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Jobless Lobby for Bill

Meghan Fitzpatrick

State and local politicians joined members of the grass roots organization Community Thursday as they rallied on Broadway in the City of Newburgh in support of the “Put Act”. According to proponents of H.R. 4268, the bill is two-fold – getting people emp cleaning up communities.

Loretta Manning, a City of Newburgh resident and member of CVH's board, says, “In people who wants to go to work.”

She believes that the bill would fast-track job placements in cities such as Newburgh of blight. “I need these streets clean for my children,” she emphasized.

The bill is being co-sponsored by 52 members of the House of Representatives includ Maurice Hinchey. It proposes \$40 billion in funding for jobs like painting and repairir community centers and libraries; restoring and revitalizing abandoned and vacant prop emergency food programs; adding staff to Head Start and other child care programs; re maintaining public spaces such as parks.

Chris White, district representative to Hinchey, joined the rally in front of a vacant lot between Johnston and Lander Streets. A chain link fence surrounds the parcel that is o brush and littered with garbage.

White expressed his own frustration. “We've been here too many times for announcen blighted blocks,” he said.

Assemblyman Frank Skartados also gave his support for the proposal, noting the impa has on crime rates.

The city is already the recipient of millions of dollars from the stimulus program adop President Barack Obama took office in 2009. The city received the largest chunk of m municipality in Orange County, for the reconstruction of Route 9W. According to Ma Valentine, eastern Orange County-based Argenio Brothers will be doing the work.

Community Voices Heard called on politicians to write to Senators Kirsten Gillibranc Schumer and urge their support for the bill.

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