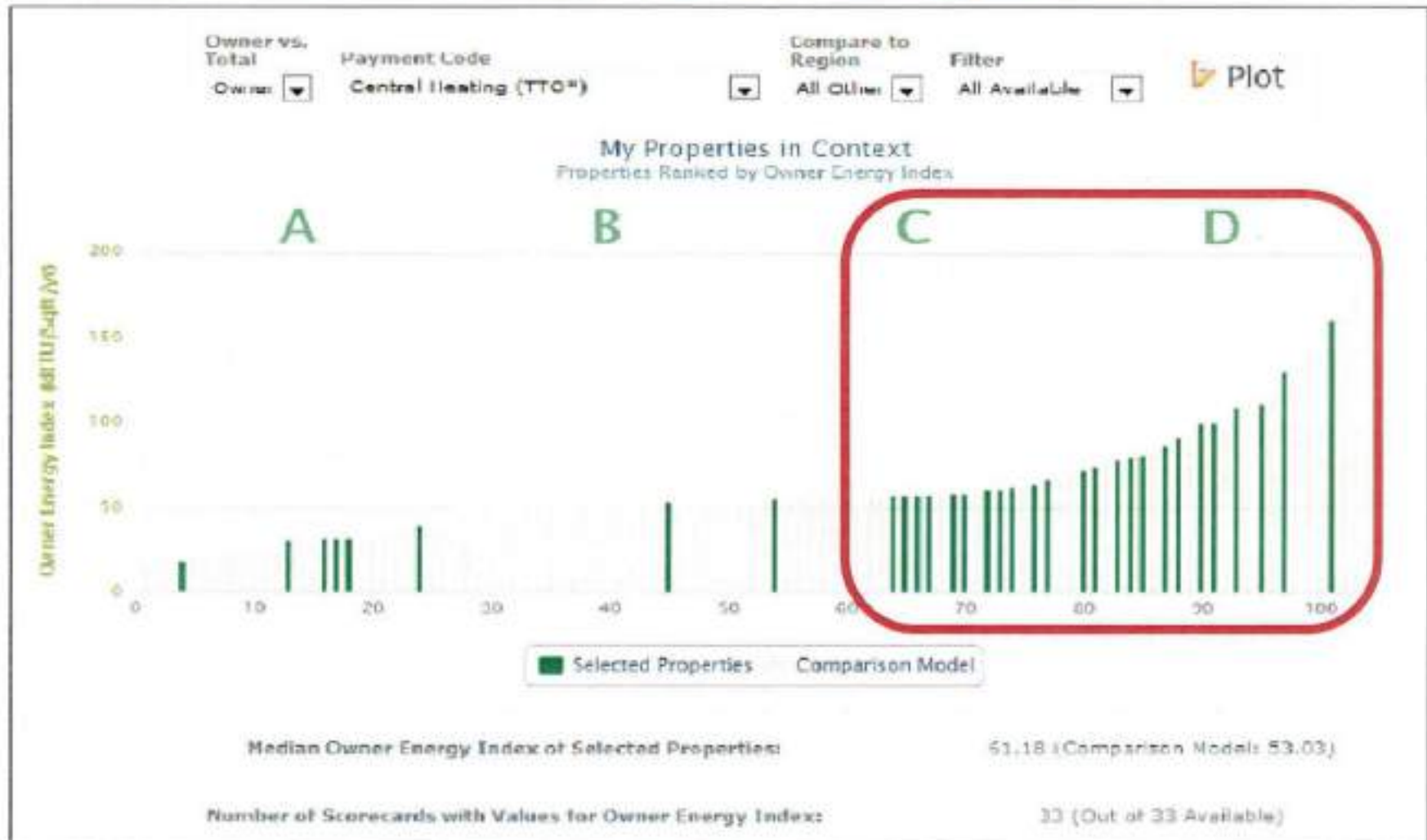


# Proposed Structure of the Bx CEI



## Our Process

1. Identify candidate buildings using  ENERGYSCORECARDS



### Biggest opportunity for savings in the C and D buildings

# ENERGY SCORECARDS



**Owner Energy**  
Whole Building

**C**

60 kWh/ft<sup>2</sup>/yr



**Full Year 2007 - Owner**  
Jan 2007 - Dec 2007

Energy Spending Carbon

**Cooling**  
Whole Building

**A**

0.5 BTU/ft<sup>2</sup>/HDD



\$ 2,313

**Heating**  
Whole Building

**C**

6.2 BTU/ft<sup>2</sup>/HDD



\$ 110,658

**Electric Baseload**  
Whole Building

**A**

3,551 kWh/unit/yr



\$ 27,723

**Fossil Fuel Baseload**  
Whole Building

**B**

10.1 mmBTU/bmm/yr



\$ 15,354

**Water**

**C**

84.3 gal/bmm/day



\$ 26,188

Electric  
\$49,566

Gas  
\$106,783

Water  
\$26,188

**Total Spend**  
\$182,537

A=best 25% D=worst 25%



## 2. Conduct Energy Audit(s)



Recommendation			Cost and Savings					Financial Performance		
#	Description	LL87 Interaction?	Initial Investment	Incentives	Annual Savings	Utility Cost Savings	Source Energy Savings	Life	Simple Payback	Net Present Value
1	Convert from Oil to Gas and Decommission Heavy Oil Related Components	No	(\$462,000)	\$0	\$258,098	22.7%	1.9%	20	1.8	\$3,366,075
2	Install 100 kW CHP Plant	No	(\$550,000)	\$180,000	\$89,194	7.8%	8.3%	20	4.1	\$952,919
3	Decommission Variable-Vacuum Distribution System and Install New EMS	Yes	(\$40,900)	\$0	\$50,288	4.4%	3.7%	20	0.8	\$704,963
4	Install TRVs and Orifice Plates on Convection Equipment	Yes	(\$138,300)	\$0	\$63,629	5.6%	9.5%	15	2.2	\$619,474
5	Overhaul the Building Ventilation Systems	No	(\$308,000)	\$0	\$32,333	2.8%	6.0%	18	9.5	\$135,441
6	Install Low-Flow Plumbing Fixtures: Aerators, Showerheads, and Toilets	No	(\$139,000)	\$0	\$26,613	2.3%	1.5%	10	5.2	\$87,626
7	Install ENERGY STAR Appliances: Refrigerators	No	(\$110,000)	\$0	\$15,011	1.3%	1.8%	17	7.3	\$87,106
8	Install Constant Volume System atop the Trash Chutes	No	(\$30,000)	\$0	\$7,436	< 1%	1.6%	10	4.0	\$33,326
9	Wire a Thermostat Controller to the Elevator Bulkhead Exhaust Fan	No	(\$3,000)	\$0	\$2,318	< 1%	< 1%	15	1.3	\$24,602
10	Install Advanced Sub-Metering On Tenant Apartments	No	(\$190,000)	\$74,500	\$10,880	< 1%	1.3%	14	10.6	\$7,124
11	Install ENERGY STAR Light Fixtures in Tenant Apartments	No	(\$35,000)	\$0	\$5,742	< 1%	< 1%	7	6.1	\$728
12	Replace Common Area and Exterior Fixtures	No	(\$42,000)	\$0	\$2,122	< 1%	< 1%	10	19.8	(\$23,926)
13	Weatherize Tenant A/C Sleeves and Provide Cover for the Heating Season	No	(\$46,000)	\$0	\$1,631	< 1%	< 1%	15	>25	(\$26,579)
14	Weatherize Egress, Bulkhead, and Balcony Exterior Doorways	Yes	(\$53,000)	\$0	\$2,124	< 1%	< 1%	15	25.0	(\$27,707)
Subtotal: Recommended Measures			(\$2,147,200)	\$254,500	\$567,417	50%	38%	18.2	3.3	\$5,941,171
NYSDERDA Incentives (26% Eligible Source Energy Savings)				\$371,250						
Project Summary: With NYSDERDA MPP Incentives			(\$2,147,200)	\$625,750	\$567,417	49.9%	38%	18.2	2.7	\$6,312,421

### 3. Create Projects, Aggregate Investment & Execute





# 4. Monitor and Manage with ENERGYSCORECARDS

## Projected vs. Actual Savings



Annual Spend	Full Year 2007 - Owner	Most Recent Year - Owner	Difference	Units
Energy Spend	\$156,349 <b>C</b>	\$77,958 <b>A</b>	↓ -50% <b>(\$78,391)</b>	
Cooling Spend	\$2,314 <b>A</b>	\$1,676 <b>A</b>	↓ -28% <b>(\$638)</b>	
Heating Spend	\$110,957 <b>C</b>	\$47,651 <b>B</b>	↓ -57% <b>(\$63,306)</b>	
Electric Baseload Spend	\$27,724 <b>A</b>	\$20,070 <b>A</b>	↓ -28% <b>(\$7,654)</b>	
Fossil Fuel Baseload Spend	\$15,304 <b>B</b>	\$8,560 <b>B</b>	↓ -44% <b>(\$6,794)</b>	
Water Spend	\$26,188 <b>C</b>	\$21,178 <b>B</b>	↓ -19% <b>(\$5,010)</b>	

### Energy Events

Measure Type	Measure	Implemented (in)	Cost	Projected Annual Savings
[Heating] Boiler/Furnace- Install/Upgrade	Heating system upgrade	06/18/2008	\$350,000	\$30,000
[Appliances] Refrigerators- Install/Upgrade	New refrigerators	10/01/2008	\$28,000	\$7,000
[Lighting] Building Lighting- Upgrade	Lighting upgrade	10/01/2008	\$13,000	\$5,000
[Building Enclosure] Wall- Insulate	Building insulation	07/01/2009	\$105,000	\$21,000
[Water] Water Conserving Fixtures- Install	aerators and showerheads	03/09/2009	\$11,000	\$10,000

Total \$507,000

37 **\$73,000**



# Reference Bronx Retrofit Projects



River Park

- 1,654 unit affordable housing complex
- \$33,000,000 in energy upgrades
- Over \$2,500,000 in annual savings
- \$41% reduction in energy usage



River and Gerard Court

- 252 unit affordable housing complex
- 99 kW Solar PV Installation
- Over \$20,000 in 1<sup>st</sup> year savings



CWP Portfolio

- 2,226 units of affordable and supportive housing
- 95 buildings
- Each building saving between 10% and 20%+
- Monitoring in EnergyScoreCards

# Our Solution: Uniting Projects & Capital



VillagePower

Municipal & Community  
Organizations



Enables Innovative  
Public/Private  
Partnerships

Streamlines Project  
Development

Aggregates  
Capital

Manages  
Asset & Provides  
Unfettered Data Access

Investors



# Other Platform Partners

Village Power is being evaluated by several organizations nationally to provide its financing, monitoring and management platform

- GEMS (Green Energy Market Securitization) Program in Hawaii
- NYPA's K-Solar Program
- NYSERDA's Community Energy Program



# The Bronx Clean Energy Initiative

## Benefits for Bronx Residents

- Verify and quantify improvements in air quality through oil to gas conversions, and innumerable other green metrics
- Creation of new “Green Collar” jobs for Bronx residents through local hiring and training mandates
- Quality of life enhancements (improved internet connectivity, secure bicycle storage, rooftop gardens, etc.) can be included in project scopes

# The Bronx Clean Energy Initiative

## Benefits for the Borough President's Office

- Allow the Borough President to focus investment on neglected assets or community organizations that can't otherwise attract investment.
- Creation of "Green Collar" jobs for Bronx residents can help further Borough-wide job creation goals. Project level and cumulative jobs created tracked on Platform.
- Projects will generate a wealth of data allowing the Office of the Borough President to quantify benefits created by the Bx CEI (carbon reductions, money saved, jobs created, air quality improvements, etc.) Open platform will allow any party in transaction to access and utilize data.

# Summary

- Deeply experienced team & actionable plan
- Village Power Platform connects projects to capital, accelerating transition to green energy
- Evergreen fund structure allows Bx to realize and reinvest profits in subsequent projects
- Platform's project and data management tools inform further investment while verifying financial and environmental goals at project and program level



# Next Steps

- Work with Borough President and his team to identify targets investment
- Implement EnergyScoreCards and identify best targets for audits
- Use audit results to finalize list of 5 – 10 Phase One Projects
- Develop scope of work and budgets for Phase One Projects
- Identify source of funds for initial investment-grade audits



# Thank You!

**Contact:**

David Kane | VP Business Development

[dkane@villagepower.com](mailto:dkane@villagepower.com)

[www.villagepower.com](http://www.villagepower.com)

## **20. EDUCATION**

### **Specialized High Schools**

Borough President Diaz has often noted the racial disparities in admissions at the city's three specialized high schools—the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School. In 2012, the office released a report examining these disparities, and calling for greater test preparation for the Specialized High School Admissions Test in underserved communities, among other solutions.

A copy of that report is attached.

The borough president has also proposed the creation of new specialized high schools, one in each borough that would use a portfolio system to select its' freshman class. These new schools would also guarantee admissions to the top two performers in each city middle school.

"We must ensure that the best and brightest from every community have a chance to excel," said Borough President Diaz at his 2015 "State of the Borough" address.

### **Career and Technical Education**

The Bronx has a high number of disconnected youth from the ages of 16-24. The Borough President's Office will continue to work with the Department of Education to create Career and Technical Education opportunities for young adults who may choose to explore a non-traditional avenue by immediately entering the workforce upon graduation from High School.

As new industries expand into the Bronx, the Borough President's Office is positioning itself as a convener that connects industry experts with educational leaders. This conversation aims to create a workforce that is not only ready to graduate high school, but also career ready. The Bronx Borough President is intentionally creating spaces where industry representatives can engage educational leaders to create educational standards that directly reflect the needs and expectations of the employers who will eventually look to hire Bronx graduates.

It is a priority for Borough President Diaz to create opportunities that benefit all Bronxites and an investment and commitment to Career and Technical Education is an avenue that provides tangible and powerful solutions to addressing the needs of those youth we are most desperately looking to reach.

### **English Language Learners**

The Bronx has a large percentage of students who are English Language Learners. Borough President Diaz applauds the recent appointment of Milady Baez as the Deputy Chancellor for the Division of English Language Learners and Student Support at the Department of Education and looks forward to working with Ms. Baez and the rest of the administration to advocate on behalf of the English Language Learner population of the Bronx.



While there are countless obstacles an English Language Learner must face, it is the goal of the Bronx Borough President's office that the voices of those students and their parents are heard and acknowledge as changes in curriculum and instruction are discussed. In representation of the ELL students in the Bronx and their families, the Bronx Borough President will continue to advocate that the necessary supports and services for our ELLs are being met and provided.

#### **Students with Special Needs**

The Bronx has a growing percentage of students who require additional educational services due to their special needs. The Borough President remains committed to providing capital support through the Reso A funding process to District 75 schools and those schools requesting funds for their special needs population. These requests remain priorities in Borough President Diaz's funding practice.

Simultaneously, Borough President Diaz continues to be an advocating voice for necessary investments and supports students with special needs require in order to grow intellectually and socially. In collaboration with the Department of Education, the Bronx Borough President will work to assure the necessary interventions and supports for our special needs students are met in a timely fashion that is reflective of both high quality and dignity.

# An Action Plan for Fixing the Specialized High School Admissions Process



Office of the Bronx Borough President  
Ruben Diaz Jr.

May 2012

## **Introduction**

In late 2009, the Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. organized stakeholders into three affinity groups that, together, make up the Bronx Education Consortium (BEC). Each group is charged with identifying promising practices, barriers to performance and resources to close the educational achievement gap in the Bronx. They meet regularly with Borough President Diaz to articulate issues and design solutions regarding educational performance in the Bronx. One of the outcomes of the BEC was the first ever Bronx Education Summit, "From Cradle to Career." Held on October 15, 2011, the Summit featured workshops, a panel of prominent education leaders and keynote speeches from New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott and Dr. Diane Ravitch, a best-selling author and highly regarded education reformer. This action plan is an outgrowth of that summit.

Bronx enrollment in gifted and talented (G&T) programs has been a focus of the BEC for the last two years, and was an important issue raised at the Bronx Education Summit. In 2011, a total of 14,086 pre-school students from across the City sat for the G&T placement test for students entering kindergarten, an increase of 1,632 (11.5 percent) from the previous year. The BEC took a leadership role in promoting the exam, which historically saw a small percentage of Bronx students sit for the test. In the Bronx, 1,475 total pre-K students sat for the test, an increase of 254 (17.2 percent) from the previous year.

The number of Bronx students taking the test increased at a rate outpacing the rest of the City. Unfortunately, we saw only a modest improvement in Bronx students qualifying. In 2011, a total of 245 Bronx students qualified for kindergarten G&T programs, up slightly from 230 students in 2010. However, the number of Bronx students eligible for more rigorous Citywide G&T programs saw a sharp decline, from 111 total students in 2010 down to 88 in 2011.



