



Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes throws out the first pitch as John McGettrick stands watch.



Felix Palacios, Community Liaison for Speaker Christine Quinn, makes a point as McGettrick and Hynes listen.



New Police Captain Jeffrey Schiff threw a pretty impressive fastball.



Two members of Southern Trucking are eager to get started with the season.



On the right is League Commissioner Ian Young.



On the left Pat Sones finishes up the National Anthem, after which the first batter strikes out, and Charles Hynes makes new fans on the right.

## GET THE LEAD OUT! Red Hook Little League starts on schedule despite problems with contaminated ballfields

photos and story by George Fiala

Saturday, April 28 marked the opening of the Red Hook Little League baseball and food vendor season. The beautiful spring morning began with a ceremony of introductions, short speeches and traditional first pitches. The national anthem was sung, the umpires roared "Play BALL!" and the two exhibition games commenced.

The ceremonial pitches were thrown by new 76th Precinct Captain Jeffrey Schiff, John McGettrick of the Civic Association, Judge Alex Calabrese of the Justice Center, and Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes. Pat Sones then sang the traditional national anthem.

Judge Alex Calabrese, of the Red Hook Justice Center, was present, conversing with the crowd. The Justice Center is responsible for this league's existence.

Viviana Gordon, the NY Juvenile Justice Corp. Coordinator, serves as the League Coordinator. She has worked closely with the teams to organize the opening of the season.

Ian Young, President of the Sayo Grays and League Commissioner, spoke of his pride in having thirty one of his players attend college as a result of their sports involvement. "Going to college is much more important to me than having one of my players play professional baseball," he said.

District Attorney Charles Hynes met with the youth of America. He noted that at one time he was not a bad player. He works closely with the Justice Center, as does his Bureau Chief Gerianne Abriano, who was also in attendance.

Julian Adler, is Project Director at the Justice Center and is part of the experimental Adolescent Diversion Parts (ADP) pilot program which works to rehabilitate young offenders instead of sending them to prison, enjoyed the proceedings.

Felix Palacios, the Community Liaison for City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, spoke of his love for the neighborhood and how he has seen the area really improve for children growing up in the Red Hook Houses.

The baseball season had been in jeopardy four of the Red Hook fields were discovered to be contaminated with lead from a smelter that once occupied the site. Those fields were closed and are in the process of being cleaned. Through the hard work of the Parks Department and the Justice Center, schedules were juggled and the league started on time.

In the two exhibition games played Saturday, Hynes' Heroes beat the Defenders and Southern Trucking beat Gibbs' Brooklyn Youth Association Royals. The *Star-Revue* will be keeping readers updated as the season progresses.



"Play Ball!" is what the ump is saying here.



Julian Adler of the Justice Center applauds a speech.



League Coordinator Viviana Gordon and DA Charles Hynes show that they read the right stuff!



Defenders coach and sponsor Lou Sones watches as his wife Pat belts out the National Anthem. Also present were team sponsors Chris Hanson from the Southern Trucking Co. and Romles Gibbs of the Criminal Justice Agency.

