

HRA/DSS PERSPECTIVE



COMMITTED TO ASSISTING PEOPLE IN REACHING THEIR MAXIMUM LEVEL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY



OUR PEACE KEEPERS ARE A FULL SERVICE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The HRA Police Department held a dedication ceremony at its headquarters on June 20 to install 40 peace officers and to inaugurate HRA's 24-hour police desk. As members of the executive team and invited guests, including NYC Sheriff Lindsay Eason, looked on, Commissioner Eggleston administered the formal oath individually to the newly appointed peace officers, sergeants and captains. She cut the ribbon of the 24-hour command post, and in keeping with tradition, signed the first entry on the police log.

The dual ceremony marked the completion of the transition of HRA security operations to a full-service police department. At the beginning of the present administration, the security of HRA offices was overseen by contracted security guards who had no authority to detain perpetrators. Commissioner Eggleston moved to reestablish HRA peace officers, who have the power to make arrests, and to put a new security structure into place. It was her vision to create a highly developed, fully trained police department for HRA.

"I am honored to have been asked to implement Commissioner Eggleston's vision, and you are the embodiment of it," HRA Police Assistant Deputy Commissioner John P. Walsh said, addressing the force.

HRA's peace officers are certified New York State police officers. They are trained in tactical

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NEW HRA JOS HIRES: Welcome to a Winning Team!

By Keri D. Truitt

The Family Independence Administration's Office of Training Operations held a completion ceremony for 100 Job Opportunity Specialists and 100 Eligibility Specialists, Associate Job Opportunity Specialists and Principal Administrative Associates on Friday, June 16 at the DC37 building. The occasion marked an important day not only for the graduates, who were receiving the certification necessary to move into their respective assignments, but for all of HRA and its clients as well.

Before becoming certified, each of the graduates was required to participate in an intensive training program. Job Opportunity Specialists attended 15 weeks of rigorous instruction and staff development. Eligibility Specialists attended an 8-week program that emphasizes the regulations and processes of a non-Public Assistance food stamp office. And newly-promoted Associate Job Opportunity Specialists and Principal Administrative Associates attended a course of study that lasts approximately 3 weeks and concentrates on communication and supervisory skills. With their training completed, the ceremony commenced with a welcome to all

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Photo by Miguel Pagan

HRA PROGRAM UPDATES

Legislative Affairs

The New York State legislature ended its session on Friday, June 23rd. This year, five bills proposed by HRA programs were introduced in the legislature. They include proposals to increase child support enforcement; require hospitals to notify APS offices when they're included in a patient discharge plan; require the State to share federal bonus awards and settlements with local social services districts; enhance penalties for assaulting employees of local districts; and increase Medicaid fraud prevention by requiring the State to give Medicaid clients an explanation of charges reported by their health care providers. We will continue to work next year to get these bills enacted.

FIA/Office of Child Care

In May, FIA/Office of Child Care invited child care providers to Information Exchange Meetings held in each borough. Providers had the opportunity to have their questions answered on a wide range of subjects. On June 10, HRA/CUNY hosted the second Informal Provider Recognition Day at the CUNY Graduate Center. It was a day to show appreciation for their valuable service to young children whose families are transitioning into the workforce. The day included informative presentations on child safety, literacy and the Child and Adult Food Program and a buffet luncheon.

The Office of Child Care is continuing to disseminate summer camp information.

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Perspect



Event Calendar

5th Annual Commissioner's Forum - July 19, 20, and 21

Come prepared by reading your email bulletins on TANF participation rate and emailing questions to the Commissioner that you would like to have answered.

PAI

Learn to manage and protect your skin this summer at an upcoming workshop on preventing skin cancer. Want to get into great shape for the summer? PAI has introduced their 4th series of Weight Watchers and its not too late to join. For further information on either program or to make suggestions for other speakers at the skincare workshop, contact PAI Coordinator Karin Feldhamer at (212) 331-3325.

Summer Fun

New York City's government agencies can put you on the fast track to finding summer activities for yourself and your family. These resources are available on the Internet or can be ordered by calling 311.

❖ The New York City Guide to Summer Fun is a day by day guide to activities for children and adults that are either free or low cost. It is published by the Department of Youth Services and Community Development and can be viewed on their website: www.nyc.gov/dydc

❖ The Park Department's website will tell you all about the attractions of parks throughout the five boroughs and the special events that are happening. www.nyc.gov/parks

❖ The Department of Health's Guide to Finding a Summer Camp can help you find a camp near you, as well as view the availability of open places. Go to www.nyc.gov/health, click on Health Topics A to Z, click on D and click on Day Camps.

HRA/McMillan Library

WELFARE REFORM 1996 - 2006

It has been 10 years since President Clinton signed the law that was to "end welfare as we know it." Has it? Read **Welfare Reform in Motion**—the latest report published by HRA/DSS. The library now has circulating copies of this and many other publications that discuss the topic.

Need writing assistance?

The library has new editions of dictionaries, thesauri and style guides in its reference section. Older editions will be open for circulation.

HRA McMillan Library
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180 Water St., 12th fl.
Library hours M-F, 9-5.
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E-mail HRALibrary@hra.nyc.gov

HRA Journal

April 19, Bring Your Children to Work

Staff children were welcomed at HRA offices with activities and visits especially arranged to help them take a big step toward their futures. We thank the personnel coordinators and other staff who worked so hard to make the day a success.



Photos: Left - Office of Domestic Violence. Right - Office of Contracts



May 19, 6th Agency-wide PAI Awards Ceremony

HRA presented its 2006 PAI awards for outstanding achievement and exemplification of our agency's core values of professionalism, accountability and integrity. The three winning teams are: MICA/Manhattan Adult Protective Services, IREA/Office of Child Support, and OCCA/Office of Community Affairs. The three individual awardees are Susan Tumilowicz of MIS, Amina Serrar from MICA, and Judith Miles of FIA. Read about this year's PAI winners by clicking on PAI in the left-hand column of the Personnel Intranet homepage.

Police article continued from cover.

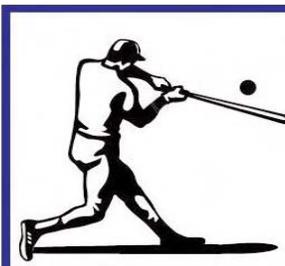
intervention, emergency preparedness, and advanced first aid, both by the State and through in-service courses, enabling them to give a wide range of law enforcement and safety services in the centers where they are assigned. Their presence, both as a deterrent and through their intervention, has greatly diminished violent incidents in HRA's offices.

The 24-hour police desk, which is connected to New York City's Office of Emergency Management, completes HRA's status as a stand-alone police department, in full partnership with the New York City Police and other law enforcement agencies.

HRA hopes to further expand its police force from 73 to 100 to provide full-time stationing at all its public office locations.

JOS article continued from cover.

by Lucy Baez, Executive Director of Specialized Training. Deputy Commissioner of Training James Whelan presided. Among the numerous guest speakers present at the ceremony, FIA's Executive Deputy Commissioner Seth Diamond took time to congratulate all of the graduates on joining a winning team, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Training Regina Russ offered powerful words of encouragement for the future. FIA Regional Managers were also present to personally welcome staff to their assignments.



AISLE: 432

ROW: 3

SEAT: 15

Give Blood, Give Life

We are taking you out to the ball game!

Donate Blood on July 25th
180 Water Street and receive

2 free tickets to Mets game at Shea Stadium

12th Floor Conference Room, from 10am to 3:30pm
Contact Kettly Menard at (212) 331 3374 for more information