Moreover, those Bronx students who do qualify for G&T programs are often inadequately serviced by the Department of Education (DOE). In 2011, fewer than 25 students qualified for G&T programs in three Bronx school districts (7, 9 and 12). As a result, the DOE did not offer G&T classes in those districts.

We see similar issues at the middle school level, resulting in Bronx students being underrepresented at New York City's top public high schools. In fact, a majority of the students at our borough's two premiere public high schools--the Bronx High School of Science and the High School for American Studies at Lehman College--do not reside in the Bronx. The trend is perpetuated by inadequate preparation of Bronx students for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT), the sole metric for determining acceptance into eight out of nine Specialized High Schools. On February 11, 2011, the City announced that 5,404 students received an offer to a specialized school, compared to the 5,261 students the year before. In that year, approximately 28,000 students sat for the exam citywide. As noted in *The New York Times* in 2009:

"racial and ethnic imbalances show up in the populations of the eight high schools requiring the exam . . . [T]he city school system is about 40 percent Hispanic, 32 percent black, 14 percent Asian and 14 percent white. But at Stuyvesant High School, for instance, more than two-thirds of its 3,247 students are Asian (up from 48 percent in 1999). Three percent are Hispanic, and two percent are black."<sup>i</sup>

According to 2010 Census Data, the Bronx accounts for 16 percent of the City's population. It is more than 30 percent Black and over 50 percent Hispanic, a group that is not only younger than the overall population but is projected to increase faster than any other racial group. A study conducted by the Community Service Society concluded that Hispanic children currently comprise 33.9 percent of New York City's six-and-under population. Of the City's population aged 16-and-under, Hispanic children constitute the largest share with 34.1 percent.<sup>ii</sup> Moreover,

Hispanic and Black children comprise more than 60.5 percent of the population under 16.<sup>iii</sup> However, only 333 Bronx students received an invitation to attend a specialized high school. If the invitations had simply reflected the City's population, the Bronx would have received almost three times as many seats (See chart on Page 8). The 2012 numbers produced similar results.

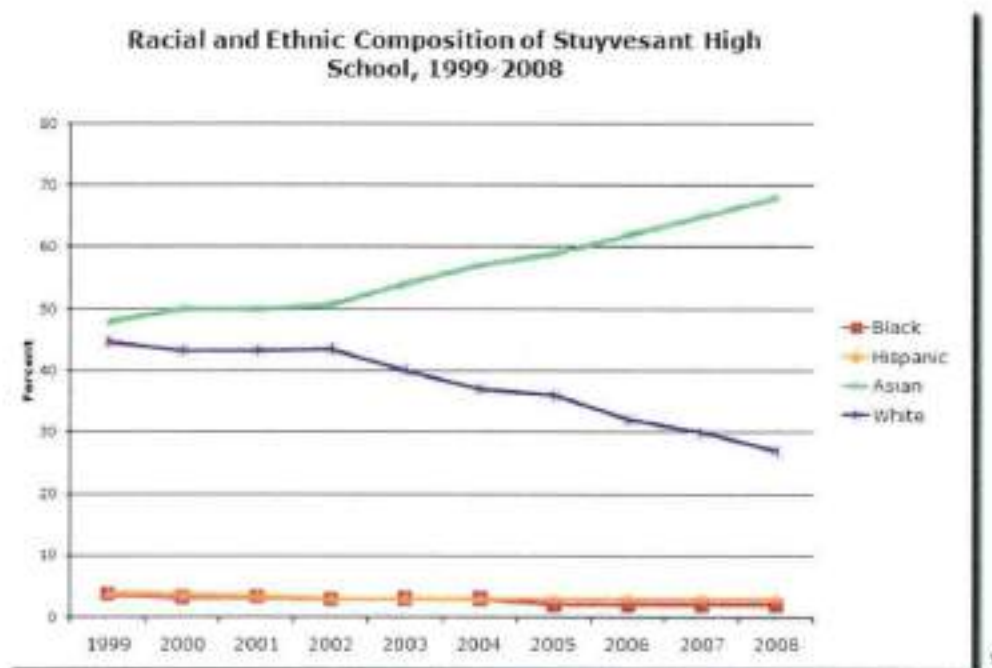
### **About the Specialized High Schools**

The SHSAT is a timed multiple-choice test with two sections, verbal and math, that must be completed in a total of 2 hours and 30 minutes. In the first section, students demonstrate their verbal reasoning and reading comprehension by ordering sentences to form a coherent paragraph, answering questions of logical reasoning, and analyzing and interpreting texts. In the second section, students demonstrate their math skills by answering computational and word questions that require arithmetic, algebra, probability, statistics, geometry, and trigonometry (on the Grade 9 test only). The Specialized High Schools are:

1. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
2. Staten Island Technical High School
3. Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts
4. High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College (Manhattan)
5. Stuyvesant High School
6. Bronx High School of Science
7. High School of American Studies at Lehman College (Bronx)
8. Brooklyn Technical High School
9. The Brooklyn Latin School

### **SHSI Background**

The Department of Education initially began to address the increased underrepresentation of Black and Hispanic students at these high schools in 1995, under then-Chancellor Ramon Cortines. "At the time, the numbers were actually better than they are now: Bronx Science's enrollment was 10.7% black and 9.2% Hispanic; Stuyvesant's was 4.8% black and 4.3% Hispanic."<sup>iv</sup>



However, the Specialized High Schools Institute (SHSI) has had poor results in achieving its goals, and has had to reassess its eligibility criteria due to litigation. This year the DOE will offer the SHSI at four Bronx sites and, beginning in 2012, will enroll sixth and seventh grade students. While the programs are run by the principals in the schools they are housed, recruitment tactics and eligibility criteria are set by the DOE.

The Specialized High Schools are the top schools in our public system, and underrepresentation of Bronx students in these schools perpetuates poverty and prohibits upward mobility. Without changes to the current eligibility criteria of the SHSI, unequal access to educational opportunity will only worsen. For example, the SHSI eligibility criteria require applicants to have a minimum of 90 percent attendance in the previous school year. This is problematic for the Bronx because of its nation leading asthma rates and other health concerns. The New York City Department of Health has determined that the asthma hospitalization rate for Bronx children is 70 percent higher than the rest of the city, and 700 percent higher than the rest



of New York State (excluding New York City).<sup>vi</sup> Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism in the Bronx.<sup>vii</sup>

An “analysis of Department of Education (DOE) data found that more than 20 percent of the city’s elementary school pupils were chronically absent during the 2007–08 school year—that is, they missed at least 20 days of the 185-day school year. In districts serving poor neighborhoods, the numbers are even higher. In the south and central Bronx, in central Harlem, and in several neighborhoods in central Brooklyn, 30 percent or more of the pupils were chronically absent, according to the analysis. In contrast, only 5.2 percent of pupils were chronically absent in District 26, which serves the middle class neighborhood of Bayside, Queens.”<sup>viii</sup>

Among ethnic groups in New York City, Latino and Black middle school students have the highest asthma rates, with 20.1% and 20% respectively.<sup>ix</sup> Otherwise eligible children have been and continue to be precluded from the program, further aggravating the underrepresentation of Bronx children in these schools.

The Bronx has six of the city’s school districts (numbers 7 through 12). Districts 7, 9 and 12 are among the poorest in the country, and District 10 is one of the largest in New York State. However, the seat allocation for the SHSI assigned 100 total seats to Districts 7, 9 and 12. It also assigned 100 seats each to Districts 8, 10, and 11. Consequently, the seat distribution creates unequal access to students all across the Bronx. The three districts with the greatest need will have to share 100 seats. Also, students in the largest district will have significantly greater competition for seats relative to other students in the Bronx and the City as a whole.

Below are the students to SHSI seat ratios:

<b>Ratio of Students to SHSI Seats for All Bronx Districts</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>2012 - 6th graders</b>	<b>Ratio of Students to Seats</b>
7	1,341	
9	2,891	
12	1,800	
<b>7,9, and 12</b>	<b>6,032</b>	<b>Ratio = 60:1</b>
11	3,081	Ratio = 30:1
8	2,229	Ratio = 22:1
10	4,035	Ratio = 40:1

A closer look at SHSI enrollment demonstrates that its reach is marginal and is, in fact, perpetuating the problem. SHSI participants that received an offer to attend a specialized high school were less than 7% of the total number of offerees in 2011 and 2010, and less than 5% in 2009. Enrollment by ethnicity was also unreflective of the city's population. Hispanic enrollment has dropped in half, from 414 in 2009 to 209 in 2011. White enrollment increased from 49 to 67, then decreased to 57 in years 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Asian enrollment more than tripled, from 156 to 481 in one year from 2009 to 2010, then dropped slightly to 421 in 2011 (See chart on pages 17-18). Black enrollment declined by a smaller margin, going from 260 in 2009, to 227 in 2010, and again 227 in 2011.

### Magnitude of Inequality of Educational Opportunity

The SHSI by itself will not remedy the underrepresentation of Bronx students at the Specialized High Schools, given the severity of the problem. In an attempt to quantify the distortion, we reviewed the number of offers to specialized high schools by borough from 2008 and 2012, and then compared them to what those numbers would have looked like if they aligned with the actual population using recent United States Census American Community Survey data as the benchmark:

Population Estimates by Borough for 2000 and 2010			
Borough	2000	2010	% of Total
<b>Bronx</b>	<b>1,332,650</b>	<b>1,397,287</b>	<b>16.65%</b>
Brooklyn	2,465,326	2,567,098	30.59%
Manhattan	1,537,195	1,629,054	19.41%
Queens	2,229,379	2,306,712	27.49%
Staten Island	443,728	491,730	5.86%
New York City	8,008,278	8,391,881	100%
Data Set: 2009 Population Estimates , American Community Survey			

We found that over each of the last five years the Bronx has, on average, received about a third of the number of seats it should have received if these numbers reflected the borough's share of the actual population, or an absolute loss of 2,858 seats that should have gone to Bronx children.

Comparing Actual and Adjusted SHSI Seats for the Bronx from 2008-2012				
Year	Actual	Adjusted	Absolute Variation	Percentage of Actual Seats Relative to Adjusted
2012	322	908	-586	35.46%
2011	333	915	-582	36.39%
2010	354	891	-537	39.73%
2009	294	889	-595	33.07%
2008	316	874	-558	36.16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>-2858</b>	



Comparing Actual and Adjusted Total Test Takers for All Boroughs for 2012						
	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	Total
<b>Actual</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>9,197</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>8,487</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>27,612</b>
<b>Adjusted</b>	4,677	8,460	5,357	7,535	1,582	27,611
<b>Variation</b>	+16	+737	-2005	+952	+301	

Moreover, we found significant drop off in Bronx students sitting for the exam after 2009, which coincides with the court order settlement entered on November 26, 2008, in regards to a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York by the Center for Individual Rights (CIR) alleging racial discrimination in the implementation of SHSI admissions. We subtracted the actual number of SHSAT test takers from the adjusted for borough population numbers, then averaged the 2008 and 2009 numbers and compared them to the average of 2010 through 2012 numbers:

Adjusted Borough Numbers for SHSI Test Takers from 2008-2012					
	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
2012	-16	-737	2,005	-952	-301
2011	82	-1,019	2,059	-888	-233
2010	28	-949	1,783	-642	-219
<b>Average</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-902</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>-827</b>	<b>-251</b>
2009	378	-739	1,256	-750	-144
2008	414	-911	1,174	-479	-198
<b>Average</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>-825</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>-615</b>	<b>-171</b>

| Actual number of SHSAT test takers subtracted from the adjusted for borough population numbers and then averaged

The Bronx had the most significant drop off in terms of average variation between the actual and adjusted numbers. Prior to the court ordered settlement, SHSI policies were geared at enrolling Black and Hispanic students. Consequently, Bronx students were sitting for the exam in greater

numbers. It should also be noted that Brooklyn and Queens would respectively have about 800 and 900 fewer students a year sit for the test if the numbers reflected their borough's population.

In addition to fewer Bronx students sitting for the exam, the underrepresentation of Bronx students at Specialized High Schools is further exacerbated by insufficient preparation for the SHSAT. As noted in *The Stuyvesant Spectator*, many, if not most, of the current students at Stuyvesant participated in some sort of prep course:

"Every Stuyvesant student was admitted by scoring high enough on the SHSAT. Many of these students prepared for the exam by taking SHSAT prep classes and spending their weekends or summers doing practice tests. A provocative trend is that most of the students who take preparatory classes come from Asian families . . . In largely East Asian communities such as Flushing and Chinatown, test prep centers, like Aim Academy and Mega Academy, boast their statistics of Specialized High School entrants."<sup>66</sup>

Indeed, an entire private industry has surfaced to prepare children for the SHSAT. We researched these programs and found over 25 entities providing SHSAT classes, which is by no means an exhaustive list (See chart on pages 24-27). In fact, many of these programs do not advertise and rely solely on word of mouth. Using the 25 programs we were able to identify as a sample group, our analysis found that most of these programs do not provide services in the Bronx. Even if Bronx parents were to travel to another borough, such as Queens, which houses the vast majority of these programs, the costs are prohibitive. Overall, prep programs, including those offered by popular behemoths such as Kaplan and Princeton Review, were highly unlikely to divulge data on the number of students who took their programs and those that were accepted to a Specialized High School.

For those prep programs that offer one-on-one instruction on a per hour basis, the average cost per session was roughly \$162.50. Generally, instructors suggested a minimum of 20 hours of instruction, though that decision was to be made at the parents' discretion. Other programs only offered one-on-one instruction packages, dictated by a set price and number of hours.

Group sessions proved just as diverse in scope. The majority of classes were offered on a semester basis, with schedules beginning in March/April for Spring, June/July for Summer, and September for Fall. While some prep programs did admit to seeing the occasional 6th grader in their class, these programs were intended for students studying in 7th grade and preparing to take the SHSAT in the Fall. The range for group sessions varied from \$399.00 to \$3,600 per semester. Furthermore, more than 64 percent (9/14) of the prep programs that offered group tutoring were located in Queens. During phone interviews, employees admitted that the majority of their clientele was comprised of local Queens residents. Only three of the 14 prep programs offering group tutoring were located in the Bronx, and all only provided one classroom location.

However, we did discern from phone interviews with program employees that Bronx students are a rarity among attending students. This is confirmation of the economic duality that permeates the Bronx. There are, in fact, Bronx families who not only know about test preparation services offered throughout the City but also have the financial means to pay for out-of-Borough preparation. The scarcity of Bronx students in these test prep programs substantiates our assertion that Bronx families are either uninformed of these services, cannot afford to pay for them, or a combination of both. The dearth of Bronx students in these programs is indicative of the income disparity that exists among Bronx families, regardless of race.<sup>xi</sup> Contrary to the perception of poverty that permeates assumptions about the economic status of Bronx families, 2010 Census Data shows that over 37 percent of families make over \$49,000 in annual income. For these families, seeking out-of-borough test prep is a nuisance but not an impossibility. For the remaining 62.7 percent of Bronx families whose average annual income is \$36,000, however, test prep services remain allusive.



The ideal solution would provide services for both income populations and will require immediate and long term collaboration between the Department of Education and individually-run test prep businesses. There is a high demand for these services, but a scarcity in supply. The DOE created the SHSI for the express purpose of providing test prep services for families who could not afford private sector prices. The DOE, however, has proven resilient in its reluctance to venture into the Bronx.

Many Bronx families will not be able to afford privately-run test prep services. The median income level for Bronx families as estimated by the Census is \$36,627, which is less than half of that of Manhattan (\$78,197) and 60 percent of the medium income in Queens (see full chart on page 23). Moreover, the Bronx has the highest percentage of families making \$50,000 or less, at 62.7 percent. Consequently, it is not surprising that Manhattan and Queens families are sitting for the SHSAT in higher numbers and outperforming the other boroughs. Furthermore, although Manhattan students are underrepresented in the test taking pool, because of their superior access to test preparation services they are able to almost completely erase the variation and secure proportional representation in the offeree pool.

<b>Offers By Borough for 2012</b>						
	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
Actual Total Offers	322	1,676	1,074	1,919	369	5,360
Aligned with Borough Population	908	1,642	1,040	1,463	307	
Variation	-586	+34	-34	+456	+62	

## Conclusion

As competition among middle school students for seats at Specialized High Schools grows more fierce, Bronx students are lagging behind. DOE policies have only sustained the status quo of demographic inequality in Specialized High Schools. Combined with a scarcity of

adequate and affordable SHSAT preparatory programs, these policies have resulted in an ill-prepared and ill-equipped Bronx student body.

