

# MEET YOUR NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS

When the 2007 legislative session begins, Brooklyn will be in the house—the houses of government, that is. Meet some of the new elected officials that our borough is sending to Washington and Albany to make sure Brooklyn is heard loud and clear.

Former New York City police captain **Eric L. Adams** will take a seat in the State Senate, covering the 20th district—one of our most diverse—with boundaries from **Park Slope** to **Crown Heights**. Mr. Adams graduated from New York City Technical College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and received a masters degree in Public Administration from Marist College. Mr. Adams is a co-founder of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, and serves on the board of the Eastern District Counseling Service. He believes he received a “world-class education in New York City public schools,” and hopes to secure more school funding. He’s also interested in health care, victims’ rights, housing issues, and jobs for the working poor.

**Yvette D. Clarke**, the daughter of former City Council member Una Clarke, followed in her mother’s footsteps, representing **Central Brooklyn’s** 40th City Council District since 2001. She is now following the path of another Caribbean-American woman from Brooklyn, Shirley Chisholm, and taking her ambitious platform—health care, affordable housing, women’s rights and economic development—to Washington representing the 11th Congressional District. Ms. Clarke was born in **Flatbush** and attended Edward R. Murrow High School, Oberlin College, and Brooklyn’s Medgar Evers College. She served as co-chair of the Council’s Women’s Caucus, and as Director of Business Development for the Bronx Empowerment Zone.

**Janele Hyer-Spencer** will take her seat in the Assembly, representing Brooklyn and Staten Island in the 60th district. Ms. Hyer-Spencer is an experienced family lawyer from Great Kills, Staten Island, with a track record on issues like domestic violence and child abuse. She holds dual degrees from CUNY in law and social science/public policy, which she completed in just three years, earning her the prestigious Queens College



◆ From left: Sen. Adams, Rep. Clarke, MA Hyer-Spencer, MA Jeffries, MA Brook-Krasny

Graduate Award for exceptional scholarship. Ms. Hyer-Spencer is an avid runner with a marathoner’s commitment to seeing big goals through to the finish.

**Crown Heights**-born **Hakeem Jeffries** will be joining the New York State Assembly, representing District 57, which stretches from **Downtown Brooklyn** to **Prospect Heights**. He graduated from Midwood High School in 1988, attained a bachelors degree in political science and went on to achieve a Masters in Public Policy from Georgetown and a law degree from NYU. While a successful litigator for CBS Corporation, Jeffries found the time to volunteer as a civil rights instructor at the Crown Heights Youth Collective and donate time to the 77th Precinct Community Council. His main goals are protecting seniors, promoting affordable housing, enhancing education, providing jobs, and economically empowering Brooklynites.

**Alec Brook-Krasny** emigrated from the former Soviet Union in 1989 and went on to become, he says, the first American member of the Russian-speaking community to run for political office. A member and officer of Community Board 13, Mr. Brook-Krasny was executive director of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations, and owner of the 14,000-square-foot entertainment center Fun-O-Rama. As Assembly Member from **Brighton Beach’s** 46th District, Mr. Brook-Krasny will push for affordable housing, expanded health care, and improved education.

## THE FRESH PRINCE OF BED STUY



◆ Shakur and the PR-G family

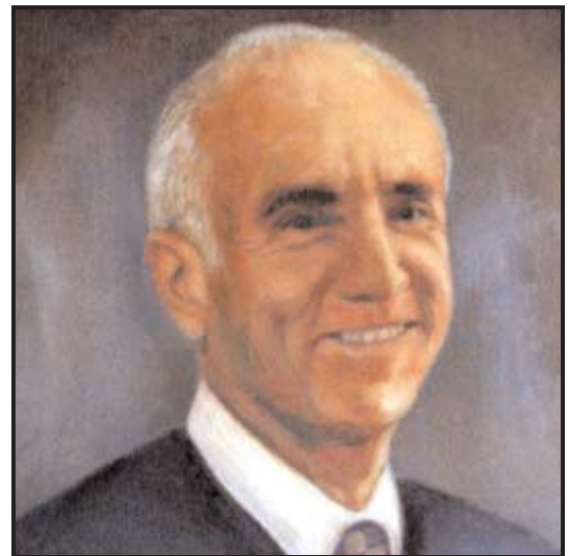
If **Bedford-Stuyvesant** has seemed particularly clean lately, you can thank Barnabas Shakur and his non-profit Project ReGeneration for the sparkle. PR-G’s pilot program, “Foot Soldiers,” is fielding an ace team of neighborhood teens to maintain local residents’ property.

“We’ll clean their houses, their sidewalks, their stoops, take out their garbage,” Shakur says. “If it snows, we take care of that.” Homeowners subscribe to the service, and kids get a stipend, as well as extras like money-management workshops. For now, they’re working on Greene Avenue and Bainbridge Street with just six kids, but Shakur aims to employ over 1,500 of Bed-Stuy’s approximately 4,000 teens aged 15 to 19.

Shakur started the organization in 2001, when he was just 21, as a response to what he sees as the biggest threat to teens’ development: idleness. By giving them something to do and a place to go, Shakur hopes to enhance the teens’ connection to the community, while also helping them develop physical strength and a lifelong work ethic. PR-G also offers after school programming—Shakur calls it “one-stop shopping for youth empowerment”—including “Rites of Passage,” a 22-week curriculum that includes community service projects and martial arts classes.

In five years, he’s drawn support from groups as varied as Fleet Bank and RUSH Philanthropic. And his numerous awards prove that Project ReGeneration is generating a serious buzz. For more information, go to [www.pr-g.org](http://www.pr-g.org) or call 718-684-1014.

## PORTRAIT OF JUSTICE



When Marty took office, he pledged to make sure that Borough Hall reflected Brooklyn’s renowned racial and ethnic diversity. In October he took another step in that direction, adding a portrait of the Honorable Justice Gilbert Ramirez to Borough Hall’s permanent collection at the Annual Hispanic Heritage Night. Ramirez, the first Puerto Rican elected to the Supreme Court of Kings County, was a legendary Brooklyn jurist and a pioneer for generations of Hispanic lawyers and judges. Blind for much of his life, he passed away in 2000.