

*For Immediate Release*

## **Council Member Vallone Announces Community Policing and Major Increases at 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

February 11, 2016

Whitestone - Council Member Vallone joined Deputy Inspector Thomas Conforti at the February 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting to announce major changes and increases to the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct. This influx of significant resources will usher in a new program of community policing and allow them to better serve and protect all residents of Northeast Queens. Community Policing is a program which assigns specific officers exclusively to small neighborhood sectors and allows the NYPD to spend time getting to know the community, its residents and local issues. This program has been already successfully implemented in a few precincts across the City, but is a first for Northeast Queens.

Standing with civic organizations and Community Board 7, the Council Member expressed strong concerns about the long term lease of the NYPD's tow pound. After seeing the success of community policing in other precincts, Council Member Vallone negotiated with the Administration and One Police Plaza to bring the program to the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Historically, the 109<sup>th</sup> has had the burden of serving the largest population of any precinct in the City. Furthermore, as an additional concession, Council Member Vallone was able to secure an influx of new officers to the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct to allow them to fully implement the community policing program. Beginning in April, the 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct will have dedicated officers patrolling in every community, forging a bond between the community and the officers that serve and protect them.

"I have always stood with the NYPD and have made public safety a priority. This commitment to public safety has now come to the betterment of the 109<sup>th</sup> which now has the officers and resources to address every community in our district," said Council Member Vallone. "At long last, with this much needed increase in officers, we are going to see the return of the beat cop to our neighborhood's streets."

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