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**Federal Stimulus Dollars for Training and Placing Men and Women
with Criminal Histories in Careers in the Emerging Green Workforce**

Bronx, NY— On Friday, March 12, 2010, The Osborne Association will celebrate the launch of its new Green Career Center, which will provide job training and placement for people with criminal histories in the growing Green Economy. The dedication ceremony, which begins at 9:00am, will include Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Councilmember Annabel Palma, and Acting Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Sean Byrne, as well as representatives from the offices of other elected officials, including Congressman Jose Serrano. Following the dedication, there will be a panel discussion on the promise of Green Economic Development in the Bronx and beyond. The panelists include: representatives from LIUNA's Local 10, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation and Green Workers Cooperative.

For the Bronx, a community which, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, had a 13.9% unemployment rate in December of 2009, job training opportunities in a growing field couldn't come at a better time. We all recognize the importance of work in our lives, and employment is a requirement for those under parole supervision. However, the unemployment rate for people on parole is more than six times the general population. In fact, fewer than one out of six people on parole have a full time job with benefits.

“The national financial and climate crises have forced us all to reconsider how we use our precious resources, and there is no resource more precious than people,” said Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director of the Osborne Association. She believes that with the right training and support “people leaving prison can re-purpose their lives and contribute to growing a Green Economy that benefits all of us.”

With the \$2 million of federal stimulus money that the Osborne Association has been awarded, the organization will create a Green Career Center which will provide job opportunities and support services to formerly incarcerated persons. Enrollment will be followed by 2 weeks of soft skills training and 4 weeks of hard skills training in marketable skills; such as, Green construction and weatherization. Osborne will then place its participants in living wage, career track jobs in the Bronx. To accomplish this, Osborne has partnered with local Bronx employers like Frank Cruz of DEC Green, as well as organizations like Laborers International Union of North America LIUNA, Local 10, who are providing Osborne's participants with training in green construction and are one of the few LIUNA locals to specialize in Green construction.