

STATE OF THE BOROUGH 2012
Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President
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Today, for the third time, we join to recount our past year of working together to make our shared home—the Bronx—a better place to live, to work and to raise a family.

This past year, we spent a great amount of our collective time and effort advancing a bold agenda for the future of the borough—on economic development, on education, on transportation, and across the many issues that face our neighborhoods.

We said we would bring new business to our borough, take advantage of our underutilized assets and grow our economy in a smart, sustainable way. And we have.

We said we would put forward a real plan for the future of our City’s public schools. And we are.

We said that we would change the way business is done in this City, by ensuring that taxpayer handouts are used not only to enrich developers, but to enrich everyday New Yorkers as well. And we did.

We have executed a holistic vision for the current and future development of our borough, one focused on intelligent investments that make sense not only for individual neighborhoods, but for the entire borough. Through comprehensive planning and community collaboration, we are reshaping the Bronx and advancing a strong agenda for its future.

Where better to begin than with our borough’s flourishing “green” economy, which has been the cornerstone of my administration. We have made it our policy that we will not fund a project unless it complies with “green” industry standards. This increases the demand for green jobs and supplies, and drives the green economy in our borough. It also ensures a healthier Bronx.

Our commitment to a greener, healthier borough continued this year. My administration leveraged almost \$6 million in capital funding into hundreds of units of housing, including senior citizen housing in Hunts Point and home ownership opportunities at the Via Verde co-ops on Brook Avenue. This project, which was highlighted in *The New York Times* as a leading model of sustainable development, will offer state-of-the-art living space for Bronx residents with an eye towards a healthier environment.

But it gets even better. This year, not only did we put our funding dollars into worthy green projects, we recruited a major “green” manufacturer to Hunts Point. In November, I was proud to announce that Smith Electric, an all-electric truck manufacturer based in Missouri, is moving their operations to the Bronx, thanks to the efforts of my administration and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation.

Not only does Smith Electric represent a major manufacturer choosing the Bronx as its new home, but the move will also create more than 100 green jobs, right here in our borough.

Now, Smith Electric will need customers to purchase those trucks, and they have already begun negotiations with our newest Bronx neighbor, FreshDirect. We have secured a strong written agreement with FreshDirect, one that will secure jobs for Bronx residents, a greener environment and stimulate economic activity in our borough. Not only will FreshDirect bring 3,000 total jobs to the Bronx, they will expand their business to neighborhoods across the borough. Over the next five years, FreshDirect plans to convert their entire delivery fleet to a cleaner, greener one.

One day, it is my hope to see a fleet of zero-emission FreshDirect trucks, built by Bronxites and driven by Bronxites. This is an unqualified victory for the Bronx. To top it off, in Hunts Point we will soon see an alternative fuel station—one that will offer services to electric vehicles—thanks to a collaborative effort between my office and the City’s Economic Development Corporation.

Do you see how things are coming together? These three projects join together perfectly. This is smart economic development, and this is just the beginning.

Since we arrived in Borough Hall our BIC, the lending arm of the BOEDC, has lent more than \$33 million. That money has been leveraged into \$88 million in new investments and more than 1,200 new jobs. These numbers are so significant that the BIC has been recognized by *Crain’s New York* as one of the top lenders not just in the City, but across the entire State.

We have changed the way business is done in the Bronx, and it shows. Major companies are making their way to our borders, to take advantage of our able workforce. In the past three years we have seen unprecedented interest in the Bronx, and a major influx of private development dollars into our borough.

For example, Metropolitan Realty Associates has announced that it will build a major new facility at the site of the former Stella D’oro cookie factory. This project will include several high-level national retailers, will serve as a major traffic hub for the entire Broadway commercial corridor, and create more than 400 jobs in the process.

Across the borough, but just down the block from us today, Prestige Properties has announced the imminent expansion of the existing retail mall at Bay Plaza, the first such construction in New York City in almost 40 years. This mall will be anchored by a new Macy’s department store, and is expected to create more than 2,000 construction jobs along with more than 1,700 permanent jobs. It will also provide new shopping opportunities to Bronx residents and visitors from across the region.

