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## Statement by Child Center CEO Traci Donnelly on the Ocean Bay and Hammel Houses Community Centers

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I am pleased to announce that, effective this week, The Child Center of NY has become the provider for both Ocean Bay and Hammel House Cornerstone Community Centers in Far Rockaway, Queens. These programs of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development have long been a vital part of this and other underserved areas of New York, put in place to offer afterschool enrichment and adult programs, recreation and respite, and we are incredibly honored to have been selected to take on their management.

As a provider for other Cornerstone programs in Queens, we at The Child Center of NY know firsthand what an integral role they play in imbuing a sense of community where there may otherwise be no space to come together, no place for children to go during those critical afterschool hours when parents must remain at work. Our mission to strengthen children and families -- by making available to them the skills and opportunities they need to compete and succeed -- is greatly fortified by the services offered by Cornerstones. The Child Center of NY is, with this announcement, the sole Cornerstone provider in Far Rockaway.

As we review staffing and facilities at both locations, we expect to reopen Hammel House and Ocean Bay as quickly as possible, though no later than November 1. We are once again grateful for the support and trust of DYCD and NYCHA, and most importantly, the faith placed in us by our many constituents in this beloved Far Rockaway community. We look forward to much continued work on their behalf, as they represent the heart and soul of everything we do.

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