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Officials Announce Free Homeownership Assistance Opportunity

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(Front L-R) Nandini Chandrasekaran of South Brooklyn Legal Services, James Lewis, Policy Director for Communities Homeowners and Neighbors Gaining Economic Rights, Council Member Mathieu Eugene and April Tyler of Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project joined members of Community Coalition For Homeownership Preservation outside the City Hall. (Helena Zhu/The Epoch Times)

NEW YORK—Council Member Mathieu Eugene, joined by James Lewis, Policy Director for Communities Homeowners and Neighbors Gaining Economic Rights (CHANGER, Inc) and other members of Community Coalition For Homeownership Preservation, emphasized the advantage of free organizations for homeowners facing foreclosure.

“We are seeing a lot of people who are now facing foreclosure or struggling with their mortgages because of the economy. People have lost their jobs. And now it’s spreading to the wider population, the majority population, not only to the African-Americans and Latinos,” said April Tyler of

Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP) in front of City Hall on Thursday.

“As many people in our beloved city are facing the possibility of losing their houses . . . in the financial tsunami that they are not responsible for. . . . I believe we have the moral responsibility in our society. Elected officials, please believe us [and] to walk together, to do everything possible. . . . By walking together, we will be able to protect the interests of those hard working people who make New York so wonderful,” said Eugene.

The Homeowner Assistance Event will be held at the Bed-Stuy Multi Service Center in Brooklyn on Tuesday, July 14 from 4p.m. to 8p.m., which will provide homeowners with opportunity to meet with non-profit mortgage counselors and lawyers who offer free services.

In order to boost up the attendance, participating service organizations such as NEDAP, Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN), CHANGER, Inc, South Brooklyn Legal Services (SBLs), United Community Centers, Inc (UCC) and Bed-Stuy Multi-Service Center will knock door-by-door on Saturday from 10a.m. to 1p.m. in the most affected neighborhoods in Brooklyn “to inform homeowners not only about the event, but also about the different rights and options that they have,” said Lewis.

He continued, “One of the problems that we are having is that these homeowners are not aware of the different options and [free] services that are available to them.”

“We are talking about providing information to homeowners and to the public. . . . This is one of the moments. . . . My office, over the last two and half years, we’ve been involved in a mortgage foreclosure helpline, providing information. We probably had more than 4,000 calls in that period of time, more than 2,200 active cases, where we are trying to help to keep people in homes. We all need to be involved in this, . . . because so many people still don’t know where to go,” William Thompson, Office of the New York City Controller.

The event at the Bed-Stuy Multi Service Center will include workshops and informational sessions on topics including Obama’s “Making Home Affordable” Foreclosure Prevention Plan, the Foreclosure Process and Settlement Conferences and avoiding loan modification scams.

Nandini Chandrasekaran of SBLs, who is going to be assisting homeowners at the event, said that many homeowners on the brink of losing their houses are paying a big sum of money to agencies that do very little for them. “Unfortunately, I think it’s a big problem right now. What we really wanna do is to take this opportunity on Saturday to reach out to Brooklyn communities and allow them to reach the free services that are available to them.”

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