

## Chamber Hosts Economic Development Forum

Last month, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, Borough President's Office and Queens Economic Development Corporation hosted a forum at the Bulova Center sponsored by Farrell Fritz that updated those in attendance on all of the economic development projects that have taken place and those currently underway throughout Queens.

Borough President Helen Marshall, Seth Bornstein, Director of Economic Development for Marshall's Office and Lou Vlahos, Chamber Legislative Committee member and partner at Farrell Fritz helped organize a slideshow presentation of the many different development projects in Flushing, Jamaica, Long Island City and other areas throughout the borough.

"When Seth came to us, we said we are absolutely 100 percent behind you on this one," Vlahos said. "There is really a lot going on here."

Bornstein showed those in attendance pictures of Queens throughout the past hundred years and then showed pictures of the rapid development of those areas.

Some of the projects in Western Queens that Bornstein touched on were the transformation in Long Island City from manufacturing to office space, Queens West, Silvercup Studios, and other residential and office buildings currently under construction in that area.

In Jamaica, Bornstein spoke about the revitalization of York College, the



The AirTrain in Jamaica (above, left) and the former Family Court building where the Dermott Project is currently being developed are only two of the many exciting projects taking place throughout the borough.

AirTrain and terminal building, and the former Family Court building where the Dermott Project is currently being developed to include housing and retail.

"The AirTrain in Jamaica is helping us spur additional developments, not just building new buildings, but making sure people can get there and shop there," said Marshall's spokesman Dan Andrews.



Bornstein also discussed projects underway in Northeast Queens including the development of Municipal Lot 1 in Flushing, Flushing Town Center, a 3.3 million-square-foot mixed-use center located at College Point Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue in Flushing, and the long-awaited Willets Point redevelopment.

"There has been a tremendous renaiss-

sance with virtually new communities developing in Queens," Andrews said.

However, Andrews acknowledged that with all of the new developments, challenges still remain to make sure that neighborhoods still retain their residential qualities as well as providing more housing options to Queens residents.

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