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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Dromm, Ferreras, and Department of Transportation
Welcome Muni-Meters to Jackson Heights

Jackson Heights, NY, May 10, 2010 -- New York City Council Members Daniel Dromm and Julissa Ferreras have worked with the New York City Department of Transportation to help bring muni-meters to Jackson Heights which will increase parking availability and have a positive impact on reducing congestion in the area.

The Department of Transportation is in the process of replacing 428 single-spaced meters with 70 muni-meters in Jackson Heights. The change began in mid-February along 37th Avenue between 73rd Street and Junction Boulevard. The cost and duration of the parking regulations will remain the same. Some of the benefits of muni-meters include the convenience of a pay-and-display system, the reduction of unnecessary sidewalk encumbrances, and additional parked vehicle capacity in the same amount of curbside space.

"I welcome the transition to muni-meters in our area. This is an initiative that came up during my campaign as a suggestion from small business owners and local residents to improve parking management," said City Council Member Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). "I want to thank Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy for her dynamic leadership on this issue and her openness to new ideas and approaches."

"The establishment of muni-meters along 37th Avenue is a mark of progress for our community. These meters will open up the amount of space available to shoppers, reducing congestion and traffic. They will eliminate the need for drivers to feed the meter as they go about their business," said City Council Member Ferreras. "Finally, the meters will provide the city with additional revenue in a time of great fiscal stress."

"The addition of muni-meters in the Jackson Heights area can increase available parking," said DOT Queens Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy. "This should reduce the time spent circling the area in search of a parking spot and hopefully somewhat reduce congestion in this area. It is one of the early recommendations received from our Jackson Heights study that we have been able to implement. We are continuing our analysis and discussions with this community to identify other opportunities for improvement."

The new meters offer more payment options and will accept coins, credit/debit cards, and the NYC Parking Cards. Muni-meter conversions also offer the opportunity to transform some of the single space meters into bicycle parking.

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