



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

**Contact:
Lucian Chalfen
Public Information Director
Arlene Hackel, Deputy Director
(212) 428-2500
www.nycourts.gov/press**

Date: July 18, 2023

First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George, NYC Officials Announce Completion of Historic SI Court Façade Restoration

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK—First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George, Richmond County Administrative Judge Desmond Green and Richmond County Surrogate Matthew J. Titone today joined NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) Commissioner Thomas Foley, NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) Executive Deputy Commissioner of Asset and Property Management Laura Ringelheim and local officials to announce the completion of the restoration of the front stairs and other façade features of the historic Staten Island Supreme Courthouse at 18 Richmond Terrace—home to the Richmond County Surrogate’s Court and the Richmond County Supreme Court’s Matrimonial Parts. The \$5.2 million project was funded by DCAS which, following the court system’s administrative guidelines, operates and maintains state court facilities within the City’s five boroughs.

The 15-month restoration project entailed replacing the landmark French Renaissance-style building’s limestone steps and landings with more durable granite stairs with bluestone landing pavers. The concrete adjacent to the steps was replaced, and the existing structural support beneath the stairs was rebuilt with reinforced concrete columns and beams. New ornamental bronze handrails intended to look like the building’s original handrails were also installed. Additionally, new exterior lights designed to match the former fixtures and brackets were installed along the building portico, a picket fence along Schuyler Street was replaced, and a new sidewalk and curbs were installed along Richmond Terrace.

“The public deserves court facilities that are secure, efficient and well-maintained and that reflect the dignity and important work of our justice system. We appreciate the careful preparation and hard work that went into this restoration project, with DCAS and DDS making these much-needed courthouse repairs while taking pains to preserve the historic integrity of this stately, landmark building,” said Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas.

“I am so pleased to participate in today’s unveiling of the restored façade of this majestic courthouse, which has served Richmond County residents for over a century and, with these latest structural and aesthetic improvements, will continue to meet the needs of Staten Islanders in the years ahead,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. “I commend DCAS and DDS for their admirable efforts in preserving and repairing this beautiful courthouse and am thankful to the court system’s Office of Facilities Planning for their coordination and oversight toward that end.”

“The safety, security and maintenance of this magnificent building is paramount for all concerned, the employees and the public. I am ecstatic and so grateful that the restoration was achieved with relative ease and collaboration by all those involved, culminating in the wonderful work of DCAS and DDS,” said Judge Green.

“The upgrades to the 18 Richmond Terrace courthouse—which display remarkable craftsmanship and attention to detail—will vastly improve the day-to-day comfortability of the Court’s judges and employees, as well as who all enter this grand structure. We are thankful to DCAS and DDC for bringing this important project to fruition,” said Surrogate Titone.

“As the steward of some of the City’s most historic buildings, it is our responsibility and privilege to restore and preserve these assets, and that is precisely what we have done here,” said DCAS Commissioner Dawn M. Pinnock. “Our investment in the Staten Island Supreme Court building reflects our commitment to maintaining its historic appearance and ensuring it’s in the best shape to serve generations to come.”

“DDC and its designers studied old plans and photographs to ensure that the courthouse restoration is historically accurate, using the same materials where possible that were used during the original construction,” said DDC Commission Foley. “Thanks to the efforts of DDC’s in-house construction management team, the project was completed three months early and on budget.”

#