

## TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS: Fact Sheet and Timeline

In 2014, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo's Health and Wellness Advisory Council formed a sub-committee called the Borough President's Substance Abuse Task Force. Members included representatives from the New York City Department of Education (DOE), the Archdiocese of New York, the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), various substance abuse intervention/prevention and recovery community-based service providers (CBOs) and the NYPD. Their mandate was to determine the most effective role for Borough Hall to play in slowing, stopping and reversing the scourge of opioid abuse in the borough.

By October 2014, it was determined that the manner in which the Borough President could best effect real change was through education, and it was determined that given our limited resources, the program would target the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. To that end, the task force sought an evidence-based curriculum which would be co-taught by classrooms teachers and uniformed police officers.

The results were as follows:

- Our CBOs, the DOE and the Archdiocese focused on a curriculum called Too Good for Drugs (TGFD): an effective, tested and OASAS-sponsored tool for the delivery of content-based instruction, with a focus on resisting negative peer-pressure methods, self-esteem building and development of a decision-making skill set;
- Borough President Oddo and NYPD Borough Chief Ed Delatorre formulated a strategic plan wherein a pilot program would pair NYPD Patrol Borough Staten Island officers with 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to deliver the anti-drug, pro-decision-making curriculum. In addition to the strong instructional content the curriculum offered, the collaboration of specially-trained police officers and teachers working with the students also reinforced the positive nature of the students' relationship with the police officers he or she would see afterschool in the neighborhood;
- Once the curriculum was reviewed by the DOE, the Archdiocese and the NYPD for maximum impact, and training was completed for those police officers who would be co-teaching the content, we were ready to embark on a pilot;
- During 2014-2015 school year's spring term, with the support of our new DOE Borough Field Office, the Office of the District 31 Superintendent, and the Archdiocese, the program was piloted in five schools: one public school in each police precinct, and one parochial school;
- Concurrently, there was an effort to double down on the TGFDs instructional sessions that had already been occurring in the CBO-run afterschool programs throughout Staten Island's public schools;
- A successful year-end joint "course completion" celebration was held with hundreds of attendees;
- In October, 2015 the decision was made to expand the pilot to ten schools. Two public schools in each precinct, and two parochial schools;
- At the current time, we are running the pilots in the ten schools, with plans to implement the expansion in tiered cycles through each precinct, once funding is made available. Lack of funding and staffing, along with more complicated logistics, prevent what we believe should be the true goal: universal, age-appropriate, mandated substance abuse prevention instruction in every K-12 school.