Students have a greater chance at academic success and future economic mobility if they engage in rigorous academic learning and preparation, as outlined in “Unclogging, Strengthening, and Insulating the Bronx Educational Pipeline,” a policy paper published by the Bronx Borough President’s Office in March 2012. A significant majority of Bronx students must overcome disadvantages that their peers in other boroughs do not have to face. Among those are prevalence of severe health issues, such as asthma, which prevent them from maintaining high attendance rates; poor community and parental support, and a lack of institutional preparation programs to help them excel. Improvements in the quality of education Bronx students receive can only occur if the DOE is determined to make the necessary changes that will provide Bronx students with the opportunities that will allow them to excel at the SHSAT and earn coveted SHS seats.

The Specialized High Schools’ reliance on the SHSAT as the sole means of determining who gains admittance is outdated and inconsistent with how most, if not all, high performing academic institutions select a student body. Our city’s elite private secondary schools, like Horace Mann, Dalton, and Riverdale County Day School, do not rely exclusively on the SSAT to pick their students. More and more colleges are placing less value on SAT scores, and no ABA accredited law school would ever look at just an LSAT to admit a student. For example, many of the nation’s universities have become participants in the Posse Scholars program, including, but not limited to Vanderbilt University, Middlebury College, Brandeis University and UC Berkeley. A recent profile in *The New York Times* highlighted their success, noting that their students are high achieving despite lower average SAT scores:

"Most Posse Scholars would not have qualified for their colleges by the normal criteria. Posse Scholars' combined median reading and math SAT score is only 1050, while the median combined score at the colleges Posse students attend varies from 1210 to 1475. Nevertheless, they succeed. Ninety percent of Posse Scholars graduate — half of them on the dean's list and a quarter with academic honors. A survey of 20 years of alumni found that nearly 80 percent of the respondents said they had founded or led groups or clubs. There are only 40 Posse Scholars among Bryn Mawr's 1,300 students, but a Posse student has won the school's best all-around student award three times in the past seven years. Posse is changing the way universities look at qualifications for college, and what makes for college success."<sup>81</sup>

Just as these universities have found high performing candidates by going beyond the SAT, we cannot allow the SHSAT to continue to be the lone criterion for the Specialized High Schools. Students in the poorest school districts should be incentivized and rewarded for high performance in the classrooms, rather than excluded from a quality high school because of a largely imperfect test. The following recommendations should be enacted by the DOE:



### **Recommendations:**

- The DOE and Bronx organizations must partner to ensure that a SHSI site, or its equivalent, should exist in each Bronx school district.
- The number of seats at each district should reflect the size of the school district, not an arbitrary number assigned to each site. Instead, the DOE should implement a consistent district size to seat ratio.
- The 90 percent attendance criterion should be removed from the eligibility standards for the SHSI.
- Priorities for seat allocation should be given to those that demonstrate significant financial need though a more objective metric than Title I free lunch, be it W2s, pay stubs, food stamps/EBT, etc..
- Multiple pathways for automatic admission to a Specialized High School should be implemented, including, but not limited to:
  - 1) The top 5% of each Bronx middle school graduation class should be given an automatic seat at a Specialized High School. This will serve as an explicit incentive to children and drive performance.
  - 2) Currently, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School is the only Specialized High School that allows audition and submission of a portfolio. A comparable opportunity should be allowed for math and science portfolios.
  - 3) As noted in recently introduced Bill Assembly 09064/Senate 6589, we recommend the DOE “establish procedures and standards for the admission to the special high schools of the city district, including the grade point averages of applicants, personal statements of interest submitted by applicants and such other

factors as the city board shall determine to be necessary.” This Bill has been was introduced by Assemblyman Karim Camara, cosponsored by Assembly Members Peter Rivera, Jeffrion Aubry, Rafael Espinal, Marcos Crespo, Felix Ortiz, Annette Robinson, Samuel Roberts, Naomi Rivera, Robert Rodriguez, Nick Perry, David Weprin. The multi-sponsors include William Boyland, Vanessa Gibson, Carl Heastie, and Michelle Schimel. The Bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Adriano Espaillat.

- The top 15% of each Bronx middle school’s 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades should be given automatic offers into a SHSI program.
- The number of seats at Specialized High Schools needs to increase, either by expanding the existing schools or creating more Specialized High Schools. For example, in 2011, 28,281 students sat for the SHSAT, of which only 5,404 (or 19 percent) were extended offers. This is too low.
- The DOE must create another citywide middle school in the Bronx that will cater to high-achieving Bronx students.
- Gifted and talented admissions should be expanded to include the top 20 percent of first grade test takers Citywide, rather than the current 10 percent. This will double the number of students exposed to higher level academic work at an early age.
- All students who qualify for a gifted and talented program should be guaranteed a seat in a gifted and talented program.

SHSI Participant (P)/Test Taker (TT) Data							
Year	SHSI Participants	Ps who took test	% of Ps who did not take test	Total TTs who received offer	% of TTs who received offer	Total students received an offer	% of offerees who were SHSI grads
<b>2011</b>							
Asian	421	418	0.71%	259	61.96%		
Black	227	204	10.13%	38	18.63%		
Hispanic	209	189	9.57%	39	20.63%		
White	57	49	14.04%	19	38.78%		
Native American/Unknown*	18	4	77.78%	2	50.00%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>7.30%</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>41.32%</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>6.61%</b>
<b>2010</b>							
Asian	481	413	14.14%	246	59.56%		
Black	227	151	33.48%	31	20.53%		
Hispanic	155	127	18.06%	31	24.41%		
White	67	51	23.88%	20	39.22%		
Native American/Unknown*	38	2	94.74%	1	50.00%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>23.14%</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>44.22%</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>6.25%</b>
<b>2009**</b>							
Asian	156	153	1.92%	96	62.75%		
Black	260	218	16.15%	47	21.56%		
Hispanic	414	315	23.91%	50	15.87%		
White	49	44	10.20%	18	40.91%		
Native American/Unknown*	97	18	81.44%	7	38.89%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>23.36%</b>	<b>218</b>		<b>5,246</b>	

\*Unknown column includes private/parochial students, multi-racial students and students whose parents refused to sign the application

\*\*Last year cohort was recruited by the former regions. Additional students were not recruited to fill attrition (Court Order)



<b>Comparison of Actual Specialized High School Offerees Relative to Share of Population 2008 to 2012</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bronx High School of Science	116	32	288	584	0	1,020
Brooklyn Latin	46	32	81	161	22	480
Brooklyn Technical School	59	1,050	235	559	42	1,945
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	45	14	111	78	2	250
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	46	4	101	31	0	182
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	0	4	3	142	0	149
Staten Island Technical High School	0	76	3	4	284	367
Stuyvesant High School	10	326	252	360	19	967
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>5,360</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>9,197</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>8,487</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>27,612</b>
<b>Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>

<b>2012 – If Aligned with Borough Population</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>
Bronx High School of Science	116				
Brooklyn Latin	46				
Brooklyn Technical School	59				
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	45				
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	46				
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	0				
Staten Island Technical High School	0				
Stuyvesant High School	10				
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>307</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>30.64%</b>	<b>19.40%</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-586</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>+456</b>	<b>+62</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>8,460</b>	<b>5,357</b>	<b>7,535</b>	<b>1,582</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-737</b>	<b>+2005</b>	<b>-952</b>	<b>-301</b>
<b>Variation of Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+13</b>

2011						
School	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	Total
Bronx High School of Science	134	39	280	590	1	1,044
Brooklyn Latin	48	178	106	224	16	572
Brooklyn Technical School	63	1,029	250	555	54	1,951
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	33	14	99	81	1	228
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	43	2	108	24	0	177
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	0	5	3	134	1	143
Staten Island Technical High School	0	60	3	2	287	352
Stuyvesant High School	12	346	199	351	29	937
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>5,404</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>9,684</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>8,606</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>28,281</b>
<b>Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>19%</b>

2011 – If Aligned with Borough Population					
School	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Bronx High School of Science	117				
Brooklyn Latin	97				
Brooklyn Technical School	330				
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	39				
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	30				
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	24				
Staten Island Technical High School	60				
Stuyvesant High School	159				
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>30.64%</b>	<b>19.40%</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-582</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+486</b>	<b>+79</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,791</b>	<b>8,665</b>	<b>5,487</b>	<b>7,718</b>	<b>1,621</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>+82</b>	<b>-1,019</b>	<b>+2,059</b>	<b>-888</b>	<b>-233</b>
<b>Variation of Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>+12</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+13</b>

2010						
School	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island	Total
Bronx High School of Science	134	42	281	592	2	1,051
Brooklyn Latin	49	184	116	165	28	542
Brooklyn Technical School	56	1,019	208	528	48	1,859
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	42	17	72	48	0	179
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	54	2	103	19	0	178
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	0	2	1	148	0	151
Staten Island Technical High School	0	48	2	1	292	343
Stuyvesant High School	19	333	223	355	28	958
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>5,261</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>9,258</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>8,042</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>27,117</b>
<b>Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>

2010 – If Aligned with Borough Population					
School	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens	Staten Island
Bronx High School of Science	178				
Brooklyn Latin	92				
Brooklyn Technical School	315				
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	30				
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	30				
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	26				
Staten Island Technical High School	58				
Stuyvesant High School	162				
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>30.64%</b>	<b>19.40%</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-537</b>	<b>+35</b>	<b>+15</b>	<b>+420</b>	<b>+97</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>8,309</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>1,554</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>+28</b>	<b>-949</b>	<b>+1,783</b>	<b>-642</b>	<b>-219</b>
<b>Variation of Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+16</b>



**2009**

<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bronx High School of Science	110	25	338	571	2	1,046
Brooklyn Latin	42	153	127	166	27	515
Brooklyn Technical School	57	1,003	262	506	32	1,860
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	25	11	90	48	1	175
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	48	2	94	30	0	174
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	1	5	9	149	0	164
Staten Island Technical High School	0	57	9	2	264	332
Stuyvesant High School	11	265	288	394	22	980
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>5,246</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,307</b>	<b>9,212</b>	<b>4,109</b>	<b>8,297</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>27,654</b>
<b>Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>

**2009 – If Aligned with Borough Population**

<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>
Bronx High School of Science	177				
Brooklyn Latin	87				
Brooklyn Technical School	315				
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	30				
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	29				
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	28				
Staten Island Technical High School	56				
Stuyvesant High School	166				
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>30.64%</b>	<b>19.40%</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-595</b>	<b>-86</b>	<b>-199</b>	<b>+434</b>	<b>+47</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,685</b>	<b>8,473</b>	<b>5,365</b>	<b>7,547</b>	<b>1,585</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>+378</b>	<b>-739</b>	<b>+1,256</b>	<b>-750</b>	<b>-144</b>
<b>Variation of Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+16</b>

**2008**

<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bronx High School of Science	108	34	321	609	1	1,073
Brooklyn Latin	52	125	104	132	16	429
Brooklyn Technical School	37	984	280	483	48	1,832
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	33	18	87	37	2	177
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	63	2	86	27	0	178
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	2	4	5	189	0	200
Staten Island Technical High School	0	34	9	2	232	277
Stuyvesant High School	21	274	318	355	24	992
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>5,158</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>3,969</b>	<b>8,838</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>7,540</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>25,873</b>
<b>Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>

**2008 – If Aligned with Borough Population**

<b>School</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>Queens</b>	<b>Staten Island</b>
Bronx High School of Science	182				
Brooklyn Latin	73				
Brooklyn Technical School	310				
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College	30				
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	30				
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	34				
Staten Island Technical High School	47				
Stuyvesant High School	168				
<b>Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>% of Total Offers by Borough</b>	<b>16.94%</b>	<b>30.64%</b>	<b>19.40%</b>	<b>27.29%</b>	<b>5.73%</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>-558</b>	<b>-105</b>	<b>-209</b>	<b>+426</b>	<b>+27</b>
<b>Total Test Takers by Borough</b>	<b>4,383</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>5,019</b>	<b>7,061</b>	<b>1,483</b>
<b>Variation</b>	<b>+414</b>	<b>-911</b>	<b>+1174</b>	<b>-479</b>	<b>-198</b>
<b>Variation of Offers as a % of Total Test Takers</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>+16</b>

	Bronx County, New York		Kings County, New York		New York County, New York		Queens County, New York		Richmond County, New York	
INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2010 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Families	314,618		580,453		305,679		527,729		124,237	
Less than \$10,000	42,503	13.5%	52,700	9.1%	19,382	6.3%	26,955	5.1%	6,797	5.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	24,479	7.8%	34,708	6.0%	12,302	4.0%	18,655	3.5%	2,444	2.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	48,536	15.4%	65,194	11.2%	27,974	9.2%	49,143	9.3%	7,235	5.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	35,198	11.2%	66,306	11.4%	24,079	7.9%	50,054	9.5%	8,334	6.7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	46,511	14.8%	86,695	14.9%	29,842	9.8%	71,188	13.5%	11,322	9.1%
	Total	62.7%		52.6%		37.2%		40.9%		29.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	51,090	16.2%	93,018	16.0%	34,271	11.2%	101,812	19.3%	19,808	15.9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	29,454	9.4%	59,051	10.2%	25,776	8.4%	72,458	13.7%	16,461	13.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	24,535	7.8%	71,399	12.3%	37,165	12.2%	84,859	16.1%	28,452	22.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7,736	2.5%	27,929	4.8%	23,884	7.8%	32,510	6.2%	13,700	11.0%
\$200,000 or more	4,576	1.5%	23,453	4.0%	71,004	23.2%	20,095	3.8%	9,684	7.8%
Median family income (dollars)	\$36,627	(X)	\$46,671	(X)	\$78,197	(X)	\$60,438	(X)	\$82,406	(X)
Mean family income (dollars)	\$49,786	(X)	\$68,504	(X)	\$159,324	(X)	\$76,004	(X)	\$97,598	(X)



Name of Program	Website	Classes offered in the Bronx- Y/N *Only Group Classes	Queens	Manhattan	Staten Island	Brooklyn	Group Tutoring + Costs	Individual Tutoring + Costs
Kaplan	<a href="http://www.kaptest.com/K8/SHSAT/Tutoring/shsat-private-tutoring.html">http://www.kaptest.com/K8/SHSAT/Tutoring/shsat-private-tutoring.html</a>	Y- 1-Fordham University, 441 East Fordham Road, Bx, NY 10458	Y-Mult	Y-Mult	Y-Mult	Y-Mult	\$849-1199	\$2599-3599
Princeton Review	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/ChooseProducts.aspx?&amp;zipcode=10456&amp;testtype=TAG&amp;producttype= TUT">http://www.princetonreview.com/ChooseProducts.aspx?&amp;zipcode=10456&amp;testtype=TAG&amp;producttype= TUT</a>	Y-1 Manhattan College	Y-Mult	Y-Mult	N	Y-1	\$1,599	\$1500-6300
Elite Academy	<a href="http://www.eliteacademy.com">www.eliteacademy.com</a>	N	Y- 136-56 39th Avenue, LL Flushing, Queens, NY 11354	N	N	N	\$1680/semester (fall or spring-Sat 9-1); \$1595/Summer (6 1/2 wks, Mon-Thurs)	N- Only Group Test Prep; no Individual Tutoring
Aim Academy	<a href="http://www.aimacademyusa.org">http://www.aimacademyusa.org</a>	N	Y- 3621 Prince Street Flushing, NY 11364	N	N	N	\$1300/Summer (7 wks, Mon-Fri) or \$1400/Summer (Sat, 9-3pm)	N- Only Group Test Prep; no Individual Tutoring
Mega Academy	<a href="http://www.mega-academy.com/index-2.html">http://www.mega-academy.com/index-2.html</a>	N	Y- 65-01 Kissena Blvd. Flushing, NY 11367	N	N	N	\$1318/Summer (7 wks, Mon-Fri) 30 stud/group	N- Only Group Test Prep; no Individual Tutoring
Khan's Tutorial	<a href="http://khanstutorial.com/index.php/services/view/2">http://khanstutorial.com/index.php/services/view/2</a>	Y- affiliate program at Castle Hill	Y- 171-16 Hillside Ave, Jamaica, NY; and 23018 Broadway, Astoria, NY	N	N	N	Start September 60 wk package \$3600 upfront; \$75/class for total – \$4500; max 25 stud/gp.	N- Only Group Test Prep; no Individual Tutoring
SHSAT Prep	<a href="http://www.shsatprep.com">www.shsatprep.com</a>	N	N	N	Y	N		\$975.00
Tutors of Oxford	<a href="http://www.tutorsoxford.com/lessondetails.htm">http://www.tutorsoxford.com/lessondetails.htm</a>	N	N	Y- 356 E 50th Street New York, NY 10022	N	N	NA	NA

