

DOWNTOWN JAMAICA NEWS

Summer 2008

LOOKING AHEAD

Now that the Jamaica Plan has passed and the Downtown has been rezoned, there is work ahead. The Plan identified challenges and opportunities within the Downtown. In partnership with Southeast Queens' elected officials, Community Boards, and community-based organizations, the City of New York committed to addressing those challenges by establishing an Interagency Task Force for Downtown Jamaica. This demonstrates the City's commitment to implementing the commitments made during the rezoning.

This newsletter will provide you with a snapshot of progress to date, focusing on different topics in each quarter. This quarter focuses on **schools, housing and jobs**. The objective is to inform the public about upcoming City projects, as well as to give updates on City-sponsored events related to the rezoning.



Dermot Company Rendering of the Queens Family Courthouse Redevelopment



SCHOOLS

Open in 2011

The public review process for the new PS 48 was completed in June 2008. The new school will be a state-of-the-art public school building, to be constructed behind the existing PS 48. The design-build project was put out to bid, and the new PS 48 is scheduled to open for student occupancy in 2011.

New Public Schools on the Horizon

The School Construction Authority continues to search for and investigate potential sites for new primary and intermediate schools, to meet the needs of Community School District No. 28. One site, in the vicinity of 153rd Street, Hillside Avenue, Parsons Boulevard, and 88th Avenue, is currently undergoing the public review and approvals process.

HOUSING

Redevelopment Preserves an Icon

The Dermot Company is redeveloping the Former Queens Family Courthouse, located on Parsons Boulevard and 89th Avenue, into a mixed-use building. The project will include 18,500 square feet of retail space, 25,000 square feet of community space, and 346 residential units. The façade of the original courthouse building has been preserved and incorporated into the project.

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The residential units include 69 for-sale cooperative units which will be made affordable for moderate-income homebuyers. The remaining rental units will be placed into HDC's mixed-income program, in which 40% of the units will be rented to middle-income tenants, and 20% rented to low-income tenants. The project is currently in construction, and is expected to be complete in late 2009.

New Housing and Retail to Replace 168th Street Garage

The first City-driven project since the rezoning of Downtown Jamaica, the 168th Street Garage re-development, creates new retail and provides 300-350 units of new housing, of which 20-50% will be affordable. A developer is expected to be designated by the end of this summer. Before development begins, the existing garage structure (located on 168th Street between Jamaica and 93rd Avenues) will be demolished. The chosen developer will be asked to commit to working with NYCEDC and the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) on specific recruitment, hiring, training and retention goals for residents.

JOBS

SBS Continues its Jamaica Workforce Development Programming

The recent ribbon cutting commemorating the renovations of the Jamaica Workforce1 Career Center was attended by Deputy Mayor Walcott, Queens Borough President Marshall, City Council Speaker Quinn, Councilmember Comrie, Mayor Bloomberg, State Senator Smith, and SBS Commissioner Walsh. The Jamaica WorkForce1 Career Center (WF1CC) placed 931 people into jobs in the first quarter, with 1,239 placements YTD. In addition, the WF1CC Community Outreach Program made 189 placements in the first quarter.

SBS Announced New Programs at the WF1CC

Income Plus will provide services including job coaching, career counseling, and connections to work supports (e.g., child care, food stamps, subsidized health insurance). The program seeks to enroll 500 participants, and provide upgrades such as wage increases to 300 customers in the first year. **Employment Works** will place 1,100 probationers in jobs earning a minimum of \$9.00/hour for at least one year.

SBS Creates Transportation Sector Center

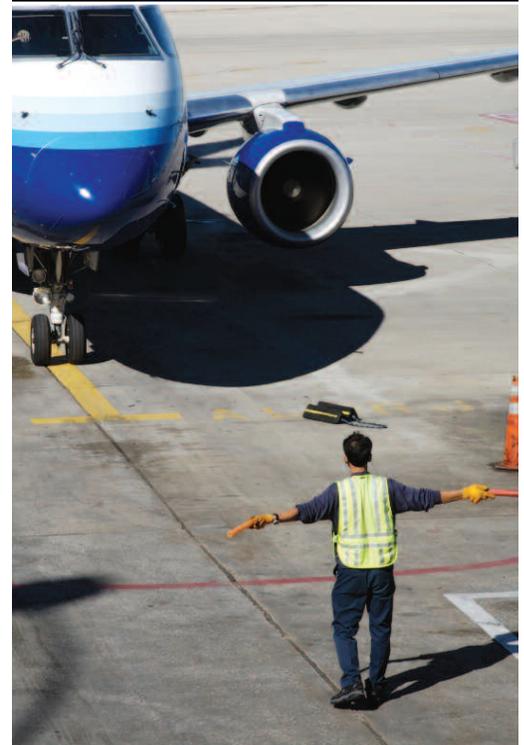
This summer, SBS will launch a Sector-Based Center in Jamaica that will focus on the Transportation Sector, and provide workers access to jobs that pay \$10/hour or more with advancement opportunities. The Center aims to make 650 job placements in its first year of operation, serving businesses in the Air Transportation, Truck Transportation, and Ground Passenger Transit sub-sectors.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you know of non-profit community groups in search of low-cost space in Downtown Jamaica? The Dermot Company is seeking applicants for up to 20,000 square feet of community space in the Queens Family Courthouse re-development. Interested parties should email Alex Adams aadams@dermotcompany.com for further information or to request an application.



Jamaica Workforce1 Career Center Ribbon Cutting



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns related to City services in the Downtown Jamaica area that you cannot answer by calling 311, please call **212-618-5706** or send an email to jamaica@nycedc.com.



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