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NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 6, 2020, 1:00 PM

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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT MARCY HOUSES
COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Everybody, first of all, when we met Alexis two years ago, Alexis said to us how important this would be for children of this community, for the whole community to have this community center. And now I'm so proud to be back with Alexis, who is a great example of the hope of this community, the future of this community. Let's thank her for her eloquence –

[Applause]

And you have a great future ahead of Alexis. We are so proud of you. And everybody, look, this is something to celebrate today. This is something that people have fought for for a long time.

Audience: Yes.

Mayor: And something the whole community should be proud of. Before I talk about this community center, just want to say something about what's going on in the bigger picture. Perhaps in the course of today we are going to hear some results for our national election, and if it goes the way it looks like it's going, the people of this country will have spoken loud and clear for change in this country.

[Applause]

I like the sound of President-elect Joe Biden, don't you?

[Applause]

I especially appreciate the sound of Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris.

[Applause]

So, we will wait patiently and we want every vote to be counted. We just want the people's will to be done. But when it becomes clear, the result, here's what it could mean for us and what I believe it will mean for us. Imagine, leaders in Washington that help us overcome the coronavirus. Imagine leadership that takes us forward past this disease, past this pandemic. Imagine leaders who want to get us help, who want to get us that stimulus we deserve, the billions of dollars that New York City and New York State needs so we can move forward. That's what's at stake. I want to thank everybody because in the midst of this pandemic, here in this community and all over New York City, people showed up to vote and then made their

voices heard, so turn to your neighbor, give your neighbor a round of applause. Say thank you neighbor for standing up and making a difference.

[Applause]

I now – today's celebration, you know, there's that famous phrase that success has many mothers and fathers. Lot of people contributed to this moment. Now again, a lot of people would have said it would be impossible to have this progress happen in the middle of pandemic, but they don't know Brooklyn do they? In Brooklyn we keep going no matter what's thrown at us, right?

[Applause]

And so everyone kept moving because they understood how important it was to this community, how long people fought for this. Raise your hand if you've been fighting for this community center for years, lot of people put a lot of years in this. Thank you, every one of you, thank you. Now, all the people who worked for it, and you're going to hear from some of the leaders who played a crucial role, but I want to thank everybody who fought for this. I want to thank all the people that did the work to make it happen. I want to thank the people who represent this community and the residents of Marcy Houses. I want to thank Naomi Colon, the President of Tenant Association. I want to thank the Grand Street Settlement, the Grand Street Settlement that's going to make the great programming happening here.

I want to thank the leaders of our administration who made sure this project happened. Deputy Mayor Vicki Been, thank you. Our Commissioner for Design and destruct – and construction, Design and Construction, Lorraine Grillo, thank you. Want to thank all the people who keep the community safe from the NYPD, leaders NYPD here today, thank you. Thank you for joining us. I want to thank our elected officials who are here today, and I really want to give a special thank you to someone I've worked with closely, did great work for this community in Albany, Assembly Member Tremaine Wright, thank you so much. Want to welcome new Assembly Member to be Stefani Zinerman, congratulations to you. I've been handed a note that Council Member Laurie Cumbo is out there somewhere. Where is she? There she is. I'm sorry I missed you, Laurie, thank you for all you do. And someone who couldn't be with us, but contributed a lot, including financially to make sure this happened, Borough President Eric Adams, we want to thank him also.

[Applause]

Now, folks really quick, what you see behind you is not just a community center that this community deserves. What you see behind you is also part of the rebirth of New York City. Okay? You see rebirth coming to life and if anyone, if you heard these people that said, there's no future for New York City, have you heard people saying this? I can't believe it when I hear it, the folks who act like the strongest, biggest, best city in America, isn't going to come back. Let me tell you they are wrong. We are coming back strong.

[Applause]

This is part of our rebirth and our renewal, and what does it mean? It means we focus on our young people. That's what this means investing in our young people. If we want them to have their bright futures, we need to invest in them.

[Applause]

So you see it before your eyes. Now let's hear from some of the people who put their heart and soul into making this happen, who deserve our praise and our thanks, and there are many great people, but one stands tall. Here's your clue. One stands tall. He is a beacon to us all. You can find him anywhere. If you look up, you'll see him. What a good man who fought so hard for this day, Council Member Robert Cornegy.

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