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**CITY PLANNING LAUNCHES COMMUNITY DATA PORTAL TO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO USEFUL DATA & RESOURCES AT THE CLICK OF A MOUSE**

March 23, 2009 – City Planning Commissioner Amanda M. Burden announced an addition to the Department of City Planning's (DCP) award-winning [web site](#) that enables community members and the public to more easily access vital information unique to the City's diverse neighborhoods. City Planning's new user-friendly community data portal provides a single central access point for the varied and useful data, project information and other resources that DCP produces on a community district level, including its highly prized demographic analysis. The intuitive web search tool and wide range of information it makes available responds to the Mayor Bloomberg's mandate to use technology to enhance transparency, efficiency, customer service and accountability.

The Department's web site has been heavily used for its valuable data and analysis; however, members of the public visiting the page have had to navigate many different sections in order to find the multiple resources available to them. The new portal streamlines that process by linking all of the resources for community districts and making them searchable by neighborhood name or navigable through a community district map.

"City Planning's information is invaluable to members of the community, Community Board members, students, researchers and elected officials," said Commissioner Burden. "Now, the most pertinent data about a geographic area will be available at the click of a mouse. The innovative community data portal provides an additional layer of transparency to the Department's land use process by making information about active projects more accessible to affected communities. The increased ease of use will enable the public to find what they are searching for and much more, enabling users of the web page to become more informed advocates for their communities."

The new portal empowers the public to learn more about their communities by putting all the facts at their fingertips. Web site visitors can enter their neighborhood or address using the new "Find the Data" tool on DCP's home page. Alternately, they can select a community district from a 5-borough map, which displays a selection of the neighborhoods encompassed by each district. Once a user has selected a neighborhood, the data portal for that community district appears. The portal features all of City Planning's active projects within the community district, links to helpful land use review sources such as Commission reports and filed applications for the district, as well as a consolidated resource for demographic data.

Among the useful statistics and features available for each community district and searchable by neighborhood:

- Land use maps for the community district;
- Population Data from the United States Census and American Community Survey for each district, including:
  - Demographic facts, like age, sex, and ethnic makeup;
  - Data on the social characteristics of the district, such as kinds of households, levels of education, and numbers of foreign born residents;
  - Economic facts detailing the kinds of jobs, income, and commuting patterns of local residents;
  - Housing data: # of units, types, occupancy levels, and rent levels;
- Information on active and completed planning projects, both public and private;
- Detailed and illustrated descriptions of DCP proposals affecting the district;
- City Planning Commission (CPC) Reports reflecting the determinations of the Commission on land use applications in the community district;
- The DCP Census Factfinder, a powerful tool which enables the user to custom design a demographic query area by Census tracts;

New York City's 59 community boards, established by local law in 1975, serve an important function as partners in the Land Use Review Process and in planning for each neighborhood's future. DCP community district level data help to illustrate the diversity of the city's land uses and population, and better equip citizens with the tools to analyze their neighborhood's past, present and future.

**Department of City Planning**

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.