Science Schools Initiative (SSI)	<a href="http://www.thg-initiative.org">www.thg-initiative.org</a>	N	N	Y- 157 Prince St. 1st Fl, New York, NY 10012; classes held at CUMC	N	N	FREE- Funds allotted in school budget	
MS80 (inconjunction with SSI)								
Kweller Prep	<a href="http://www.kwellerprep.com/">http://www.kwellerprep.com/</a>	N	Y- 104-40 Queens Blvd, Forest Hills, NY 11375	N	N	N	Y- \$2,999/Summer (8 wks)	Guarantees entrance to Stuyvesant for \$10,000
PrepMate	<a href="http://www.prcpmate.com/SHSAT">www.prcpmate.com/SHSAT</a>	N	Y- 143-30 38th Ave, Ste 1-G, Flushing, NY 11354	Y- 344 West 38th St, NY, NY, 10018	N	N		Yes
Caddell Prep	<a href="http://www.sinytutor.com/shsat-test-prep">www.sinytutor.com/shsat-test-prep</a>	N		N	Y- 38 Genesee St, SI, NY 10301	N	\$950 40hr package; max 6 stud/class; summer classes before 8th grade	N
Cates Tutoring	<a href="http://www.catestutoring.com/test-preparation/tests/shsat-test-prep.html">http://www.catestutoring.com/test-preparation/tests/shsat-test-prep.html</a>	N		Y- 122 W 27 St, 12 Fl, NY, NY 10001	N	Y- 45 Main Street, Ste. 309, Brooklyn, NY 11201	Y- Small Groups	
Brownstone Tutors	<a href="http://www.brownstonetutors.com/test_prep/shsat/">http://www.brownstonetutors.com/test_prep/shsat/</a>	N		Y- 275 Madison Ave, 4th Fl, New York, NY 10016	N	Y- 354 Court Street, First Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11231		Enrichment class (for 6th + 7th graders): \$180/hr Test Prep (mid. 7th grade-summer before 8th): \$200/hr

Amlon Tutors	<a href="http://www.nytutoring.com/testprep/sshsat/sshsat.html">http://www.nytutoring.com/testprep/sshsat/sshsat.html</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	\$85/hr; min. 20 hr package
A List Education	<a href="http://alisteducation.com/test-prep-admissions/issee-ssat-shsat">http://alisteducation.com/test-prep-admissions/issee-ssat-shsat</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y- Small groups created by participants; not offered by organization; discount offered for every additional student, up to 5/gp	\$175-300/hr - packages can be purchased for 12/18/ prp 36 hours
Kuei Luck Test Prep	<a href="http://kueiluck.com/article/index/id/237">http://kueiluck.com/article/index/id/237</a>	N	Y- 195-05 69th Ave, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365	N	N	N	Y- \$2200/Summer (7 wks, Mon-Fri) or \$2200/Wknd Mock Exam + Review (6 wks, Sat + Sun, 9-12pm)	N
Baruch College of Continuing and Professional Studies	<a href="http://www.baruched.com/shop/catalog.aspx?id=257">http://www.baruched.com/shop/catalog.aspx?id=257</a>	N	N	Y- 55 Lexington Ave, B1-116, New York, NY 10010	N	N	Y-	Y- Price available upon request
Janine Avril	<a href="http://www.janineavril.com/2011/07/shsat-prep.html">http://www.janineavril.com/2011/07/shsat-prep.html</a>	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ind. Only - Price available upon request
Kent Preparatory	<a href="http://www.kentprep.com/">http://www.kentprep.com/</a>	N	194-11A Northern Blvd, Bayside, NY, 11358	N	N	N		



Next Level Learning Center	<a href="http://www.nyclearn.com/?q=shsat">http://www.nyclearn.com/?q=shsat</a>	N	N	Y- 850 7th Avenue, NY, NY	N	N	N	Ind. Only
Partners With Parents	<a href="http://partnerswithparents.com/2011-02/shsat-tutoring">http://partnerswithparents.com/2011-02/shsat-tutoring</a>	N	N	Y- 131 West 72nd St, NY, NY	N	N	Y- \$799/Fall or Spring semesters (12 wks, 30 hrs)	N
Kennedy Test Prep	<a href="http://www.kennedyexcellenceintestprep.com">www.kennedyexcellenceintestprep.com</a>	N	Y- 135-20 35th Ave, Flushing, NY, 11354	N	N	N	Y-\$599 Fall/Summer semester (7wks, 10 classes, 30 hrs)	N
NY Academics	<a href="http://www.tutornewyorkcity.com/shsat-test-prep.htm">www.tutornewyorkcity.com/shsat-test-prep.htm</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y- \$599/Fall or Summer (30 hrs. over 7 wks)	Y- \$65-70/hr

### Summary of Gifted And Talented Results For Students Entering Kindergarten

Numbers of Testers					
District	2008-2009 Tested	2009-2010 Tested	2010-2011 Tested	Change in # Tested (2009- 10 to 2010-11)	% Change in # Tested
1	244	213	254	41	19%
2	1456	1479	1677	198	13%
3	1023	960	1036	76	8%
4	105	90	111	21	23%
5	231	161	207	46	29%
6	375	333	366	33	10%
7	178	85	122	37	44%
8	342	198	259	61	31%
9	218	149	193	44	30%
10	430	317	362	45	14%
11	404	359	429	70	19%
12	179	113	110	(18)	-1%
13	329	351	413	62	18%
14	209	151	188	35	23%
15	587	510	650	140	27%
16	135	124	102	(22)	-16%
17	434	288	340	52	18%
18	118	232	268	36	16%
19	303	219	244	25	11%
20	438	759	812	53	7%
21	584	464	472	8	2%
22	1125	962	925	(87)	-4%
23	129	306	105	(18)	-1%
24	309	172	478	106	28%
25	171	495	627	132	77%
26	414	399	456	57	14%
27	120	174	417	43	11%
28	527	451	582	131	29%
29	189	291	319	26	9%
30	617	542	666	124	23%
31	864	669	764	95	14%
32	135	123	116	(17)	-6%
Unknown	0	111	16	(95)	-86%
Total	14622	12454	14089	1632	13%

Eligible for District G&T Programs*					
District	2008-2009 District Eligible	2009-2010 District Eligible	2010-2011 District Eligible	Change in # District Eligible (2009-10 to 2010-11)	% Change in # District Eligible
1	56	65	82	17	26%
2	588	653	745	92	14%
3	462	455	450	(5)	-1%
4	19	14	28	14	100%
5	62	48	64	16	33%
6	86	102	116	14	14%
7	15	11	6	(5)	-45%
8	46	28	50	22	79%
9	20	19	22	3	16%
10	88	81	68	(13)	-16%
11	53	74	84	10	14%
12	21	17	15	(2)	-12%
13	114	142	151	9	6%
14	58	38	68	30	79%
15	161	188	243	55	29%
16	22	26	19	(7)	-27%
17	71	58	70	12	21%
18	37	32	29	(8)	-9%
19	30	34	22	(12)	-35%
20	192	230	233	3	1%
21	169	157	157	0	0%
22	244	262	232	(88)	-14%
23	11	15	15	0	0%
24	67	74	103	29	39%
25	88	146	205	99	40%
26	68	121	138	17	14%
27	46	56	67	11	20%
28	87	116	181	65	56%
29	35	33	54	21	64%
30	53	100	112	32	32%
31	132	140	119	19	14%
32	18	7	19	12	171%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	3231	3542	4017	485	14%

\* These numbers include testers who qualified for city-wide programs.

Eligible for District G&T Programs*				
District	2008-2009 % District Eligible	2009-2010 % District Eligible	2010-2011 % District Eligible	Change in % of Test Takers Who Are District Eligible
1	23%	31%	32%	2%
2	40%	44%	44%	0%
3	45%	47%	43%	-4%
4	18%	16%	25%	10%
5	27%	30%	31%	1%
6	23%	31%	32%	1%
7	9%	13%	5%	-8%
8	13%	14%	19%	5%
9	9%	13%	11%	-1%
10	20%	26%	19%	-7%
11	14%	21%	20%	-1%
12	12%	15%	14%	-1%
13	35%	40%	37%	-4%
14	28%	25%	36%	11%
15	27%	37%	37%	1%
16	16%	21%	19%	-2%
17	16%	20%	21%	0%
18	12%	14%	11%	-3%
19	10%	16%	9%	-7%
20	20%	30%	29%	-2%
21	29%	34%	33%	-1%
22	22%	27%	25%	-2%
23	9%	14%	14%	0%
24	13%	20%	22%	2%
25	17%	29%	33%	3%
26	16%	30%	30%	0%
27	8%	15%	16%	1%
28	17%	26%	31%	5%
29	9%	11%	17%	6%
30	9%	18%	20%	1%
31	15%	21%	21%	0%
32	13%	6%	16%	11%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	22%	28%	29%	0%

Eligible for City-wide G&T Programs					
District	2006-2009 City Wide Eligible	2009-2010 City Wide Eligible	2010-2011 City Wide Eligible	Change in # City-wide Eligible (2009-10 to 2010-11)	% Change in # City Wide Eligible
1	19	34	42	8	24%
2	240	341	385	44	13%
3	218	250	219	(11)	-4%
4	3	7	18	11	157%
5	35	26	34	8	31%
6	45	61	70	9	15%
7	5	4	3	(1)	-25%
8	21	12	19	7	58%
9	9	7	7	0	0%
10	94	48	22	(124)	-52%
11	23	33	31	(2)	-6%
12	5	9	6	(3)	-33%
13	45	85	77	(8)	-9%
14	24	19	20	1	5%
15	79	87	107	20	23%
16	6	10	10	0	0%
17	51	29	29	0	0%
18	14	17	13	(4)	-24%
19	10	12	6	(6)	-60%
20	87	125	107	(18)	-14%
21	81	98	82	(16)	-16%
22	109	149	112	(37)	-25%
23	5	8	5	(3)	-60%
24	23	23	31	8	35%
25	30	67	87	20	30%
26	18	51	50	(1)	-2%
27	10	26	20	(6)	-23%
28	40	46	72	26	57%
29	11	12	16	4	33%
30	17	40	44	4	10%
31	40	50	50	0	0%
32	8	4	4	0	0%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1545	1788	1818	30	2%

Eligible for City-wide G&T Programs				
District	2006-2009 % City Wide Eligible	2009-2010 % City Wide Eligible	2010-2011 % City Wide Eligible	Change in % of Test Takers Who Are City Wide Eligible
1	8%	16%	17%	1%
2	16%	23%	23%	0%
3	21%	26%	23%	-3%
4	3%	8%	16%	8%
5	15%	18%	16%	0%
6	12%	18%	19%	1%
7	3%	5%	2%	-2%
8	6%	6%	7%	1%
9	4%	5%	4%	-1%
10	8%	15%	6%	-8%
11	6%	9%	7%	-2%
12	3%	8%	5%	-3%
13	14%	24%	19%	-6%
14	11%	12%	11%	-2%
15	13%	17%	16%	-1%
16	4%	8%	10%	2%
17	7%	10%	9%	-2%
18	4%	7%	5%	-2%
19	3%	5%	2%	-3%
20	9%	16%	13%	-3%
21	14%	21%	17%	-4%
22	10%	15%	12%	-3%
23	4%	8%	5%	-3%
24	3%	6%	6%	0%
25	5%	14%	14%	0%
26	4%	13%	11%	-2%
27	2%	7%	5%	-2%
28	8%	10%	12%	2%
29	3%	4%	5%	1%
30	3%	7%	7%	-1%
31	5%	7%	7%	1%
32	6%	3%	2%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	9%	14%	13%	-1%



## **Acknowledgements**

Our office would like to recognize the outstanding contributions on this paper by Christina Dumitrescu, Macaulay Honors College and Lehman College, CUNY 2011. Her research and passion for education reform were a great help on this report and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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<sup>i</sup> Javier Hernandez, Gap Persists in Test for Specialized High Schools, The New York Times, (February 6, 2009).

<sup>ii</sup> Treschan, Lazar, Latino Youth in New York City: School, Work, and Income Trends for New York's Largest Group of Young People, Community Service Society (October 2010), at 5.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iv</sup> John Garvey, Finally Doing Something about Specialized High School Admissions, Gotham Schools, (March 10, 2010)

<sup>v</sup> Rachel Kim, Maria Gindler and Ben Garner, Racial Disparity at Stuyvesant, The Spectator – Stuyvesant High School Paper, (December 1, 2008), sighting Sociologist Jennifer Jennings.

<sup>vi</sup> Andrea Diaz & Coralia Barrios, *The Bronx: In Search of a Breath of Fresh Air*, March 2007. Available at <http://www.thebronxjournal.com/the-bronx-in-search-of-a-breath-of-fresh-air/>. See also generally New York State Department of Health, *County Health Indicator Profiles (2004-2008)*. Available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chip/bronx.htm#bronx> (showing 166.6 cases per 100,000 persons in 2008, an increase over the previous two years).

<sup>vii</sup> Bob Kappstatter, *New Asthma Van Is a Breath of Fresh Air*, NY Daily News, March 19, 2002. Available at [http://articles.nydailynews.com/2002-03-19/local/18198084\\_1\\_mobile-clinic-asthma-breath-of-fresh-air](http://articles.nydailynews.com/2002-03-19/local/18198084_1_mobile-clinic-asthma-breath-of-fresh-air).

<sup>viii</sup> Kim Nauer, Andrew White and Rajeev Yerneni, Strengthening Schools by Strengthening Families, The New School, (October 2008) at 7.

<sup>ix</sup> Ramos, Melissa, Franklin, Noah, Suleiman Gonzalez, Layla, and Abina-Sotomayor, Keren. The State of Latino Families in New York 2011: An Overview of Health, Education, Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Issues, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (March 2011), at 18.

<sup>x</sup> JENNY FUNG and TEN-YOUNG GUH Despite SHSAT Racial Demographics, Students Favor the Individual over Ethnicity, The Spectator – Stuyvesant High School Paper, (November 15, 2010).

<sup>xi</sup> Reardon, Sean and Bischoff, Kendra. Growth in the Residential Segregation of Families by Income, 1970-2009. US 2010 Project (November 2011), at 2.

<sup>xii</sup> Tina Rosenberg, Beyond SATs, Finding Success in Numbers, The New York Times, February 15, 2012,

## **22. Legislative Agenda**

The office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. has, and will continue to, put forward a robust legislative agenda.

### **1. FAIR WAGES FOR NEW YORKERS ACT**

In 2009, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. led a coalition of elected leaders, community organizations, labor unions and others to pass the “Fair Wages for New Yorkers” Act. This law created a new system by which projects receiving \$1 million or more in New York City taxpayer subsidies must provide their employees with a “living wage,” which at the time of the bill’s passage was \$10 an hour with benefits and \$11.50 without.

A 2013 report found that this bill, contrary to the opinions of those who opposed its passing, found that developers and companies are as eager as ever to do business with the city. Data from the Industrial Development Agency used in that report showed that more 12,000 jobs are to be created on a range of new economic development projects covered by the living wage requirement. The New York City Industrial Development Agency (IDA), the agency directly responsible for assisting economic development projects with taxpayer support, has been operating at full capacity, with no change in the number of applications for subsidies, the report noted.

Borough President Diaz continues to support the expansion of this law. In February 2014, Borough President Diaz announced his support of an amendment to the law creating “labor peace.” This amendment, as described by *The New York Times*, would bar retail tenants in developments that receive city subsidies from opposing efforts to unionize their workers. In return, unions would promise not to picket the stores or call for work stoppages.

Borough President Diaz has also supported Mayor Bill de Blasio’s recent executive order expanding the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act. Thanks to that order, commercial tenants at projects that receive more than \$1 million in City subsidy will be covered by Living Wage provisions, and the Living Wage itself will be raised to from \$11.90 to \$13.13 per hour—likely reaching \$15.22 per hour by 2019.

The Living Wage executive order eliminates an exemption for future development at Hudson Yards, bringing thousands of additional jobs under living wage provisions in the years ahead. The order does not pertain to specific types of City-backed housing developments with high levels of affordability, small businesses with gross income under

\$3 million, and manufacturers, for which agencies will instead pursue skill-building and upward mobility on the career ladder in exchange for City support.

The Living Wage will be set at \$13.13 without benefits, or \$11.50 per hour with benefits, and will be adjusted each year to match changes in the Consumer Price Index. It previously stood at \$10.30 with benefits and \$11.90 without.

