



Department of
Housing Preservation
& Development

THE
Five Borough
Economic Opportunity
PLAN

RAFAEL E. CESTERO, COMMISSIONER • NYC.GOV/HPD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2009

Release # 06-09

Contact: Seth McM. Donlin, HPD (212) 863-5176

HPD ANNOUNCES SERIES OF HOMEOWNER EMPOWERMENT FAIRS FOR MONTH OF JUNE

Partners with Borough Presidents and Local Community-based Organizations to Provide Important Information to Current and Prospective Homeowners

Focus on Homeownership and Foreclosure Prevention is Part of the Bloomberg Administration's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan

NEW YORK – June is *Homeowner Empowerment Month* in New York City. To this end, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is collaborating with Borough Presidents and community partners to host a series of Housing Fairs in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island and Queens. The theme of this year's fairs is, "The Fundamentals of Buying and Owning a Home". Each event is planned to educate the public about HPD's HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program, the home buying process and housing counseling available for first-time homebuyers. For current homeowners, HPD will also be providing information on its low-interest loan programs and foreclosure prevention services provided by the Center for New York City Neighborhoods' (CNYCN) network partners.

"HPD is excited to celebrate *Homeowner Empowerment Month* by sponsoring this series of Housing Fairs aimed at educating the public about the opportunities and responsibilities of homeownership," said HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero. "The City offers a lot of great programs to help New Yorkers buy their first home or make the necessary repairs on a home they already own and we want as many people as possible to know about them. Just as importantly, however, we want people who may be behind on their mortgages to know that there is help available. Anyone in danger of foreclosure should pick up the phone and call 311 and make an appointment to come to one of these Fairs or ask to speak to the Center for New York City Neighborhoods."

Each event will have tables with resources on housing lotteries, housing educational materials and fair housing policies. Banks will be present to discuss their mortgage offerings and local non-profits will be in attendance to inform current homeowners in danger of losing their homes about free counseling and legal services that are available throughout the city. In addition, workshops designed to empower prospective home buyers and current homeowners will be facilitated by HPD employees. Intended to provide attendees with the tools and resources to buy, improve and remain in their homes, these workshops are being offered to all attendees free of charge.

HPD is offering these housing fairs as part of Mayor Bloomberg's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan aimed at bringing New York City through the current economic downturn as fast as possible. A major focus of this plan is preventing mortgage foreclosure and preserving the stability and vitality of the city's neighborhoods.

Homeowner Empowerment Month Housing Fairs

Bronx

"Homeowner Empowerment Month: The Fundamentals of Buying and Owning a Home"

(In partnership with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.)

Date: Monday, June 8, 2009

Time: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Bronx Community Board 12

4101 White Plains Road, Corner of 229th Street

Bronx, NY 10466

Directions: #2 Train to 225th or 233rd Street, Bx41 Bus to White Plains Road and East 228th Street

Staten Island

"Homeowner Empowerment Month: The Fundamentals of Buying and Owning a Home"

(In partnership with Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro)

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Time: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Brighton Heights Reformed Church

320 Saint Marks Place, St. George, NY, 10301

Directions: Staten Island Ferry to St. George Ferry Terminal, Walk up hill to St Marks Place or take S42 Bus to Central Avenue & Hyatt Street and walk to St. Marks Place and Fort Place

Queens

"Homeowner Empowerment Month: The Fundamentals of Buying and Owning a Home"

(In partnership with the Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall and The Greater Allen AME Cathedral Financial Ministry)

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: ALLEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake, Pastor • The Reverend Dr. Elaine M. Flake, Co-Pastor

171-10 Linden Boulevard • Jamaica, NY 11434

Directions: E,J,Z trains to Jamaica Center and transfer to Q4, Q5, Q84, Q85 Buses to Merrick Boulevard and Linden Boulevard

Brooklyn

"Homeowner Empowerment Month: The Fundamentals of Buying and Owning a Home"

(In partnership with Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz)

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2008

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall

209 Joralemon Street, The Courtroom, 2nd Fl.

Brooklyn, NY 11201

###

The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

HPD's mission is to promote quality housing and viable neighborhoods for New Yorkers. It is the nation's largest municipal housing preservation and development agency. Responsible for implementing Mayor Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan to build and preserve 165,000 units of affordable housing, HPD also actively promotes the preservation of affordable housing through education, outreach, loan programs and enforcement of housing quality standards. For more information visit www.nyc.gov/hpd.

New York City's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan

The Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan is a comprehensive strategy to bring New York City through the current economic downturn as fast as possible. It focuses on three major areas: creating jobs for New Yorkers today, implementing a long-term vision for growing the city's economy, and building affordable, attractive neighborhoods in every borough. Taken together, the initiatives that the City has launched to achieve these goals will generate thousands of jobs and put New York City on a path to economic recovery and growth.