

# P.S. 101 Renamed for Al Sharpton



**By Craig McGuire**

In a move to strengthen racial ties in Brooklyn, Schools Chancellor Ramon Cortines announced an elementary school in Bensonhurst will be renamed for the Reverend Al Sharpton.

At a press conference last week, Cortines declared that P.S. 101, 2360 Benson Avenue, now known as the Verrazano School, will be named for the vocal civil rights activist.

"The children, administration and parents are all excited," said P.S. 101 Principal James Maloney. "This event will fit in perfectly as we prepare to install a more Afro-centric focus on education here at the Al Sharpton School."

According to Cortines, the community of Bensonhurst was specifically selected for the re-naming to emphasize the importance of racial harmony.

In the summer of 1989, Sharpton organized several marches through the predominantly Italian-American community,

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said Sharpton.

Members of Community Board 11 were receptive to the idea.

"Bensonhurst is a neighborhood of honest, hard-working, upstanding citizens," said CB 11 Chairman William Guarino, "not a community of racists and bigots, as were portrayed in the media during the aftermath of the slaying."

"Perhaps with this re-naming, the rest of the city will realize that this is a community of racial harmony and tolerance," said Guarino.

"I originally thought that 16th Avenue should have been named for the Reverend Sharpton, rather than Vincent Gardenia," said CB 11 District Manager Howard Voyer, "but they had already made the signs."

"I endorsed the proposal for the Al Sharpton School early on, and the community came out in full support," said City Councilman Noach Dear. "That's probably why it has come to fruition so quickly."

Dear's office is organizing a small parade to mark the event. "Hopefully the Reverend Sharpton will be able to attend. I know he has a busy schedule," said Dear.

Sharpton, who is campaigning for the U.S. Senate, said, "My office will be coordinating with Councilman Dear's office to make this [renaming] event the largest multicultural gather-

knows, I may even decide to move into the neighborhood," said Sharpton.

Bensonhurst residents interested in helping organize the event should contact Councilman Dear's office at 633-9400, or Community Board 11 at 266-8800.

## Golden As

**By Mina Landriscina**

Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden is asking constituents to help him fix the streets with his Adopt-A-Pothole Program.

"The 18 winter storms have made chop suey out of our streets," said Golden. The numerous clean-ups have also depleted city funds, leaving nothing for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to fix the streets, he added.

"The streets are holy mess, and the DOT is counting on Brooklyn residents to help us out," said Lisa Dangling, a spokeswoman for the DOT.

In the Adopt-A-Pothole program, which begins the first week in April, residents are asked to make a small tax-deductible contribution to fix a pothole of their choice. In return, a tin plaque with their name will be installed on the former pothole.

A \$5 contribution will fix potholes smaller than a foot, while \$10 will repair a mid-sized pothole, explained Dangling. "With \$20, you can repair those