## **2. BEAUTY SALON GRADING SYSTEM:**

In September 2014, Borough President Diaz introducing legislation in the City Council that would create a new system of letter grades for cosmetology businesses, including nail salons, spas, barber shops, beauty parlors and other similar businesses throughout the five boroughs. The legislation was introduced at the behest of Borough President Diaz by Council Member Rafael Espinal, chairperson of the City Council's Consumer Affairs committee.

The new system will be modeled after the current letter grading system used by the Department of Health to monitor restaurants and food service establishments.

In addition to creating a new letter grade and inspection system Borough President Diaz's proposal also calls for the creation of a "Customer's Bill of Rights," which would be hung conspicuously in each establishment.

Borough President Diaz also introduced a resolution calling on the New York State Division of Licensing Services, which provides licensing for cosmetology professionals, to expand its health and safety training options.

The proposal comes in response to numerous reports of health and sanitation issues arising from dirty salons and spas. A 2013 report by Sara A. Walsh, titled "Beyond the Polish: An Examination of Hazardous Conditions in Nail Salons and Potential Solutions for the Industry in New York City," noted that unsanitary salons can lead to a variety of hazards, including staph or MRSA, hepatitis, fungus and other infections.

Public Advocate Letitia James has also released a report, "How Safe is Your Nail Salon?," which outlined safety hazards facing both customers and employees in nail salons, such as air quality issues created by chemicals used during manicures and pedicures, among other issues.

Borough President Diaz has been speaking with elected officials, business organizations and others as he works to pass this important legislation.



### **3. HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENT:**

Borough President Diaz supports the creation of a health impact statement for the City of New York, and has had a resolution introduced before the City Council calling for the creation of such a program.

A health impact assessment requirement will facilitate an atmosphere where economic development thrives and maintains the stature of our world-class city while considering the potential health implications of these projects for New Yorkers. The office believes that health implications must be explicitly measured when promoting economic development, so as to promote long-term health. Utilizing health impact assessments would do that.

Similar work is already underway across the United States. Government agencies such as the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Philadelphia Department of Public Health; and outside groups, such as Health Impact Partners, have pioneered the use of health impact assessments in planning decisions. As the largest metropolis in the nation, and with one of the lowest carbon footprints per capita, it is our responsibility to continue to champion the health and well-being of our great city as we develop economically. Moreover, Philadelphia has included health language, statistics, recommendations written into the city's comprehensive plan, Philadelphia2035. They have developed health-promoting development incentives, requirements, and adopted HIA guidelines into the zoning code.

The creation of a law requiring HIAs in New York City will ensure that our economic development takes health outcomes into account. Borough President Diaz believes that HIAs can be used as a risk-management tool for businesses, this additional measure that will create healthier workplaces, healthier families and ultimately, a healthier and more sustainable New York City.

### **4. ILLEGAL MOTORCYCLE/DIRT BIKES FUEL LAW:**

In October 2013, Borough President Diaz called for a new City law requiring heavy fines for those gas stations that allow illegal dirt bikes and four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to fill up at their pumps.

Borough President Diaz's call for new regulation came after several highly publicized incidents of misbehavior on behalf of illegal vehicles and their drivers on City streets. The legislation, which has been introduced at Borough President Diaz's behest, would address the ongoing scourge of illegal vehicles on City streets by fining gas stations that permitted illegal vehicles to use their pumps, unless that vehicle was secured in a trailer that was attached to another, legal vehicle.

Those fines would top out at \$1,000 per incident.

5. **GUN CRIME OFFENDER REGISTRY:**

In August 2014, our office introduced legislation in the City Council to create a gun crime offender registry.

The bill mandates that registered gun offenders will be listed in a publicly available online sub-directory, which will provide a searchable database. Individuals can sign up for free automatic email notifications when an offender moves into a geographic area they specified.

The registry will be updated on a monthly basis and will include: the offender's name, block on which they live, a physical description, the crime the offender was convicted of, and sentence imposed. Gun offenders are required to be registered for only four years from the date of release or after conviction, after which their names are expunged.

Our office is seeking a similar registry available statewide, as well.

## **23. SENIORS**

### **Senior Resource Guide**

In 2011, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. released the first-ever “Bronx Senior Resource Guide,” a comprehensive publication designed to provide a wide variety of information to both senior citizens and their service providers.

The guide includes information on numerous senior citizen services available in the Bronx—from housing and healthcare to veterans’ benefits and transportation—in a handy, easy to use format.

This guide helps senior citizens and our borough’s numerous senior resource providers take advantage of the many benefits and programs that are available to them, often at little or no cost.

An up-to-date version of this guide is attached.



# **BRONX SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE**

**Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Office of the Bronx Borough President**

**Ruben Diaz Jr.**

851 Grand Concourse

Suite 301

Bronx, New York 10451

### **Senior Services Unit**

(718) 590-6248

### **Constituent Services**

(718) 590-3554

Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **New York City Department for the Aging**

(212) 602-4100

Central Information & Referral

2 Lafayette Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York 10007

### **New York State Office for the Aging**

(800) 342-9871

2 Empire State Plaza

Albany, New York 12223-1251

### **Carrier Alert Program**

In partnership with the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Department for the Aging and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities have launched Carrier Alert. This voluntary preventive program enhances a letters carrier's ability to respond when a senior or person with disability may be in distress. For assistance please contact the New York City Department for the Aging at 311.



## COMMUNITY BOARDS

### **Community Board #1**

Cedric Loftin, District Manager

George Rodriguez, Board Chair

3030 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Bronx, New York 10455

(718) 585-7117

Neighborhoods: Mott Haven, Port Morris, and Melrose

### **Community Board #2**

Rafael Salamanca Jr., District Manager

Dr. Ian Amritt, Board Chair

1029 East 163<sup>rd</sup> Street

Bronx, New York 10459

(718) 328-9125

Neighborhoods: Hunts Point, Longwood, and Morrisania

### **Community Board #3**

John Dudley, District Manager

Gloria S. Aston, Board Chair

1426 Boston Road

Bronx, New York 10456

(718) 378-8054

Neighborhoods: Crotona Park, Claremont Village, Concourse Village, Woodstock, and Morrisania

### **Community Board #4**

Jose Rodriguez, District Manager

Kathleen Saunders, Board Chair

1650 Selwyn Avenue, Room 11

Bronx, New York 10457

(718) 299-0800

Neighborhoods: Highbridge, Concourse, Mt. Eden, and Concourse Village

**Community Board #5**

Xavier Rodriguez, District Manager

Dr. Bola Omotosho, Board Chair

Bronx Community College

University Avenue West 181<sup>st</sup> Street

Bronx, New York 10453

(718) 364-2030

Neighborhoods: Fordham University, Heights, Morris Heights, Bathgate, and Mount Hope

**Community Board #6**

Irvine Galarza, District Manager

Wendy Rodriguez, Board Chair

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 709

Bronx, New York 10458

(718) 579-6990

Neighborhoods: Belmont, Bathgate, West Farms, and E. Tremont

**Community Board #7**

Dustin Engelken, District Manager

Adaline Walker-Santiago, Board Chair

229A East 204<sup>th</sup> Street

Bronx, New York 10458

(718) 993-5650

Neighborhoods: Norwood, University Heights, and Jerome Park

**Community Board #8**

(Vacant) District Manager

Dan Padernacht, Board Chair

5676 Riverdale Avenue

Bronx, New York 10471

(718) 884-3959

Neighborhoods: Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge Heights, Fieldston, and Marble Hill

**Community Board #9**

(Vacant) District Manager

William Rivera, Board Chair

1967 Turnbull Avenue, Room 7

Bronx, New York 10473

(718) 823-3034

Neighborhoods: Parkchester, Westchester Square, Unionport, Soundview, Castle Hill, Bruckner, Harding Park, and Clason Point

**Community Board #10**

Kenneth Kearns, District Manager

Martin Prince, Board Chair

3165 East Tremont Avenue

Bronx, New York 10461

(718) 892-1161

Neighborhoods: Co-op City, City Island, Spencer Estates, Throggs Neck, Country Club, Zerega, Westchester Square, Pelham Bay Park, Eastchester Bay, Schuylerville, Edgewater, Locust Point, and Silver Beach

**Community Board #11**

Jeremy Warneke, District Managers

Anthony Vitaliano, Board Chair

1741 Colden Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

(718) 892-6262

Neighborhood: Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Gardens, Allerton Avenue, Bronxdale, Laconia and Van Nest

**Community Board #12**

(Vacant), District Manager

Father Richard Gorman, Board Chair

4101 White Plains Road

Bronx, New York 10466

(718) 881-4455

Neighborhoods: Edenwald, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Norwood, Fish Bay, Eastchester, Olinville, and Baychester



## SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Seniors centers serve persons 60 years-old and over by providing nutritious meals and a wide range of social, recreational, educational, counseling and other support services. For more information and the location of the center in your neighborhood contact:

### **New York City Department for the Aging**

2 Lafayette Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 602-4100 or 311

### **Senior Centers Listed by Community Board**

#### **Community Board #1**

South Bronx Community Corporation for Seniors  
441 East 155<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10455  
(347) 590-2108

PSS Andrew Jackson Senior Center  
325 East 156<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 585-1640

Betances Senior Center  
401 St. Ann's Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10454  
(718) 292-4922

Douglas Leon Senior Center  
735 East 152<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10455  
(718) 708-6897

Patterson Senior Center  
308 East 145<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 993-5146

Maria Isabel Senior Center  
787 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10455  
(718) 402-8078

Melrose Mott Haven Senior Center  
372 East 152<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10455  
(718) 665-2280

Millbrook Senior Center  
201 St. Ann's Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10454  
(718) 401-4901

Mitchell Houses  
188 Lincoln Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 665-2168

BW/ E. Roberts Moore Senior Center  
515 Jackson Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 665-5559

**Community Board #2**

Housing Options & Geriatric  
Association Resources, Inc. (HOGAR)  
751 Dawson Street  
Bronx, New York 10455  
(718) 742-7646

SEBCO Senior Programs  
Erma-Cava Building  
887 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10459  
(718) 617-3465

Mid Bronx Senior Center  
900 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 992-2057

**Community Board #3**

Davidson Senior Center  
950 Union Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10459  
(718) 328-2810/ 2811

Arturo Schomberg Senior Center  
1315 Franklin Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 842-6880

William Hodson Senior Center  
1320 Webster Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 538-1515

Casa Boricua Senior Center  
910 East 172nd Street  
Bronx, New York 10460  
(718) 542-0222

**Community Board #4**

Concourse Village Special Adult  
773 Concourse Village East  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 293-6552

Mid Bronx Project Homebound- Case  
Management (Bx. 4-6)  
900 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 588-8200

Hope of Israel Senior Citizen Center  
1068 Gerard Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10452  
(718) 665-8400

PSS Highbridge Senior Center  
1181 Nelson Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Bronx, New York 10452  
(718) 588-3004

**Community Board #5**

BW/East Concourse Senior Center  
236 East Tremont Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 731-6300

BW/Heights Center for Senior Center  
200 West Tremont Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 299-0300

BW/Morris Senior Center  
80 East 181st Street  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 933-5300

BW/Roberto Clemente Senior  
Services Office  
River Park Towers  
30 Richman Plaza  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 299-2670



**Community Board #6**

Aquinas Senior Services  
1912 Crotona Parkway  
Bronx, New York 10460  
(718) 842-6440

SEBCO-Mount Carmel Center for  
Senior Citizens  
2405 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 733-8852

Neighborhood Shop Guess Senior  
Center  
2070 Clinton Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 584-2357

**Community Board #7**

Dora & Harry Simon Senior Center  
5625 Arlington Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 548-8200

Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center  
(Bronx 7-8)  
3450 Dekalb Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 798-6601

RAIN Bailey Senior Center  
2660 Bailey Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 796-2559

Sister Annunciata Bethel Senior Center  
Bedford Park Multi-Service for Senior  
Citizens, Inc.  
243 East 204th Street  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 365-3725

RAIN Tolentine Zeiser Nutrition Program  
2345 University Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 933-6395

Riverdale Senior Services  
2600 Netherland Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 884-5900

## **Community Board #8**

Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center  
(Bronx 7-8)  
3450 Dekalb Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 798-6601

JASA/Van Cortlandt Village Senior  
Center  
3880 Sedgwick Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 549-4700

RAIN Bailey Senior Center  
2660 Bailey Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 796-2559

Riverdale Neighborhood House  
5521 Mosholu Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 549-8100

Riverdale Senior Center  
2600 Netherland Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 884-5900

Dora & Harry Simon Senior Center  
(Riverdale Y Bronx 7-8)  
5625 Arlington Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 548-8200

Marble Hill Senior Center  
5365 Broadway  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 562-8551

### **Community Board #9**

Bronx River Senior Center  
1619 East Street  
Bronx, New York 10472  
(718) 617-6334

Soundview Senior Center  
1674 Seward Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10472  
(718) 328-1809

Glebe Senior Center  
2125 Glebe Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10462  
(718) 829-1564

James Monroe Senior Center  
1776 Story Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10473  
(718) 893-3484

Kips Bay Castle Hill Senior Center  
625 Castle Hill Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10473  
(718) 893-8600

Mechler Hall Senior Center  
2158 Watson Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10472  
(718) 892-1396

RAIN Eastchester Senior Center  
1246 Burke Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 882-8513

RAIN Parkchester Senior Center  
1380 Metropolitan Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10462  
(718) 597-9220



## **Community Board #10**

PSS- City Island Senior Center  
116 City Island  
Bronx, New York 10464  
(718) 885-0727

Co-op City Senior Center  
2049 Bartow Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 320-2066

Dreiser Senior Center  
177 Dreiser Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 320-1345

Einstein Senior Center  
135 Einstein Loop  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 671-5161

HANAC I & R & Rec  
3573 Bruckner Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 409-9876

JASA Throgs Neck Senior Center  
2705 Schley Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 823-1771

Northeast Bronx Senior Citizen Center  
2968 Bruckner Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 892-6090

RAIN Eastchester Senior Center  
1246 Burke Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 882-8513

RAIN Middletown Senior Center  
3035 Middletown Road  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 822-0486

## **Community Board #11**

Allerton Senior Center  
1415 Allerton Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 652-0414

Bronx House Senior Center  
990 Pelham Parkway South  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 792-1800

Ginsburg Senior Center  
975 Waring Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 881-1758

Morris Park Community Association  
1824 Bronxdale Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10462  
(718) 823-0596

North East Bronx Association, Inc.  
2325 Vance Street  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 231-8569

Parkside Senior Center  
644 Adeo Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 881-7780

RAIN Boston Road Senior Center  
2424 Boston Road  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 547-8827

RAIN Eastchester Senior Center  
1246 Burke Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 882-8513

San Gennaro Senior Citizen Center  
1556 Williambridge Road  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 931-4440

## **Community Board #12**

Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
4275 Katonah Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10470  
(718) 324-3039

JASA/Bay Eden Senior Center  
1229 East 229th Street  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 822-3815

RAIN Boston Secor Senior Center  
3540 Bivona Street  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 892-5520

RAIN Gunhill Senior Center  
3377 White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 881-5589

RAIN Nereid Senior Center  
720 Nereid Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 994-0132

RAIN Boston East Senior Center  
3450 Boston Road  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 654-9200



## SENIOR SERVICES

Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) is a State-funded program that assists elders who need help with activities of daily living provides an array of services designed to help the individual residing at home.

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

SSI is a monthly payment to people with low-income who are 65 or older or blind or otherwise disabled. Payments supplement Social Security and/or other income. With some exceptions, United States citizenship is required.

Applicants eligible for SSI may also qualify for Medicaid and Food Stamps.  
Apply to: Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213

## VETERANS BENEFITS

Pensions for low-income and disabled veterans; health care; vocational training; rehabilitation services; education; home loans; disability compensation; life insurance; burial and other benefits are available.

Medical benefits include care in VA hospitals, nursing homes and outpatient services. Dependents and survivors may also be eligible for certain benefits.

You may contact Veterans Benefits at:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, New York Regional Office  
245 West Houston Street  
New York, New York 10014  
(800) 827-1000

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA) helps meet emergency financial needs of people eligible for, or who are receiving, social security. EAA provides assistance in hardship situations, such as replacing lost, stolen or not received SSI checks, or providing funds to cover food needs to prevent eviction or utility shut-off. Call the Human Resources Administration info line at (718) 557-1399 or 311.

## **CITY MEALS-ON-WHEELS**

City Meals-on-Wheels raises private funds to ensure no homebound elderly New Yorker will ever go a day without food or human company. Last year, our family of contributors helped us bring over 2.2 million nutritious meals to 18,065 frail aged in every borough of New York City. In addition, over 1,500 volunteers collectively spent 62,000 hours visiting and delivering meals to New York's frail aged.

### **Weekend Meals**

City Meals contracts with local meal centers to prepare and deliver nutritious meals on Saturdays and Sundays as government funding only covers meals Monday through Friday and not on holidays.

