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ECE 410

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### **Mini Ecological Study Part III**

Sunset Park is a vibrant and multicultural neighborhood. Diversity is what makes this community exciting and complex. The ethnic groups with the most cultural and political influence are Puerto Rican, Mexicans, and Asians. The European Community is growing and is the developer of the now famous Industry City. Despite all of the beautiful things Sunset park has to offer still needs a lot of improvement, especially to become a more friendly place for people with disabilities.

The Sunset Park community is only partially friendly to people with special needs, and we must work together to improve their living conditions. As mentioned above, the three most influential communities in Sunset Park are divided into three sections. One can only find Chinese stores on eight Avenue from 39th Street to 63rd Street in the small Chinatown neighborhood. Fifth Avenue between 38th Street to 63rd Street is the commercial area for the Latinx community, and one can find many types of restaurants, but Mexican food is almost on every corner. And Third Avenue between 34th and 38th street is the European commercial area Industry City.

It would be interesting to see these three communities unite for a common cause. The Sunset Park community needs more early childhood centers that offer early intervention. The operating ones are not enough for the dense population in the neighborhood. The lack of community childcare centers affects the most vulnerable families. Low-income families cannot afford to pay for private daycare and

are forced to keep their children at home. In most cases, these children do not receive academic or routine instruction.

Generally, children who do not learn any kind of instruction before kindergarten will be disadvantaged compared to peers attending a daycare center. Furthermore, if children have any disability and it is not detected early, they will face even more challenges in elementary school. Creating more centers where children can receive at least four hours of daily instruction will make a big difference for these children, especially those with special needs. The whole community should focus on this issue because it will benefit everyone.

The three most influential ethnic groups must work together to advocate for more community-based daycare centers in Sunset Park. The residents depend on them to use their power to make this happen. The plan of action is described as follows:

#### **Bringing the Community Together**

- Running a campaign to inform the community about the benefits of opening more community-based daycare centers for children with special needs.
- Creating a survey for people who support the project can sing and give their information to prove that they live in Sunset Park. Visiting churches and community organizations to help reach as many people as possible.

#### **Reaching out to Politicians to Bring the Economic Resources**

- Create an organized group of people to meet with the New York City council member Carlos Menchaca, assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, and other politicians in the community that could support the project.

- In addition, people can volunteer to make phone calls to the representatives asking them to support the project of making Sunset Park a friendly community for people with disabilities.

It is so important that community political representatives at all levels get to know the residents' most critical concerns. They represent the people in the neighborhood and have the economic resources and responsibility to ensure everyone lives in good conditions. Children with disabilities were who suffered the most during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because the services were not available for more than two years, these children desperately needed them.

People are still wearing a mask and afraid of getting sick. The hospitals and clinics only give a certain amount of appointments each day because they do not want the place crowded. The situation is getting complicated for everyone, and children with exceptionalities suffer the most. The Sunset Park community must take action to improve the health services for the people who need them the most.

