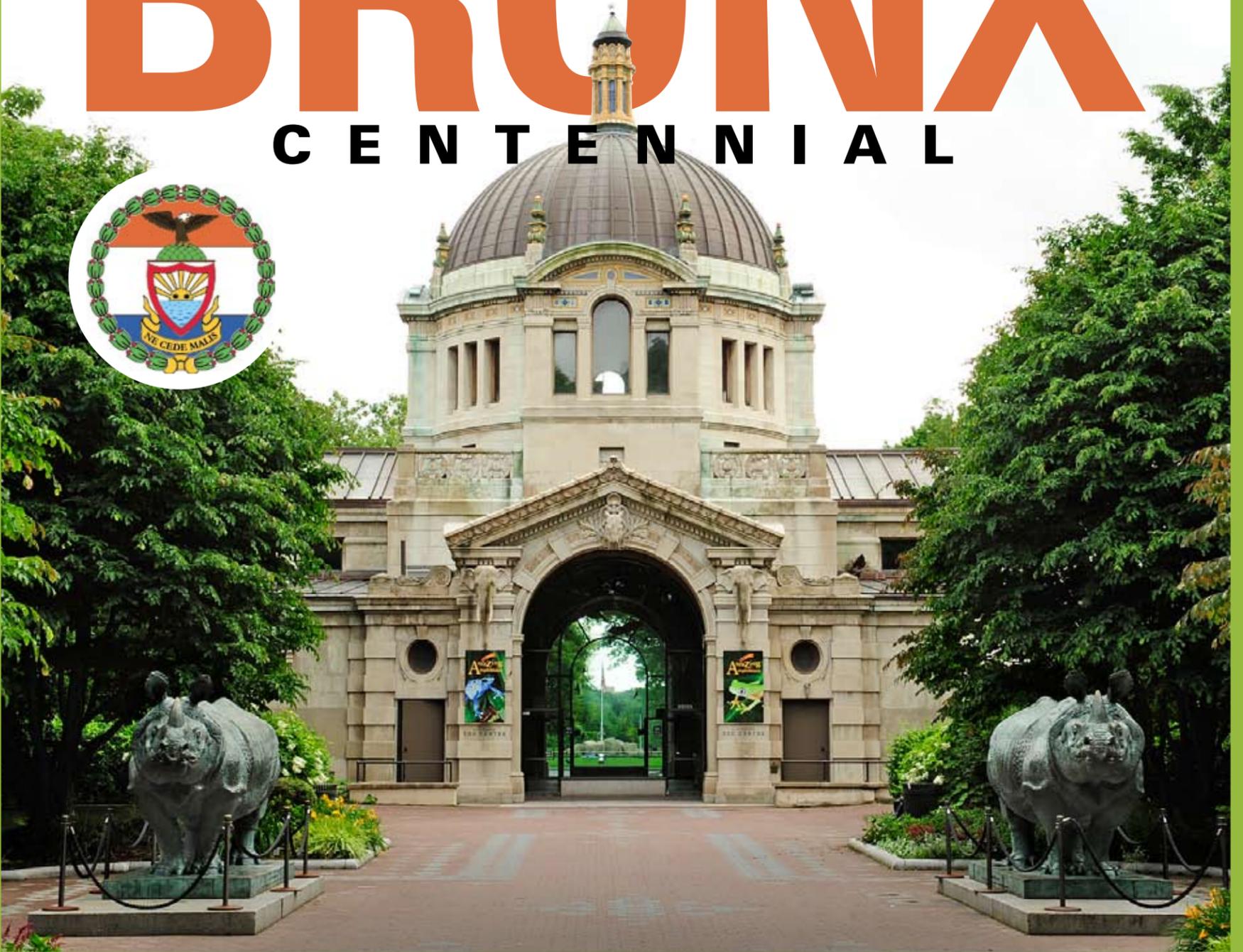


# BRONX

## CENTENNIAL



**Ruben Diaz Jr.**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TEL: 718-590-3500  
FAX: 718-590-3537



**OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT**  
**The Bronx County Building**  
**851 Grand Concourse**  
**Bronx, New York 10451**

January 9, 2014

Dear Reader:

Thank you for taking the time to read this special supplement of the Legislative Gazette, celebrating the Bronx on the occasion of our 100th anniversary as our own county.

Inside this special supplement you will find great news about Bronx County, as we highlight all the wonderful things that are happening in this fine borough. Over the past 100 years the Bronx has gone through many changes, many of which you will read about in this supplement, along with what's in store for the Bronx in 2014.

