



"THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK"  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WHITE PLAINS JUMP IN AND SWIM**

**White Plains, NY – March 12, 2018.** Are you prepared to Jump In and Swim? We hope so because the City of White Plains 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Jump In and Swim" Program will kick off on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jump In and Swim is all about exposing children and adults to water safety and swimming through a series of free learn to swim activities and classes. In spring 2012, Mayor Tom Roach called together the various aquatic provider agencies within the City. As a result of this meeting, a coalition of community partners was formed with the goal of reducing accidents involving drownings. These statistics include:

- Nearly 70% of African-American children and nearly 60% of Hispanic children have low or no swim ability;
- Approximately 10 people drown every day in the U.S.;
- More than one in five fatal drowning victims are children younger than 14;
- Drowning is also a silent killer – most young children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than five minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time;
- Participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent among children aged one to four years;
- African-American children drown at a rate nearly three times higher than their Caucasian peers;
- If a parent does not know how to swim, there is only a 13 percent chance that a child in that household will learn how to swim.

(More)



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Participating in this effort to make sure every White Plains child and adult has exposure to water safety and the opportunity to learn basic swim skills are the White Plains Recreation and Parks Department, White Plains School District, YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester and White Plains Youth Bureau. Each agency has contributed time and resources to making "Jump In and Swim" a positive and fun learning experience for participants.

2018 Jump In and Swim activities include:

- Presentations at all White Plains Elementary Schools by USA Olympian, Maritza McClendon, who will speak with the children about the importance of water safety.
- Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Family Swim Game Night at White Plains High School Pool hosted by WP Recreation & Parks.
- Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at WP High School Pool hosted by WP Recreation & Parks:  
1:00 p.m. - Water Safety Clinic with USA Olympian, Maritza McClendon  
2:00 p.m. – Synchronized Swim Exhibition
- Water activities and classes for all ages hosted by the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Learn to swim activities for participants in the White Plains Youth Bureau After-School program hosted by the White Plains High School Swim Team.

Additional supporters of the program include; African-American Men of Westchester, Crown Plaza, TR Insurance Agency-Elmsford and USA Swimming.

To receive a full listing of all Jump In and Swim activities visit the City website at:

[www.cityofwhiteplains.com](http://www.cityofwhiteplains.com).

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