We are rewriting our history through new development, as well. When United States President Jimmy Carter visited West Farms in 1977, he witnessed firsthand a blighted, rundown Charlotte Street. Today, that area is filled with dozens of private homes. This year, my administration helped clear the way for a plan that will complete the revitalization of the West Farms neighborhood, approving the largest private rezoning in Bronx history, just down the block from Charlotte Street.

That rezoning will allow for Signature Urban Properties to bring \$350 million in new investment to West Farms, by transforming an underutilized industrial area into a dynamic, mixed-income residential community. The project will feature nearly 1,300 new housing units, 30,000 square feet of retail space and a new school, creating more than 400 jobs in the process. This development will also include new public space, have a heavy “green” component, and will serve as the blueprint for what we want to see from developers in this county.

We have also been working to strengthen and retain our existing businesses, especially at the Hunts Point Produce Market. Last year, I noted the importance of this economic engine to the City, and this year my office facilitated an agreement between the City and the market’s tenants, giving us the time to put forward a long term deal that will maintain Hunts Point’s status as the premiere produce market in the world for decades to come.

In December, at our urging, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that his administration will allocate \$29.5 million in funding through his Regional Economic Development Councils for the redevelopment of the market, as part of a larger infusion of \$37 million in State dollars into our borough. This is in addition to the city's \$87 million commitment to rebuild, modernize and green the Hunts Point Produce Market.

This much is clear— if our goal was to make the redevelopment of the Hunts Point Produce Market a high priority at all levels of government, then we have succeeded. This market feeds the entire region, and is directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of thousands of New Yorkers. Working together with our colleagues in the City, State and Federal government, along with business leaders from across the State, we will keep this economic engine right here where it belongs.

We said we would keep the Hunts Point market in the Bronx, and we did. We brought Fresh Direct to the Harlem River Yard. In both cases, the Bronx stood up to New Jersey and soundly defeated them. Twice in the past year, New Jersey lost a food fight.

We have seen unprecedented cooperation with the Bronx at all levels. This past year we negotiated with Cablevision to ensure that the future of Bronxnet, our own public broadcasting service, will remain strong. My administration was able to secure a new agreement that not only provides Bronxnet with the financial resources it needs to grow and prosper, but also showcases Cablevision’s commitment to serving as an exceptional corporate citizen.

This is not small change. Over the next decade Bronxnet will see an infusion of more than \$30 million in capital and programmatic funding, providing it with the financial support it needs to upgrade and expand its facilities and technology. These plans include the creation of three additional sites. At these new locations, Bronxnet would be able to continue to train hundreds of Bronxites for careers in media while expanding their programming options to Bronx residents.

And we aren’t stopping there. We said we could do better than a mall at the Armory and we proved it. Last year, my administration, together with Councilman Fernando Cabrera, announced the creation of the Kingsbridge Armory Task Force. In collaboration with NYU’s Capstone Program, we released our much anticipated report in June. The report explored the

feasibility of a number of potential uses—including recreation, green manufacturing, and even a film studio—that would work at this historic structure.

We reviewed a diverse group of proposals, shared our findings with the Bloomberg administration, and they listened. In January, Mayor Bloomberg and I announced the release of a new RFP for the Kingsbridge Armory. This RFP lets developers explore a wide spectrum of uses, allowing us to bring a project that will enhance and complement the surrounding community.

The future development of the Kingsbridge Armory will serve as the foundation for the revitalization of the Northwest Bronx, in ways that a retail mall never could. I am confident that, working together with this administration, we can and will bring a new tenant—and living wage jobs—to this highly valuable and unique Bronx asset.

Such major projects cannot happen on their own, but require collaboration at all levels of government and community alike. In that regard, I would like to introduce you to our new Bronx City Planning Commissioner, Orlando Marin. Orlando has the right combination of knowledge, principles and expertise to help push our aggressive development agenda, and I welcome him to our team.

While we are indeed pushing for the major developments that will serve as the anchors of our borough's economy, we are nurturing our small businesses as well. For instance, our administration has thrown its support behind the emerging Westchester Square Business Improvement District, and we will work together with that organization to help improve the business climate in that hub of activity.

Through the BOEDC, we have helped more than 1,000 businesses in one way or another this year. We helped through permit assistance, filing out MWBE forms, or even a microloan. We know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we will continue to support their growth.

