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For Immediate Release  
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## **CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IN ALLEY POND PARK RE-OPENS AFTER BEING TORCHED**

Council Member Mark Weprin joined Queens Borough Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, for the re-opening of a children's playground in Alley Pond Park after it was destroyed by an overnight fire on September 28, 2011. Also in attendance were Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik, Community Board 11Q Chair Jerry Iannece, 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct Captain Jason S. Huerta, NYPD, Community Board 11Q District Manager Susan Seinfeld, and Chief of Staff Deanna Bitetti, Office of Assemblymember David Weprin. It cost about \$175,000 to replace the damaged playground equipment. Parks Department officials suspect that an individual or group set fire to the playground, though no arrests have been made.

"It is a shame that the community had to go for several months without this playground, but I am pleased that the Alley Pond Park's children's playground is open for business once again," said Council Member Mark Weprin.

The children's playground is located in Alley Pond Park at the intersection of Springfield Boulevard and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Oakland Gardens, Queens; it is used by thousands of local children.



Photo Attached: (left to right) Council Member Mark Weprin, Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski, Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik, Community Board 11Q Chair Jerry Iannece, 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct NYPD Captain Jason S. Huerta, Community Board 11Q District Manager Susan Seinfeld, Chief of Staff Deanna Bitetti, Office of Assemblymember David Weprin, and local children at the opening of the children's playground in Alley Pond Park.