



# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER **MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO**

## **IMMIGRATION REFORM FACTS**

There is no law yet. It will be months before legislation passes Congress. The requirements may change as the full Senate and House consider the legislation. Once we have a law, it will be six months before USCIS begins accepting applications. Our best guess is that an immigration reform bill become law next Fall. USCIS will likely begin to accept applications beginning next Spring.



### **YOU CAN PREPARE FOR LEGALIZATION BY:**

- Saving documentation of your presence in the United States; i.e. medical records, school records, bank and credit card records, rent receipts and phone bills.
- Getting your birth certificate and getting it translated if it is in a foreign language.
- Get a valid passport. You can get information about how to get a passport from your country's consulate.
- Report your income to the IRS. If you don't have a social security card, file form W-7 with your tax return and the IRS will issue you an Individual Tax Identification Number for record-keeping purposes.
- Keep all important documents in your refrigerator for safety in cases of fire.

- Under the proposal, to qualify you must live here illegally on or before December 31, 2011.
- You will need to document your presence here by December 31, 2011.
- Excluded will be those with felony convictions, aggravated felony convictions, conviction for three or more misdemeanors, foreign convictions.
- To get provisional immigrant status, you must have paid taxes if the law required you to pay.
- The proposed law will give you provisional immigrant status with the right to work and travel abroad. The status will be valid for six years and renewable in six year intervals. You must pay a filing fee and \$500 for each six year period.
- After ten years, provisional immigrants can apply for permanent residence (green card) status. Those who entered before age 16 can apply after five years.
- To get a green card, the provisional immigrant must pass an English and Civics exam.

CUNY Citizenship Now will be providing FREE immigration services in East Harlem, every Wednesday at LSA Family Health Services. 333 East 115th Street, (646) 672-5200. English & Spanish. 10 AM—5 PM