And one way to help them grow is to bring them new customers, from all parts of the region. Tourism is a great way to help our borough's economy, and my administration and the Bronx Tourism Council will continue to partner on unique, innovative events that increase visitors, revenue and attention to our borough.

In 2011, we supported the landmark status of the Woodlawn Cemetery and brought salsa back to Orchard Beach with "SalsaFest." Both helped to bring new visitors, and new commerce, to our borough. We also hosted our borough's first-ever restaurant week, "Savor the Bronx." With the help of our partners in the New York State Restaurant Association, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and American Express, dozens of borough eateries participated in this inaugural event, offering foodies and epicureans alike a chance to sample the great cuisine the Bronx has to offer.

Our tourism efforts already attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to our borough each year. This year, we'll bring even more.

Another big attraction is on the way. The golf course at Ferry Point Park will finally see its completion, thanks to an agreement we reached last month. This partnership between the Parks Department and developer Donald Trump will create a PGA Championship-level golf course that will not only serve as an amenity to the Throggs Neck community, but will stand out as a major hub for tourism in our borough once completed.

In the near future, drivers entering the Bronx from the Whitestone Bridge will not see a barren landfill, but a top quality golf course. This course will not only draw tens of thousands of players from across the world, but major pro golfers like Phil Mickleson and Vijay Singh.

This new golf course just adds to the growing list of attractions bringing people to the Bronx. Through our long standing institutions like the zoo and the botanical garden, or with newer events like the Pinstripe Bowl or concerts featuring Paul McCartney, the Big 4 of Heavy Metal, Madonna or Pink Floyd's "The Wall," tourism is growing in the Bronx. Yes! We are changing our brand, and becoming known for gourmet restaurants, first-rate events and top-notch cultural institutions.

Isn't this great time for a first-class hotel to come to the Bronx?

In September, the BOEDC was authorized to solicit interest in hotel development at one of the parking lots near Yankee Stadium. Several excellent proposals were put forward to us, and we have passed them on to the City for the consideration of a future RFP. The long-held dream of a world-class hotel in the Bronx is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Our brand is changing in a variety of ways. Our borough's leadership has never been so united, and we are seeing results. For many years, various City and State agencies treated the Bronx as an afterthought. Nowhere was this more evident than at the MTA, which year after year, cut Bronx service and ignored necessary repairs in our borough, all while raising our fares.

This is starting to change. When I was a member of the New York State Assembly, I successfully fought for funding to rebuild the subway stations along the 6 line, and that work is coming to completion as we speak. In addition, we now have two strong Bronx advocates on the board of the MTA in Charles Moerdler and my good friend and predecessor Fernando Ferrer, and already we have seen a big difference in how we are treated.

In September, the MTA announced that the 149th Street subway station, one of the most heavily utilized stations in the City, will finally undergo much needed repairs. That only happened thanks to our joint advocacy.

And we didn't stop there. We know that greater connectivity to both traditional and emerging employment hubs is critical to our borough's future development. That means greater access from places like the Hutchinson Metro Center, to Midtown and Stamford, Connecticut. Working with the MTA, we have breathed new life into the plan to bring Metro-North railroad service to the East Bronx. This would include possible stations in Hunts Point, Parkchester, Morris Park and right here in Co-op City.

In the fall, we hosted a meeting of elected officials, business leaders and others to gauge their interest in such a plan. The feedback we received was uniformly positive. While some may be concerned with costs, in the long run this proposal would save money, as it would eliminate our borough's overreliance on buses. This year, we will continue to work with officials on all levels of government in order to make certain that this major project finally becomes a reality in the East Bronx.

While these projects are scattered across the borough, they work together to move the Bronx in a positive direction. We are enacting our conceptual "master plan."

Can you see this coming together? We are balancing the needs of individual neighborhoods with the needs of the entire borough, and our development agenda is moving forward because we are attentive to those concerns.

A retail mall may not work at the Kingsbridge Armory, but could be the perfect addition to Bay Plaza. What works in one location may not work for another. But all together, these projects are working for the Bronx.

