

AFRICA IN AMERICA

Profile of a leader: Mathieu Eugene

I first met Mathieu Eugene MD (Haiti) at a gathering in Brooklyn organized by African leader Sidique Wai (Sierra Leone). Dr Eugene is surrounded by professionals in the African and African Caribbean communities in the first picture; these colleagues include New York physicians Dr Gastin Valcin (Haiti) and Dr Mohammed Nurhusein (Ethiopia).



Later that evening I witnessed Dr Eugene being given an award by Dr Kendall Stewart (St Vincent & the Grenadines), a podiatrist, and, like Dr Eugene, a member of New York City Council.

The next time I saw Dr Eugene he was on a panel in New York City Council hearing arguments by Haitians for Temporary Protected Status. New York City Council voted in its favor, 51-0.

The pictures at the bottom of the page were taken in Dr Eugene's district, which is distinctly Caribbean and includes the Caton Street Market, which were open-air stalls that are now housed in a permanent structure. The annual Labor Day J'ouvert, celebrating the end of slavery, starts at 4 am and parades into his district, some pictures were taken after the sun rose on the first Monday in September 2009.

African Union Day was celebrated in New York City Hall, Dr Eugene there declared the need for unity in Africa and Africans, because in unity is prosperity and in prosperity is health. Dr Eugene does not practice medicine in the United States, however, as a trained physician and a world-class athlete (he has a 6th-degree black belt) he cares deeply about health.

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