### **Who is eligible for meals-on-wheels?**

To qualify for home-delivered meals, a person must be at least 60 years-old and have a chronic physical or mental disability preventing them from shopping for food or preparing meals for themselves.

To get meals-on-wheels service, every client must receive an assessment visit by a case manager from their local case management agency.

### **How can I get meals?**

Go to [www.citymeals.org](http://www.citymeals.org), enter the ZIP code of the homebound person, and the local case management agency in their community will pop up with a phone number for you to call.

### **BRONX MEALS PROVIDERS**

Mid Bronx Senior Citizens Council  
900 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 992-2057

RAIN Senior Options  
3450 Boston Road, Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 231-7246

You can also call contact City Meals-on-Wheels by telephone at (212) 687-1234 or by email: [getmeals@citymeals.org](mailto:getmeals@citymeals.org)

## BRONX CASE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Case management services focus on senior's individual needs and interests, identifying services and resources that enable them to continue living full and independent lives within their communities. Services provided by case management are:

- Arranging home delivered meals (Kosher and non-Kosher).
- Advocacy to help secure all available community services.
- Assistance with managing health concerns.
- Conducting referrals to help with the demands of daily living, including light housekeeping, cleaning, shopping, laundry, personal care, and other home care services.

Below is a listing of the Case Management Agencies that provide service throughout The Bronx:

JASA- Co-op City  
135 Einstein Loop  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 379-0433

Neighborhood SHOPP  
910 East 172nd Street  
Bronx, New York 10460  
(718) 328-3536

RAIN Multi-Services for Seniors  
3377A White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(347) 346-9676



## TRANSPORTATION

### **What is Access-A-Ride?**

Access-a-Ride provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use public bus or subway service for some or all of their trips. It offers shared ride, door-to-door paratransit service. AAR operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When you call 877-337-2017 and reserve your trip to a location in Nassau or Westchester counties, the reservationist will inform you if the location is within the three-quarter mile service area. New York City Transit (NYC Transit) administers Access-a-Ride; private carriers under contract to NYC Transit provide service.

Access-A-Ride, New York City Transit, Paratransit Division  
130 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
(877) 337-2017  
Or (718) 393-4999 if you are calling from an outside region

<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/nyct/paratran/guide.htm>

### **IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION PHONE NUMBERS:**

N.Y.C Transit Authority Information (718) 330-1234  
Transit Authority Customer Services 511

### **Reduced Fare**

Individuals 65 and older or with qualifying disability may apply for a Reduced Fare card by mail or person. Documentation is needed when applying for Reduced Fare Metrocard or Photo Identification Metrocard.

#### **By Mail:**

1. Read and complete an application
2. Enclose a 2" x 2 ½" photograph
3. Enclose a photocopy of acceptable proof of age: Driver's License, Medicare Card, or proof of a qualifying disability and mail to:

**MTA New York City Transit**  
**Att: Reduced fare Program**  
130 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201-9625

In Person:

You can bring your application to a MetroCard Bus or Van or to the Walk-In MetroCard Customer Service Center.

1. Bring two valid ID's: Driver's License, Medicare Card, or birth certificate, one of which must have a photograph of you.
2. Free photography services available

Where to go:

MetroCard Bus or Van

Or

**MTA Customer Service Center**  
**3 Stone Street**  
**New York, New York 10004**

Hours: Open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays

Or call (718) 330-1234

#### **Metro Card Van Services**

If you are 65 or older, bring proof of age: a driver's license, Medicare card or birth certificate (one must have a photo). The MTA will help you complete your application and take your photograph.

## Bronx Metro Card Van Schedule

Location	When	Time
Bronx Borough Hall (Grand Concourse & 161 Street)	2nd Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Co-op City at Bartow Mall (Co-op City Boulevard)	1st & 3rd Thursday	9 AM - 10:30 AM
Co-op City at Dreiser Loop	1st & 3rd Thursday	11 AM - 12:30 PM
Co-op City at Einstein Loop	1st & 3rd Thursday	1 PM - 2:30 PM
East Bronx at 3369 East Tremont Avenue between Bruckner Boulevard & Haskins Street	2nd Friday	1PM - 3PM
Fordham Road & Grand Concourse	2nd & 4th Friday	12 noon - 2 PM
Fordham Plaza – Intersection of Fordham Road, 3rd Avenue & Webster Avenue	2nd & 4th Friday	2:30 PM - 4 PM
Kingsbridge at West 231 Street & Broadway	1st & 3rd Wednesday	2 PM - 3 PM
Parkchester at Metropolitan Oval	2nd Wednesday	11 AM - 12:30 PM
Riverdale at Skyview Shopping Center (Riverdale Avenue between West 256 & West 259 St)	1st & 3rd Wednesday	12 noon - 1 PM
Riverdale at West 235 Street & Johnson Avenue	1st & 3rd Wednesday	9 AM - 11:30 AM
Throgs Neck at St. Frances DeChantal Church (190 Hollywood Avenue)	2nd Wednesday	9 AM - 10 AM
Van Cortlandt Village (3880 Sedgwick Avenue)	2nd & 4th Friday	9:30 AM -11 AM



**Permits/Franchises****New York State Parking Permits For People with Disabilities.**

To be eligible to receive a City Parking Permit for People with Disabilities, the following requirements must be met:

- You must require the use of a private vehicle for transportation.
- You must have a severe, permanent disability that impairs mobility as certified by your personal physician and a New York City physician designated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

To obtain an application visit [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot) or call 311 or (718) 433-3100

Application for a New York State Parking Permit for People with Disabilities must be mailed to:

NYC Department of Transportation  
Division of Traffic and Planning  
28-11 Queens Plaza North, 8th Floor  
Long Island City, New York 11101-4008

## **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

SNAP formally, the Food Stamps Program, allow persons with limited incomes to buy food or meals to stay healthy. Instead of coupons, recipients now receive a debit card for purchases. To find out if you are eligible to receive food stamps, visit or call your local office:

### **SNAP Offices**

SNAP Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The ones marked with an asterisk stay open until 6 p.m., are open an additional hour on the day designated, and are also open on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **Concourse**

1375 Jerome Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Bronx, New York 10452  
(718) 722-8013  
(718) 590-7235

#### **Crotona Office**

1910 Monterey Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 722-8013  
(718) 901-5459

#### **Hunts Point**

845 Barretto Street, B-Level Floor  
Bronx, New York 10474  
(718) 722-8013  
(929) 252-4920 (8:30am-9am only)

## **SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP):**

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) gives low-income older adults free coupons that can be exchanged for eligible food at local farmers markets. The program encourages them to consume fresh fruits and vegetables. Coupons are available in July for use through November. For more information and the location of farmers markets call, (212) 442-3026.

## HOME CARE SERVICES FOR SENIORS

### In-Home Support Services

Home care services provide the extra help the frail elderly need to remain in their own homes and communities. The following services may be available in your community.

### Home Attendant Program

Home Attendant services provide personal care and assistance in the activities of daily living to adults who are aged, disabled or handicapped. These services are provided at the request of a physician. Services are available to recipients of SSI, Medicaid and Public Assistance.

### Homemaker Services

Homemaker services provide household management and personal care for aged or handicapped adults in order to prevent their placement in institutions. Homemakers deal with some of the fundamental housekeeping chores (cleaning, marketing, etc.), as well as some personal care and home management. Homemaker services can be provided up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### Housekeeper/Chore Services

Housekeeping is a part-time service (up to 12 hours per week for adults) generally provided to elderly or handicapped individuals who are medically in need of this service and are unable to perform basic household task. Recipients of this service must be able to direct and supervise the housekeeper assigned to them. Adults eligible for the service include those receiving Public Assistance, SSI and Medicaid.

Contact your local Community Alternative Systems Agency II (CASA II) for Home Care Services:

Bronx CASA

890 Garrison Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Bronx, New York 10474

(929) 252-4564 or (929) 252-4565

Fax (718) 617-7750



## EMPLOYMENT

### **The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation**

The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), which serves as economic development consultants for the Office of the Bronx Borough President, is also pleased to assist job seekers of all ages in need of help with their job search.

Services include:

- Job referrals
- Critiquing of resume
- Notification of job fairs

For more information call (718) 590-6252 or you may visit the office at:

Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation  
851 Grand Concourse, Room 123  
Bronx, New York 10451

### **The Foster Grandparent Program**

The Foster Grandparent Program is a volunteer program that offers seniors age 60 and older a paid non-taxable stipend to serve as mentors, tutors and caregivers for children and youth with special needs. Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours per week in community-based organizations such as elementary schools, hospitals, day care programs, after-school programs and Head Start programs.

Foster Grandparent Program  
New York Department for the Aging  
2 Lafayette Street  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 602-4214 or Dial 311

### **SENIOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

The Department for the Aging's Senior Employment Services (SES) assists New York City residents 55 years of age and older who are seeking work opportunities. SES workshops offer classroom training, job search techniques and part-and full-time job placements. All SES programs offer employment contact and placement assistance for low to moderate income mature adults.

Contact:

NYC Department for the Aging  
Senior Employment Services  
2 Lafayette Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Dial 311 or call (212) 602-6966

**Job Training & Placement Agencies**

The following are agencies which specialize in job training and placement for senior citizens:

Bronx Workforce1 Career Center  
400 East Fordham Road  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 960-2458

University Heights Workforce1 Career Center  
2150 University Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 552-1550

Hunts Point Workforce1 Career Center  
1029 East 163<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Bronx, New York 10459  
(718) 542-6777

**LEGAL SERVICES**

Several organizations provide legal services free of charge to senior citizens who are in financial need. They handle cases related to landlord tenant conflicts, government benefit programs (Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps) and consumer and public utility disputes. Contact:

**LSNY-Bronx Corp**  
**dba Legal Services NYC Bronx**  
349 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 928-3700

## EDUCATION

Many New York City educational institutions welcome senior citizens in their courses. Whether you graduated from college or never received a high school diploma, there are many opportunities to go back to school.

### **High School Programs**

The Department of Education (DOE) has offerings for adults of all ages, including courses on computer skills, English for speakers of other languages, literacy, and GED classes.

Bronx Adult Learning Center  
3450 East Tremont Avenue, Room 323  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 863-4057  
[www.adultednyc.com](http://www.adultednyc.com)

There are a number of colleges and universities in the Bronx which offer discounts on tuition or registration to older adults. For more information, call the colleges listed below:

### **CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)**

Bronx Community College  
2155 University Avenue  
South Hall, Suite 211  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 289-5100

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College  
500 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10451  
Phone (718) 518-4444

Lehman College  
Shuster Hall  
250 Bedford Park Boulevard West  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(877) Lehman  
(718) 960-8706/ Fax: (718)960-8712



## CULTURAL CENTERS & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Wildlife Conservation Society –  
Bronx Zoo  
2300 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10460  
(718) 220-5100

**Seniors Admission Cost - \$19.75-  
\$21.95**

65 and over  
[www.bronxzoo.com](http://www.bronxzoo.com)

Bronx Museum of the Arts  
1040 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 681-6000  
(718) 681-6181 Fax

**Seniors Admission Cost - FREE**

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday  
Free on Fridays  
[www.bronxmuseum.org](http://www.bronxmuseum.org)

The New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx River Parkway @ Fordham Road  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 817-8700

**Senior All Garden Pass: \$18-\$22**

**Senior Grounds Only: \$6**

Grounds admission is FREE to  
everyone all day Wednesdays and  
Saturdays 9am-10am  
[www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

Bronx Council on the Arts  
1738 Hone Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 931-9500

**Senior Membership-\$25**

[www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org)

Bronx Opera Company  
Lovinger Theater – Lehman College  
250 Bedford Boulevard Park West  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 960-8833

**Senior Discount- \$5.00 off of tickets**

[www.bronxopera.org](http://www.bronxopera.org)

### Historical Societies

Bronx Historical Society  
3309 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 881-8900

**Seniors Discount – Save 15%**

Pelham Masonic Historical Society of  
City Island  
241 City Island Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10464  
(718) 885-3233

The City Island Historical Society and  
Nautical Museum  
190 Fordham Street  
Bronx, New York 10464  
(718) 885-0008

[www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org)

**Membership Senior Discount - \$10.00**

**Admission – Free**

## **THE GRANDPARENT RESOURCE CENTER**

The GRC provides a number of supportive services that include information and referral, recreational activities, educational workshops, advocacy, and case assistance to people who are raising grandchildren and other young relatives and need services to help them with this new role. The Center sponsors a network for grandparent support group facilitators to exchange ideas, collaborate on events, and receive specialized training.

To Reach the Grandparents Resource Center call  
(212) 602-4299 or call 311.

## **Caring for Minor Children**

Grandparent/Kinship Caregivers Support Programs Directory that is designed to provide information on resources and services available across the state to support grandparents and other relatives (kinship caregivers) raising children. The directory is available on the NYSOFA website at  
<http://www.aging.ny.gov/Caregiving/GrandParents/Index.cfm>

Kinship Navigator is a growing number of grandparents and other older relatives find themselves caring for their grandchildren and other relative children due to death, substance abuse, mental illness, incarceration, military deployment and other reasons. The Kinship Navigator is an on-line statewide resource for information and referral where you can access information on laws, legal rights and issues on custody and visitation, eligibility for benefits and entitlement programs, tax credits, respite care and other local services. You can also call their toll-free number at 1-877-454-6463 to speak to a representative, or email: them at [navigator@nysnavigator.org](mailto:navigator@nysnavigator.org)  
PSS/Grandparents Apartments

The Center offers a wide range of services: support groups, counseling, case management, educational workshops and seminars, homework assistance, recreational activities, legal services and a summer day camp.

GFA's goal is to assist each grandparent with reaching her/his full potential as grandparents raising grandchildren and to enable the grandchildren to gain the emotional and educational tools for success.

## **Listing of Kinship Caregivers Support Program**

Presbyterian Senior Services  
Kinship Caregivers Program  
(718) 620-1262 Ext. 1213

## BURIAL INFORMATION

If a senior citizen dies, leaving no money, family or friends to pay for the burial, contact:

Public Administrator- Bronx County  
851 Grand Concourse, Room 336  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 293-7660

Bronx County Medical Examiner  
1600 Pelham Parkway South  
Bronx, New York 10013  
(718) 829-2030  
(718) 725-3930

[www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/patient/funeral.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/patient/funeral.htm)  
"A Consumer's Guide to Arranging a Funeral"

Provides information about many New York City government social services including, eviction prevention, child care, Medicaid, services for people with AIDS, utility shutoffs, homeless shelters, family problems, etc.

HRA INFORMATION LINE  
(877) HRA-8411



## ELDER ABUSE

The Department for the Aging directly, and through a network of community-based agencies, sponsors elder abuse prevention activities for older New Yorkers and provides counseling and supportive services to victims of elder abuse in New York City.

### Elder Abuse Defined

Elder abuse is any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person holding a trusting relationship with a vulnerable older adult, which causes harm or a serious risk of harm to that older adult including physical, emotional, sexual, or financial harm, or neglect, abandonment or confinement.

### Resource Center

The Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center provides direct resource and referral to victims of elder abuse and also coordinates our education and prevention efforts around this important agency mission. The Elderly Crime Victims Program within DFTA can be contacted by phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (311). After hours, callers are routed to Safe Horizon's hotline to ensure 24/7 assistance.

### **Community Resources**

Many resources exist in the community to assist victims of elder abuse.

#### Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center

##### Department for the Aging

2 Lafayette Street

New York, New York 10007

Citywide 311

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Will provide counseling, advocacy, information and referral and assist with the completion of CVB applications.

#### Crime Victims Support Services of the North Bronx

1138 Neil Avenue

Bronx, New York 10461

(718) 823-4925

Monday- Friday 9 a.m. -5 p.m.

Will provide counseling over the phone and with completion of CVB applications.  
Bronx Elder abuse/domestic violence

Bronx District Attorney's Office Elder Abuse Unit

198 East 161 Street, 5th Floor

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-2260

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The elder abuse unit assists victims with crisis intervention, education about criminal court process, advocacy and referrals.

BronxWorks, Inc.

Bronx Works, Inc., has a case manager who helps victims of elder abuse in all its forms: physical, emotional, verbal and financial. Our case manager helps seniors get restraining orders, accompanies them to court, and helps get them whatever additional assistance they need. Bronx Works, Inc., works closely with the police, the Bronx District Attorney's office and Adult Protective Services.