Our borough is filled with vibrant people and communities, new economic development, arts and culture and so much more. The Bronx is making a comeback, and its growing stronger than ever before. We have major development happening throughout the borough, unemployment

rates have improved, and we're the safest we've been in decades.

Whether it's visiting major attractions like the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Wave Hill or Orchard Beach; getting great food at the world famous Arthur Avenue or City Island, or discovering new favorites, the Bronx has it all.

I invite you to come and visit the Bronx throughout our year round centennial celebration. Come and explore what this great borough has to offer.

Sincerely,

Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Bronx Borough President

# NEW DEVELOPMENT COMING TO FRUITION



## Happy centennial anniversary to The Bronx.

The Bronx is where we've called home since our inception. And it's helped us provide access to good doctors and affordable, quality health care to those in need.

The Bronx will always be an Affinity Community. Here's to another 100 years.



The Bronx is blooming from every corner with major new development coming to fruition in 2014. Bronxites and visitors to this great Borough will witness groundbreaking projects that will mark the Bronx as an international destination for shopping and sports.

Being hailed as New York City's most significant enclosed retail project in decades, The Mall at Bay Plaza is opening its doors this year.

The \$270 million project by developer Prestige Properties is the first new enclosed mall in the region in nearly 40 years. The project will bring new jobs and new business to the Bronx.

The mall's location, at the crossroads of the Hutchinson Parkway and Interstate 95 near Co-op City, is convenient to residents inside the borough as well as to suburban communities in Westchester County and surrounding areas. Two strong anchor tenants, J. C. Penney and Macy's, are on board. The mall will create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 1,700 permanent jobs and will also include a 1,800-car parking garage.

In addition to the Mall at Bay Plaza, the Bronx will also see the completion of the Riverdale Crossing Shopping Center, a redeveloped site featuring mega-retailer BJ's Wholesale Club, Bank of America as well as national chains like Petco and Trader Joe's. Located on the site of the former Stella D'Oro Biscuit Co. factory, the center will offer parking on a surface lot and rooftop deck when it opens up.

At the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Hutchinson River Parkway, the Throggs Neck Shopping Center will house the Borough's third Target. The shopping center will open in this year with other local and national retailers onboard which include T.J. Maxx.

These shopping locations are additions to an already-excellent inventory of retail destinations such

as Fordham Road, the third-busiest shopping district in New York City, and the Gateway Center Mall at the former Bronx Terminal Market, which is home to about one million square feet of retail space.

Healthy growth is evident in all areas of development in The Bronx. The successful Hutchison Metro Center office complex, for example, is in the last two of its four phases of construction, adding up to a 42-acre, suburban-style campus featuring hundreds of thousands of high-demand class A office and medical space. The development includes the 360,000-square-foot Metro Center Atrium, opening in 2014, and plans for a 125-room Residence Inn by Marriott.

Altogether in 2012, with assistance from the New York City Industrial Development Agency, The Bronx secured 18 projects that resulted in \$550 million in capital expenditures and retained and created more than 5,000 permanent jobs, in addition to thousands of construction jobs.

In addition to new shopping development, the Bronx will also see a shovel in the ground as part of the redevelopment to one of the Borough's crown jewels, The Kingsbridge Armory.

The redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory by The Kingsbridge National Ice Center will officially make the Bronx an international sports mecca. The project complements other sports facilities such as the world famous Yankees Stadium, a new PGA caliber golf course at Ferry Point Park and the new Cary Leeds Tennis Center in Crotona Park.

In December, the New York City Council approved The Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC) as the new tenant of the Kingsbridge Armory.

KNIC promises to not only bring living wage jobs to the community, but also provide world class facilities that will benefit our youth here in the Bronx, the City of New York and the surrounding region. The project is going to have a tremendous positive impact on

not just the Northwest Bronx but the entire borough.

The Kingsbridge National Ice Center project was announced as the City's official choice for the Kingsbridge Armory at a press conference in April 2013, which was attended by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Borough President Diaz, KNIC Partners LLC Founder Kevin Parker, New York Rangers hockey legend Mark Messier, and Olympic Figure Skating Gold Medalist Sarah Hughes, among others.

Also that month, Kingsbridge National Ice Center Partners (KNIC) and the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA) signed a historic community benefits agreement (CBA) to redevelop the Kingsbridge Armory into a facility committed to serving Bronx residents. That CBA represents a multi-million dollar benefit package for the local community.

