



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2010

CONTACT: LEON WYNTER (HCDC)

212-961-4347

lwynter@empire.state.ny.us

www.harlemcdc.com

***** MEETING ADVISORY *****

What: The Elmendorf Reformed Church (ERC) Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force will host an informational Town Hall Meeting about the site of New York's second oldest burial ground for Africans in pre-revolutionary America.

When: Tuesday, January 26th, 6:30 PM

Where: Elmendorf Reformed Church, 171 East 121st Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues

Background: [ERC, chartered as "First Church of Harlem."](#) built its first church at what is now the corner of First Avenue and 127th Street in 1665, and dedicated about a quarter-acre of the property for use as the "Negro Burying Ground," according to the church web site. Today the burial site is mostly covered by the NYCTA 126th Street Bus Depot, and possibly parts of 126th and 127th Streets just west of 1st Avenue.

"Given pace of development and infrastructure improvements above and adjacent to the site, I want the community to be more aware of the major Harlem cultural and historical legacy contained in the ERC Harlem African Burial Ground," said Harlem CDC board member Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, who is a co-chair of the ERC Task Force. "We want to be sure that the legacy is properly documented, memorialized and secured," Mark-Viverito said.

Attendees: Other elected officials expected to be represented at the Town Hall meeting include U.S. Representative Charles B. Rangel, State Assembly Members Keith L.T. Wright and Adam Clayton Powell, IV, State Senators Bill Perkins and José M. Serrano, City Comptroller John Liu, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, City Council Majority Whip Inez E. Dickens and New York City Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio.

*Media please RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 to
(212) 961-4347.*

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Did you know there is a
Colonial African Burial Ground
in Harlem?

What can we do to help preserve and protect this?



Come to a Town Hall meeting and discover more

*Location: Elmendorf Reformed Church
171 East 121st Street, bet. Lexington and Third Avenues
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
6:30PM – 8:00PM*

Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force

Rev. Patricia A. Singletary - Rev. Earl Kooperkamp - Rev. Jon Norton - Rev. Robert Royal - Rev. James Seawood
Congressman Charles B. Rangel - Senator José M. Serrano - Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito
Marion L. Bell - Inez Branch - Elder Mary Brown - Vanessa Burgess - Christine Campbell - Melvin P. Christian - Janet Dorman
Deborah I. Gibson - E. Joyce Jordan - Ken Kurihara - Thomas Lunke - Elder Margaret McCants - Betsy McCully - Elder Warren McKenzie
Christopher P. Moore - Elder Dorothea Sadler - Elder Earl Sessoms - Gary Sharp - Marsha Stokes - Eric V. Tail, Jr. - Jean Ballard Terepka
Juanita Thomas - Sharon Wilkins - Arthur Williams - Melinda Velez