



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2021

Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNVEILS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SITE AT METROTECH CENTER IN BROOKLYN

New-And-Improved Metrotech Site Modernizes and Consolidates Core Services for ACS-Involved Brooklyn Families

NEW YORK, NY – The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) today unveiled a new state-of-the-art site for the Division of Child Protection at 12 MetroTech Center in Brooklyn. The new location consolidates four ACS child protection sites in Brooklyn, housing approximately 500 ACS staff in one central location. The new site offers better access to public transportation, immediate proximity to Family Court, and 28 new spaces for Family Team Conferences and visiting areas. It will also provide infant supplies, food, and clothing for families in urgent need of resources.

The space also offers technological improvements, including assistive listening technology, large screen televisions for children to watch movies, a mobile phone booster to provide better voice and data service for families, and more, which builds on Commissioner Hansell's commitment to innovation and modernization.

"ACS is thrilled to announce our new child protection site at the MetroTech Center, which offers a variety of benefits and will ultimately better serve children and families in Brooklyn," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "This new-and-improved site is just one more way in which ACS is working to enhance its work with families, as it includes more modern and technologically-advanced visiting areas for families, age-appropriate rooms for young children and teens, and so much more. I want to thank our partners at DCAS for helping us get this project over the finish line."

The ACS Division of Child Protection includes 19 sites across the five boroughs. Currently, there are 6 child protection sites in Brooklyn, divided into Brooklyn West and Brooklyn East. As part of this consolidation, 4 existing child protection sites in Brooklyn West (404 Pine Street, 185 Marcy Avenue, 345 Adams Street and part of the 1274 Bedford Avenue site) will be relocated to 12 MetroTech Center.

The Division of Child Protection investigates all allegations of child abuse and maltreatment that the City receives. As part of this work, ACS child protective staff assess child safety and make referrals to a variety of programs and services aimed at keeping children safe and supporting families. On any given day, over 20,000 children are receiving ACS prevention services. In some instances, due to the level of risk to the child, ACS child protective staff may assess that court intervention is necessary either to obtain court ordered supervision or to seek court authority to remove the child and place the child in foster care. To help make these decisions and to create safety plans for children, ACS child protective staff often convene families and

hold child safety conferences. In cases where the court orders supervision, ACS child protective staff supervise the family, reassess for safety and risk, and make referrals. In both court ordered supervision cases and cases where children are in foster care, there are frequent appearances in Family Court.

Families in Brooklyn West who are involved in the child welfare system may use the MetroTech Center site to meet with caseworkers, attend child safety conferences and receive key information about the range of services the agency provides.

The ACS Division of Child Protection Brooklyn West will be housed on the 26th (partially), 27th, 28th and 30th floors of 12 MetroTech. In addition to the aforementioned benefits, the new site features the following spaces for families:

- **Large, Modern Reception Area**
- **Children’s Corner:** A colorful, animal-themed space for children to play games, read a book or do their homework while parents meet with caseworkers.
- **Teen Space**– A modern space for teenagers that will offer WiFi access so they can use laptops and tablets while parents meet with their caseworkers.
- **Nursery** – A child-friendly, trauma-informed environment where young children who must be removed from their families receive immediate medical attention, if and when appropriate to do so.
- **Boutique** – A room where children and families may “shop” for free clothes and accessories, including but not limited to: suits for job interviews, prom dresses, winter coats, shoes and more.
- **Pantry for Emergency Needs (clothing, food, diapers, sleep sacks, etc.)**
- **Lactation Room**
- **Separate Family Restrooms with Changing Tables**
- **Parent Advocate Room**
- **28 Family Meeting Rooms of Various Layouts & Size for Conferences and Parent/Child Visits**

Photos available upon request

###