



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

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2023

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PAL Webster Center Cooking Club Ribbon Cutting: New Cooking Equipment for Youth in the Bronx

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and Carlos Velazquez, Executive Director of New York City's Police Athletic League (PAL), announced a ribbon cutting at the Webster Center Cooking Club today at 4 p.m. The Cooking Club, operated by PAL, is the recipient of a new stove to enhance the club's culinary activities for children. The new equipment is sponsored by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP). The PAL Webster Center is located at 2255 Webster Avenue in the Fordham Heights neighborhood of the Bronx.

The Webster Center Cooking Club, established in September of 2022, promotes healthy eating and lifestyle choices among youth ages 10 through 13. Participants develop important life skills, such as meal planning, grocery shopping, and food preparation. Nutrition and cooking techniques are introduced in a fun, social environment, where kids can learn, share, and experiment.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan said, "I am glad that we are able to use designated funds for activities the children not only enjoy, but will support a lifetime of healthy eating."

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said, "This PAL Webster location is one of the first two Saturday Night Lights programs we opened in the Bronx, and it has been a tremendous success. It began with basketball, but grew to offer other opportunities, and a cooking class with a beautiful new stove will provide healthy fun for kids. Thank you Bridget Brennan for dedicating the funds for equipment for future chefs."

PAL Executive Director Carlos Velazquez said, "Preparing a meal and breaking bread together is how so many cultures build community. We wanted to provide a space for our children to experiment with different foods they might not have been exposed to before and promote healthy practices through nutrition education. This is how we foster creativity, learning, and camaraderie amongst our young people."

PAL Webster Center offers cooking classes and demonstrations on a weekly basis, teaching participants how to plan and prepare healthy meals using fresh ingredients, and how to incorporate a variety of nutritious foods into their diets. This is especially valuable for young people with limited access to healthy food options.

Not only does the cooking club expand the culinary horizons of participants, by increasing their knowledge of healthy and nutritional meals. There is also a social aspect of the cooking club, where a sense of community and support among participants and staff is fostered. Participants get to share recipes and support each other in setting new lifestyle goals.

Founded in 1914, New York City's Police Athletic League is a nonprofit organization that provides recreational, educational, cultural, and social activities to 15,000 children and teens annually. For more information, please visit www.palnyc.org.