FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 7, 2021  

Contact:  
Lori Doyon, St. Nicks Alliance  
917.635.1293; ldoyon@stnicksalliance.org  

NORTH BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES  
GRAND OPENING OF WALK-IN COVID-19 VACCINE SITE  

Starting May 7th, 211 Ainslie Street becomes a NYC COVID-19 vaccination site  

WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, NY (May 7, 2021) At noon today, North Brooklyn community leaders, Assembly Member Emily Gallagher, Capsule, and NYC Health + Hospitals celebrated the grand opening of a new NYC walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site at 211 Ainslie Street. This site is easily accessible to residents of Williamsburg and Greenpoint and open to anyone 16 years or older. Individuals interested in getting their COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine will not need an appointment. The new walk-in vaccine site further fulfills City officials’ and local advocates’ call for easy, convenient, and equitable access to the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine. This site will be open M–F from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This City walk-in vaccine site was made possible by the persistence of St. Nicks Alliance, Southside United HDFC–Los Sures, Conselyea Street Block Association, Swinging Sixties Senior Center, Williamsburg Residents Council, Cooper Park Residents Council, Lindsay Park Co-op, Dealice Fuller (Chair Brooklyn Community Board 1), and Assembly Member Emily Gallagher.

For many decades 211 Ainslie Street has served as a community town hall in addition to being the home of Swinging Sixties Senior Center, Small World Early Childhood Center, and the meeting place for Brooklyn Community Board 1’s public hearings.

QUOTES:

Assembly Member Emily Gallagher:
“This community was hit really hard by COVID. It’s really important that our seniors have access to walkable vaccination centers. We have to make sure we have the vaccines locally and have them available to all. It’s not enough for vaccinations to be free, they also have to be at an easy place to get to. Where people trust they will be safe. I know this community really relies on Swinging Sixties, St. Nicks Alliance, and Los Sures to make sure that they feel safe and comfortable here. I’m really grateful to be working with these partners, grateful to the City, and grateful to my staff for charging ahead and leading the way.”

St. Nicks Alliance Exec. Dir. Michael Rochford:
"It's very exciting to be here this morning for the opening of the new vaccination center at Swinging Sixties. This is the culmination of an effort on the part of 10 community leaders, including: Dealice Fuller, Community Board 1, Representatives of Williamsburg Houses, Community Council, as well as Cooper Park Houses, Resident Council, Swinging Sixties, Los Sures, they did an amazing job, as well as other community leaders who were all determined to provide vaccinations for our seniors. Getting a vaccination at the beginning was fairly impossible, and was totally impossible for seniors. Together, with Los Sures, we overcame that, using vans to bring people to vaccination sites. I'm so proud. Even before we opened today, we had enabled 570 seniors to get vaccinated here in Williamsburg/Greenpoint. The opening of the center today would mean that the rest of our community can also be vaccinated, and it's a great day for our neighborhood."
Southside United HDFC–Los Sures Chairman David Lopez:
“It’s been a very difficult year, all but a few have lost loved ones. We found ourselves praying that we would emerge from these immense challenges with a higher conscientiousness, a higher love and a higher commitment to do battle against this devastating virus. The amazing people of Los Sures and the amazing people of St. Nicks Alliance are proud to do their small part in this battle.

Southside United HDFC–Los Sures Exec. Dir. Juan Ramos:
“Both Los Sures and St. Nicks Alliance partnered up during the height of the pandemic and through serving our community we saw the need that was here for a local [vaccination] site. Our most vulnerable population, our seniors, were the ones most at risk. For them to travel out of the community to try to get themselves on a list to get a shot and to navigate technology, it all became cumbersome. We all jumped in to help them as much as we could. But opening this today it’s like a milestone for us in our community. What it means is when we come together we can do things for those most vulnerable in the community and we need to continue that effort. Our seniors today feel safe they can stay in their neighborhood get their vaccination, and that it’s done with love for them and for the overall health of our community.

Conselyea Street Block Association President Phil Caponegro:
“This is such a big victory for our community. We’ve been trying for such a long time and we’re glad it’s here. [Seniors] can walk here, family members can escort them here. This is such a big victory for the community and for the City at large. We’ll get so many people vaccinated now.”

###

About St. Nicks Alliance:  This community organization serves as a catalyst to improve the quality of life for Williamsburg and Greenpoint residents by addressing economic, educational, health, housing, and social needs while preserving the vibrant and diverse character of the community, particularly for low- and moderate-income residents. They helped coalesce the group of community leaders to acquire a community vaccination site. Recently they saved 211 Ainslie Street from development and will preserve its role as a vital community center.

About Southside United HDFC–Los Sures: Starting in June 1972 Los Sures began the daunting task of rebuilding its community, the Southside of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Los Sures currently provides a myriad of resources like: affordable housing, tenant organizing, community outreach, a senior residential center, a senior recreation center, a hydroponic farm, a local food pantry, and it serves a liaison between the southside community and some city agencies.

About Conselyea Street Block Association (CSBA): For more than 50 years neighbors have united to make a better community. CSBA’s advocacy made 211 Ainslie Street the home to Small World Early Childhood Center and Swinging Sixties Senior Center. This site became home for the Brooklyn Community Board 1’s monthly public hearings and a hub to host local cultural events. Centrally located between Williamsburg and Greenpoint 211 Ainslie is a prime location to serve as a vaccination center for North Brooklynites.