For the first time in the history of New York City, a developer has agreed to wall-to-wall living wage jobs for local workers, more than 50,000 square feet of community space, targeted local hiring, opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses, free ice time for local schools, local procurement, sustainable green development and operation, and a business incubator to facilitate wealth creation for local residents.

KNIC also plans to create a foundation to establish free after-school ice sports and academic tutoring programs for disadvantaged youth. The program will be modeled after the Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation in Philadelphia, which has seen considerable academic and athletic success with those students who participate.

This year, The Bronx will see how these transformative projects will open the borough up to new development, business and employment opportunities and will attract a steady stream of visitors to New York City's northernmost Borough.



# SBH

## ST. BARNABAS HOSPITAL

### Serving the Bronx since 1866





BOEDC – The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation  
Helping hundreds of new and expanding companies take advantage  
of the unique benefits of the Bronx



**WE'LL WORK WITH YOU ONE-ON-ONE TO:**

- Identify the ideal site for your new Bronx business
- Find low-cost financing for acquisition or expansion
- Maximize federal, state and city incentives
- Tap energy discounts
- Find the right employees

SBA 504 loans available through BOEDC's subsidiary  
the Business Initiative Corporation of New York



Call (718) 590-6252 or E-mail [info@boedc.org](mailto:info@boedc.org)

The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation  
851 Grand Concourse, Suite 123, Bronx, New York 10451 Fax (718) 590-3499



# RIVER PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER

Broadway and 225th Street, Bronx, New York

**A Proud Member of the Bronx Community since 2004.**



On Wednesday, June 5, 2013 Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. joined parks officials to reopen Owen Dolen Park, which has undergone a \$5 million renovation. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. allocated \$500,000 towards the park's renovation which contains several spaces to accommodate outdoor events and community programming – including a large plaza along Westchester Avenue. The park's grassy areas were expanded and consolidated, and its pedestrian paths were streamlined and repaved. The project also included new seating, trees, ornamental plantings, additional lighting, improved drainage, and fencing. The funding will also be used for an upcoming phase of improvements, currently being designed, that will improve the exterior of the recreation center, including new waterproofing for the building's roof and re-pointed masonry.

Prepared by: The Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.  
Published by: The Legislative Gazette, PO Box 7329, Albany, NY 12224 Tel: 518-473-9739 www.legislativegazette.com

## East Bronx Metro North Railroad Services Could Create Major Economic Benefits for The Bronx

While 2014 is about celebrating the centennial of the Bronx and its rich history, it is also a year for moving new projects forward. One major proposal, the expansion of MTA Metro North transportation service into the East Bronx, is a project that has the potential to transform not just the borough, but the entire region.

The MTA Metro North proposal includes building four new Metro North stations in the East Bronx using existing tracks. Those stations would be added in Co-op City, Hunts Point, Morris Park and Parkchester.

According to an economic analysis conducted at the behest of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Senator Jeffrey D. Klein released in May, experts project that the Metro North expansion plan will create 5,400 new jobs, increase home values by more than \$140,000, and increase business activity in the Bronx by more than \$1 billion.

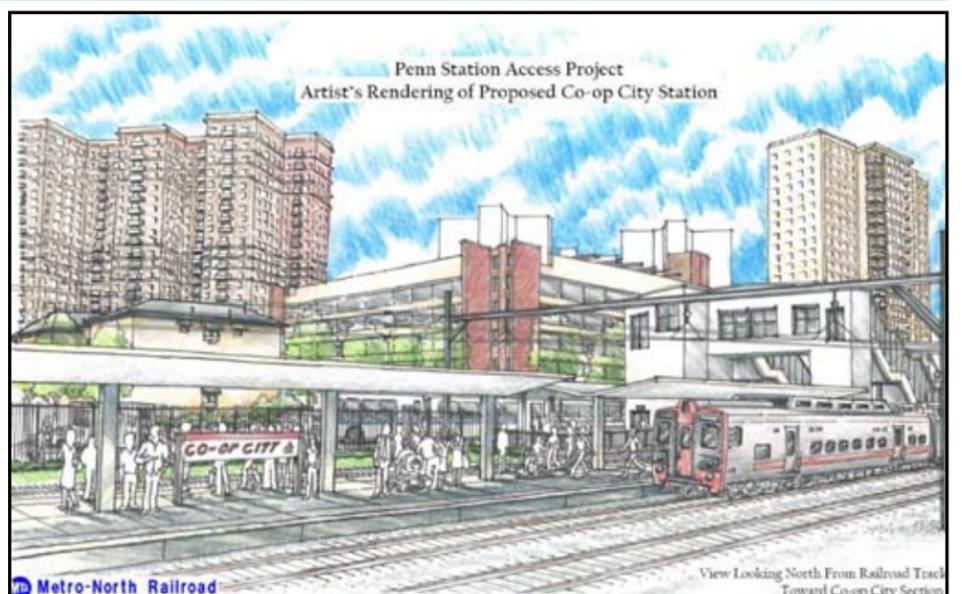
"The expansion of Metro North service to the East Bronx has the potential to transform not just the Bronx, but the entire region. This project has been a priority of mine since I first became borough president, and I continue to push the MTA to include these four stations in their five-year capital plan. This analysis shows just how great an impact this project will have in our borough, and we cannot afford to miss out on new jobs and new economic activity. It is time to make this project happen, and I will continue to work with State Senator Jeff Klein, our elected officials, businesses, institutions and all Bronxites to bring Metro

