



## Commissioner Doar Presents Direction for the Next Two Years

Staff who had not already met Commissioner Doar had the opportunity to become acquainted with him at the 2007 Commissioner's Forum. Speaking from the perspective of having observed HRA during his twelve years with New York State as OTDA Commissioner, in child support enforcement and in cash assistance, he told staff the extent to which State goals were advanced by HRA's accomplishments in New York City. "The progress that has taken place in the past ten years is the result of the spirit and dedication of HRA staff. The story of success must be told through the voices of HRA staff," he said at the September 6<sup>th</sup> a.m. session. For the Forum, OSR and the OPIC created a powerful film of staff as they recalled some of the challenges they overcame to help the people they were serving. From overcoming workplace underdevelopment and bureaucratic barriers to gaining the confidence of our clients, we saw how HRA staff has remained committed and inspired by their service.

Photo: Kimberlee Hewitt



Commissioner Doar's personal connection with fighting poverty and building family independence began as a child in Bedford Stuyvesant, where his father worked on initiating economic development policy in the "War on Poverty."

Commissioner Doar presented the initiatives HRA needs to pursue in the coming year. Using demographic charts to illustrate the changed environment we are now addressing, he demonstrated how a network of supports works to help a low-income family rise above the poverty level. Because supporting work has proven effective, HRA will support further credits to low-income wage earners and incentives to career advancement as we assist clients in becoming employed.



HRA will also work intensively to bring child support from the periphery to the center of family independence planning and to integrate non-custodial parents, mostly fathers, into a responsible role in family life. As HRA continues to strengthen enforcement and increase collections, we will expand effort to help low-income fathers and young at-risk men with career and personal development. As the aging population has increased, HRA has increased staffing and training for Adult Protective Services and will continue to develop its programs serving the vulnerable elderly.

Commissioner Doar also discussed the launch of the new Medical Provider Fraud Unit, which expands HRA's investigative mandate, and the implementation of the new City Management Reporting System, which will track the efficiency of Agency programs citywide.

View 2007 Forum Presentation on HRA's Intranet homepage.

## HRA Program Updates

### Meet Thomas DePippo, Senior Executive Deputy Commissioner

Mr. DePippo, who was appointed in April 2007, comes to HRA with 27 years of executive experience in the administration of human services programs with the federal government and in the private sector. He holds an M.B.A. from St. John's University.

As Senior Executive Deputy Commissioner, he is responsible for maintaining liaison and communication with certain key external offices and officials and for the direct oversight of General Support Services, the Office of Police Operations, the Office of Purchasing and Materials Management, and the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

"We are building new model offices, renovating workplaces and implementing new programs at a brisk pace. To provide effective leadership in administering this type work, you need to ensure that it is done efficiently and without delay. And you need to recognize that you're in a human services agency and that there is a level of caring and sensitivity that you have to bring to it as well. I am committed to doing both," said Mr. DePippo.

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Each October, New York City sponsors educational activities to encourage action against domestic violence. HRA's residential and non-residential service providers will hold discussion groups on family violence and youth issues. Marie Philip, HRA's Office of Domestic Violence Services' director, will speak at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Domestic

Violence Conference at Kingsborough Community College. Office of Community Affairs' representatives will provide information on HRA services at conferences taking place throughout the City. The Safe Homes Project has organized a Remembrance Candlelight Vigil commemorating domestic violence deaths and survivors in 2006. For dates and information on events and how you can become involved, go to [www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence) or call 311.

### HRA Perspective Monthly Bulletin

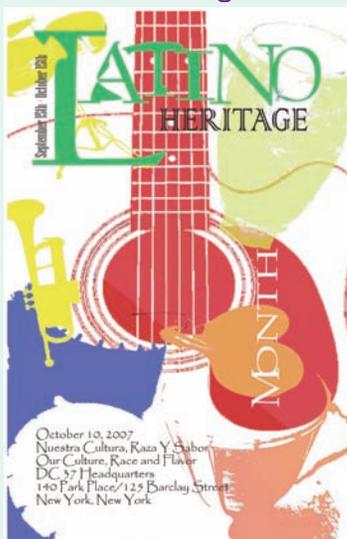
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## Event Calendar

### Celebrate Latino Heritage



HRA held its Latino Heritage Celebration on October 10, just as *Perspective* went to press. Read about the program and see photos in the next issue.

