

Findings from Survey of Ocean Hill/Brownsville

Retail and Service Needs To Be Released

At Site of New Neighborhood Business Complex

Study Shows Brooklyn Neighborhood Undergoing Revitalization

OCEAN HILL/BROWNSVILLE — To mark the completion of the first phase of a 132,000-square-foot complex he is building in Ocean Hill/Brownsville, Gilbert Rivera, founder of Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies and AM&G Waterproofing, is sponsoring and hosting a Community Development Breakfast: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Ocean Hill/Brownsville on Friday, May 19, in the project's recently completed 38,000-square-foot warehouse.

Mr. Rivera will discuss with stakeholders in the community the remaining phases of the complex that is under construction, which will include administrative offices and a store catering to the construction industry. The entire facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2006.

Officials from Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) will present the results from a recent study describing the types of retail business and services residents in Ocean Hill/Brownsville are seeking, and review demographic changes in the community that include increased housing development, rising property values, and higher incomes.

BEDC mailed surveys to about 600 businesses surrounding the Prospect Plaza complex, which is bordered by Saratoga Avenue, Park Place, Howard Avenue, and Sterling Place, asking whether the business is retail or service; the number of years it's been in operation; number of employees; types of employees needed at the business; current obstacles; and financing concerns. Separate surveys were mailed to 900 homeowners in the area to gather additional information about local spending habits, services used, and the types of stores or businesses shoppers would like to see in the area.

Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies currently operates in Bedford Stuyvesant and its existing retail store will remain there. The business is the only certified Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise supplier of structural steel in the tri-



Gilbert Rivera, founder of Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies and AM&G Waterproofing

state area, is a direct distributor of Sika Products, Laticrete, Ardex, Henry Adhesives, Benjamin Moore Paint, Glen Gery Brick, Johns Manville Roofing, Pittsburgh Paints, and other top brands. Park Avenue also carries flooring, lumber, roofing materials and more. For more information, see www.parkavenuebuilding.com.

AM&G Waterproofing is one of New York City's premier exterior restoration companies and experts in waterproofing. The firm has provided its services to many of the city's most prized landmarks from Carnegie Hall to the AT&T Building to the San Remo Apartments on Central Park West. For more information, see www.amg-waterproofing.com.