North service to the East Bronx. It is time for this long-held dream to become a reality," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. when the report was released in May.

The idea of providing one-seat rail transportation to the East Bronx is the most dynamic, and potentially the most important, transportation investment in the Bronx since construction of the subways during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Following the opening of the Inter-Borough Rapid Transit (IRT) subway lines to the Bronx during the 1920's, the borough's population increased by 530,000 residents. Thanks to the foresight and tenacity of those who were responsible for this critical investment at that time, these subways made the Bronx one of the most prosperous counties in the nation and the fastest growing borough of New York City.

By having access to Manhattan in less than forty minutes, for the first time Bronx residents could reach suburban employment centers without reliance on a car. Likewise, commuters to Westchester and Fairfield counties could reach Bronx employment destinations



without the need for a vehicle. This saves energy while reducing harm to our environment. The end result is an improved quality of life for the Bronx, along with increasing real estate values.

"For a relatively small capital investment, we can provide the transportation opportunities our borough has lacked for too long," said Borough President Diaz. "This project would be a major victory for our borough."

The Bronx is on the cusp of a project that, for the cost projected, has the potential of being one of the most cost-effective, time efficient, environmentally sound transportation endeavors of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# The Bronx Becomes a Destination

New York City celebrated a record number of visitors in the last two years, and all indications show a substantial increase is on the way in 2014. The trend among travelers is to venture beyond the traditional tourist activities and explore new and unique experiences, which means more and more visitors will be coming to The Bronx.

The Bronx has recently been receiving national and international media coverage for all it has to offer, proving more and more that the borough is finally shedding a negative image from a bygone era and serving as a target destination for many travelers.

Of course The Bronx is home to "The Big 3": The iconic Bronx Zoo, with over 4,000 animals representing more than 600 species; the world-class New York Botanical Garden, spanning approximately 250 acres of parkland and featuring some of the most exquisite flower and plant collections in the world; and Yankee Stadium, home to the most successful franchise in the history of Major League Baseball.

But what is fast becoming common knowledge is that there are many more points of interest in this borough of 1.4 million people, under the radar places that are just as fun as the Big 3. There is Wave Hill, a spectacular 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River. The Bronx also has a vibrant multi-disciplinary arts community and several galleries such as the Longwood Arts Center, Lehman Art Gallery, BRAC on

the Block (Bronx River Art Center), Elise Contemporary, the Bronx Documentary Center and The Bronx Museum. Performance houses such as the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts and the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture welcome opera, ballet, contemporary dance and concert acts from around the globe. Pregones Theatre offers cultural and bilingual productions which include plays and music.

Visitors can participate in several walking tours of historic places such as Little Italy and Woodlawn, also known as Little Ireland. The Bronx Trolley takes visitors on arts and culture tours; urban farms and community gardens tours; a tour of Bronx historic mansions and cottages; and a tour of City Island's rich nautical history.

The Bronx Tourism Council, in conjunction with the Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., jointly produces several events and initiatives highlighting all the Bronx has to offer. Bronx Week is an eleven-day celebration of the "Best of the Bronx" that takes place each May. One of the highlights is the Bronx Ball, a black-tie gala and a ceremony inducting famous borough luminaries into the Bronx Walk of Fame. A portion of the Grand Concourse is lined with street signs bearing the names of Colin Powell, Regis Philbin, Rita Moreno, Ellen Barkin and more. Bronx Week culminates in a parade, concert and a food and arts festival on Mosholu Parkway, which each year is attended by thousands of Bronxites and visitors from all over the region.

