



HARLEM RENAISSANCE ROAD RACE

501(c)(3) Non-profit

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PRESS ALERT! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In a year of ascensions, the Harlem Renaissance Road Race will on September 19th celebrate Barack Obama's ascendancy to President of the United States and demonstrate love to an ascended master Michael Jackson

THE 2009 HARLEM RENAISSANCE ROAD RACE WILL AGAIN TRAVERSE A ROUTE OF IMPRESSIVE SIGNIFICANCE PARTICULARLY AS HARLEM CONTINUES THE ASCENT TO ITS 360TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

New York, NY – August 5, 2009 – On Saturday morning, September 19, 2009, beginning at 7:30 a.m. (for registration, race begins at 10:00 am) the fate of the feat of planning and executing Harlem's only community Race, a 5-mile road race and a 2-mile health walk, will be revealed with the participation of plenty of little feet and the bigger ones that will expect to make it to the finish (also start) line in front of the Harlem YMCA (a sponsor of the Race) on 135th Street located between Lenox and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. This year's Race will include a tribute to Michael Jackson, the People's Prince, King of Pop, the greatest entertainer of all times and humanitarian, who used his unique talents to promote activism toward love, harmony, unity, and peace. There will be a "salute" to President Barack Obama, a frequent guest of the Harlem community and acknowledgements with gratitude to those individuals who have contributed to strengthening the community of Harlem.

The mission of the Road Race, to promote a healthier Harlem ("Exercise is Medicine," American College of Sport Medicine), empower youth through education," and provide mentoring as a means to helping youth realize their potential, is achievable through volunteer efforts, funding, donations, and sponsorships that combine with the Race's nominal entry fees toward actualizing those goals. Last year the Race received a 5-borough smile and happy 360th anniversary wishes from Race/Walk participants age 2 to 85 who traveled from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, upper Manhattan, Long Island and Westchester County and from spectators, volunteers and area residents who were wonderfully present on that sunny day. Senator Bill Perkins (C.D.9), and Councilperson Robert Jackson (C.D.7), traditionally run the Race, and in 2008 they were both trophy winners in their age category. Councilperson Inez E. Dickens (C.D.9) who is expected to be present again this year, captivated the attention of the crowd who gathered at Howard Bennet Park for the trophy and medal awards ceremony with the delivery of her caring and compelling message about community, service and the significance of the Harlem Renaissance Road Race as an event that serves to motivate progress and build prosperity in Harlem. Harlem is a world-renown community with an international reputation for producing over the course of its (approaching) 360th year, phenomenal African-Americans in the areas of sports, the arts, literature, education, music, entertainment, government, commerce and so much more.

Top female finishers in the 5-miler in 2008 were Susan Branchie, sub 35 minutes, Carolina Cruz, sub 35 minutes and Dawn Paul Little John, sub 35 minutes. Sammy Ramos, sub 32 minutes, Panolano, sub 32 minutes and Jimmy Atkins, sub 32 minutes were the top finishers among the male runners. The Race will again commence five minutes after the wheelchair race and will course north on **Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard** to 144th Street, enter **Central Park** (site of **Seneca Village** in which Africans lived), pass **Heart-Break Hill**, **Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill**, **City College** (the first college university system in New York City), **Striver's Row**, **Pig foot Mary**, **Tree of Hope** and the **Lafayette Theatre** (where **Paul Robeson** was discovered) and **Abyssinian Baptist Church**. (It has the largest African-American congregation in New York.) The 2009 Race anticipates greater participation, not only by those 18 to 25 years of age, but also by those of any age who appreciate the joy of constructive competition, seek reinforcement of the feeling of community and the opportunity to make a difference. The Race boasts such previous participants as the President of City College other area colleges, State Senators, Assemblymen, City Councilpersons, CEO's, Post Office employees and transit workers. For a Race application, inquiries or information on how to volunteer, donate or sponsor, send an email to Harlem5Race@AOL.Com or ActionReActMedia@aol.com.

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