

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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**MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES CELEBRATE
DISABILITY AWARENESS NIGHT BY
HONORING GALLOPNYC**

The Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities (MOPD) and the New York Yankees celebrated Disability Awareness Night as part of the MOPD's commemoration of the 21ST Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Before the Yankees took on the Texas Rangers at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, MOPD Commissioner Victor Calise and MOPD Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel Jason Mischel presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to GallopNYC.

"I am pleased to continue our long-standing partnership with the New York Yankees in the Disability Awareness Night initiative, and am delighted to present GallopNYC with a Certificate of Appreciation," said Commissioner Calise. "Through its therapeutic horseback riding program, GallopNYC has demonstrated a commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities. I would like to thank Carol Laurenzano and the New York Yankees for providing a platform for our message of inclusiveness and diversity for people with disabilities, and look forward to continuing this endeavor in the years to come."

The New York Yankees are one of the most successful and popular sports franchises in the world. Each year, the Yankees host Disability Awareness Night at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, at which MOPD is invited to present awards to organizations and individuals who have made a difference in improving the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities. The Yankees and MOPD, along with other private and public organizations, worked together to ensure disability accessibility in the new Yankee Stadium.

GallopNYC brings the proven benefits of therapeutic horsemanship to children and adults with disabilities in NYC. Therapeutic horseback riding provides measurable benefits for people with developmental, emotional, social, and physical challenges. Through weekly riding sessions with PATH-certified instructors, GallopNYC helps riders walk, talk, connect, focus, behave and learn, allowing each one to live as full, productive and independent a life as possible. GallopNYC serves 150 riders every week at three NYC locations, and most of them pay reduced or no fees. For more information, go to www.GallopNYC.org.

The Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities, established in 1973, serves as a liaison between city government and disabled individuals, as well as organizations dedicated to improving the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities.

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