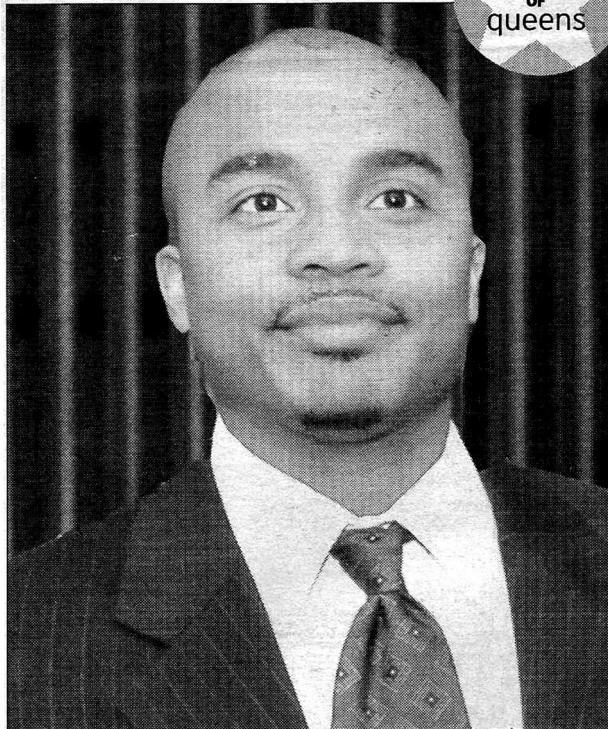


# neighborhoodnews

COMPILED BY TONIA N. CIMINO

SERVING BRIARWOOD, CAMBRIA HEIGHTS, HOLLIS, JAMAICA, JAMAICA ESTATES, JAMAICA HILLS, LAURELTON, QUEENS VILLAGE, ROSEDALE, SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, ST. ALBANS



**Justin K. Rodgers**  
**Director of Economic Development,**  
**Greater Jamaica Development Corporation**  
**(GJDC)**

**PERSONAL:** Rodgers, 28, is a life-long resident of Jamaica. He earned a master's degree in sports management from Adelphi University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Florida A&M University.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** He is a member of the NAACP as well as the Florida A & M Alumni Association. Rodgers volunteers with a number of community development organizations in the local area and attends both St. Albans Congregational Church and Allen Cathedral.

**JOB:** In his new role, Rodgers will promote employment growth and business expansion in Downtown Jamaica by advancing numerous ongoing economic development projects in the area. He will also work closely with city, state and federal agencies – as well as local community leaders – to identify new economic opportunities and help bring them to fruition.

"While Downtown Jamaica has experienced significant economic expansion in recent years, the rezoning by the City of New York last September creates unprecedented opportunities for new growth," said Rodgers. "Working in coordination with Jamaica's neighborhood and civic leaders, we will dedicate ourselves to new business creation, new housing and new transportation-related development."

Rodgers had previously served two years as GJDC's manager of business services. He helped local firms tap into business assistance resources and helped maximize job retention and economic development through his work with both the private and public sectors.

As manager of business services, Mr. Rodgers helped spearhead physical infrastructure improvements in the Jamaica area through upgrades in street lighting, road resurfacing, sanitation, graffiti reduction and tree planting. He introduced 15 new businesses to the area through the New York State Empire Zone program and instituted a signage project that has helped to improve local traffic flow and truck routing.