

## **Groundbreaking of the New Knickerbacker Aquatic Center**

Good morning everyone,

Is Troy hopping or what folks?! - it has been a very very busy last couple months here in our city with all of the exciting projects underway. I can't thank you all enough for joining us today for this truly exciting and long-awaited moment - the official groundbreaking of the brand-new Knick Aquatic Center!

This project represents far more than just bricks, mortar, and machinery. It symbolizes renewal - a revitalization of not just a physical space, but a promise to our families, our children, and to every resident of Troy.

For far too long, Lansingburgh and North Central Troy were overlooked and forgotten. In our administration, we fight for our people. We fight for what matters. In our administration, we don't forget and leave communities behind.

Before I was your mayor, I had the honor of serving as your City Council President - and during that time, alongside my former colleagues Jim Gulli and Kim Ashe-McPherson, we fought tooth and nail to make sure this very piece of land could once again become a place where families and children could relax, feel safe, and cool off on a hot summer day. It wasn't easy - but we never gave up on this vision. And today, they're here with us - Jim and Kim... we did it! This moment is as much yours as it is everyone's!

Under this administration, we have made it clear: no neighborhood in Troy will be left behind. From day one, we committed to investing in our parks, our people, and our youth - and today, we proudly deliver on yet another promise.

The brand-new Knick Aquatic Center will be a fully reconstructed, modern, accessible, and welcoming facility - built to serve families from every part of Troy. It will feature a brand-new 8-lane Olympic size swimming pool with splash pads, a pool house, and a comfortable lounge area. It will be a safe, fun, and engaging place for swimmers of all ages and abilities, and it will breathe new life into one of Troy's most cherished public spaces.

This project follows the successful reopening of the Knick Ice Rink in January in partnership with Rensselaer County - another major win for this community. Since I entered office as your mayor in 2024, there has been an investment of over \$10 million dollars into this beautiful public space. It shows that together – with these improvements - we have and we are transforming Knickerbacker Park into a year-round recreational destination - not just for the Burgh, but for the entire city. \*CLAPS\*

And while this vision is bold, it's not something we've done alone.

I want to take this moment to offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to those who helped make today a reality:

- Congressman Paul Tonko, thank you for your advocacy and for fighting to bring \$2.8 million dollars in ARPA funding for this project to communities like ours.
- Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman John McDonald, Senator Jake Ashby and the State of New York for launching and supporting the NY SWIMS program, which provided \$5.8 million dollars in critical funding NY SWIMS money to make this project possible.
- Thank you to our Deputy Mayor, my right hand, and one of my best friends - Seamus Donnelly. Seamus - once again, your hard work and persistence with another major project has begun to pay dividends to our city and the people who call it home. Without you by my side, none of this would be possible.
- Our incredible Planning and Economic Development team, our City Engineer Chris Marini whose hard work and dedication never go unnoticed.
- Thank you to all of our contractors on this amazing project Jersen Construction, Danforth, DLC Electrical, Collett Mechanical Incorporated, and CHA

- And a special thank you to our guy - Bill Roehr, who wrote and submitted the successful grant application that helped secure this funding. We love you Bill!
- To the members of the Thomas A. Knickerbacker Board of Trustees, thank you all for your partnership in helping shape not just this aquatic center - but the entire park as a whole. Your advocacy and conservancy of this beautiful space does not go unnoticed

Because of all of you - your leadership, your support, and your belief in our city - this vision is becoming a reality.

Construction of the Knick Aquatic Center is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, and we are already planning a grand opening in summer 2026 that will make a big splash for Troy's future.

Today is about more than a groundbreaking - it's about a commitment to progress, a celebration of community, and a reminder that when we work together, Troy wins.

To the families of Lansingburgh and all of Troy: we see you, we hear you, and we will continue to deliver for you. The Knick is coming back - stronger, better, and ready to serve the next generation. As a Burgh girl, I can't express how proud I am to be here today to see this project finally begin to take shape and I am so grateful and humbled to be your mayor. You all deserve this moment.

So, let's celebrate this moment. Let's break ground. And let's keep building a stronger, safer, cleaner and more united Troy - together.

Thank you all for being here today for this incredible event. Let's make a splash for Troy's future!