



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



City of Elizabeth Set to Begin Cultural Events & Neighborhood Economic Empowerment Seminars

Elizabeth, NJ – June 16, 2009 - The City of Elizabeth's Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Council President Patricia Perkins-Auguste in partnership with The Elizabeth Development Company are set to conduct a series of city-wide events during 2009-2010 aimed at improving access to resources and information for its residents. The events will link residents to city resources as well as programs and services provided by local businesses, banks and non-profit organizations.

Free for all City of Elizabeth residents, the Pre-Father's Day event will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Stephen Sampson Senior Center, 800 Anna Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey. The event will include financial/savings, health and housing information for the attendees and several speakers will present their organization's resources.

The goal of the program is to increase usage of the various resources and services available to residents. Specifically, the program will bring together local businesses, city departments, and non-profit organizations for the benefit of residents by exposing them to the available resources and programs within the City of Elizabeth.

These seminars and events have a strong empowerment and educational component allowing for the participants to directly access resources that will assist them in, gaining job training and job placement services, learning about savings and opening accounts with local banks (Individual Development Accounts), providing education about housing services, foreclosure prevention, and home-buying programs and understanding self-improvement through educational information and presentations.

Many of the events will target various populations within the city (families with young children, seniors, young adults). All events will use local vendors, speakers, and non-profit organizations.

Media contact: Zoraya E. Lee-Hamlin, 973-332-4381

Sponsors include

- * **The City of Elizabeth**
- * **Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth**
- * **Elizabeth Development Company and Urban Enterprise Zone**
- * **PSE&G**
- * **IKEA**
- * **New York Community Bank**
- * **PROCEEDS, Inc.**
- * **Urban League of Union County**
- * **Brand New Day, Inc.**