

U.C.A.I., Sanitation add litter baskets to Stratton Park streets

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by Bobby Ciafardini

The United Coalition Association Inc. and its executive director and chairman Ronald Savage asked the community during a recent street-fair what was missing from their neighborhood and what they were concerned about most.

And the survey said: Litter baskets.

"Too much trash and no place to put it," said Savage, who penned a letter to the Department of Sanitation, requesting litter baskets in the area of Archer Street and Beach Avenue and Archer Street and Taylor Avenue.

"We had a information table setup at the St. Anthony's Street Fair in June, and it was brought to our attention by residents that they

were concerned about the lack of sidewalk garbage cans in their community.

"We looked into the matter and saw firsthand how bad the situation was," he added. "There was a lot of street litter in these areas and we requested that the Department of Sanitation place garbage cans in the community, even if it was on a trial basis."

Savage said not having garbage cans was not only a community concern because of the unsightly litter in the neighborhood, but also a serious health risk since trash on the ground has a tendency to attract rodents.

The result: After local Sanitation officials investigated the problem, Department of Sanita-

tion Deputy Director Henry Ehrhardt notified Savage that two baskets were placed on the corners of Archer Street and Beach Avenue and two baskets were placed on the corners of Taylor Avenue and Archer Street.

"It's the Department of Sanitation's mission to maintain street cleanliness and therefore upon review of this area, baskets were placed where requested," added Keith Melis, a spokesperson for the department. "The city of New York is the cleanest it has been in 30 years. We are currently holding a citywide average for cleanliness of 91.5."

Savage said that the U.C.A.I. was delighted to help the community.

"We went out there four days in a row since they placed the garbage cans at the end of July and the streets are much cleaner," Savage said. "They look perfect and people are taking advantage of the trash baskets. So many people say that nobody cares when it comes to bettering the community, but sometimes people have to take their own initiative and make things happen."

Councilwoman Anabel Palma applauded the organization for its efforts.

"The United Coalition Association is such a perfect example of community members organizing together to accomplish a shared goal," she said. "Ronald Savage saw a problem, brought people together, and found a community solution. This is exactly the philosophy of my office — communities can self-determine if they come together with a clear plan and strong voice."

"Without being organized our community will never see real improvement whether that is more trash cans on the street, better schools for our children, or real affordable housing," Palma added. "Together we can change anything but separately we can change nothing. Congratulations to the United Coalition Association — you have given us all an example to live by."

Savage started U.C.A.I. in February to show students the importance of staying in school and trying to make a difference in their neighborhoods.

For more information on U.C.A.I., call (718) 842-3751 or visit www.unitedcoalitionassociation.org.

CD 13 candidates' debate

The Committee of 100 Democrats announces that it will host a Candidates Forum for the 13th Council District.

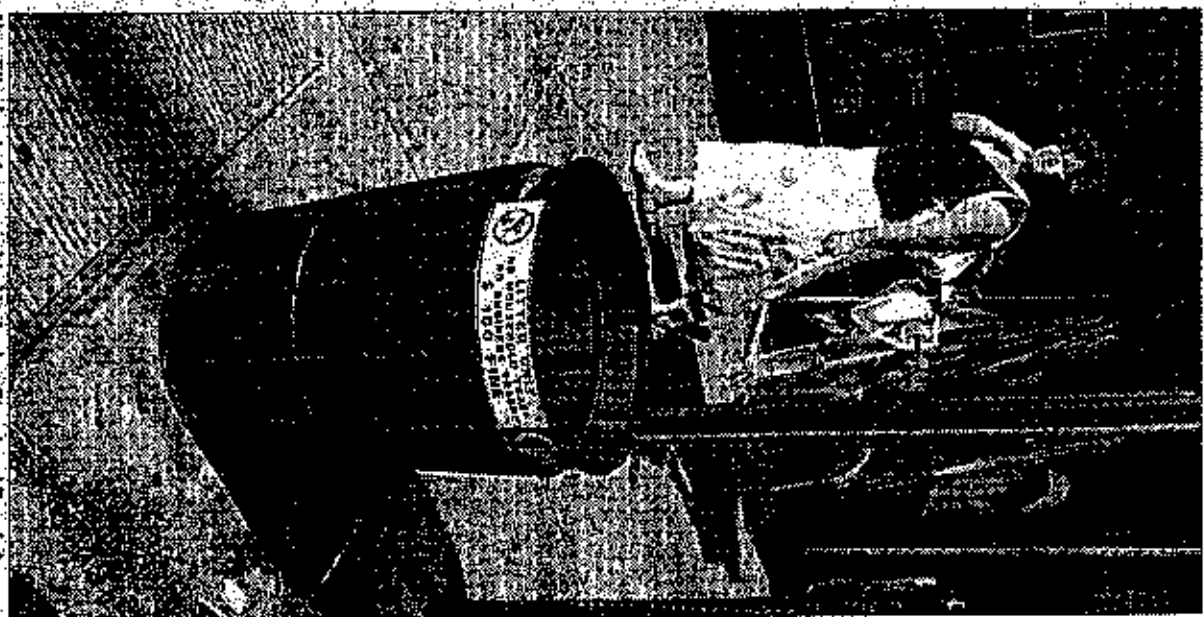
Committee of 100 Democrats chairman Ricky Martinez thanks all five candidates for their formations to attend the forum and wishes each candidate the best of luck in the forum.

A panel of local Bronx

reporters are being put together to question the candidates, questions from the audience will be solicited.

The forum will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Young Iseral Synagogue of Pelham Parkway, between Lydig and Barnes avenues.

For further information call (718) 653-6992.



New litter baskets were added to Archer Street and Beach Avenue and Archer Street and Taylor Avenue thanks to the efforts of the United Coalition Association Inc. PHOTO BY WALTER POPELANSKI