

My name is Gary and I continue to live in Pelham Parkway. Years ago, we all could have called this neighborhood, a community. Today, it nothing more than a geographical area. Many streets surrounding the elevated subway have deteriorated to slum proportions. Homeless people, beggars, filthy grocery stores, 99 cent stores, check cashing places are just some of the sights we now see that was not a part of this once proud community. I am amazed that there are still many good stores along White Plains Road south of Pelham Parkway. Also the MTA is completely rebuilding the Pelham Parkway station (as well as the entire line) to be finished by Dec 2006. As one goes east away from White Plains Road, the neighborhood begins to look like its old happy self.

As far as Allerton Avenue is concerned, it is finished. We now do our local shopping on Morris Park Avenue. (By the way....the Museum of the City of NY on 103rd Street had an exhibit on the Allerton Co-ops where original photos and memorabilia were displayed).

We have refused to move out of the neighborhood after 41 years. A newcomer wouldn't remember how it was, but I do. I only hope that this section of Pelham Parkway and White Plains Road would be revitalized, in a similar manner that is undergoing in the South Bronx. Rid the projects on Astor Avenue of drugs, remake IS 135 and Columbus High to where they once were, schools of excellence. Clean up the graffiti all over the place. I know and recognize that a neighborhood changes, but it must be in the direction of progress, not deterioration. I was originally born in the Crotona Park East section, Charlotte Street, a wasteland that has now blossomed into a beautiful community. Let us hope that Pelham Parkway won't go so far down into a slum to be rebuilt up again.

I am enclosing 4 photos of PS 96 which you can take into and use in your web site. Hope it brings back good memories. (see PS-96)

Thank you for your time and continued good luck in your publications. --GARY--

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