

## Noble Drew Ali Plaza Welcomes New Tenants

Noble Drew Ali Plaza I, an MHT co-financed housing development in the Brownsville section of central Brooklyn, formally opened its doors last month to new tenants.

Mayor Lindsay and several members of his staff were on hand welcoming new residents and taking a look at the 385-unit moderate income development at 37 New Lots Av.

The complex, first of three contiguous developments jointly financed by MHT and the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), boasts five six-story elevator buildings, parking areas, a supermarket and community facilities for meetings and recreation.

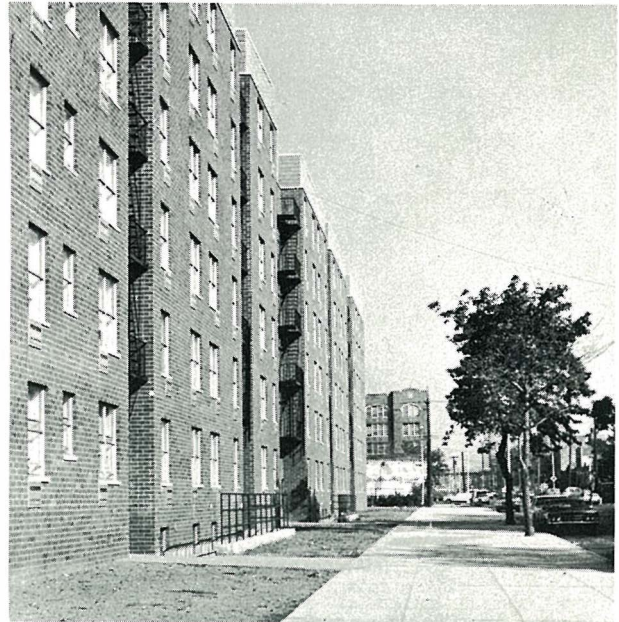
Some 100 families have already moved into the one-to four-bedroom apartments and, according to August W. McCarthy, vice president, "There is no question that the entire project will be filled." He said more than 2,000 applications for housing have been received.

The last of the project's initial five buildings is undergoing the final touches and is expected to be ready for occupancy this month.

Meanwhile, the project's sharply-dressed developer, Joseph Jeffries-El, proudly escorted Lindsay into the management office where a half-dozen children fidgeted in their chairs while their mothers patiently waited as form after form was filled out.

One of those mothers was Mrs. Louise Gilmore, a middle aged-woman who, with her son Howard, was scheduled to move in later that morning.

"I'm really looking forward to it. The apartment's just beautiful," she said. When asked if the new



**NOBLE DREW ALI PLAZA I** features five six-story elevator buildings as well as community facilities and parking areas. Brownsville complex's construction—an estimated \$12 million job—was co-financed by MHT.

dwelling is more to her liking than her previous home on Bristol St., she nodded emphatically and quickly replied, "Yes. Oh my, yes."

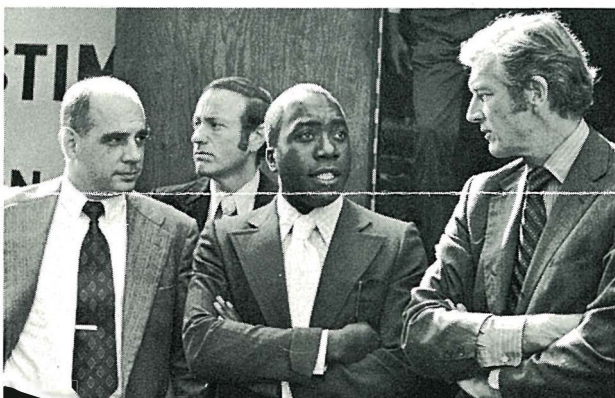
A few minutes later, Mrs. Gilmore and another new tenant, Mrs. Miguelina Colon, were presented congratulatory bouquets of roses by the Mayor as McCarthy, Alvin S. Vale, assistant secretary and officer-in-charge of the Saratoga Branch, and Raymond Jenkins, assistant secretary, looked on.

Total cost of the first segment of the three-stage development was about \$12 million, with MHT and FNMA financing an estimated \$11 million. The second two phases—Noble Drew Ali Plazas II and III—will cost about \$22 million with MHT participating in the construction financing.

Groundbreaking for Plazas II and III is scheduled this month and when the buildings are completed in 1974 an additional 588 housing units will be provided.

Sponsors of Plaza I are the Brownsville Housing and Development Fund Corporation, Inc., (BHD FC), including the Brownsville Community Council, Inc. and the Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc., a 1,500-member religious corporation founded in 1913 by Noble Drew Ali, the project's namesake.

Also participating in financing the second and third phases will be architect Roger Glasgow, the Moorish Science Temple and the National Corporation for Housing Partnerships (NCHP), a Washington, D.C.-based organization which invests in moderate and low-income housing projects brought to its attention through associate financial members—in this case, MHT.



**MHT OFFICERS**, Mayor Lindsay and Noble Drew Ali developer discuss construction of 385-unit moderate income project. Together at site are (left to right) August W. McCarthy, vice president, Alvin S. Vale, assistant secretary, developer Joseph Jeffries-El and the Mayor.