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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Dromm and Asian Community United Society Hold
FIRST EVER Lunar New Year Celebration in Elmhurst, Queens

Elmhurst, NY, February 5, 2011 -- On Saturday, New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm and the Asian Community United Society held the first ever community Lunar New Year celebration in Elmhurst to welcome in the Year of the Rabbit. The event, held at C.C. Moore Homestead Park featured traditional Korean drumming and a lion dance believed to usher in good fortune and ward off evil spirits.

Despite the wintry weather, a large crowd gathered to partake in the festivities. New York City Comptroller John C. Liu, State Senator José Peralta, and Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry also joined Council Member Dromm to mark the occasion.

Dromm, the Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Immigration, was excited about this opportunity for the Asian American communities of Elmhurst to increase their visibility and celebrate their cultural pride while sowing the seeds for future organizing.

"Asians and Asian-Americans have made tremendous contributions to our society and our communities," said Dromm. "Their deep history and rich traditions should be celebrated with the rest of the world. I am especially delighted to hold this Lunar New Year celebration in a district as culturally diverse and as welcoming as this one."

The fourth animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese Zodiac, the Rabbit represents compassion, grace and opportunity.

NYC Comptroller John C. Liu bid farewell to the Year of the Tiger and was optimistic about the City for the upcoming year.

"The Year of the Tiger will be marked as a year that was filled with challenges for New Yorkers. Families, businesses, and government have had to make hard economic and fiscal decisions," said New York City Comptroller John C. Liu. "The Year of the Rabbit will hopefully bring steady growth for New York. My sincerest wishes to all, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, for a safe, happy and healthy New Year."

"This is a time of year of great joy and optimism for our Asian friends and neighbors," State Senator José Peralta said. "I wish them all the best in the new year and want to thank Council Member Dromm and the Asian Community United Society for bringing this first-of-its-kind celebration to Elmhurst."

"This is the first time ACUS has partnered with Council Member Daniel Dromm to celebrate Lunar New Year in Elmhurst, Queens," said Warren Chan, Executive Director of the Asian Community United Society. "With this partnership we will be able to bring this wonderful holiday celebration to the Asian community of Elmhurst and are committed to work with the Council Member to bring more holiday festivals and partners to enrich the Asian community here in Elmhurst."

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