

NYC CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER JONATHAN MINTZ JOINS THE BOARD OF THE CENTER FOR NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- The Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN) announced that Jonathan Mintz has joined its Board. Mr. Mintz was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) by Mayor Bloomberg in March 2006. Prior to his appointment, he served in the Department for over four years as Acting Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner.

“The appointment of Commissioner Mintz to the CNYCN Board could not be more timely. Not only will it strengthen our joint objectives to better regulate mortgage brokers and enforce consumer protections, but it will expand our working relationship with DCA’s Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE). Now more than ever, homeowners facing economic challenges need access to free, safe foreclosure assistance as well as the credit counseling and financial planning DCA’s OFE network has to offer,” said Michael Hickey, Executive Director of CNYCN.

As head of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Commissioner Mintz is responsible for spearheading New York City’s efforts to fight poverty by educating, empowering and protecting workers with low incomes so they can make the most of their financial resources. Commissioner Mintz also founded and co-chairs the Cities for Financial Empowerment, a coalition of municipal governments nationwide that is committed to aggressively and creatively leveraging local opportunities, resources and power to improve the financial health of their residents.

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods, Inc. (CNYCN) provides free housing counseling and legal services to homeowners at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. CNYCN works with over 30 non-profit, community-based organizations that assist homeowners in Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan. To date, CNYCN has helped almost 5,000 homeowners through these centers. CNYCN grew out of efforts by local leaders to create a systemic response to rapidly rising mortgage defaults and foreclosure filings, particularly in communities hardest hit by sub prime and other unconventional loan products as well as job loss. By calling 311, homeowners can be connected to CNYCN telephone operators by simply saying “foreclosure.”

Other CNYC Board members include Herb Sturz, Senior Advisor, Open Society Institute; Vicki Been, Elihu Root Professor of Law and Director, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, New York University; Deborah Boatright District Director, [NeighborWorks America - Northeast District](#); Rafael Cestero (ex officio), Commissioner, [NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development](#); Lewis Fidler (ex officio), Councilmember, [New York City Council](#); Colvin Grannum, President, [Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation](#); Ronay Menschel, Chairman, [Phipps Houses](#); Daniel Nissenbaum, Chief Operating Officer, Urban Investment Group, [Goldman Sachs Bank USA](#); Jack Rosenthal President, [New York Times Company Foundation](#); Denise Scott, Managing Director, [Local Initiatives Support Corporation - New York City](#); Abby Jo Sigal, Vice President and New York City Office Director, [Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.](#); and Michael Weinstein, Chief Program Officer, [Robin Hood Foundation](#).

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide free housing counseling and legal services to New York City residents at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. CNYCN partners with over 30 nonprofit, community-based organizations. New Yorkers can call 311 and be connected directly to CNYCN telephone operators by simply saying “foreclosure.” They will then be directed to free, reputable service providers in their communities. More information can be found at www.cnycn.org.

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