

**NYCHA CHAIRMAN JOHN B. RHEA
BASKETBALL COURT DEDICATION AT TAYLOR-WYTHE COMMUNITY CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011 – 3:00 PM
80 CLYMER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11211**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. To Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner Mullgrav, Assistant Commissioner Rattray, Citywide Council of Presidents Chairman Bowman, NYCHA residents and colleagues, our partners at Nike and El Puente, our friends at USA Basketball and Each 1 Teach 1 Youth Sports, and our very special guest, Amar'e Stoudemire—it is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to Taylor-Wythe Houses.

Amar'e—Congratulations on another great victory. With passion, a tireless work ethic, determination and team work, you and the Knicks have electrified New York City basketball. And electrified is the word that captures the amazing work happening in this NYCHA community center and in community centers all across New York City.

Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Mullgrav have been truly visionary champions for youth programming and community

development, bringing partners across the city together to revitalize our neighborhoods one person and one family at a time. NYCHA is proud to stand with the Mayor in supporting New York City's most precious resource: our youth. And we remain committed, now more than ever, to fostering the next generation of leaders by supporting our children early, often and throughout their development. But NYCHA cannot win this fight alone.

As the proverb that inspires the name of Amar'e's foundation—Each one, teach one—tells us, securing the future by preparing our young people for it today requires that we all become involved, remain active and stay in the game.

I want to thank our friends at Nike, who have displayed their trademark drive to succeed in business in their passion for preparing young people to succeed in life—on and off the court.

As any great athlete will tell you, your game is often a reflection of your character. Nike understands that success begins inside, and it's just one of the reasons NYCHA is so proud to partner with

them and why we look forward to more great projects in the future.

Today we have come together to dedicate much more than a beautiful, world class basketball court. Today we reaffirm that our children are not alone. We proclaim that we are committed to their well-being and to the fulfillment of their dreams.

On behalf of the families of Taylor-Wythe and the Williamsburg community who will no doubt make good use of this beautiful court; and on behalf of the families of the Polo Grounds Towers community who will soon receive a new court of their own, and for all NYCHA's youth—thank you very much.