

10th Annual City Advocacy Day: March for Immigrant New York

April 13, 2010

***2010 CITY BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
A BLUEPRINT FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR IMMIGRANTS***

Protect Critical Services for Immigrant and Low-Income New Yorkers

- **Expand ESL funding** through supporting the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, the Adult Literacy Initiative and helping and participating in the development of a 10-year ESL blue print and most effective use of \$3 million toward ESL, committed by the Mayor as a direct result of our advocacy.
- **Protect critical services and programs in our schools** and target resources to stop the ELL Dropout Crisis
- **Protect HHC Funding, including City Council Primary Care Initiative**
- **Expand Legal Services** through supporting the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative funding and helping shape and take part in implementing a deferred associates program with \$2 million that Mayor Bloomberg committed, as a direct result of our advocacy in partnership with Judge Robert Katzman's working group.

Create an Illegal Housing Conversion Pilot Program

- Create an "accessory dwelling unit" program allowing existing units that are safe but forbidden under current zoning or building regulations to be permitted and regulated under the city's housing and building codes. The city could begin with a targeted pilot program to strengthen affected communities.

Stimulus Oversight

- Play a leadership role in the New York Stimulus Alliance to ensure stimulus funds and services funded with stimulus monies reach communities with the most need, including immigrant New Yorkers.

School, Family, Community Partnerships

- Recognizing that families and communities are an essential element for increased student achievement, we urge NYC to build partnerships between schools and families that recognizes and fosters communities' histories, languages, cultural backgrounds, and different family structures. We urge the Department of Education to eliminate basic barriers to family engagement by strengthening implementation of translation and interpretation services, creating parent identification cards to increase parents' access to schools, and by strengthening information and technical assistance for families. We also urge the DOE to support leadership development for parents and youth, to foster meaningful school-community partnerships, and to expand professional development for school and district staff in high quality, research-based, family engagement practices.

Ensure Funding Support for Haitian-Related Services

- Support funding to ensure Haitians New Yorkers receive the legal assistance to apply for TPS and social services and other assistance to meet their needs.

Executive Order 120

- Ensure full implementation across all agencies.

Low-wage Worker Centers

- Coordinate worker programs funded by the City as a culmination of our joint advocacy with day laborer groups for day laborer centers. Ensure that \$1.5 million in stimulus funds are used to provide effective low-wage worker services and coordinate joint worker organizing and advocacy with the participating organizations.

Local Enforcement of Immigration Laws

- Adopt a policy that it will not hold individuals on immigration detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Over the past several years federal immigration agents have established a permanent presence on Rikers Island and in other New York City Department of Corrections (“DOC”) facilities. Without any oversight, accountability or written agreement U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents have regularly engaged interrogations of pre-trial detainees, effectively denying those detainees their constitutional rights to be presumed innocent, to remain silent and to an attorney.

Corporate Landlord Registration Legislation

- This legislation will amend the New York City Administrative Code to require landlords organized as corporations and partnerships to register the names of their individual principals with the City. It is common in low-income neighborhoods for properties to be bought and sold repeatedly and rapidly; this bill will ensure that tenants have information regarding to whom they should pay their rent and whom they should approach about repairs and other issues in their buildings. (Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito.)

Enact Intro 750, the Asthma Free Housing Act, to decrease indoor asthma triggers.

- This legislation would require landlords to remove asthma and allergy triggers from dwellings. It would codify the current mold remediation guidelines into enforceable regulations; require stronger enforcement from HPD in cases of mold and pest infestation; require better training for inspectors, landlords, and property managers; and expand outreach to tenants. (Lead sponsor: Councilmember Rosie Mendez.)

Paid Sick Day

- Legislation guaranteeing all workers a minimum number of paid sick days. The bill allows employees to earn up to 9 paid sick days. Employees in small businesses could earn up to 5 days. Currently the legislation has 37 co-sponsors. (Lead sponsor: Councilmember Gale Brewer.)

Small Business Survival Act

- The Act seeks to prevent extortion of small businesses by reforming the current commercial lease renewal process, which has forced 158,000 small businesses in New York City to close. (Lead sponsor: Councilmember Robert Jackson.)

Parks

- Create Immigrant Affairs Coordinator in the Parks Department.