For more information, please contact (718) 933-5300 or you may visit them at:

Bronx Works, Inc. - Morris Innovative Senior Center

80 East 181<sup>st</sup> Street

Bronx, New York 10453

**Bronx Domestic Violence**

**Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons, Inc.**

Neighborhood Shopp VIP Program

953 Southern Boulevard, Suite 203

Bronx, New York 10459

(718) 542-0006

Community Districts 1-8

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The VIP Program provides the following services to seniors who are victims of domestic violence and crime by providing the following:

- Information and referral
- Case assistance (file police reports and/ or obtain an order of protection)
- Individual and family counseling
- Assistance with crime victims compensation claims
- Crisis intervention
- Crime and elder abuse prevention workshop
- Educational presentations

**Bronx Elder Abuse Safe Horizons Family Court Program**

900 Sheridan Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 6E38

Bronx, New York 10451

(718) 590-2371

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Bronx Elder Abuse Safe Horizons Family Court Program assists victims who come to family court. Assistance includes:

- Crisis intervention
- Education on court process
- Assistance with family offense petition
- Referrals
- Safety planning
- Assistance with crime victim board applications and emergency assistance for Bronx elder abuse/ domestic violence.



## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In providing services to impaired adults, it is required for Protective Services for Adults to work with agencies dealing with aging, medical and mental health, legal issues and law enforcement. Services available by Protective Services for Adults include:

- Investigation and assessment of the adult's needs and risk of harm
- Counseling for the victimized adult and their family
- Advocacy and case management services including arranging for medical and mental health assessments, applying for benefits and assuring coordinated delivery services
- Finding alternative living arrangements, including providing emergency room and board for up to 30 days
- Financial management services, including serving as representative payee<sup>™</sup>
- Homemaker and housekeeper chore services, within specified limits
- Crisis interventions, such as securing access orders, involuntary protective service orders and orders of protection
- Long-term legal interventions, such as pursuing guardianship

For further information on any of these services, please contact your local department of social services and ask for Protective Services for Adults.

Bronx Borough Office: (718) 620-8880

## AGE DISCRIMINATION

Age discrimination is sometimes clear, but more often subtle. It can occur in housing and with your credit. If you have a question of whether you are being discriminated against because of age and are 60 years or older, contact:

Bronx (Headquarters)

### New York State Division of Human Rights

One Fordham Plaza, 4th Floor

Bronx, New York 10458

(718) 741-8400

Bronx Works, Inc. Morris Innovative Senior Center

80 East 181st Street

Bronx, New York 10453

(718) 933-5300

Services available Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm

## HEALTH

### **ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE PROGRAM (EPIC)**

(800) 332-3742

EPIC is a New York State program that helps seniors pay for their prescription drugs. More than a quarter million EPIC enrollees are saving an average of 90 percent of the cost of their medicines. Most enrollees have Medicare Part D or other drug coverage, and use EPIC to lower their drug costs even more by helping them pay the deductibles and co-payments required by their other drug plan. EPIC also helps members pay for Medicare Part D premiums.

Medicare (Enrollment Period: October 15-December 7<sup>th</sup>)

Helps pay certain hospital costs and medical care after deductibles, co-insurance and/or premiums.

For more information call (800) MEDICARE or speak to a Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program counselor at (212) 602-4180.

#### Medicare Savings Program

This program is a Medicaid- administered program available to Medicare consumers with limited income. If you qualify, this program will pay your Medicare Part B premium. If you would like to enroll in the Medicare Savings Program you may request an application by calling the HRA Medicaid Helpline at 888-692-6116 or pick one up at any Community Medicaid Office. You may submit your application in person or by mail.

Applications must be mailed to:  
HRA/ Medical Assistance Program  
MSP-CREP, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 24330  
Brooklyn, New York 11202-9801

#### **New York Prescription Saver Card**

A free pharmacy discount card for New York State residents. You can use this card at participating pharmacies to save as much as 60 percent on generics and 30 percent on brand name drugs.

Call New York Prescription Saver at (800) 788-6917

**Medicaid**

Pays medical bills for low-income persons including services not covered by Medicare (dental care, home care, institutional care, prescription drugs, eye glasses, and hearing aids). Call (800) 541-2831 or 311 for more information.

**Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HICAP)**

The NYC HICAP is New York's source for free, current and impartial information about health care coverage. About 500 trained HICAP counselors are available to answer Bronx resident's questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage programs (managed care), Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medigap and other health and long term care insurance. Counseling is available through a toll free HICAP Helpline at (800) 701-0501 or (212) 341-3978. Callers will be prompted to enter their zip code and will then be routed to their local office for the aging to talk with a trained counselor. You can also find information about HICAP on the internet at: <http://www.hicap.state.ny.us>

**ALZHEIMER'S AND CAREGIVER RESOURCE**

The New York City Department for the Aging's Alzheimer's and Caregiver Resource Center has experts in dementia and long-term care issues who are available to help you develop a plan of care that can benefit both you and your loved one.

All services provided by the Alzheimer's and Caregiver Resource Center are free of charge and strictly confidential. They include:

Assessment of needs

Individual and family counseling

Referral to community services

Education and training

Entitlement information

Assistance with the nursing home placement process

Information on housing alternatives such as assisted living enriched housing, etc.

The NYC Department for the Aging provides a wide array of programs and services to older New Yorkers who helped build this great city. The Department is the place to turn for answers about government benefits and services, assistance with applications and other special services.



**ALERT & ALIVE DISCUSSION**

Alert & Alive is an informal discussion group led by senior volunteers. Trained and supervised to run their own sessions on a continuous basis, volunteers learn the necessary skills to establish a warm and friendly atmosphere for peer group discussions. The goal is to help members feel comfortable sharing their beliefs, attitudes and concerns about aging. Training also emphasizes the importance of effective communication tools as the basis for a successful program.

To participate in this program you must be a registered member of a participating senior center. Days and times vary upon location, please contact center for discussion group schedule.

**Bronx Programs**

Casa Boricua Senior Center  
910 East 172<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10460  
(718) 542-0222

Dreiser Senior Center  
177 Dreiser Loop  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 320-1345

RAIN Boston Road Senior Center  
2424 Boston Road  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 547-8827

RAIN Eastchester Senior Center  
1246 Burke Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 882-8513

RAIN Nereid Senior Center  
720 Nereid Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 994-0132

### **BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING PROGRAM**

This program trains senior volunteers to measure the blood pressure of their peers. Once trained, the senior volunteers hold bi-weekly screening and monitoring sessions. Adhering to a special protocol, they keep records and follow-up with anyone whose blood pressure is too high or too low. They encourage program participants with questions about their blood pressure readings to check with their doctor.

To participate in this program you must be a registered member of a participating senior center.

### **BRONX PROGRAMS**

JASA Bartow Senior Center/ (718) 320-2066  
JASA Bay-Eden Senior Center/ (718) 882-3815  
Bronx River Senior Center/ (718) 617-6114  
Bronx Works East Concourse Senior Center / (718) 731-6300  
Hope of Israel Senior Citizens Center/ (718) 665-8400  
JASA Dreiser Senior Center/ (718) 320-1345  
JASA Einstein (Gloria Wise)/ (718) 671-5161  
Marble Hill Senior Center/ (718) 562-8551  
PSS Highbridge Senior Center/ (718) 588-3004  
PSS Parkside Senior Center/ (718) 881-7780  
RAIN Nereid Senior Center/ (718) 994-0132  
Senior Services at Pelham Parkway-NORC/ (718) 652-6363

### **PARTNER TO PARTNER PROGRAM**

Partner to Partner is based on the concept that it is easier to talk with someone whose life experiences are similar to one's own. Trained volunteers act as receptive listeners to their peers and bring attentive and supportive communication skills to their conversations.

As aging and life issues are raised, the trained Partner provides a sure sense of support and understanding and, when requested, advice or referral information. To participate in this program you must be a registered member of a participating senior center.

### **BRONX PROGRAMS**

Dora and Harry Simon Senior Center / (718) 548-8200  
East Concourse Senior Center/ (718) 731-6300

### **STAY WELL EXERCISE PROGRAM**

The Stay Well exercise program is geared for all seniors, ranging from the fit to those with disabilities. The curriculum includes aerobic exercises as well as routines designed to enhance balance, build muscle strength and aid in the performance of the tasks associated with daily living. Classes end with stress reduction exercises. Classes normally run 40 - 50 minutes and are held once a week.

To participate in this program you must be a registered member of a participating senior center.

### **LISTING OF BRONX PROGRAMS**

Adams Senior Center/ (718) 708-6897  
Bay Eden Senior Center/ (718) 882-3815  
Bronx Works Morris Senior Center/ (718) 933-5300  
Bronx House Senior Center/ (718) 792-1800  
Casa Boricua Senior Center/ (718) 542-0222  
Castle Hill Senior Center/ (718) 824-8910  
Dora & Harry Simon Senior Center/ (718) 548-8200  
Hope of Israel Senior Citizens Center/ (718) 655-8400  
James Monroe Center/ (718) 893-3484  
PSS Highbridge Senior Center/ (718) 588-3004  
PSS Parkside Senior Center/ (718) 881-7780  
RAIN Boston East Senior Center/ (718) 654-9200  
RAIN Boston Secor Senior Center/ (718) 671-8550  
RAIN Eastchester Senior Center/ (718) 882-8513  
SEBCO Senior Programs/ (718) 617-3465  
William Hodson Senior Center/ (718) 538-1515



**GERIATRIC SERVICES**

Comprehensive Geriatric Care  
3224 Grand Concourse, Room BA  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 561-0041

Riverdale Internal Medicine & Geriatric Services PC  
3533 Riverdale Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463-3956  
(718) 884-8181

JASA- Geriatric Mental Health Outreach  
One Fordham Plaza, Suite 908  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 365-4044

## **BRONX HOSPITALS**

Albert Einstein Weiler Hospital

1825 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461-2373 (718) 904-2000

Beth Abraham Health Services- Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation

612 Allerton Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467-7848 (718) 519-4000

Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center

1650 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10457-7626 (718) 590-1800

Jacobi Medical Center

1400 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx, New York 10461 (718) 918-5000

Bronx Psychiatric Hospital

1500 Waters Place, Bronx, New York 10461 (718) 931-0600

Calvary Hospital Home Care

1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461 (718) 518-2000

Lincoln Hospital

234 East 149th Street, Bronx, New York 10451 (718) 579-5000

Montefiore Medical Center

111 East 210th Street, Bronx, New York 10467 (718) 920-4321

North Central Bronx Hospital

3424 Kossuth Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467 (718) 519-5000

Saint Barnabas Hospital

4422 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457 (718) 960-9000

Veterans Affairs Department Hospital

130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, New York 10468 (718) 584-9000

Montefiore Westchester Square Medical Center

2475 Saint Raymond Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461 (718) 430-7300

### **Complaints about New York State Hospitals and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers**

The New York State Department of Health is responsible for checking acute and primary care facilities in New York State for compliance with Article 28 of the Public Health Law. A primary program for fulfilling this responsibility is the complaint review system. State Health Department regulations allow individuals to register complaints about the care and services provided by hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centers.

To initiate a complaint about a hospital or a diagnostic and treatment center, you may call the toll-free number at (800) 804-5447, or you may file a complaint in writing and send it to:

New York State Department of Health  
Centralized Hospital Intake Program  
Mailstop: CA/DCS  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12237

### **Mental Health Services in the Bronx**

Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center  
Administrative Offices  
7th Floor  
2021 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(718) 960-3000

### **Psychosocial Club for the Elderly**

A rehabilitation program which offers social, case management, educational and recreational activities for persons 55 years and older, who are experiencing emotional difficulties.

Location: 260 East 188th Street, 4th Floor, Bronx, New York 10458.

Telephone: (718) 960-0475.

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

### **BRONXWORKS SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

Bronx Works, Inc., social worker provides group and individual counseling, as well as mental health screenings. Group counseling sessions cover topics like depression, isolation, anxiety, stress release and bereavement.

For more information, please contact (718) 933-5300



## **SOCIAL ADULT DAY SERVICE**

For older people in frail health, managing at home is often a struggle. There is an alternative enabling them to retain their independence and remain in the community.

Adult Care Programs provide medical assessments, rehabilitation and counseling services. These activities all take place in a friendly, social setting, helping to counteract the isolation and depression suffered by so many elderly coping with disabilities. The criteria for eligibility, fees, and specific areas served vary from program to program.

The following are Social Adult Day Care Programs available in The Bronx:

Riverdale Social Adult Day Service  
2600 Netherland Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 884-5900

Bay Park Center for Nursing & Rehab  
801 Co-op City Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 239-6500

Forever Young Social Adult Day Care  
3305 Third Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(347) 577-1414

Renaissance Adult Day Services  
625 East Fordham Road, Suite 104  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(866) 381-1731

St. Barnabas Nursing Home  
2175 Quarry Road  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 960-3917

Open Arms Circle Adult Social Day Care  
860 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(347) 913-4343

AHS Caring Communities  
502 East 163<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10451  
(718) 265-0684

Bainbridge Adult Day Care Center  
3518 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 655-1991

Split Rock Nursing Home & Health Center  
3525 Baychester Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 798-8900

Providence Rest  
3304 Waterbury Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 931-3000

Jewish Home Lifecare  
100 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 410-1330

The Hebrew Home at Riverdale  
5901 Palisades Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 581-1000

## **LGBT SERVICES**

**SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS (SAGE)** is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. SAGE's mission is to lead in addressing issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) aging.

SAGEDay, a partnership with the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, is a LGBT-Inclusive Social Adult Day Program. SAGEDay offers a warm and friendly environment, delicious meals, engaging programming and exceptional care, so that LGBT older people and their caregivers can make the most of their days.

Here are some of the activities we offer

- Socialization and connection with community
- Memory support through structured programming
- Discussions and screenings highlighting LGBT themes in literature and film
- Art Programs
- Continental breakfast, hot lunch, and snacks
- Round-trip, door-to-door, accessible transportation

SAGEDay is open to NYC residents who need assistance with mobility, activities of daily living, and/or who need supervision due to cognitive decline. For more information and/or a complimentary day please call (212) 741-2247 and ask to for SAGEDay.

The Hebrew Home of Riverdale  
5901 Palisade Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 581-1000

**Bronx Nursing Homes**

Bainbridge Nursing & Rehab Center  
3518 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 655-1991/Fax: (718) 655-3903

Bay Park Center for Nursing &  
Rehabilitation  
801 Co-op City Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 239-6444 /Fax: (718) 379-3790

Beth Abraham Health Services  
612 Allerton Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 881-3000/ Fax: (718) 519-4062

Bronx Center for Rehab & Health Care  
1010 Underhill Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10472  
(718) 863-6700/Fax: (718) 863-2787

Bronx Lebanon Special Care Center  
1265 Fulton Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 579-7000/Fax: (718) 579-7025

Bronx Park Rehabilitation & Nursing  
Center  
3845 Carpenter Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 798-1100/ Fax: (718) 515-4252

Casa Promesa Residential Health Care  
Facility  
308 East 175<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 960-7617/ Fax: (718) 901-1118

Concourse Rehab & Nursing Center  
1072 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 681-4000 /Fax (718) 681-5165

Daughters of Jacob Health Services  
1160 Teller Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718) 293-1500 /Fax: (718) 992-2253

Eastchester Rehabilitation & Health  
Care Center  
2700 Eastchester Road  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 231-5550/Fax: (718) 231-5268

East Haven Nursing & Rehab Center  
2323 Eastchester Road  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 655-2848/Fax: (718) 515-8249

Fieldston Lodge Care Center  
666 Kappock Street  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 549-1203/Fax: (718) 884-3792

Gold Crest Care Center  
2316 Bruner Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 882-6400/Fax: (718) 652-2461

Grand Manor Nursing & Rehab Center  
700 White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York 10473  
(718) 518-8892/Fax: (718) 931-5994



Hebrew Home for the Aged at  
Riverdale, Palisade Nursing Home  
5901 Palisade Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 581-1000/Fax: (718) 549-0721

Hudson Pointe at Riverdale Center for  
Nursing and Rehabilitation  
3220 Henry Hudson Parkway  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 514-2000/Fax: (718) 514-2035

Highbridge-Woodcrest Center, Inc.  
936 Woodcrest Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10452  
(718) 579-8230/Fax: (718) 579-8462

Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged,  
Bronx Division  
100 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 410-1500/Fax: (718) 410-1366

Kings Harbor Multicare Center  
2000 East Gun Hill Road  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 320-0400/Fax: (718) 549-9053

Kingsbridge Heights Rehab & Care  
Center  
3400-26 Cannon Place  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 796-8100 /Fax: (718) 796-8182

Laconia Nursing Home  
1050 East 230th Street  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 654-5875/Fax: (718) 881-0729

Manhattanville Health Care Center  
311 West 231st Street  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 601-8400/Fax: (718) 543-9543

Methodist Church Home for the Aged  
4499 Manhattan College Parkway  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 548-5100/Fax: (718) 884-0073

