

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 12, 2022

**New York Knicks, YMCA of Greater New York, DYCD Expand Partnership,  
Announce Five More Free Basketball Clinics for Local Teens**  
*Clinics will feature Knicks alumni and serve Saturday Night Lights participants*

**NEW YORK, NY** – The New York Knicks, YMCA of Greater New York, and New York City Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) today announced that they are expanding their partnership that has provided safe, high-quality programs at no cost to teens across the city since February 2022. Beginning on Saturday, December 17, the Knicks will host a series of five basketball clinics for YMCA teens between the ages of 11 and 18 as part of the Saturday Night Lights program.

The Knicks Saturday Night Lights Basketball Clinics will be held at four different YMCA branches through April, in addition to a special marquee event this Spring.

- Saturday, December 17: Castle Hill YMCA, 2 Castle Hill Avenue, Bronx
- Saturday, January 21: Long Island City YMCA, 32-23 Queens Boulevard, Long Island City
- Saturday, March 4: Broadway YMCA, 651 Broadway, Staten Island
- Saturday, April 8: Flatbush YMCA, 1401 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn

In addition, 10 YMCA teens will have the opportunity to play on the Madison Square Garden court on April 9 before the Knicks play the Indiana Pacers.

Beginning in August 2021, the YMCA of Greater New York, in partnership with the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), has provided a safe space for teens in the community at 14 locations every Saturday night, through the Saturday Night Lights program. The branches, which are located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, offer sports training and programming to participants each week from 5-9 PM. In Summer 2022, DYCD approved 3 additional YMCA sites to host Saturday Night Lights, bringing the total number of YMCA Saturday Night Lights sites to 17.

The New York Knicks Saturday Night Lights Basketball Clinics presented by Nike at YMCA branches will run for two hours, from 5:30-7:30 PM. During each of the clinics, participants will have the opportunity to strengthen their ball handling and shooting skills, meet a current or former Knicks player, and get a free t-shirt.

“One of the YMCA’s top priorities is to keep our teens and youth safe and engaged in healthy activities,” said **Sharon Greenberger, President and CEO, YMCA of Greater New York.**

“Teaming up with the New York Knicks and DYCD enables the Y to create safe, positive – and once-in-a-lifetime – experiences for even more New York City youth. We’re grateful to the

Knicks for their continued partnership and for their decades of support for the communities we serve.”

“It is a priority that the children in our communities have access to safe places to play, as well as great programming so they can enjoy themselves and learn valuable skills, and these clinics are a great way to bring everyone together,” said **John Starks, New York Knicks Legend**. “We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the YMCA and the Dept. of Youth & Community Development on this initiative and look forward to the events taking place over the next few months.”

“When Mayor Adams invested in the expansion of the Saturday Night Lights program, we knew that growing partnerships like the one DYCD has with the Knicks and YMCA would be critical in keeping young people engaged, physically active, and safe on Saturday evenings,” said **DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard**. “Basketball has played a major role in my personal and professional development, and I am confident these clinics and opportunities to shoot hoops with the pros will forever change the lives of our participants—on and off the court.”

Between February 2022 and August 2022, the YMCA and the Knicks co-hosted four clinics at Saturday Night Lights sites, two clinics at Y afterschool sites, and one clinic at a Y summer day camp. In addition, Y teens were twice featured in the Primetime on-court game before Knicks home games in Spring 2022.

###

### **About the YMCA of Greater New York**

For 170 years, the YMCA of Greater New York has been helping all New Yorkers reach their full potential. As New York City’s leading nonprofit community service and wellness organization, the Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they’re from, by providing access and opportunities for all to learn, grow, and thrive. We provide a place to play, to be healthy, and to give back. We give parents childcare, young adults job training, seniors a way to connect, and children a safe place to go. By bringing people together from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y improves overall health and well-being, ignites youth empowerment, and connects and supports diverse communities across New York City. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok at @ymcanyc.

### **About the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development**

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) invests in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish. Since 1996, DYCD has been committed to supporting New Yorkers of all ages through high quality initiatives such as COMPASS afterschool, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Beacon and

Cornerstone Community Centers, Adult Literacy and Immigrant Services, and Runaway and Homeless Youth. Visit [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) to learn about DYCD's funded services, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

**About Madison Square Garden Sports Corp.**

Madison Square Garden Sports Corp. (MSG Sports) is a leading professional sports company, with a collection of assets that includes: the New York Knicks (NBA) and the New York Rangers (NHL); two development league teams – the Westchester Knicks (NBAGL) and the Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL); and esports teams through Counter Logic Gaming, a North American esports organization, and Knicks Gaming, an NBA 2K League franchise. MSG Sports also operates two professional sports team performance centers – the MSG Training Center in Greenburgh, NY and the CLG Performance Center in Los Angeles, CA. More information is available at [www.msgsports.com](http://www.msgsports.com).