

METRO INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 22, 2016

**E.Q.U.A.L. LEADERS TO MAYOR:
THIS IS HOW TO GET THINGS DONE**

FROM: Empowered Queens United in Action & Leadership (EQUAL) and St. Clare Catholic Church

RE: 150+ EQUAL & St. Clare Catholic Church leaders to Mayor: This is how you get things done

More than 150 Queens residents celebrate and bless a new ‘St. Clare traffic light’ that was installed in front of their church following a productive meeting with transportation commissioner Nicole Garcia in November

TIME: 12:00 pm, Sunday, April 24, 2016 at St. Clare’s (137-35 Brookville Blvd, Rosedale, NY 11422)

**CONTACT: The Reverend Andy Struzzieri, St. Clare Catholic Church/EQUAL – 917-697-2585
Grant Lindsay, EQUAL – 718-679-3288**

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, more than 150 leaders and parishioners will lead a procession from Mass to bless a new traffic signal in front of the parish. They will be joined by Queens Transportation Commissioner Nicole Garcia who met with and made a promise to more than 100 parishioners in November.

“I was tired of seeing my parishioners dodge speeding cars on Brookville Boulevard. It was like this for years and no one did a thing. I got angry when a car flipped over last summer and crashed into our church. Instead of complaining, we got together, found out who was in charge and went to her with both a problem and solution. Best of all, Commissioner Garcia made a public commitment and followed through with it. We’re so proud of what we did that parishioners have started to call it the ‘St. Clare traffic light,’” said The Reverend Andy Struzzieri, pastor at St. Clare Catholic Church and leader of EQUAL.

“This is how you get things done. We got organized and trained, and then identified ways to make the intersection safer for parishioners and students. When we met with Commissioner Garcia in November, our meeting was only 19 minutes long and we got a firm commitment to install a traffic light within three months. She kept her promise. The mayor should learn from her,” said Evi Boyd, parishioner at St. Clare Catholic Church and leader of EQUAL.

St. Clare Catholic Church and EQUAL are part of the [Metro Industrial Areas Foundation](http://metroiaf.org), the largest and oldest organization of congregations, schools, senior centers and homeowners associations in the City. Metro I.A.F. has built or rehabilitated more than 4300 Nehemiah homes and 1200 affordable apartments. Leaders have fought for and won \$300 million in new school construction, and started six new small schools. Today, leaders continue to pressure public officials to renovate parks, shut down drug sites and make repairs in tenants’ apartments.

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