



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

Senator James Sanders, Jr. Hosts the First Annual Father's Day Fest — A Celebration of Fatherhood, Jazz, RnB, and Wellness

JAMES SANDERS JR. June 16, 2025



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Senator Sanders Jr., Assemblymember Anderson, and Councilwoman Brooks-Powers Unite to Honor Fathers and Promote Mental Health Awareness

Far Rockaway, Queens – This past Sunday, June 15th, the Beach 17th Street Amphitheater and Boardwalk were transformed into a stage for joy, culture, and community healing during the **First Annual Father's Day Fest**, hosted by **State Senator James Sanders Jr., Assemblymember Khaleel M. Anderson**, and **Councilwoman Selvena Brooks-Powers**.

While the rain made a brief attempt to dampen the mood, it was no match for the powerful spirit of Far Rockaway and neighboring communities. Residents came out in full force—smiling, dancing, and showing up strong to celebrate the fathers and father figures who shape our neighborhoods.

This free, family-friendly event featured **live Jazz and RnB music, games, wine and cheese tastings, health screenings**, and plenty of positive energy. Music by **DJ Warren, Hollywood Chuck**, and **DredSurfer** created a soulful backdrop, while a talented MC kept the crowd engaged from start to finish.

In honor of *Men's Mental Health Month*, the event also featured **Dr. Coralanne Griffith-Hunte**, who delivered a powerful message about the emotional well-being of fathers and men. Her remarks struck a deep chord, emphasizing that wellness is just as vital as celebration.

Special guests included **Miss Far Rockaway**, along with local performers, families, and community leaders who joined in the festivities. Attendees brought their own chairs and came ready to enjoy a day filled with food, music, and unity.

"We wanted to give our fathers more than socks and mugs this year," said Senator Sanders.

"We wanted to give them love, recognition, and a space to simply enjoy themselves. I'm proud of what we created together—and this is only the beginning."

The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of **community organizations, local businesses, health providers, and dedicated partners** who helped bring the vision to life.

With such a strong and heartfelt debut, the *Father's Day Fest* is set to become a beloved tradition that uplifts, celebrates, and honors the incredible fathers across Southeast Queens.

For more information or to request a quote or interview from Senator Sanders please reach out to Joshua Green at **jgreen@nysenate.gov** or call **718-523-3069**