

GROUP RAILS VS. IMMIGS ANOTHER BILLBOARD UNVEILED

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Body

Weeks after one of ProjectUSA's anti-immigration **billboard** was removed from downtown Brooklyn, **another** was **unveiled** yesterday in Williamsburg.

The sign is on the side of a residential building at the corner of Borinquen St. and Marcy Ave., where residents drape flags from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico from their windows.

"Immigration does not oblige us to swamp ourselves forever," said ProjectUSA founder Craig Nelsen, at a news conference where passersby heckled him and his supporters, some of whom were African-American and Asian.

"For the sake of our children, we must stop adding to our population. We don't need any more people here," he said.

And that kind of language by Nelsen, himself a grandson of European immigrants, has City Councilman Victor Robles (D-Williamsburg) hopping mad.

"Let's not be afraid to call Nelsen what he is a racist who has forgotten where he comes from," said Robles. "It's always easy to attack the helpless. I wonder what jobs his grandparents took away when they came to this country to make a better life for him. They must be rolling over in their graves in shame."

Nelsen's new **billboard** quotes "an American kid, age 6," as saying: "Because of mass immigration, U.S. population will exceed half a billion in my lifetime. Help us, Congress."

Nelsen admitted that he made up the quote and the little boy, but claims that the information is factually correct, citing U.S. Census data.

A Census Bureau spokeswoman said the bureau has only calculated population projections through the year 2050, and that the figure for that year is 393,931,000 people.

Nelsen signed a six-month contract for the **billboard** at a cost of \$ 6,500 a month. He said that funding comes from donations, generated by the publicity surrounding his controversial efforts.

The new **billboard** is the only one up in New York City. His previous **billboards**, put up in Sunnyside, Queens, and in downtown Brooklyn, were taken down after community protests.

Nelsen plans to sue the city for \$ 216 million, citing defamation of character ("I am not a racist.") and violation of his First Amendment rights ("In this country, we have the right to free expression.")

Nelsen said he plans to put six more **billboards** up "throughout the Southeast of the U.S." He said locations are still being scouted.

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"We are getting the message across that overpopulation from new immigrants hurts American citizens," said Nelsen. "We must not allow insults or the insane obsession with race and ethnicity to stop the debate that our current immigration practices hurt America."

Robles said that while Nelsen has the First Amendment right to put up his **billboard**, he predicts that it won't be up there for long.

"**Billboards** like that polarize and create hostility in the community," Robles said. "They didn't last in Sunnyside and in downtown Brooklyn, and it won't last in Williamsburg."

But Nelsen and his supporters insist that his newest **billboard** will stay up, no matter what.

They won't if local resident Sergio Mendez, and his friends have their way.

"I wouldn't be surprised if this sign gets painted over in white paint very soon," Mendez said, saying the **billboard** insults every hardworking Latino in the neighborhood.

"If these guys are upset about immigration, why don't they go back to their own countries? Unemployment is down. The economy is strong. What jobs are immigrants taking away? You want to work at a factory or a restaurant? Work for a car service? You want to clean houses? This city would be crippled without immigrants. Immigrants always take the hard, low-paying jobs that nobody wants."

Nelsen's last Brooklyn **billboard** was located on Tillary St.

It read: "Tired of sitting in traffic? Every day **another** 6,000 immigrants arrive. Every day!"

Ironically, it was put on the side of a building owned by a Honduran immigrant, who demanded it be taken down.

Graphic

EVY MAGES DAILY NEWS ON A MISSION Craig Nelsen of ProjectUSA **unveils billboard** in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

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