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**FCRC, THE NETS, SENATOR MARTY GOLDEN AND FORMER NETS STAR
ALBERT KING TEAM UP TO MAKE READING FUN**

'Read to Achieve' Event Held at P.S. 222 for Over 50 2nd and 3rd Graders

Brooklyn, NY (May 23rd, 2008) – Senator Marty Golden teamed up with former Nets star Albert King to show kids that reading is fun. Senator Golden and King spoke to over 50 2nd and 3rd graders at P.S. 222 about the importance of reading and read “I’ll Teach My Dog 100 Words” by Michael Frith as part of Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) and the Nets’ ‘Read to Achieve’ program.

"I am proud to partner with the Nets and FCRC to promote and encourage reading in our schools," said Senator Marty Golden. "There is no greater, or more important, lesson to learn in life than that of reading. To achieve much in school and in life, our students must master the skill of reading so that they have the opportunity to succeed."

King, a Brooklyn native, played for the Nets from 1981 to 1987 and scored 6,470 points during his NBA career. King was the Nets first round draft pick in 1981 and today has dedicated much of his time to the ‘Read to Achieve’ program.

"Sometimes it's hard to motivate the children to focus when reading," Maureen Owens, a 2nd grade teacher at P.S. 222, said. "I think it is a beneficial experience for them to see a famous athlete reading because they see someone who they assume is only interested in sports focusing on the importance of reading. It gives them something to aspire to."

FCRC and the Nets have sponsored a series of ‘Read to Achieve’ events throughout Brooklyn in order to help encourage reading among Brooklyn youth. In addition to being read to, each student went home with a copy of “I’ll Teach My Dog 100 Words” as well as other Nets giveaways donated by FCRC.

"I want to thank Senator Golden and Albert King for taking part in the ‘Read to Achieve’ program," said Bruce Ratner, Chairman and CEO of FCRC. "Reading is a fundamental aspect of a child's education and future success and ‘Read to Achieve’ encourages children to be more active readers."

'Read to Achieve' is the NBA's year-round campaign to help young people develop a life-long love for reading and encourage adults to read regularly with children. Reaching an estimated 50 million children a year, 'Read to Achieve' is the most extensive educational outreach initiative in the history of professional sports.

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