Morris Park Nursing Home  
1235 Pelham Parkway North  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 231-4300/Fax: (718) 881-3534

Mosholu Parkway Nursing & Rehab  
Center  
3356 Perry Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 655-3568/Fax: (718) 515-5713

Park Gardens Rehab & Nursing Center,  
LLC  
6585 Broadway  
Bronx, New York 10471  
(718) 549-2200/Fax: (718) 549-5030

Pelham Parkway Nursing Care & Rehab  
Center  
2401 Laconia Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 798-8600/Fax: (718) 798-5282

Project Samaritan AIDS Services  
1401 University Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10452  
(718) 681-8700/Fax: (718) 293-0510

Providence Rest Nursing Home  
3304 Waterbury Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 931-3000/Fax: (718) 863-0185

Regeis Care Center  
3200 Baychester Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 320-3700/Fax: (718) 671-2554

Riverdale Nursing Home  
641 West 230th Street  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 796-4800/Fax: (718) 796-2956

Saint Barnabas Nursing Home  
2175 Quarry Road  
Bronx, New York 10457  
(718) 960-3917/Fax: (718) 960-3998

Saint Patrick's Home for the Aged &  
Infirm  
66 Van Cortlandt Park South  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 519-2800/Fax: (718) 519-2817

Saint Vincent de Paul Residence  
900 Intervale Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10459  
(718) 589-6965/Fax: (718) 589-0188

Schervier Nursing Care Center  
2975 Independence Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 548-1700/Fax: (718) 431-0744

Split Rock Nursing Home & Health  
Center  
3525 Baychester Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10466  
(718) 798-8900 /Fax: (718) 405-1439

Terrace Healthcare Center  
2678 Kingsbridge Terrace  
Bronx, New York 10463  
(718) 796-5800/Fax: (718) 548-5982

Throggs Neck Extended Care Facility  
707 Throggs Neck Expressway  
Bronx, New York 10465  
(718) 430-0003/Fax: (718) 792-2765

United Odd Fellows & Rebekah Home  
1072 Havemeyer Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10462  
(718) 863-6200/Fax: (718) 892-5935

University Nursing Home  
2505 Grand Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 295-1400/Fax: (718) 584-0175

Wayne Center for Nursing & Rehab  
3530 Wayne Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 655-1700/Fax: (718) 515-5650

Williamsbridge Manor Nursing Home  
1540 Tomlinson Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10461  
(718) 892-6600/Fax: (718) 931-1061

Workmen's Circle Multicare Center  
3155 Grace Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 379-8100/ FAX: (718) 379-4018



## **FREE SERVICES FOR SENIORS WITH LEGAL BLINDNESS AND LOW VISION**

### **Vision Rehabilitation Services**

VISIONS Rehabilitation Department helps blind and visually impaired seniors achieve their highest level of independence. Vision Rehabilitation Professionals provide instruction in adaptive independent living skills and mobility at home, at work and in the community, in addition to occupational therapy, social work counseling and assistance with employment.

For More Information contact toll free (888) 245-8333 Ext. 134

### **Community Outreach and Training**

Through inter-agency collaborations, VISIONS ensures that individuals who are blind have access to community-based resources. VISIONS works closely with advisory boards in The Bronx. VISIONS provides training in senior centers, assistance in utilizing senior programs in local communities, public education forums on eye disease and blindness prevention and vision screenings in all five boroughs of New York City, and has affiliations with 64 senior centers.

For More Information contact toll free (888) 245-8333

### **VISIONS at Selis Manor**

VISIONS at Selis Manor is an adapted learning environment and meeting place for blind youth, adults and seniors. Located at 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, Visions at Selis Manor offers support groups, computer training, adapted recreation registration for a variety of classes from fitness to computer training, assistance with benefits, social programs such as Senior Speak Out, and various volunteer and social work services for seniors who are blind.

For More Information Contact:

LMSW, Director of Social Services Ext. 11  
(646) 486-4444

### **Intergenerational Volunteer Program**

VISIONS Intergenerational Volunteer Program recruits and trains high school students to assist blind seniors in their homes, and at Selis Manor. The youth provide companionship, escort, assistance with reading and shopping.

For more information contact toll free (888) 245-8333 Ext. 108

**VISIONS VCB**

VCB is an overnight facility located in Rockland County, New York providing recreational social programs, vision rehabilitation, and peer support groups on scheduled weekends and 6-12 day summer sessions. VCB is open year round and is adapted to meet the needs of people who are blind and including people who are independent wheelchair users.

For more information contact toll free (888) 245-8333

**BLINDLINE**

Blindline provides a toll-free number for access to a New York statewide database of resources and services for people who are blind or visually impaired, their family members, caregivers, and professionals. The call center is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm by calling 888-625-1616. A fully accessible website ([www.blindline.org](http://www.blindline.org)) with direct access to the database and a customer feedback feature is open to the public.

For more information contact toll free (888) 245-8333 Ext. 139

**Guild Institute for Vision and Aging At Jewish Home Lifecare-Bronx Division**

The Bronx campus of Jewish Home recently opened a new Long Term community in collaboration with the Guild Institute for Vision and Aging a specially modified 38-bed unit unique to the New York Metropolitan region.

Jewish Home Lifecare  
120 West 106th Street, Kaufman 4B  
New York, New York 10025  
(212) 870-4715

Jewish Home Lifecare- Bronx Campus  
100 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, New York 10468  
(718) 410-1500

## HOUSING FOR SENIORS

### **Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE)**

Qualified property owners of 1 to 3 units dwelling, condominiums or cooperative apartments can save up to 50 percent with SCHE. Applicants must be age 65 or older, have held title to the property for at least 12 consecutive months and the property must be applicant's legal residence, used exclusively for residential purposes.

For more information call 311.

### **Real Property Tax Credit (IT-214)**

IT-214 provides tax credit or cash payment of up to \$375 to homeowners or renters for part of previous year's rent or real property taxes. To qualify, your household gross income should be \$18,000 or less, current market value (home, garage, land, etc.) must be \$85,000 or less; or average monthly rent must be \$450 or less, not including heat, gas or electricity.

To apply simply fill out Form IT-214 and send it to:

NYS Tax Processing

PO Box 22017

Albany, New York 12201-2017

To order form call: (518) 457-5431

In addition to the IT-214 benefit, you may also claim the City of New York School Tax Credit (NYC-210) for all or part of the year if you cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's Federal income tax return. If you do not have to file a New York State income tax return, use the form NYC-210 to claim this credit.

Call NYS Department of Taxation and Finance at (518) 457-5181 for more information.

### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

A one-time grant per year to help low-income homeowners and renters pay fuel and utility cost.

Only HEAP-eligible households paying directly for heat may apply for help with fuel, repair or heat-related equipment or temporary relocation.

To Apply: (800) 342-3009.



**New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR)**

STAR is the New York State School Tax Relief Program that provides exemptions from the school portion of property taxes for owner-occupied primary residences.

For more information call 311 or (212) NEW-YORK

You can register for the STAR program by calling:

(518) 457-2036

**RENT CONTROLLED & RENT STABILIZED APARTMENTS**

N.Y.S. Division of Housing & Community Renewal

Bronx Borough Rent Office

2400 Halsey Street

Bronx, New York 10461

Phone: (718) 430-0880

**PUBLIC HOUSING**

This refers to housing built and managed by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for low and moderate income residents of New York City. Public Housing provides independent, rent subsidized apartment living with the availability of some social services as needed. NYCHA maintains over 300 housing developments throughout the five boroughs. Most of these developments are "family type," i.e. not specifically reserved for the elderly. Forty-two of these developments have been built for and are occupied almost exclusively by the elderly. This guide lists the senior only NYCHA developments for this borough.

To obtain an application for public housing, write, call or visit:

New York City Housing Authority

Bronx Applications Office

478 East Fordham Road

Bronx, New York 10458

(718) 707-7771

Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm

## **ADULT HOMES**

Adult Homes provide long-term residential care, room and board, housekeeping, personal care (which includes assistance with bathing and dressing), and supervision to a minimum of five dependent adults. Congregate meals are provided three times daily, and a full range of planned activities and outings are usually offered. Adult homes do not provide nursing and medical care, but a number of these facilities contract with physicians who visit residents when necessary. A large number of adult homes also provide services to younger, mentally ill or disabled adults. Rooms may be private or shared, and homes in New York City range in size from 30 to 400 beds.

To be eligible for an adult home, an individual must be either ambulatory or able to transfer from a bed to a chair, alert and continent.

## **MITCHELL-LAMA HOUSING**

Mitchell-Lama housing, overseen by either the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal or the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, provides subsidized rental and cooperative apartments for middle income New Yorkers. A small portion of this housing stock was developed for and is occupied exclusively by the elderly, but there are no age limitations on applying to any Mitchell-Lama development. This type of housing does not generally provide supportive services, but limited services such as transportation, social services, and leisure activities are available in some developments. Rents and carrying charges vary throughout the Mitchell-Lama developments, as do income requirements. Generally, for a household of three persons or less, annual income may not exceed seven times the annual rent.

For additional information about Mitchell-Lama Housing call:  
(212) 863-6500 Ext. 8494

## **Section 202 Housing**

Section 202 Housing, is the main source of subsidized, low-income housing for seniors in New York City with over 170 projects located throughout the five boroughs. The program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which provides grants to not-for-profit religious and civic groups, each of which constructs their own building.

To be eligible for residency in most Section 202 projects, a household must have at least one member 62 years of age or older, and must have a gross annual income of no more than \$22,000 for a one-person household, and no more than \$25,100 for a two-person household.

## **Section 8 Housing**

New York City Housing Authority Section 8 Program

Section 8, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, provides funding for rent subsidies for eligible low-income families for decent, safe and affordable housing. Families can select housing within a neighborhood of their choice from a landlord willing to participate in the program. Rent subsidies (vouchers) allow families to pay a reasonable share of their income toward rent while the program, within specific limits, makes up the difference.

Please refer to the borough office listed below for assistance with obtaining application forms, general information, or to check the status of your submitted application. The hours of operation for all offices are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Offices are closed to walk-ins on Wednesdays. Phone calls are accepted Monday through Friday.

Bronx Applications Office  
478 East Fordham Road  
Bronx, New York 10458  
(718) 707-7771

## **Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)**

The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program offers eligible tenants an exemption from rent increases which may result in a reversion to rent paid under a previous lease or rent order. The owner of the building receives a corresponding credit against their real estate taxes from the City of New York.

To be eligible for SCRIE, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You must be age 62 or older.
- Must have an income of \$50,000 or less.
- Rent an apartment that is regulated by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) (i.e. rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments or hotel stabilized).

Please call the Department of Finance at 311 for an application or you can visit the SCRIE Walk-in Office located at:

66 John Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10038  
8:30am-4:30pm



**New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, Inc. Home Sharing Program**

The Foundation's free Home Sharing Program helps link adult hosts" with extra bedrooms in their homes or apartments with appropriate adult "guests" to share their space. One of the match mates must be age 60 or over. The program also serves adults "hosts: age 55 and over, who are interested in sharing with developmentally disabled adult "guests" capable of independent living.

For more information call (212) 962-7559 Ext. 244

**Senior Citizen Homeowner Revolving Loan Fund**

N.Y.C. Department of Housing Preservation & Development

100 Gold Street

New York, New York 10038

(212) 863-8000

**The Parodneck Foundation's Senior Citizen Homeowner Assistance Program (SCHAP)**

This program provides financial assistance to senior citizen homeowners who are living in physically deteriorated housing or who are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

To be eligible, a senior must reside in any of the five boroughs in the City of New York, be at least 60 years old, and have been an owner-occupant of a one- to four-family home for at least two years. Homes must have property and liability Insurance. Seniors household incomes, including rental income, cannot exceed the income area median income.

Parodneck Foundation

121 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

New York, New York 10013

(212) 431-9700 Ext.300

**The SCHAP Program**

The Senior Citizen Homeowner Assistance Program (SCHAP) provides low and on interest affordable loans, hands-on technical assistance, and social service referrals to home owning senior citizens in need of help making necessary renovations. The SCHAP program plays a critical role in helping seniors retain and improve their homes, avoid premature institutionalization, and maintain their independence and dignity. Affordable loans to replace your boiler, electrical system, windows, roof, kitchen, bathroom, plumbing system, sewer, and/or water main, as well as to make other repairs. To be eligible, a senior must reside in any of the five boroughs in the City of New York, be at least 60 years old, and have been an owner least two years.

Contact:

New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development  
(212) 863-8000

or

Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation  
(718) 231-9800

**NORC Programs**

Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) is a multiage building, development or neighborhood that originally was not built for seniors, but that is now home to 50 percent or more of people 60 years or older. The goal of the NORC program is to maximize and support the aging by fostering a healthy lifestyle and a good environment to grow old. NORC Supportive Services Programs provides residents access to health and wellness activities, case management services, health fairs and educational activities in their own building or building complex.

The following are NORC Programs available in The Bronx:

Co-op City NORC  
2049 Bartow Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10475  
(718) 320-2066

Parkchester Enhancement NORC  
1525 Unionport Road  
Bronx, New York 10462  
(718) 409-1619

Amalgamated/ Park Reservoir NORC  
80 Van Cortlandt Park South, Building 7  
Bronx, New York 10467  
(718) 548-4990

Senior Services at Pelham Parkway NORC  
2425 Williamsbridge Road, Room 1B  
Bronx, New York 10469  
(718) 652-6363

**Weatherization Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)**

Provides low-income elderly with free weatherization services to lower their energy bills and increase the comfort of their homes. Services include insulation, replacement of doors and windows and repairs furnaces and roofs.

To qualify you must reside in one- to four-unit dwellings.

To apply: If 60 or older call 311 and ask about the WRAP program.

**Bronxworks, Inc. - Senior Housing Assistance Program**

Bronx Works, Inc., has a housing specialist dedicated to helping seniors at risk of homelessness. Our housing specialist provides the following types of assistance:

Mediating disputes with landlords

Help completing applications for housing subsidy programs

Help resolving utilities arrears

Reviewing leases and legal documents

Help navigating housing court

Access to public assistance, emergency food sources, legal services and other help as needed.

For more information, please contact (718) 933-5300

Bronx Works, Inc. Morris Innovative Senior Center  
80 East 181<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10453  
Services available Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm



**Bronx Works, Inc.- Minor Repair Program**

BronxWorks, Inc. has a technician who comes to seniors' homes and makes minor home repairs such as putting up window shades, replacing door hinges, fixing leaky faucets, replacing smoke alarm batteries, changing light bulbs, installing shelves and repairing cabinets. The technician also performs security checks of locks, window gates, peepholes, carbon monoxide detectors and other safety features to make sure seniors stay safe within their homes.

For more information, please contact:  
(718) 933-5300 Ext. 209

Bronx Works, Inc. - Morris Innovative Senior Center  
80 East 181<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10453

**New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, Inc. Minor Home Repair Program**

11 Park Place – Suite 141  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 962-7653 or (212) 962-7655

The New York Foundation for Senior Citizen's Home Repair Program provides MINOR home repair and maintenance services for the elderly homeowner who is 60 years of age and older, resides in the five boroughs of New York City and whose income does not exceed certain guidelines. The homeowner must furnish parts and materials.

Services include:

Weatherization  
Minor plumbing  
Masonry  
Gutter cleaning and repair – first story only  
Minor electrical work  
Carpentry

## **25. Charter Revision**

Pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 82, subsection 9 of the New York City Charter, the Borough President is required to maintain a planning office to assist him "in planning for the growth, improvement and development of the borough". These responsibilities also include preparing environmental analysis, making recommendations regarding applications, providing technical assistance to community boards and other functions as are assigned to the Borough President by the Charter and other law. The Offices of the Borough Presidents should have a baseline budget that provides for adequate staffing to carry out these and the other functions of the office such as for the budget and oversight and coordination of a borough-wide public services complaint system.

### **Strategy:**

The Borough Presidents should initiate a charter revision or legislative course that adequately funds these offices and assures their independence from the other branches of New York City government. We should not find ourselves strained by the lack of professional and administrative staff services.

## **26. Contacts**

Those interested in learning more about the office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. should feel free to contact the office.

Office of the Bronx Borough President  
851 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor  
Bronx, New York 10451

### **Email**

General email inquiries should be sent to: [webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov)  
Scheduling requests should be sent to: [scheduling@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:scheduling@bronxbp.nyc.gov)

### **Phone**

General Office: (718) 590-3500  
Constituent Services: (718) 590-3554  
Executive Office: (718) 590-3557

### **Social Media**

[twitter.com/rubendiazjr](https://twitter.com/rubendiazjr)  
[facebook.com/bronxbp](https://facebook.com/bronxbp)