



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**OLYMPIC SWIMMER ROY BURCH HEADING TO WHITE PLAINS
TO JUMP IN AND SWIM**

Burch to Kick Off City's 5th Annual Jump In and Swim Program

White Plains, NY – March 15, 2017. Roy Allan Burch, an Olympic and national-record holding swimmer from Bermuda, who swam for Bermuda in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics will kick off the 2017 City of White Plains 5TH Annual Jump In and Swim Program on Saturday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. at the White Plains High School Auditorium.

Roy was a celebrity in Bermuda. In the pool, he was the fastest. But against the world's best, Bermuda's greatest swimmer was outmatched. In 2011, like many other international athletes, he moved to Charlotte, N.C. to train in the United States with an elite swim club. In 2015, he began to see the dividends of his hard work and was on-track to represent Bermuda in his third Olympics. His intense training regimen and competitive spirit had propelled him to improve to an elite level. Then one day before swim practice, he decided to dunk a basketball, something he had done hundreds of times before. He went up for the dunk, his legs buckled and everything changed.

Come hear the inspirational story of Roy Burch, a tale of childhood dreams, aspirations, celebrity, disappointment, hope and courage.

Jump In and Swim is a City-wide initiative aimed at teaching children and adults about the importance of water safety and swimming through a series of free learn to swim activities and classes. In the spring of 2012, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach called together the various aquatic provider agencies within the City. As a result of that meeting, a coalition of community



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partners was formed and this group has been working every year since 2012 to produce “Jump In and Swim.” Participating in this effort to make sure every 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 YMCA, YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester, White Plains Youth Bureau and the White Plains High School Swim Team. Participating agencies will offer free swim classes and activities to residents of all ages.

To meet and hear the story of Roy Burch at White Plains High School on Saturday, March 25th pre-register in person at the White Plains Recreation and Parks, 85 Gedney Way, or call (914) 422-1336 (seating is limited).

For more information and a schedule of free Jump In and Swim classes visit www.cityofwhiteplains.com/jumpinandswim



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