

Retired top cop returns to his beat

Highly decorated former NYPD Officer Scott Kimmins, who devoted his 20-year law-enforcement career to patrolling the Flatiron district as a cop with the 13th Precinct, has returned to his former beat with his appointment in October as the director of operations of the recently established Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District (BID.) After working in the private sector since his 2004 retirement, Kimmins sought out his position with the BID because of his love for the area and his desire to return to it.

Kimmins is best known as the hero officer whose thorough documentation of drug trafficking and related crimes at the Kenmore Hotel on East 23rd Street led to a federal takeover of the facility in 1994, in what was



SCOTT "HERO OF THE KENMORE" KIMMINS

then the largest asset forfeiture action ever undertaken by the Federal Government. The Kenmore is now a model program run by Housing & Services, Inc. (HSI) providing permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals.

"No one is more responsible for the turn around of Kenmore than Scott Kimmins," said HSI Executive Director Larry Oaks. "Scott committed himself to safeguarding vulnerable and elderly tenants at the hotel, particularly in the early 90's when Kenmore was one of the most violent, drug-rid-

den buildings in the city. We can't thank Scott enough for never giving up on the Kenmore and its residents."

"I'm the type of guy who likes to do things," explained Kimmins. "I never wanted to be in the limelight. I just like to know that I am making things better."

Kimmins' notable modesty is continually challenged by local residents and business owners quick to share anecdotes about how "Stretch," as the 6'4" Kimmins is affectionately known, has contributed to the well-being of the Flatiron District.

Reflecting on his history in the area and optimistic about his new role with the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District, Kimmins comments, "This neighborhood used to be a ghost town after 5 p.m. since it centered around commercial business," he says. Because of the residential influx, "it's different now. There's a new energetic dynamic, which is great to see." As part of his long list of responsibilities, Kimmins' oversees safety and the new sanitation initiatives that the BID launched in November.

Kimmins, a fourth generation New Yorker, is excited about the possibilities ahead for the community that helped to define his career. "Everyone needs a reason to get up in the morning," he says. "Every new day holds the possibility of a new adventure. If one isn't presented, I can always find one."

The Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2006 by property owners, tenants, city officials and others with a stake in the community.

The district encompasses approximately a 38 block area with borders extending from 21st Street to 28th Street and from Third Avenue to Sixth Avenue. Its mission is to make a great neighborhood even better by making it cleaner, safer, and more beautiful through supplemental sanitation and security services, the promotion and marketing of the area's diverse offerings and undertaking additional neighborhood improvements.