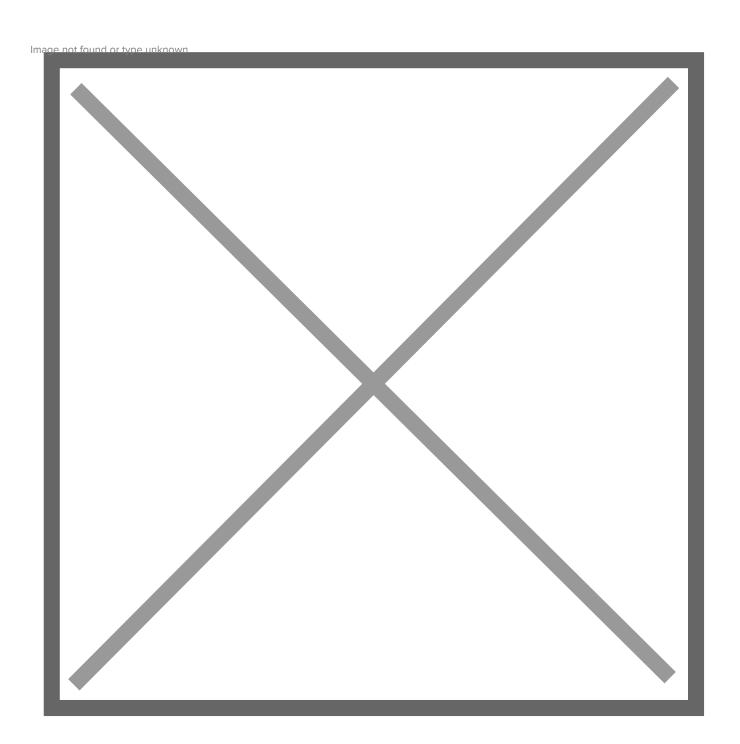


Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, and Community Members Light Up the Bronx for the Holidays

JEFFREY D. KLEIN December 10, 2015

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Bronx, NY – In celebration of the Christmas holiday, State Senator Jeff Klein (D-Bronx/Westchester), and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj (D-Bronx), hosted their annual tree lighting Thursday, December 10th. Community leaders, business owners, and families enjoyed hot cocoa, holiday treats, music, gifts, and an appearance by Santa Clause. The tree lighting celebration began at Rudy Macina Peace Plaza, where a dazzling twenty foot Christmas tree

lit up the entire plaza. Attendees then joined Senator Klein and Assemblyman Gjonaj in a horse drawn carriage procession to the second tree lighting at Pelham Parkway and White Plains Road. Students from P.S. 83 and PS 105 entertained the crowd with Christmas carols

"I am thrilled to host this annual tree lighting, which has become a tradition for our Bronx families. At this joyous time, we create holiday lasting memories as we enjoy these festivities," said Senator Jeff Klein. "As 2015 draws to a close, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday, and a new year filled with good health and prosperity,"

"This year's Christmas tree lighting is a very special event, as we light a new permanently planted tree in recognition of a holiday which celebrates not only the birth of Christ, but also celebrates the giving of gifts. Our new tree is a gift to our community that we can enjoy all year long. I am greatly looking forward to celebrating this very special holiday with my friend Senator Jeff Klein and the wonderful members of our community as we light this beautiful new tree in celebration of Christmas," said **Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj.**