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For Immediate Release

**QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND COUNCIL MEMBER VICKIE PALADINO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY WITH RETURN OF FIREWORKS AT FORT TOTTEN**

[***For event photos, click here (photo credit Dominick Totino)***](https://dtphoto58.smugmug.com/06-27-23-Fireworks-Night/n-QgFbcf/)

(QUEENS, NY) **June 28, 2023** -- Yesterday, thousands gathered for a night of fireworks, food and family fun as New York City Council Member Vickie Paladino, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, and the Bayside Historical Society celebrated the Annual Independence Day Fireworks Show and Concert at Fort Totten. Fireworks for this year’s celebration were provided by “Fireworks by Grucci”. The event included fun activities for kids, food trucks and musical performances by *Chicken Head Rocks*, *Phil Costa and the Something Special Big Band*, the *380th Army Band* and DJ Russell Targove.

"The Independence Day fireworks show and concert finally returned to Fort Totten, and it was an absolute hit! Now more than ever, our community needed a strong event to celebrate and rally around, and I could not be more proud to be the Councilwoman who helped bring this it back," said **Councilwoman Vickie Paladino**. ”Thank you to the Queens Chamber of Commerce, the Bayside Historical Society, Borough President Richards, the NYC Parks Department, the Department of Transportation, the Mayor’s Office of Citywide Planning, the Office of Emergency Management, NYPD, FDNY, the US Army, CITIBUS Corp., Fireworks by Grucci, Wildcats, HANAC, and the countless others who worked together to help organize such an amazing event.”

“The Queens Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be here with Council Member Vickie Paladino to bring this great event to Fort Totten once again,” said **Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.** “We look forward to this event every year – it’s a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to gather along one of Queens’ beautiful waterfronts. We are grateful for our partners, sponsors and the Bayside Historical Society for helping us make this an unforgettable evening.”

“With the help of Council Member Paladino and the Queens Chamber of Commerce, the BHS Annual Concert and Fireworks Celebration in Fort Totten was a huge success,” said **Paul DiBenedetto, President of the Bayside Historical Society**. “BHS at the Castle serves as a cultural destination within the Fort Totten Historic District, and having this celebration right outside our front door was a wonderful way for the community to come together to honor the past and look towards the future. We look forward to next year’s event being even bigger and better."

**About the Queens Chamber of Commerce:**The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in Queens, representing more than 1,400 businesses and more than 150,000 Queens-based employees. Its mission is to foster connections, educate for success, develop/implement programs and advocate for members’ interests. [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org/).

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