### HRA Blood Drives

**Congratulations to HRA's Galloneer Donors.** Forty-three staff will be inducted into the Galloneers and celebrated with a breakfast on October 23. They are staff who donated between one and five gallons of blood in 2007.

**Donate Blood at the following locations in October:**

**Thursday, October 25, 2007, Linden Center # 67,** 45 Hoyt Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, room 525, Brooklyn, from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Maria Ruparsic at (718) 237-7331.

**Friday, October 26, 2007 HRA Headquarters,** 180 Water Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Manhattan, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Kettly Ménard at (718) 331-3374.

and:

**General Support Services /Investigation Revenue & Enforcement,** 250 Church Street, first floor training room, Manhattan, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Valerie Sheafe at (212) 274-6414.

### June PAI Lunch and Learn Workshops

Back by popular demand!

**Wednesday, October 24, 2007, HRA headquarters,** 180 Water Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, 1:00 PM. Frank Donno, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Staff Resources, will speak on "More Frank Talk on Nutrition."

## HRA Rolls Out the Red Carpet for Responsible Dads

HRA and Russell Simmons' Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation hosted a screening of Walt Disney Pictures' new movie *The Game Plan*, a story about a superstar football quarterback whose life changes when the 8-year-old daughter he never knew he had shows up at his door. The screening at the Magic Johnson Theater on Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, was part of an HRA-led NYC campaign focusing on the importance of fathers' roles in their children's lives and received fathers who participate in community-based fatherhood programs and their children on the red carpet, with red carpet treatment.

Commissioner Doar heartily welcomed parents and children. Speaking to challenges of having or being a parent living apart from the family, he said, "You don't have to be with your father all the time, what is important is that you be in his heart."

The film, about a parent discovering how important his child was to him, could not have been more relevant to NYC's fatherhood initiative. Parents and children laughed together as the tough football star mastered the intricacies of parenting his newfound daughter, coming just as an NFL championship is at stake. And at a turning point, the children in the audience clapped and cheered as the football star told his agent, "Nothing is more important to me than my daughter." The choice of responsible parenthood only strengthened the team's chances of success.

There were noncustodial fathers in the audience who were working just as hard to remain central in their children's lives. Among those *Perspective* spoke with was a father who had completed 16 months of an 18-month residential treatment program and in the course had obtained his carpentry certification, and a father of twin boys who had started his own business and was now working in his parenting program to smooth custody relations with his children's mother.

OPIC's Office of Strategic Partnerships & Special Events successfully worked to bring fathers an entertainment that was both a reward and held a message. The event was produced with thoughtful detail that included providing each child with a free gift bag at the end of the evening. Russell Simmons, Disney Pictures, the NYC Sports Commission and HRA's other sponsors expressed gratification at being able to partner with HRA on the project.



Photo: Kimberlee Hewitt

## Meet Kenneth Charles *By Shannen Fish*



For those of you who are NBA fanatics, it will be exciting to know that HRA's staff has added one of its former players. On July 9, Commissioner Robert Doar appointed former Buffalo Braves star Kenneth Charles as Senior Advisor. But please be assured: It is not his basketball fame that earned him this position. Prior to joining the Agency, Charles was responsible for the administrative structure of the Brooklyn Kings team in the U.S.B.L. and was Director of Outreach and Recruitment for the Upper Manhattan Task Force on AIDS. It is his previous managerial success and desire to personally implement change in hopes of making NYC a better place that makes him the perfect individual for the job.

Although he is working on many projects, he has taken a special interest in HRA's Fatherhood initiative. "One thing that I hope to improve is familial relationships," Mr. Charles said. "I would like to establish how we can obtain more African-American male contribution when it comes to the issue of child support and inspire individuals who have not necessarily been involved in their families' lives."

If you recognize Mr. Charles on a visit to your site, he is extremely affable and encourages you to stop by and introduce yourself. And if you have a suggestion for HRA, you can email him through his assistant Cynthia Furman.