

esna EXTRA

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ESNA-CERT Responds to Queens Black-out Emergency

From Thursday, July 20 through Monday, July 24,



In Back: Dave Gillespie, Barry Schneider, Will Sanchez. In front: Bernadette Nader, Judy Schneider

ESNA-CERT (East Sixties Neighborhood Association-Community Emergency Response Team) assisted the Office of Emergency Management in addressing the myriad problems caused by the widespread power outage in northwest Queens.

Staffing Red Cross stations, distributing water and sandwiches and serving hot meals were some of the tasks assigned – and carried out flawlessly – by the ESNA-CERT members.

“It’s gratifying to be able to turn out as a team and put our training to practical use,” said Team Leader David Gillespie. “Over the last two years, ESNA-CERT has taken part in several OEM drills, but being together during a real emergency and being able to assist our fellow New Yorkers has brought our team together as never before.”

ESNA-CERT was formed in the fall of 2004 and graduated in December of that year. The ESNA-CERT mission is to inform, educate and train our neighbors on disaster preparedness; assist public safety agencies; respond to locally occurring disasters by strictly following CERT protocol.

Queens, New York, July 2006 – ESNA-CERT – mission accomplished.

Please Visit Our New Website...
www.esna-nyc.net



Boro Prez Stringer Shines at ESNA Forum

When Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer said he wanted to know what was on the minds of East 60’s residents, ESNA invited him to a Town Hall Meeting so he could hear first hand. And hear he did on Sunday June 11.



BP Scott Stringer

ESNA residents brought up numerous quality of life issues needing not just attention, but solutions:

- Noise from patrons standing outside bars late into the night ever since the smoking ban went into effect
- Horn honking laws but never any ticket issuances
- Idling buses
- Motorcycles racing up avenues in the middle of the night
- Bicycles on sidewalks
- Curb cuts and cross walks in dangerous disrepair
- Violations of blocking the box and disastrous gridlock
- Illegal street vendors and legal vendors who don’t observe the rules

...all of which can make for a difficult living and stressful environment.

Mr. Stringer said that he was pleased to advise that he is planning a transportation conference in September, not just to hear complaints but to find solutions to the problems that have been plaguing the city for some time. At the September meeting, there will be professional planners, transportation specialist and task forces from his office all with a view toward beginning a process to solve problems. He agreed that an enforcement plan and strategy will be critical components of whatever solutions are recommended so working closely with authorities is top on his agenda.

Mr. Stringer was forthright in his responses to some of the audience’s recommendations. He disagreed with overregulation and believed that focusing on education to comply with existing laws was better than imposing more regulation or more “visual pollution” signage. He sug-

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gested that borough-wide agreed-upon solutions be implemented rather than individual Community Board approaches for common problems.

Mr. Stringer also talked about a new action-oriented office of the Borough President. He has formed a department for land use and zoning issues which is actively involved in hearings and meetings with City Planning. Community Boards have been strengthened and will be further enhanced with training and development programs for Board Members; professional assistance will be made available to Boards in handling the many community issues that come before them.

On the issue of affordable housing, the Borough President said, frankly, he did not have the answer to what was becoming a citywide problem – housing for the rich and housing for the poor, with an absence of planning for the middle class. However, he hoped that with his office focusing on zoning initiatives some progress could be made. He stressed the importance of community based planning and community involvement. He promised to become involved as plans for the Julia Richman Education Complex evolved.

On the issue of community preparedness, Mr. Stringer told the audience that a plan is underway to bring all of the neighborhood CERT teams together to develop citywide consistent approaches to dealing not only with the aftermath of terrorist activity but with natural disasters as well. He said that much needed to be done to disseminate what people should do. He said that the programs also needed to address the needs of the frail and elderly, not just for emergencies but in some fashion for ongoing every day living. He encouraged everyone to be aware, become

involved and continue to participate in forums like this Town Hall Meeting, the way that community and government can work together productively.

- Joan Fabio



Left to right: Rob Byrnes, EMA; Assemblyman Pete Grannis; Assemblyman Jonathan Bing; City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe; Judy Schneider; ESNA; Barry Schneider; ESNA; Borough Parks Commissioner William Castro; Brad Usher; Senator Krueger's Chief of Staff; Lindsay Allison, Council Member Garodnick's Community Liaison

ESNA Celebrates Tramway Plaza Groundbreaking

Led by Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe, a hundred members and friends of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association gathered at the corner of Second Avenue and E. 59th Street to mark the complete renovation of Tramway Plaza. The reconstruction includes the new planting beds, edged with granite curbs and steel fencing, new hex block pavement, benches, trash receptacles and new lighting. The focal point will be a black polished granite slab. The new community-friendly park is expected to open in the late winter or early spring 2007.

Contributors: Grace Campbell, Joan Fabio, Lee Kaye, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

(Circle One)

Individual Coop/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Coop/Condo Owner (65+)	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter (65+)	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ _____

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