

The City University of New York

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of Public Information

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ASSEMBLYMAN BREWER URGES LEADERS OF BLACK COMMUNITY TO
MAKE SURVEY OF RESOURCES

Legislator Discusses Plans for Training Program to be Conducted
by York College and South Jamaica Steering Committee

Assemblyman Guy R. Brewer of Jamaica, Queens, today urged potential leaders of black communities "to make a complete and honest survey of their resources and how best to utilize them."

Mr. Brewer made the statement as he prepared to present a lecture series in effective political action as part of a new urban studies training program which began last month at York College of the City University of New York, 150-14 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica. The eight-session workshop conducted by Mr. Brewer will be held on Saturdays from 1 to 4 P.M. beginning Oct. 16. The public is invited to attend.

The courses, sponsored by the college and the South Jamaica Steering Committee, are designed to train residents of the Jamaica area to become more knowledgeable about urban problems and more effective in dealing with them.

Prominent guests who have been invited to speak at the sessions include Borough Presidents Donald Manes of Queens and Percy Sutton of Manhattan; Representatives Charles Rangel and Shirley Chisholm; Mayors Kenneth Gibson of Newark, N.J., and Richard Hatcher of Gary, Ind., Basil Patterson and Julian Bond.

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In his statement, Assemblyman Brewer said that leaders should learn how the actual strength of their communities can be "catalogued, cross-filed and mobilized when need be in a way that will guarantee their maximum 'clout' on the political power structure."

He declared that "those who run government and the political apparatus which effectuates their control may be callous, indifferent and obdurate, but rarely are they fools.

"For spokesmen (real or self-appointed) of these groups to shoot off their mouths about the 'x' number of black citizens in a borough by using a figure conjured out of clear air and devoid of any factual basis does not impress those who control the political apparatus," he said.

"More often it reinforces the secret opinion held by some of the political leaders and governmental officials that black leaders are more wind than substance.

"The Caucasian power brokers also know that even if 75 percent of the claimed number of black citizens in a borough or city is accurate, the number of registered voters is tragically low in proportion thereto.

"One thing is incontrovertible: census figures may not be accurate but voter registration lists are," Assemblyman Brewer added.

Two hundred persons are taking the courses, which are being given in three 12-week cycles with the same courses being given in each cycle. Besides the community residents, personnel from appropriate New York City agencies will receive the training.

The training program is funded by a \$42,500 grant from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development through the City's Housing and Development Administration. York's contribution, including services, supplies and facilities, are estimated at \$25,375.

The Jamaica Steering Committee is composed of more than 130 organizations pledged to the physical, social and economic development of the Jamaica community.

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