

HARLEM'S HISTORIC AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND



PUBLIC HEARING

Friday, March 19, 2010

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Elmendorf Reformed Church

171 East 121st Street

(Bet. Lexington and Third Avenues)

In East Harlem, what's now the MTA's 126th Street Bus Depot, was once a colonial-era burial ground for African slaves and free blacks. It occupied a quarter acre lot on the original Elmendorf Dutch Reformed Church grounds, on First Avenue between 126th and 127th Streets. In New York State, slavery lasted until 1830. This cemetery was in operation until as late as 1845. Many community leaders fear the historic burial ground might be lost or defiled due to ongoing work expanding the Willis Avenue bridge and a plan, to begin in 2015, to entirely rebuild the bus facility.

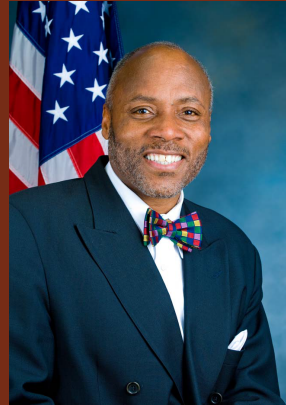
Joining a task force formed to preserve the cemetery in 2008 (co-chaired by Rev. Patricia A. Singletary of the Elmendorf Reformed Church and City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito), State Senator Bill Perkins and State Senator José M. Serrano will hold this public hearing to investigate the impact pending construction might have and how best to implement official action to protect this important remnant of Harlem's heritage.

Protecting Harlem's Historic
African Burial Ground:

A PUBLIC HEARING

Conducted by New York State
Senators

**BILL PERKINS AND
JOSÉ M. SERRANO**



To register to speak or to submit your testimony online please send an email including your name, address and phone number to:

burialgroundhearing2010@gmail.com

You may also register by calling Senator Perkins' office at (212) 222-7315 or Senator Serrano's office at (212) 828-5829 by 5:00 PM on Thursday March 18, 2010 or in person at the hearing before 3:30 PM.

Please be advised, opportunities to give testimony at the hearing will be on a first come first serve basis and will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Please bring 20 copies of your testimony to submit. Testimony may also be accepted by mailing a copy to 157 E. 104th Street, First Floor, New York, NY 10029 – marked "Colonial African Burial Ground Hearing."

**Co-sponsored by the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force,
including U.S. Representative Charles B. Rangel, Manhattan Borough President
Scott M. Stringer and City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.**