



**Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York**  
Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

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## **PAL Playstreet Opens on West 124th Street in Harlem: Site Sponsored by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor**

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Carlos Velazquez, Executive Director of New York City's Police Athletic League (PAL), and New York City Police Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell announced today the opening of a Police Athletic League (PAL) Playstreet on West 124th Street in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan. PAL Playstreets provide youth with fun recreational opportunities in a safe atmosphere during the summer months.

A ribbon cutting ceremony this morning at West 124th Street between Lenox and Marcus Garvey Park West (5th Avenue) marked the opening of the Playstreet. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor is sponsoring the site in partnership with PAL and the New York City Police Department (NYPD), as well as the West 124<sup>th</sup> Street Lenox to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues Block Association.

Through August 11, 2022, young people ages 6 and up are invited to participate in a wide range of activities, such as Giant Jenga, Giant Connect 4, Nok Hockey, Mancala, basketball hoop, checkers, chess, dominoes, jump rope and hula-hoop. The Playstreet launched last week and is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., PAL will host its Summer Opening ceremony, complete with the traditional opening of a fire hydrant, at 441 Manhattan Avenue in Harlem. This event celebrates the collective opening of Playstreets around the city. Playstreets are located in under resourced neighborhoods to create supervised and fun-filled places for children to play in safety.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Street corridor in Harlem is one such area that is disproportionately impacted by crime, including narcotics-related crime, and quality of life issues. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor works closely with the NYPD and community organizations to address these concerns.

Founded in 1914, New York City's Police Athletic League is a nonprofit organization that provides recreational, educational, cultural and social activities to 18,000 children and teens annually. For more information, please visit [www.palnyc.org](http://www.palnyc.org).

Special Prosecutor Brennan said, "Summer should be a fun-filled time for relaxation and exploration for

all children. I am glad that we are able to help create a safe space for kids to enjoy in a neighborhood where we work closely with the community.”

PAL Executive Director Velazquez said, “The Police Athletic League (PAL) NYC Playstreets has always been about providing a safe place for kids to play and be themselves. This year we continue that tradition with our partner Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan whose support makes it possible.”

“In order to build a strong, vibrant city, we must provide for the next generation of New Yorkers,” said Commissioner Sewell. “Every child deserves a safe place to play, to grow, and to thrive – and the NYPD is proud to work with our law-enforcement and community partners to ensure and sustain these opportunities. This stewardship is vital to the future of New York City, so I want to thank the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, the Police Athletic League, and everyone who invests their time and resources in our city’s youth.”