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Long Island Index Adds New Applications to Online Interactive Mapping Program

Create, view, and link to the data you want at www.longislandindex.org

Garden City, NY (June 29, 2009) – New applications have been added to the *Long Island Index* interactive mapping feature that allow users to mine the latest published data for residential land use, Pre-K sites, schools, and brownfields and create detailed visual presentations.

The *Long Island Index* developed the interactive maps in collaboration with the CUNY Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center. The maps allow users to compare local and regional trends in a visually interactive format.

The new applications allow users to view:

- Detailed **residential land use information** for Nassau County showing patterns of single-family versus multi-family residential properties. Now the user can see the locations in Nassau County of 2-to-3 family residences, multi-family buildings with four or more units, condominiums and co-ops.
- Detailed information on **Pre-K sites and schools**. The user may click on a Pre-K site on the map to view the school's name, address and enrollment statistics as well as view more precise data about Pre-K enrollments by school district. For **schools**, the user can locate public schools on the map and download the school's NYS Education Department report card.
- **Brownfields information**, including property data and spending for clean-up activities.
- **Updated census figures** that include the latest American Community Survey data (2005-2007) for both the Population and Housing sections of the maps.
- **Video tutorials** to help you get the most out of the maps.

The *Index* site uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to enable users to mix and match data to suit their individual needs and reveal complex relationships in easily understood ways. Users can quickly find information without having to search multiple sites and resources.

Since the interactive maps were added to the *Long Island Index* site, local officials, community leaders, and industry representatives worldwide have used them. It has become an invaluable tool for educators, government officials and residents.

Dana Friedman, Ed.D. Executive Director of the Early Years Institute, commented, "The updated *Long Island Index* interactive maps allow parents, researchers and policymakers the ability to quickly find where early childhood resources are available across the region and to zoom in on programs in their community. At The Early Years Institute, we have found it to be a

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tremendously useful resource in working strategically with our colleagues on issues related to early childhood.”

“I have used the site for both personal and professional reasons, and have found it to be a fantastic resource” said Jocelyn Wenk, Senior Planner, AKRF, Inc. “The site has given me some surprising insights about my own neighborhood and nearby areas. And, as a planning consultant, the site has enhanced my understanding of the communities we’re working in, providing an additional means of gathering data about our client communities and potential clients.”

Access is free, and people can sign up for updates as the feature is expanded. Tutorials are available online for quick reference on how to navigate the maps and access the data. The *Long Island Index* mapping feature is accessible at www.longislandindex.org

About the Rauch Foundation: The *Long Island Index* is funded by the Rauch Foundation, a family foundation headquartered in Garden City, New York. In addition to funding the *Long Island Index* for six years the Rauch Foundation commissioned The Long Island Profile Report and a series of polls on Long Island to determine how the region is faring. The polls, (1) “Long Islanders: Who Are We?”, (2) “Caring for Long Island’s Children”, (3) “Room for Growth: Long Island’s Changing Economy”, (4) “Where Do We Grow From Here? Land Use on Long Island”, (5) “Regional Attitudes on Taxation and Governance”, and (6) Long Island Looks to the Future: Housing Alternatives and Downtown Development.” The *Long Island Index 2004*, *Long Island Index 2005*, *Long Island Index 2006*, *Long Island Index 2007*, *Long Island Index 2008* and *Long Island Index 2009* are all available for download at www.longislandindex.org.

About the Center for Urban Research: Working with CUNY Graduate Center faculty and students, the Center for Urban Research (CUR) organizes basic research on the critical issues that face New York and other large cities in the U.S. and abroad, collaborates on applied research with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other partners, and holds forums for the media, foundations, community organizations and others about urban research at the Graduate Center and the City University. The CUNY Mapping Service at CUR assists organizations in realizing the geographic and mapping dimensions of their activities. The Center’s website is www.urbanresearch.org.

About CUNY Graduate Center: The Graduate Center is the doctorate-granting institution of The City University of New York (CUNY). An internationally recognized center for advanced studies and a national model for public doctoral education, the school offers more than thirty doctoral programs, as well as a number of master’s programs. Many of its faculty members are among the world’s leading scholars in their respective fields, and its alumni hold major positions in industry and government, as well as in academia. The Graduate Center is also home to 28 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes focused on areas of compelling social, civic, cultural, and scientific concerns. Located in a landmark Fifth Avenue building, The Graduate Center has become a vital part of New York City’s intellectual and cultural life with its extensive array of public lectures, exhibitions, concerts, and theatrical events. Further information on The Graduate Center and its programs can be found at www.gc.cuny.edu.

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