The annual Tour de Bronx is the largest free cycling event in New York State, bringing nearly 6,000 avid and casual cyclists together to ride a 40 or 25 mile course through 61 neighborhoods, waterfronts and parks.

Savor The Bronx Restaurant Week, entering its fourth year, offers visitors the opportunity to savor the flavors of The Bronx's diverse restaurants which include dishes from the Caribbean, Asia, Central and South America, Europe and Africa.

The summer sizzles in The Bronx as thousands descend on Orchard Beach for the annual Bronx SalsaFest. Salseros (Salsa dancers) come from all over the globe to see top Salsa performers while they show off their moves under the sun and on the sand. This season also features several cultural street festivals such as Ferragosto in the famous Arthur Avenue, the International Food Show, and several community block parties.

The Bronx is lauded as the birthplace of Hip Hop; known as the borough of universities; and celebrated as El Condado de la Salsa. It is also known as The Borough of Parks, with over 6,000 acres of natural forest, a quarter of the borough's land mass.

Tourism has never been stronger and the time is right to rediscover The Bronx. For more information on what's happening in the Bronx, visit the official website of the Bronx Tourism Council, [www.ilovethebronx.com](http://www.ilovethebronx.com).



## BRONX-LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER

THE MAJOR VOLUNTARY PROVIDER OF INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT SERVICES  
TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL BRONX

CONGRATULATES

All the residents of Bronx County on its Centennial Celebration. For over 100 years Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center has been serving the residents of Bronx County. Last year the Hospital recorded over one million clinic visits. Our emergency room treated over 140,000 Bronx residents. We are proud to be part of the Centennial Celebration with our neighbors.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

RITA DIMARTINO, CHAIRMAN  
CRISTINA TOOSIE, VICE CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY  
SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ REMENESKI, VICE CHAIRMAN/ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
JOHN R. COLON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

ROSE ROBLES BIRTLEY  
RICARDO R. FERNANDEZ, PhD  
BARBARA A. LOWE, RN, MPH  
JOSEPH NEDLIN  
HARVEY NEWMAN  
JOSEPH SEMIDEI  
MINTO L. SOARES

MIGUEL A. FUENTES, JR., PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Rediscover The Bronx!

history - music - tours - art - culture - sports

Canoe The Bronx River



Celebrate The Best of The Bronx

Fish on City Island



Bike Through Neighborhoods



Enjoy Live Performances



**THE BRONX** | Tourism Council



ilovethebronx.com



/BTCBX



@BronxTourism



## Crime Drops to Record Levels in the Bronx

Crime continues to drop to even lower levels in Bronx County. 2012 was a record year for the borough, which saw crime rates drop to levels that had not been seen since the early 1960's. In 2013 the Bronx did even better, with the borough's murder rate falling 27 percent from the previous year.

In fact, the borough is safer than cities such as Boston and Philadelphia, and continues to get even safer.

When it comes to crime, our borough is leading the way for the entire City of New York. The major gains we are seeing are helping to drive crime rates down for all five boroughs," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Borough President Diaz added, "2013 was the safest year the City has ever seen since crime stats have been recorded, and the Bronx is doing its part to contribute to that positive trend."



## DID YOU KNOW?



- NYSHIP is available to **virtually all public employers** across New York State
- **Over 800** counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts and special districts participate in NYSHIP
- **More than 1.2 million** public employees, retirees and their families have health insurance through NYSHIP



A unique health insurance plan developed for New York's public employees

For additional information regarding The Empire Plan, public employers may visit our web site at [www.cs.ny.gov](http://www.cs.ny.gov) or call the Employee Benefits Division of the New York State Health Insurance Program at 518.485.1771

New York State Department of Civil Service, Employee Benefits Division



Need Assistance Navigating the New Healthcare Exchange? Questions about Insurance? Call (718) 508-3122

Want to learn more about Immigration Programs, ESOL, & Workforce Opportunities for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals? Call (718) 731-3117

Need information on Access to Benefits? Call Single Stop at (718) 731-3114



Multiple locations in the Bronx

We're Here  
*for*  
YOU



## Bringing Healthcare Excellence to Your Neighborhood

Combining our deep commitment to the community with nationally renowned expertise, Montefiore provides care where you live and work.

Learn more about Montefiore at:  
[www.montefiore.org](http://www.montefiore.org)



Ranked among the nation's Top 50 hospitals in Adult and Pediatric Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Adult and Pediatric Neurology & Neurosurgery, Adult Diabetes & Endocrinology, and Pediatric Nephrology, and recognized as high performing in nine additional specialties.

**Montefiore**  
Inspired Medicine