



THOMAS MONASTER DAILY NEWS

A LANDMARK begins to be broken up as 48th St. FDR Drive access ramp meets the backhoe yesterday, a mere 11 years after traffic stopped there. A new one is coming to replace the crumbling structure and estimates are that the \$10 million job will be finished by December — 11 months ahead of schedule. That should ease considerable strain on northbound First Ave. traffic.

drug city's

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The Police Department will use hair analysis in the random drug-testing of officers, even though critics say the method is unfair to minorities and women, a law enforcement source said yesterday.

Police brass, concerned about the rise of drug use among officers, said hair analysis is better at detecting long-term use than testing urine samples.

They plan to begin using the method in the department's random testing program over the next several months.

Urine samples can show whether an officer used cocaine within three days and marijuana within a month. A sample analysis can detect cocaine use in the previous six months, a source said. "We're hoping to identify more people who we currently miss," the source said.

Police say they began using hair analysis in 1996 to test Police Academy applicants, new graduates and suspected users of illegal drugs.

The department has randomly tested officers for drugs since 1990 using urine samples.

Currently, a computer picks officers are to be randomly tested because of the limitations of random sampling, the source said, testing has a 40% chance of identifying an abusing officer.

The organization 100 Blacks in New York City Enforcement Who Care has called the hair tests unfair to people of color and women, citing a 1996 letter from the federal Health and Human Services Department.

Rudy adds insult to Nehemiah

FROM THE GIULIANI administration comes this late-breaking untruth. Asked why Commissioner Richard Roberts killed the Nehemiah home-building program in Brooklyn, the most successful in modern times for working families, this answer was provided:

"Basically, the project is delayed because of environmental issues," said a spokeswoman for Roberts, the commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

There is no such issue. Thousands of people wait for these

are the City Planning Commission, the City Council, the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the state Department of State, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The final one was the Army Corps of Engineers permit, which was issued last month," said Paget. "This project was exhaustively reviewed."

So what are the environmental problems that led Commissioner Roberts to kill the Nehemiah homes at Spring Creek? The question was volleyed back to Roberts yesterday, but no an-

plained his decision. He won't take phone calls from reporters or church leaders.

The mayor himself, Rudy ("I Need A Rest") Giuliani, has stepped into the vacuum to provide his customary sensible and reasonable discussion of the facts about Nehemiah.

"Sacred cows make the best

In the process of their own honorable spectacular history. In the 1980s, the project was to reclaim acres of vacant land and buildings in Brooklyn that were abandoned to the city. A fund from the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, a nongovernmental congregation of bank-

Nehemiah built on the wasteland church fund gave working people of around \$50,000 mortgages are re-

JIM DWYER

