

As Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the African American Planning Commission (“AAPCI”), I am pleased to welcome you to AAPCI’s website. In visiting our website, our hope is that you will become familiar with who we are, what we do, where we have been and where we are headed.

I would like to applaud the Board of Directors for their commitment to carrying out the vision of our Founder, Matthew Okebiyi. In addition, I would like to thank Bernadette Parker who served as Chairperson of AAPCI before me.

Incorporated in 1996, Mr. Okebiyi began the journey of bringing AAPCI to fruition by working out of a borrowed office space. Mr. Okebiyi’s vision was to address the critical issues of poverty, affordable housing, homelessness, domestic violence, HIV/AIDs and unemployment that was affecting so many in our community of Bedford Stuyvesant, Oceanhill/Brownsville and East New York.

Determined to make a difference in the lives of abused women, children and seniors, in 1998 Mr. Okebiyi was successful in obtaining funding to build the first Tier II Domestic Violence Shelter in Brooklyn to provide a safe haven for so many of our mothers, daughters, sisters and grandparents who were fleeing domestic abuse. Services include the provision of three hot meals and snacks each day, 24-hour shelter and social supportive services, job training and placement services, youth, children and family-centered programs, as well as crisis case management services.

I would also like to commend the remarkable contributions of all of our support staff to include our executive staff, social service staff, security staff and maintenance staff, for they are the frontline of AAPCI and we could not make it without them. Together, they provide a safe-haven for those who are so in need.

While there is still much work to be done in our community, the Board of Directors and Mr. Okebiyi have committed themselves to addressing issues of homelessness (domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, housing shortage, and unemployment) within the communities in which we live and serve to effect social change in Central Brooklyn, New York, and, as we are now growing, throughout New York City. The Board of Directors of AAPCI are proud to work side by side with Mr. Okebiyi to bring these much needed services to those in our community.

Our community, as is the entire country, is now facing hard economic times. We realize that the housing, social and economic needs of our community are great. We, here at AAPCI, will try our best to make a positive difference in your life. I invite you to explore our vision and the strategies we are employing in order to attain those goals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of AAPCI, I thank you for visiting our website, for your interest in our work, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
**Pamela M. Junior**  
**Chairperson**  
**African American Planning Commission, Inc.**