



345 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

www.Manzano.org

212-707-8778 t.
212-707-8121 f.

Gary Tilzer
Press Contact
MANZANO 2005

Tel: 212-707-8778

E-mail: Press@Manzano.org

Web: www.Manzano.org

PRESS RELEASE

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CARLOS MANZANO KICKED-OFF HIS CAMPAIGN TO BECOME THE NEXT MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT IN 2005 LAST THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6th.

On a cold and rainy November night, over 250 New Yorkers gathered at Charley O's, 218 West 45th Street, to support **Carlos Manzano's kick-off event for Manhattan Borough President** to succeed the current term-limited Borough President C. Virginia Fields in 2005. The supporters included a multi-ethnic coalition of business, labor, political and community leaders.

Donna Sharp, former State Committeewoman from Hell's Kitchen and Chelsea, spoke about Manzano's experience and qualifications: "Carlos was born in Colombia and immigrated to the United States more than 20 years ago. He graduated with honors from Martin Van Buren High School in Queens Village in 1984; he received his B.A. with Dean's honors from Queens College in 1992; he received his Master's degree in Public Administration from New York University in 2003. Carlos worked his way through college, as a computer operator, teacher's assistant and later in housing. He also worked for the New York City Department of Information and Technology and the Department of Youth and Community Development. In 1993, Carlos was elected as the President of the McManus Democratic Association. In 1994, Carlos was elected as the Democratic State Committee.

Manzano stated that he considers himself a "**New Democrat**". He believes that a "New Democrat" is not a politician who takes credit at ribbon cutting celebrations or someone who holds press conferences that attack government inefficiency. A "New Democrat" said Manzano, "is a politician who takes responsibility for governing and is judged by the voters for his ability to work within the government to solve problems and help people."

"We have an opportunity now to fix our schools, protect seniors programs and rebuild the City's economic base," Manzano told those in the crowd. "If we do not take advantage of this opportunity, businesses, the middle class and tourism will abandon the City, resulting in massive budget cutbacks and lowering the quality of life for every New Yorker." To Manzano "**opportunity**" means a better chance for improvement -- not an entitlement or guarantee. "When my parents and I immigrated to the United States, we used the available opportunities to improve the life of our family," said Manzano. "Over two million people from every ethnic, racial and religious group have used their opportunities to settle in one of Manhattan's forty-six different neighborhoods, seeking a better life for their families." Manzano also added, "We need to have vision, passion and strong managerial and leadership skills to handle the complex issues that Manhattanites face. I want to use this exciting opportunity in government to redesign the office of Manhattan Borough President, so it can make a positive contribution to the lives of every citizen in our borough."

Former New York City School's Chancellor Frank J. Macchiarola, who introduced Manzano at the gathering, endorsed him for Manhattan Borough President. "Manzano not only understands how to fix our schools, he has already done so in many ways," said Macchiarola. "Manzano has used his leadership to encourage parents to become involved in their children's schools as well as his political skills and his understanding of how government operates to help educators improve their schools."

"As a product of the New York City school system, I am deeply honored by the former Chancellor's endorsement of my candidacy for Borough President," said Manzano.