The health of the Bronx is a major part of our agenda, as well. Year after year, we see statistics indicating that when it comes to health the Bronx is a leader in everything that is bad, from asthma to obesity rates and everything in between. In our efforts to combat that, we are showing our support to our many healthcare institutions by funding critical projects that are important to their growth, especially given the fact that the healthcare industry is our borough's largest employer.

Our funding lead to a major expansion of Urban Health Plan's headquarters on Southern Boulevard, the new ultrasound equipment at Lincoln Hospital and the relocation of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities. This is, of course, important work. But we need to do more. It is time for a boroughwide discussion on the health disparities that impact our communities.

That is why, this coming year, I am calling for a Bronx Health Summit. Like our economic development and education summits before it, this event will bring together the best minds on health and wellness from across the nation to devise a comprehensive plan to put the Bronx on the right track. We will hold this event next year, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our work to make the Bronx healthier has already begun. Last year, I announced that my administration, together with our City Council delegation, has taken steps toward making our building stock healthier and more environmentally-friendly. We recently hosted the first planning meeting on the development of a Health Impact Statement, a new Citywide policy guaranteeing that significant analysis will occur prior to planning, zoning, and development.

We are off to a good start on this proposed policy change, and this year my administration is committed to advancing this conversation. Together, we can determine how the utilization of a Health Impact Statement will lead to improved health outcomes not just here in the Bronx, but across the City.

Such collaborative efforts are the cornerstone of our success. We are willing to put forward our own ideas on a variety of issues, and work together to see them enacted. One such area is education, where despite the claims of some, we know that our public schools have, at best, remained stagnant over the past decade.

That is not to say that good things are not happening in individual schools across the Bronx and the City. Each of us can point to a student, a teacher, a principal or a school that is raising the bar on performance, and making us proud of our public schools.

I can point to quite a few, myself. At P.S. 48 in Hunts Point, the students in the music program bested 500 schools from across the nation to land a \$50,000 prize as part of a contest connected to the popular television show “Glee.”

At Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School, Kate Belin has been recognized as one of the top math teachers in the five boroughs by the Fund for New York City. Her work revamped that school’s curriculum, tailoring it to the specific needs of her students.

And, of course, right here at Truman, Principal Sana Nasser has presided over a renovated building, new planetarium, a popular cooking program and a school on the rise—a high school that can serve as a model for our entire borough.

These are great examples, and my office is working to help every school see similar success. That is why, for the third straight year, the highest percentage of our capital funding, 30 percent, went to our borough’s public schools.

Since I took office in 2009, my office has funded new computers, smart boards and other technology upgrades in schools all over the Bronx. We funded major library upgrades at the M.S. 135 campus in Morris Park and at the Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship. We built a new playground at P.S. 69 in Clasons Point. We’ve even funded upgrades to auditoriums and performance spaces in public schools across the Bronx, including the room we are sitting in right now.

This year, I named Monica Major, who had represented us so admirably on the Panel for Educational Policy, to serve as my new director of education. At the same time I appointed Wilfredo Pagan, a longtime education activist, to replace Ms. Major on the PEP. Together, they are the eyes and ears of my office on the critical issue of education.

And we have a great deal of work to do. In all five boroughs, there are significant issues that need to be addressed.

Last year I announced that we would host a summit on education, which was held this fall. At that event we heard from hundreds of individuals and organizations at all levels of the borough’s education network, many of whom put forward interesting, innovative ideas on improving school performance for Bronx children.

One thing that came up, over and over again, was that parents do not feel like their voices are heard in the public schools. Parent engagement is perhaps the most important aspect of public education. If parents are not involved, our children fall behind. My administration has already begun to address this.

This year, in partnership with Mercy College, we funded a new, innovative program known as the “Bronx Parent Center.” This center is focused on family and leadership development in our public schools. This initiative has also funded two parent centers at P.S. 46 and P.S. 85, both in the northwest Bronx. Such a program could become a model for similar partnerships across the City, and I thank Aramina Ferrer, who first brought this partnership to my attention.

We will also work to expand education options for our children in their earliest years. This includes ensuring access to gifted and talented programs for all students who qualify, and expanding early childhood education opportunities. Early childhood education is a right, not a privilege, and we will push the Department of Education to offer these options to every family.

