



# BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

### 11<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

# April 23, 2010

## Rep. Clarke Hosts "Walk to the Mailbox" Event



City Council Member Mathieu Eugene joins Rep. Clarke at the "Walk to the Mail Box" Census Event.

On Saturday April 17, 2010, I hosted an event designed to encourage Census participation in some of Brooklyn's most undercounted communities. During the "Walk to the Mailbox" event, I led a motorcade through the streets of the 11<sup>th</sup> District encouraging everyone to stand up and be counted by completing their form and placing it in the mail.

Democracy is not a spectator sport and too many Americans are sitting on the sidelines. This is especially true in our district where the Census participation rate was less than 35 percent in 2000.

We are doing better in 2010, when compared to Census 2000, but still trail the national average for returns by 20 percent. By being undercounted, we are turning away federal funding for our schools and hospitals, telling Washington to "send the money somewhere else!" This past weekend's event was undoubtedly successful, and I urge those of you who have not sent in your Census forms to cooperate with the enumerators that will visit your homes in the coming weeks.

## Clarke Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

On Thursday April 22, 2010, I celebrated Earth Day and pledged to continue my work in Congress to protect the environment, combat climate change and spur a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable energy economy for the American people. We have a solemn responsibility to protect our planet and ensure that we all have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink for generations to come.

This year, Earth Day focused on educating Americans about the benefits of sustainable development, conservation, and biodiversity. A cleaner Brooklyn means a cleaner NYC, and a cleaner planet. A green economy is a healthy economy, both environmentally and financially. Earth Day 2010 offers the opportunity to recommit ourselves to building a healthier global community. We must advance policy that prevents radical climate change.



Dear Neighbor,

On Saturday April 24, 2010, I hosted an informational briefing with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) regarding the Haiti procurement process. Many constituents and business owners learned how they can contribute to rebuilding Haiti through contracts with USAID.

I continue to encourage Haitians, the African Diaspora and those sensitive to Haitian culture, to actively participate in the rebuilding process. Take advantage of these opportunities to stand behind our brothers and sisters in Haiti that remain in great need.

Although the international response to the disaster has been resounding, it is important that those who know and love Haiti's rich culture contribute their knowledge and expertise to the efforts there. I thank USAID for coming to the 11<sup>th</sup> District and sharing this very important information with us.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke

## Stand and Be Counted: Census Begins Follow-Up Process

Thank you to everyone who has already mailed their completed 2010 Census form! Your participation helps to create a portrait of our nation's growing population and determine what's needed to provide better services for everyone. Our community cannot afford to lose out on crucial federal funds that support schools, libraries, community centers and so many other important programs.

If the Census Bureau does not receive your completed census form, as a courtesy, a census taker may visit your home briefly to complete the form in person. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone, including other federal agencies or law enforcement agencies.

The census taker will never ask to enter your home. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- Ask to see their ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.
- If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Census Bureau at (347) 328-2540 or (866)861-2010 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.
- Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

This is a safe and secure process and you can rest assured that they are only interested in completing the Census form. Let us all do our part to have our voices heard.

## Rep. Clarke Applauds Proactive Health Insurance Companies

On April 21, 2010, I was pleased to announce that a growing number of insurance companies will voluntarily provide coverage for graduating college seniors and young adults under the age of 26 in advance of the September start date included in the recently signed health insurance reform legislation. The new law, passed by Congress last month, requires health plans to allow young people up to their 26th birthday to remain on their parents' insurance policy, at the parents' discretion.

On April 20, 2010, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana, and Kaiser Permanente have joined WellPoint and United Healthcare in stating that they will voluntarily bridge any possible gap in coverage between now and the fall. The Department of Health and Human Services also sent a letter to other insurance companies offering to work with each of them on this issue.

Today, one in three young Americans has no health insurance. Young people are the most likely to be uninsured, with 47 percent of those aged 19 to 24 having gone without health insurance at some point last year. These announcements by the health insurers are a major step in the right direction and will only help to bridge the gap between young people and the health insurance coverage they need.

I hope other insurance companies will follow suit, and give graduating seniors and any uninsured young Americans the peace of mind through an immediate offer of coverage

## Legislative Spotlight

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010, America witnessed the passing of Dr. Dorothy Height, one of our foremost leaders from the civil rights era. I became an original co-sponsor of a resolution recognizing the extraordinary work she has done for our nation.

Dr. Height served as the president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, stepping down from the position in 1997. In her position with the Council, which connected nearly 4 million women worldwide, she tackled issues that affected women, including child care for working mothers, health and nutrition and providing adequate housing for families in need. Prior to that, she served as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from 1947 until 1957.

Widely recognized as one of the founding members of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 by former President Bill Clinton. In 2004, she also received the Congressional Gold Medal.

She fought for equal rights for both women and blacks, and was active in important causes such as securing voting rights, equal employment opportunities and the desegregation of public schools. Marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she spoke out for women's rights during the civil rights struggle. Dr. Height was instrumental in the fight for equal pay for women and organized numerous programs to help women achieve equal rights and independence.

Dr. Height's passion will never be forgotten. I am honored to sign on to this resolution, and my ability to do so is a testament to her work.