

New Senior Center Format for JCC of Greater Coney Island

BY HAMODIA STAFF

BROOKLYN, N.Y. - Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli announced that the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island (JCCGCI) has been selected as one of two Brooklyn sites where programming will be revamped and upgraded as part of the "Innovative Senior Center" (ISE) initiative. The first eight Innovative Senior Center sites were announced this April.

The establishment of Innovative Senior Centers is the cornerstone of Age-Friendly NYC, announced in 2009 to make New York City more livable for its growing population of older adults.

Innovative Senior Centers are a new model of centers for older New Yorkers. They feature wellness programs, additional access to health care services, arts and cultural programs, as well as new

technological and volunteer opportunities. Innovative senior centers go beyond the traditional model, with flexible and expanded hours on evenings and weekends, and café-style flexible mealtimes.

JCCGCI had proposed to transform its Surf Solomon Senior Center into an Innovative Senior Center, and will be closely aligned with plans for the revitalization of Coney Island, in particular the building of 4,000 to 5,000 new units of affordable housing. A significant percent would be occupied by seniors.

"We are proud to note that the 92nd Street Y, under the leadership of Mr. Sol Adler, has offered to provide consultation, guidance and actual programming to the Coney Island Seaside Senior Center," a statement from JCCGCI read. The 92nd Street Y is one of the premier community and cultural centers in New York City, with a plethora of innovative programming, which is in high demand. It is anticipated that

many senior citizens will travel from surrounding neighborhoods to benefit from the high-quality programming that will exist in Coney Island.

The team behind ISE was comprised of JCCGCI's Supervising Senior Center Director, Grace Brandi; Controller, Chana Noble, CPA; Assistant Controller, Rochel Marcovich; Executive Assistant, Riva Heller, and Dr. Marvin Ciporen, as well as other staff.

Letters of support from Congressman Jerrold Nadler, State Senator Diane J. Savino, Assemblyman Steven H. Cymbrowitz, Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, Councilman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Councilman Michael C. Nelson and Councilman Brad Lander were instrumental as well.

The JCCGCI provides senior citizen, vocational and educational services to all segments of the population. Its NonProfit Help Desk division offers services to nonprofits in all five boroughs.