We must also expand our “Career and Technical Education,” or CTE programs, in our high schools. A perfect model of what CTE could look like in our borough is the Association for Energy Affordability, an organization that I funded. The Association for Energy Affordability works to train Bronxites for careers in the growing “green” economy, offering young men and women first-hand experience in construction, manufacturing and other important aspects of the growing labor field. Wouldn’t a similar program be a real asset to our high schools?

Next week, we will release the full report from this summit; an agenda that will outline the changes we believe must be made in order to better serve our students. We will present these recommendations to Chancellor Walcott, and we will stand together and push for meaningful change on education. We will make the system work for children across the five boroughs.

We not only support our public schools, but our charter schools as well. In my first “State of the Borough” address, I spoke of the need for charter school operators to focus not only on their own well-being, but that of their neighbors.

We have seen a model for such partnership grow at the John F. Kennedy High School campus, where New Visions for Public Schools has opened two charter schools. Rather than keep to themselves, New Visions went out of its way to reach out to the public schools also housed in the building.

Now, the entire culture of the school building is changing, and students throughout the campus are able to take advantage of the support systems New Visions offer. This is a model of public/charter collaboration, and one I hope can be expanded across the borough.

We also need to focus on higher education. This is magnified in immigrant communities, and is of special concern for Bronx students. We cannot—we will not—give up on these students.

Often, these young people drop out of high school because they erroneously believe they will not be able to pay for college. The Board of Trustees of SUNY took a great first step last month by

passing a resolution supporting the expansion of the state's Tuition Assistance Program to all students, regardless of immigration status. This is why I stand with the Governor and echo the call for a New York State Dream Act!

Investing in education is the most important anti-poverty instrument at our disposal. But it is not enough on its own. We have too many people working multiple jobs just to get by. The economic subsidy policies of the City must be invested in jobs that offer individuals a chance to live the American Dream. This year, we were successful in our efforts to make our economy work for everyone, and not just the privileged few. We have come to an agreement with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and the “Fair Wages for New Yorkers” Act will become law.

Soon, when major economic development projects solicit heavy taxpayer subsidies, they must pay their employees a “living wage.” Speaker Quinn and a large majority of the City Council emphatically endorsed the fundamental premise of our position. If you take heavy taxpayer subsidies you must do better by your workers.

Let me be clear: what we have developed with our partners in the City Council and the Living Wage NYC Coalition, will be the strongest “living wage” law in the United States. Mayor Bloomberg should join our efforts, and join the majority of New Yorkers who support this bill, and sign it into law when it lands on his desk. As the *The New York Times* put it when they endorsed our legislation in December, “this bill makes sense.”

Look how far we have come in just two years. Look how much we have changed the conversation on development and income equality. But this is just the beginning. In the coming years we will expand our push to level the playing field in our State.

The same broad coalition that pushed for a living wage—of clergy, labor, community, elected officials and the general public—must remain united, and join the effort to raise our minimum wage. We must stand together and carry our fight from the Kingsbridge Armory up to Albany, and build on our momentum. We will not listen to the arguments of those defending the status quo.

All of us, together, as “One Bronx,” have done the hard work of developing our ideas for a better Bronx. Almost 65 percent of those who took our 2011 Bronx Wellness Survey said they had a “positive” or “confident” outlook on life in the Bronx, illustrating what we already knew.

Things are not always good, but even in our most trying times we have worked to make things better. In recent weeks we have seen a spate of high-profile incidents between the police and the community, actions that threaten to derail the progress we have made on police/community relations over the past decade.

We cannot and will not tolerate police misconduct. We must demand that our police department is better trained to work with our communities in a respectful fashion that honors the dignity of life. At the same time we must passionately support the hard work of the overwhelming majority of men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line to protect law-abiding citizens each and every day.

While there has been a great deal of protest over police behavior in the past few weeks, the fact remains that most Bronx residents want to see the police in their neighborhoods. In our survey, the overwhelming majority of Bronxites said the main way to control crime in our streets was to give our borough a greater police presence.

That is why we will continue our necessary work with law enforcement and community leaders to curb illegal gun violence in our neighborhoods, through our “Peace in our Streets” program and other initiatives, to make sure they are safe for everyone.

