



# Got housing - but what about stores?

**BY JOTHAM SEDERSTROM**  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

**BUILD IT — THEY'VE** already come.

Brownsville and Ocean Hill are growing by leaps and bounds, but new businesses have yet to follow, according to a study to be released tomorrow.

Bookstores, children's clothing stores and grocery stores top the list of businesses east Brooklyn residents want.

"We have great stores, but it's

not enough for the growing area," said Brownsville resident Johnny Mae Robinson. "If we can get that one-stop shopping within a 10-block radius, we'd be doing good."

Conducted last fall, the study found that the area has grown three times as fast as the rest of Brooklyn since 2000 — in part because of a flurry of market-rate housing.

Targeting homeowners, the study found residents had

to drive outside of the area for cleaner or safer shopping. Those who couldn't were stuck with automated-teller machines at delis, frequently rotten produce and too many fast-food restaurants.

"Every time we went out there we saw new housing going up, but no new businesses," said Joan Bartolomeo, president of the Brooklyn Economic Development Corp., which commissioned the study.

Brownsville resident Maria Farfan said she takes an hour-long train ride to Kings Plaza when she wants to buy a book or a CD. "We have a lot of the same kind of stores, like 99-cent stores and Crown Fried Chicken," said Farfan, 21. "It's too repetitive of the same thing."

Businessman Gilbert Rivera is willing to give the area a shot: The founder of Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies and AM&G Waterproofing is

moving part of his lumber and hardware business from Bedford-Stuyvesant and Williamsburg.

Rivera is investing \$13 million in the 132,000-square-foot Atlantic Ave. site, which will open this fall.

"Finding a big chunk of land at a reasonable price is not easy anymore, but it is here," said Rivera. "That's why in the next five [to] six years I see Atlantic Ave. [in Brownsville] becoming a great area."

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