



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

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

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DOUGLAS APPLE
 GENERAL MANAGER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: (212) 306-3322

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Expanded South Beach Community Center

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez was joined by residents of South Beach Houses and Staten Island officials at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the federally-funded \$2.7 million expansion of the South Beach Community Center at 155 Norway Avenue today.

“This South Beach Center is not just a “NYCHA Center” it is a “Community Center” – for the use of all the people of the neighborhood,” remarked Tino Hernandez, NYCHA Chairman as he officially re-opened the expanded facility.

The newly renovated 8,585 square foot South Beach Community Center Community Center features a dividable multi-purpose room, which can be used for social functions, meetings, weight training, audio/visual presentations, and other community related activities. There is a computer lab equipped with five (5) work stations which are used for computer training classes for all age groups in the community. Additionally, the center also features a class room, a new kitchen, dining room, and new administrative offices.

The façade of the new extension to the building features fifteen (15) windows 15 feet in height to allow an expansive view of the development and maximum sunlight to enter. The Center also has been equipped with a state of the art computer controlled air and heating system.

The South Beach Community Center provides a multitude of services to residents of all ages within the community. The after-school program, which operates from 2:00PM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday, is geared towards children 6-12 years old. The activities include; Partners In Reading, computer training, arts and crafts, cooking class, instructional chess, gardening, homework assistance, Education Through Sports and a Child Care Feeding Program which provides hot and cold nutritional meals daily.

From July through the end of August the center operates a Summer Day Camp to this age group from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The year-round evening program operates from 6:00PM to 10:00 PM Monday through Friday. This program services teens 13 to 19 years of age and adult members of the community. The evening teen program has several components which include Education Through Sports, computer instruction, arts and crafts, etiquette and grooming, cooking, audio visual classes, teen council, and the "At-Risk" feeding program. For adults, the center provides various fitness and educational programs.