

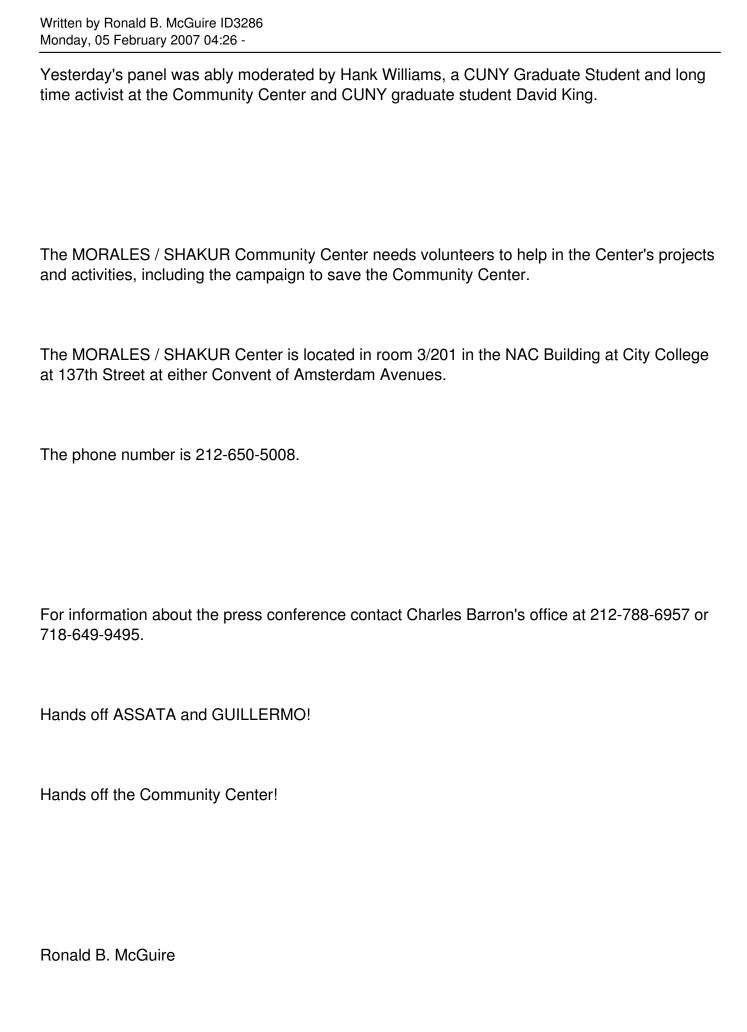
Written by Ronald B. McGuire ID3286 Monday, 05 February 2007 04:26 -

The controversy over the name of the Community Center erupted in December after the New York Daily News published a prominent article and editorial condemning the decision to name the Community Center in honor of GUILLERMO MORALES and ASSATA SHAKUR, two former City College student activists who live in Cuba where they have been granted political asylum. A day after the Daily News article was published the City College administration removed the sign bearing Guillermo and ASSATA'S names from the entrance of the Community Center and threatened students who work at the Community Center with disciplinary action if they replaced the sign.

Yesterday's panel was organized by the students working at the Community Center to introduce City College students to the history of the Center that was founded in 1989 and the importance of the decision to name the Center in honor of GUILLERMO and ASSATA.

I spoke on Guillermo Morales" role as one of the leaders of the historic 1969 student strike that forced CUNY to implement Open Admissions and to establish departments and programs in ethnic studies. Esperanza spoke on the Puerto Rican independence movement which Guillermo was a part of and of the importance of supporting freedom fighters held as political prisoners in the United States for participation in the movements for Black Liberation, Puerto Rican independence and Native American sovereignty. ABIODUN recited poetry and spoke of his experiences with ASSATA and the importance of opposing the terrorism being perpetrated by the U.S. government.

Students at the forum peppered the panel with questions and displayed enthusiastic interest in supporting the ongoing work of the MORALES / SHAKUR Community Center and defending work and the name of the Community Center.



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