

RESOLUTION #1

Date: September 13, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM

Resolution 01-2021-22 – Pool access

CEC27 Resolution calling on Mayor Bill de Blasio, the Department of Education, and the School Construction Authority to allocate funding to enhance, maintain, restore and create access to school - based pool facilities in partnership with not for profit entities.

Whereas, Recreational sporting activities play a pivotal role in children’ s development; build self-esteem, self-confidence and life-skills in developing the wholesomeness of character as well as improves physical well-being and healthy behavior, and;

Whereas, The need to invest in greater accessibility and availability of recreational sporting activities for young people, school aged as well as community based residents, to maintain physical dexterity annuities, warrants greater financial investment in the area of swimming, and;

Whereas, Swimming and access to safe facilities with professional coaches to impart instructions on a continuous basis to residence exploring their interest and enhancing essential skills, which are a scarcity in communities of Far Rockaway, with vase ocean access and surrounded by waterways, and;

Whereas, The scarcity of resources, limited access to community based recreational swimming activities, the absence of water safety knowledge and the lack of general aquatic competency, were all contributing factors in the drowning deaths of several young persons in the Rockaways already this summer and in past years, and;

Whereas, Pool facilities in Far Rockaway, particularly at Beach Channel and Far Rockaway High Schools, which had offered recreational swimming opportunities to students as well as community residents of essential skills acquisition in the past, have fallen into a state of disrepair and neglect, considerably curtailed an already limited resource and access in swimming activities, and;

Whereas, The lack of access to pool facilities, essential knowledge, instructions and critical resources further create disparities with youth in the Rockaway peninsula and their counterparts, due to socio-economic and geographical factors, and;

Whereas, The need to create greater competency in the area of swimming, water safety, safety precautions, essential techniques and general water safety protocols, several non- for- profit entities, community based organizations, and other stakeholders have joined forces to prioritize swimming awareness, and reduce the risk of drowning which disproportionately impact minorities and underserved population, and;

Whereas, It should be noted that State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato has sponsored legislation - Bill (A-00728/S..2207) requiring water safety instruction in schools with significant emphasis on safety precaution, cardiopulmonary resuscitation aid, and;

Whereas, there is a tremendous need, especially for high - risk youth in low-income neighborhoods, for programs that provide activities and support children during the after school hours and throughout the summer months, with engaging and constructive activities that foster personal development, with positive opportunities that are needed to keep them safe and supervised. Current research indicates that supervised afterschool and summer programs significantly improve academic achievement, and;

Therefore, be it resolved that recreational swimming initiatives based in Far Rockaway be prioritized with substantial allocation of funding to provide assistance to providers in the areas of building organizational capacity, create greater and continuous access to pool facilities, maintenance of existing pool facilities by experienced staff and coaches to enhance water safety skills and competency that would lead to improved outcomes for youth and communities in the Rockaways.

Now therefore, Community Education Council 27 asks that NYC Department of Education facilitates greater access to school- based pools during after school hours, on weekends and summer vacation periods to be utilized by stakeholders to expand their reach to target population for greater outcomes and prioritize swimming as an essential recreational sporting activity that produces multiple benefits for young people in both the domains of academic and social/emotional growth.