



for
Manhattan Borough President

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MANZANO 2005**

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PRESS RELEASE

April 17, 2005

Carlos Manzano Officially Announces His Campaign For Manhattan Borough President

New York -- Democratic State Committeeman Carlos Manzano officially announced his campaign for Manhattan Borough President today Sunday, April 17, 2005 at 11 A.M. at a press conference on the steps of City Hall.

Manzano, addressing the media and a crowd of supporters, declared that his platform is about "people" and not "politics." Manzano highlighted issues such as affordable housing, education, health care economic development, civil rights, labor, immigration, LGBT rights, women's rights, quality and life, technology, but he stated that the central issue in his campaign would be "Homeland Security and Preparedness."

Manzano reminded the crowd that Manhattan has twice been attacked by terrorists, the second attack resulting in the largest loss of civilian life in the nation's history. Manzano stated that since Manhattan remains a prime target for terrorists, it is essential that additional measures be taken to protect the people who live, work and visit Manhattan, which would include increasing accountability in our security, securing additional funding from the federal, city and state government, providing more support to our first responders, hospital workers, police officers, fire fighters and law enforcement officials, and being more vigilant, especially in our transportation system.

Manzano outlined five points that he intends to implement as the next borough president of Manhattan: First, implementing a "Security and Preparedness" Committee on each of the 12 Community Boards in Manhattan. Second, providing critical preparedness information to senior centers, day-care centers, non-profit organizations and community-based organizations. Third, coordinating security and preparedness plans with the private sector so that workers become familiar with emergency situations. Fourth, establishing a "Security" unit within the borough president's office to efficiently coordinate information with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), city officials, law enforcement officials and all communities. Fifth, supporting the creation of more Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) such as the ones that presently exist in Battery Park, SoHo and Harlem.

Manzano believes that the lives of people depend on the leadership and the vision of our future leaders to implement new plans of action to protect and guard the people of New York.