And the Bronx is a place for everyone. Last year, I spoke of the need for our borough to come together in the face of hate, following a horrific anti-gay attack in the west Bronx. This year, I was proud to cut the ribbon at the Bronx Community Pride Center’s new space at the Rev. Ruben Diaz Gardens on Kelly Street. What I saw that day was Bronxites of all ages, races and sexual orientation standing together to celebrate the success of one group as though it was their own.

There was no division. There was no hate. There was only “One Bronx,” as it should be.

That positive energy, that confident outlook on life, and that spirit of partnership and community, is what we are going to need to make sure our seeds take root, and that the tall trees of our economy, our education system, and our healthcare system grow for years to come.

I’ve seen those partnerships bear fruit already, as my administration has worked with dozens of elected officials, community groups and others to make the Bronx a better place during the past three years.

Working together with our community boards, we were able to push participation in our survey to the highest levels, higher than the city of Philadelphia was able to reach on their own survey. Working with community organizations across the Bronx, we were able to host amazing events celebrating the wonderful cultures that make up our beautiful borough—be it Irish, Italian, Jewish, Muslim, Puerto Rican, African-American, South Asian, Dominican, Garifuna, Mexican and more.

We partnered with Assemblyman Carl Heastie to give our livery cabs legal protection and allow for street hail access in all five boroughs. We worked with State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson to advance a major rezoning in the Williamsbridge and Baychester communities. We joined with State Senator Gustavo Rivera to launch the Bronx CAN health initiative. Through our capital funding, we partnered with Council Members Helen Diane Foster and Maria del Carmen Arroyo to bring a green roof to the new Highbridge Middle School.

We’ve funded major renovations and technology upgrades in schools across the Bronx, partnering with City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera. We are working to return public access of the Jerome Park Reservoir with Assembly Members Jose Rivera, Naomi Rivera and Jeffrey Dinowitz. We have stood with Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson in her efforts to help victims of domestic violence.

On Metro North's expansion we stand united with City Council Member Jimmy Vacca, the chair of the transportation committee, to advance our plan. We will work with State Senator Jeff Klein to raise the State's minimum wage, and with Congressman Jose Serrano to expand the Bronx River Greenway.

Thanks to legislation put forward by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, we are working to retrofit Bronx homes with energy upgrades, making our borough a greener place. We are fighting to keep our post offices open with Congress Members Eliot Engel and Joseph Crowley.

With Councilman Cabrera and Assemblyman Nelson Castro, we are making sure our faith-based organizations can continue to rent space in our public schools, as they have for decades.

We funded close to 100 senior centers and programs across the Bronx this year, and we are working to make sure our seniors have continued access to these valuable programs with State Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. We are battling violent crime in our streets with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo.

And on living wage, we would have been nowhere without the hard work of City Council Members G. Oliver Koppell and Annabel Palma, the prime sponsors of this important legislation.

Indeed, our elected officials are united as never before, working to make the Bronx an even greater place to live, to work and to raise a family. But we cannot do it alone.

We need all of you, together, to help ensure that new business finds a friendly face in the Bronx.

We need all of you, together, to work to make our borough a greener, healthier place, by changing our attitudes and making small adjustments in our lives.

We need all of you, together, to nurture our youth and encourage them when they do well, but to also take responsibility and act when they need to do better.

We need all of you, together, police and community alike, to work for a safer environment in which to raise our children, while doing so with mutual respect.

We need all of you, together, to join our fight to guarantee that City tax dollars are spent wisely, and have a greater rate of return for our taxpayers.

And we will do this as partners. We need to do this as a team. Vince Lombardi, a great football coach with strong roots here in the Bronx at Fordham University, once said, "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society."

Take a look around this room. Can you see the amazing team we've assembled? Can you see how our agenda is coming together, thanks in no small part to all of you? We have a great Bronx team right here, our own version of the New York Yankees or the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. Our elected officials, our businesses, our community groups, our non-profits and

our neighbors are united as never before. We are working together, as a team, to implement the good ideas our borough needs to grow in the short term, and thrive in the future.

Together, as a team, we will move the Bronx forward into a new age of success. And together, as a team, we will win.

Thank you, God Bless the Bronx, and God Bless America!