



## **NETS “BRINGING IT TO BROOKLYN” CLINICS AND BROOKLYN BOROUGH CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED**

*Nets Clinics Teach Life and Basketball Skills to Brooklyn Kids;  
Culminating in 1,000 Kid All-Borough Tournament in June*

(Brooklyn, NY) – March 8, 2007 – Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) today announced that it is extending its free Nets basketball clinic series in Brooklyn and added an all-Brooklyn tournament in June. Each month for the next five months, FCRC and the Nets will be offering two free “Bringing It to Brooklyn” basketball clinics per month to elementary and junior high school students throughout Brooklyn. The clinics will culminate with an all-borough 1,000 kid tournament in June, featuring some of the next basketball stars of Brooklyn.

“These clinics will give Brooklyn kids of all ages a chance to learn more about basketball and how to make good decisions both on and off the court,” said Bruce Ratner, President and CEO of FCRC. “Our end goal is to reach a total of 10,000 kids in the next two and a half years, and while we may not teach all of them to shoot like Vince Carter, we are going to work very hard to make a positive impact in thousands of kids’ lives.”

In November of 2006, FCRC sponsored the first annual Nets Brooklyn Sports Alliance tournament which featured 64 teams made up of over 750 kids from all across Brooklyn. Last week, 250 young Brooklyn up-and-comers participated in two Nets clinics held in Ridgewood/Bushwick and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Since FCRC created the basketball series clinics in 2005 they have reached over 2,500 Brooklyn kids and sponsored over 25 local basketball events in Brooklyn.

“These clinics are giving thousands of children in Brooklyn the tools to succeed in basketball and in school and life,” said Joe Castellana, Parish Athletic Representative of St. Ephrem’s School in Brooklyn. “In addition to teaching our youngsters, these clinics and tournaments give our kids a platform to succeed. It never fails, if you continue to raise the level of the challenge these kids will raise their expectations and achieve their goals. That is what this is all about.”

Each clinic, which is entirely free to the kids, features guest speakers who teach kids the proper techniques for dribbling, shooting, passing, rebounding and other basketball fundamentals as well as teaching kids how to make proper decisions in life off the court.

The clinics are divided up into different work stations with some dedicated to improving basketball skills and others to making sure the kids have a broad-based plan to succeed in life. The education station for example provides a classroom setting where educators discuss age appropriate lessons such as keeping a positive attitude, general life lessons,

dealing with peer pressure, how to maintain healthy nutrition, how to set and reach your goals, work ethic and teamwork.

The next clinic will be held in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn on April 5<sup>th</sup> and the following clinic will be in the Windsor Terrace section of Brooklyn during the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>. Additional clinics will be announced soon. To sign up for a clinic or to suggest a clinic be brought to a neighborhood, please contact the community affairs office at (718) 923-8695.

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