



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JIMMY VAN BRAMER**

47-01 QUEENS BLVD, SUITE 205
SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104
(718) 383-9566

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 27, 2011****

CONTACT: Ross Hardisty / 845-242-2993 / Rosshardisty@gmail.com

Follow Us On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/jimmyvanbramer>

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**COUNCIL MEMBERS JIMMY VAN BRAMER AND ELIZABETH CROWLEY HOLD
RALLY TO SAVE LADDER 128**

On Friday, May 27th City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer held a rally with City Council Fire & Criminal Justice Chair Elizabeth Crowley, the Uniformed Firefighters Association and the Uniformed Fire Officers Association against the proposed closure of Ladder 128 in Long Island City. For over a century, Ladder 128 has been serving the City of New York in emergency situations, including playing an integral role in the rescue efforts during the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Ladder 128 serves the communities of Blissville, Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside and Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

According to a recent report, closing Ladder 128 would result in nearly 7 min response times, well above the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) four minute benchmark. According to NFPA studies, increased response times lead to greater casualties and expanded property damage in emergencies.

“In an emergency, every second saves lives,” said Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer.

“Allowing response times to skyrocket is simply unacceptable. The Mayor must reconsider this dangerous proposal. As the population continues to grow in the area, this is not the time to cut services that protect our residents. I will continue to fight to keep Ladder 128 open for the safety of our local residents.”

“Closing Ladder 128 will lengthen response times, potentially putting residents' lives in danger. With this area experiencing a population boom, now is not the time to be making dangerous cuts to emergency services,” said Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez.

“Closing Ladder 128 would lengthen response times and harm the safety of western Queens residents,” Senator Michael Gianaris said. “Western Queens continues to grow and is in need of more fire protection services, not less. The Mayor must reconsider and keep Ladder 128 open.”

“In a fire or emergency, every second counts. That’s why our neighborhood firehouses, like Ladder 128, and the brave men and women of the New York City Fire Department are essential to the safety of our communities,” said Congressman Joe Crowley. “While budget cuts are necessary right now, there cannot be a compromise when it comes to providing lifesaving services. I urge the City to reconsider these closures.”

“In a fire, seconds count. If we lose Ladder Company 128, the extra seven minutes it may take for another company to come to the neighborhood could be the difference between life and death. Let’s hope city officials take another look at closing Ladder 128. I know these are tough times, but our firehouses are the last places we should look to for budget cuts,” said Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney.

Out of the twenty fire companies slated for closure, the loss of Ladder 128 will create the second longest average response time. The Fire Department released a report that estimates the arrival times for first responders will likely increase by more than a minute, from five minutes 31 seconds to six minutes 44 seconds, if Ladder 128 were to close.

FOR A JPEG VERSION OF THE PHOTO VISIT OUR VIRTUAL PRESS ROOM:

<http://jimmyvanbramer.com/virtualpressroom/Ladder129.jpg>

(RIGHT CLICK IMAGE AND SELECT SAVE AS OPTION TO DOWNLOAD IMAGE)

FOR A PDF VERSION OF THE PRESS RELEASE VISIT OUR VIRTUAL PRESS ROOM:

http://jimmyvanbramer.com/virtualpressroom/PressRelease_Ladder128.pdf

###