

New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Governor David A. Paterson
Deborah VanAmerongen, Commissioner

State Housing Agency Helps Build Atlantic Avenue Condos, the Largest Multi-Family Building Ever Constructed by Habitat for Humanity
41 Condos Will Provide Homes for Ocean Hill-Brownsville Families, Generate \$34.5 Million for NYC Economy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York, NY (July 18, 2008)—A team of about 25 employees, including Deborah VanAmerongen, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), installs sheet rock and insulation today at the largest multi-family building ever constructed by Habitat for Humanity worldwide.

Upon completion in 2009, the 53,000 square-foot multi-family complex on Sherlock Place in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, will consist of 41 one, two, and three-bedroom condos for homeowners who earn between 45%-80% of the city's area median income. The building will transform a vacant block of Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn and generate almost \$34.5 million in economic stimulus for the New York City.

Commissioner VanAmerongen said, "Everyone at DHCR is thrilled to be personally involved in this historic Habitat build and to demonstrate our commitment to affordable housing and community revitalization. Habitat for Humanity is transforming a vacant block in Brooklyn and breathing new life into this neighborhood and we commend them for their hard work and vision."

Josh Lockwood, Executive Director of Habitat-NYC, said: "Commissioner VanAmerongen and her team have taken innovative steps to create affordable homes throughout New York State. They understand that decent, secure homes are essential for all New York families and that investing in affordable homes helps our economy flourish. Over the past year, we have worked closely with Commissioner VanAmerongen and dedicated DHCR staff members as they have created effective and innovative housing policy and as they have successfully fought for greater funding for desperately needed affordable homes. In fact, DHCR is so dedicated that they are coming out on one of the hottest days of the year to roll up their sleeves and build alongside families in need."

The DHCR team is working with Habitat-NYC family partner and future resident, Alecia Robinson, an administrative coordinator with an employment agency who currently pays half her salary in rent for the Brooklyn apartment she shares with her six-year-old son.