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Following Through on a Promise, Norwood Shelter to Get Peace Officers

🕒 September 3, 2019 (<https://www.norwoodnews.org/id=29396&story=following-through-on-a-promise-norwood-shelter-to-get-peace-officers/>)

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By **SHA-NIA ALSTON**

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(<https://i1.wp.com/www.norwoodnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/More-Add-Ons-For-Norwood-Shelter-Web-Picture.jpg?ssl=1>)

THE JEROME AVENUE Men's Shelter will receive peace officers roughly a year and a half after opening.

Photo by José A. Giralt

The Jerome Avenue Men's Shelter (JAMS)

(<https://www.norwoodnews.org/id=25270&story=dhs-moves-forward-jerome-avenue-shelter/>) in Norwood will finally receive peace officers following efforts from Councilman Andy Cohen, Community Board 7, and several other elected officials, following through on a promise made by the New York City Department of Homeless Services for some.

"I am really pleased they're coming. I am very optimistic that they are going to reduce the overall impact of the shelter on the community," said Cohen in a telephone interview with the *Norwood News*.

DHS hopes the peace officers, who are expected to report for duty on Oct. 1, will relieve the 52nd Precinct from constantly policing the area where the shelter resides, allowing peace officers to settle any disputes that require little involvement from the NYPD. John Betts, the residence director for BronxWorks, which operates JAMS, said in a statement the organization is committed to "being a good neighbor" by keeping order.

This isn't the first time the community has been vocal when it comes to JAMS. Residents fought against the shelter's original plans that called for it to be placed near PS/MS 20. After that, there were more community concerns when **it was decided**

that the shelter would receive a clinic open

(<https://www.norwoodnews.org/id=28760&story=more-add-ons-on-the-way-for-norwood-shelter-sparking-concerns/>) to individuals who do not live in the shelter, causing uproar from Community Board 7 members who felt that this would lead more to panhandling and loitering. As it stands, the homeless have been spotted in greater frequency along the Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District.

Many of these issues are why DHS peace officers were originally included in shelter plans. In a statement, Cohen said, “the community has been advocating for there to be peace officers at JAMS since before the facility opened and I am thrilled that DHS has now recognized the need.”

Cohen, whose 11th Council District covers Wakefield, has seen the difference that DHS peace officers make it shelter.

“I have shelter in the Wakefield section of the district operated by Project Renewal that has DHS peace officers, and I know that after they came into the site I had a significant reduction in 911 calls. I had a significant reduction in neighbor complaints, so I know that it works,” said Cohen.

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Welcome to the Norwood News, a bi-weekly community newspaper that primarily serves the northwest Bronx communities of Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and University Heights. Through our Breaking Bronx blog, we focus on news and information for those neighborhoods, but aim to cover as much Bronx-related news as possible. Founded in 1988 by Mosholu Preservation Corporation, a not-for-profit affiliate of Montefiore Medical Center, the Norwood News began as a monthly and grew to a bi-weekly in 1994. In September 2003 the paper expanded to cover University Heights and now covers all the neighborhoods of Community District 7. The Norwood News exists to foster communication among citizens and organizations and to be a tool for neighborhood development efforts. The Norwood News runs the Bronx Youth Journalism Heard, a journalism training program for Bronx high school students. As you navigate this website, please let us know if you discover any glitches or if you have any suggestions. We'd love to hear from you. You can send e-mails to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org or call us anytime (718) 324-4998.

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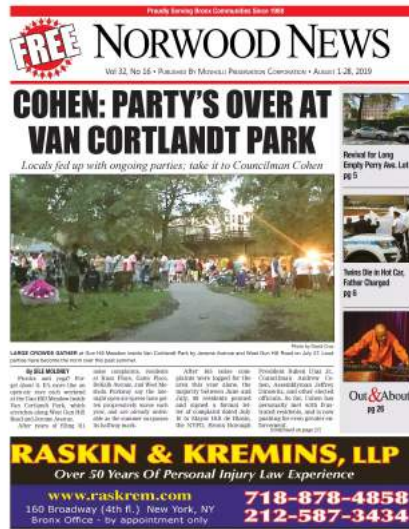
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