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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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District Manager's Report May 20, 2008 By George Sarkissian

- Our Board Office has moved to a new location! We are now located at 1664 Park Avenue, between East 117th Street and East 118th Street. Starting in June, we will resume hosting all normal committee meetings in the Board office. The developers of Colon Plaza still must complete some additional work at the new space, which they committed to complete before Monday, May 26.

We have also been working with the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT) to install our telephone network and install our internet service. We have been informed by DOITT that our phone system will be operational no later than May 23. Shortly after that we will install our computer network and once again have regular access to email. We have been making due with the limited phone and internet access we can find, and we apologize for any inconvenience caused by our lack of normal phone and email service. I would like to thank our Board staff and other volunteers who assisted us in our relocation and appreciate everyone's patience during our transition.

- Working with our Assistant District Manager Pablo Torres, we assisted in planning and organizing our East Harlem Arts Weekend events, including our April 16 Opening Reception (thank you to Amie Kyros-Petrucci at Piatto D'Oro), the April 17 Arts Symposium, and the April 18 Street Festival. All three events were well attended and served to solidify the weekend's theme. I would like to thank all volunteers who helped, Chair Robert Rodriguez, Debbie Quinones and Cultural Affairs Committee members, State Senator Serrano and his staff, our CB11 staff – especially Pablo Torres who worked tirelessly to make this event happen!
- Attended meetings of the East 125th Street Development Taskforce to continue discussions on Community Benefits Agreements and Permanent Affordable Housing. We received an informative presentation from Brad Lander at the Pratt Institute reviewing the different models of permanent affordability, specifically forms of permanent affordable homeownership.

- Attended a meeting of Go Green East Harlem Steering Committee to discuss the various efforts being organized to green the community. Community Board 11 participated in a Go Green Earth Day event on East 116th Street distributing energy efficient light bulbs.
- Along with Matthew Washington, I attended a meeting of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center Construction Taskforce, organized to maximize community participation and employment in the construction of the new Center for Science and Medicine. We discussed the employment of a local construction manager that will work to find employable local labor. As the project is a union job, potential employees have to either be part of the union or part of a union apprentice program.