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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
250 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, NY 10007

TEL: (212) 306-3000 • <http://nyc.gov/nycha>

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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: (212) 306 3322

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NYCHA OPENS \$7.3 MILLION THROGG'S NECK COMMUNITY CENTER

A greatly expanded Community Center to serve residents of the Throggs Neck Section of the Bronx was dedicated today by New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez. The 18,000 square foot building more than doubles the size of the Center previously located on the site at 550 Balcom Avenue between Dewey & Sampson Avenues, in the Bronx.

Chairman Hernandez and NYCHA Staff were joined by Daniel Quintero, Executive Director of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, which operates the Center.

The \$7.3 million renovation of the Throggs Neck Community Center took the original community center 8,500 sq. ft space and added approximately 9,500 sq. ft. yielding a more than doubled 18,000 sq. ft. facility.

The expansion includes a new high school-regulation-size gymnasium with adjacent locker rooms, dance studio, classrooms, offices, an informal lounge area and bathrooms.

"NYCHA's commitment to our residents goes well beyond the buildings in which they live," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "This greatly expanded building is the 38th Community Center NYCHA has built in the Bronx," he noted, adding "from Head Start to Daycare to Senior and Community Centers like this we let our residents know that we care about not just housing for them, but their quality of life as well."

The Center will be operated by the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club under the direction of Donald Jenkins. Kips Bay will provide a variety of educational, recreational and sports programs. In addition, public housing residents and the community can take part in homework assistance; Partners in Reading; arts and crafts, and a computer lab.

This center is part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's recently announced "Out-of-School Time" program. It will serve elementary, middle and high school students and working parents during the hours when students are likely to be home alone.

The architect of the Throggs Neck Community Center is Thanhauser, Esterson, Kapell Architects.

Throggs Neck Houses is consolidated with Randall Avenue-Balcom Avenue Houses in the Bronx. The development consists of 29 buildings, 3 and 7-stories high with 1,185 apartments housing some 2,847 people on 32.83-acres. It was completed on November 30, 1953. It is bordered by Randall, Calhoun, Sampson and Balcom Avenues.