New York State Senator, 35th Senate District
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader **ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS**

Press Release



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Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins Marks Start of $4 Million Yonkers PAL Renovation Project

Renovation will create a safer, more welcoming space for Yonkers youth and families

(**Yonkers, NY**) – Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was joined by local leaders and Yonkers students on Wednesday to mark the start of a $4 million state-funded renovation of the Yonkers Police Athletic League (PAL), giving more local kids and families room to learn, play, and grow.

For generations, Yonkers PAL has offered free baseball, basketball, boxing, martial arts, educational, and family programs to residents. The renovation will modernize more than 10,000 square feet of the facility so the PAL can reach even more young people and families.

"Every child deserves a safe and welcoming place where they can learn new skills, build friendships, stay active, and discover what they are capable of," **said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins**. "For generations, Yonkers PAL has provided those opportunities to children and families, regardless of their ability to pay. This investment is about making sure PAL has the facilities it needs to continue that work and reach even more young people. I am grateful to Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie, Assemblymember Sayegh, and our local partners for making these improvements possible."

"Community organizations like Yonkers PAL are essential to making New York a safe, great place for families to live," **Governor Hochul said**. "These major facility upgrades will be a huge benefit to kids and families who will soon enjoy more space for fun, free activities, and as New York's first mom Governor, I'm especially proud to support this project."

Work begins with roof repairs, with materials delivered this week. Crews will then renovate the basement so more of the building can be used for recreational programming and activities. Additional upgrades include new ceilings, walls, and flooring, improved ventilation, and renovated bathrooms and showers, creating a safer, more comfortable space for kids.

The $4 million state investment includes $1 million secured by Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and an additional $1 million provided by the State Assembly, including $250,000 from Assemblymember Sayegh's allocation. Governor Hochul matched the Legislature's contributions with another $2 million.

“I am proud to have been instrumental in helping deliver this $4 million investment, which represents a significant commitment to strengthening the PAL and ensuring it can continue making a lasting difference in the lives of Yonkers children and families,” **said Assemblymember Nader Sayegh**. “I am grateful to Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl Heastie, and Governor Kathy Hochul for their partnership and support in helping make this investment a reality. Delivering resources like these is about more than funding a program; it is about creating opportunities, investing in our next generation, and building a stronger future for the Yonkers community.”

Also joining the announcement were Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, Assemblymember-Elect Frank Jereis, Morgan Slocombe representing Governor Hochul, County Legislator Shanae Williams, Legislator-Elect Kisha Skipper, Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Council Majority Leader John Rubbo Council Majority Whip Deana R. Norman, Councilmember Tasha Diaz, Councilmember Tim Hodges, Yonkers PAL Executive Director Marisol Mancebo, PAL Board Chair Lenny Spano, PAL Board Members, Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza, PBA President Frank McDonald, and Yonkers students who participate in programs at the PAL.

“Projects like this don't happen without strong partnerships and people who believe in investing in our community. Our Yonkers PAL is so much more than a building. It's a safe place for our kids to go, participate in sports, learn new skills and take part in educational and recreational programs,” **said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano.** “Thank you to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and Assemblymember Nader Sayegh for securing these funds for our PAL to help benefit Yonkers kids and their families.”

Yonkers PAL Executive Director Marisol Mancebo said, “Today marks an important milestone for Yonkers PAL and, most importantly, for the young people and families we serve. Since becoming Executive Director in 2021, I have remained committed to strengthening this organization and creating an environment where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. These $4 million in improvements represent a significant investment in our facility and in the future of our youth. I am deeply grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Speaker Carl Heastie, and Mayor Mike Spano for their leadership, partnership, and commitment to making this project possible. Their support allows us to move forward with improvements that will strengthen our programs and expand our ability to serve the community.”

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*Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins represents a significant portion of Yonkers, the Town of Greenburgh, and the Town of Mount Pleasant in the 35th NYS Senate District. To learn more about her legislative and community efforts, **click here**.*

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