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Contact: Nasreen Hussain,

 nasreen@anatgerstein.com, (347) 853-2980

For Immediate Release

**QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CROWNS *MIDDLE VILLAGE BAGELS* AS QUEENS’ BEST BAGEL ESTABLISHMENT**

***Queens foodies nominated and voted for their favorite bagel restaurants during the inaugural competition held by the Queens Chamber of Commerce***

**For photos and video,** [**click here**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l393ijjsxylvms5gy5at5/h?rlkey=fuvmn1uoakqnj1dgsjf887z66&dl=0) *(Photo and video credit: Anat Gerstein, Inc.)*

QUEENS, NY (February 9, 2024) - It is settled. Today, in honor of National Bagel and Lox Day, Middle Village Bagels was declared the winner of the inaugural Queens’ Best Bagel Competition, held by the Queens Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest business association in Queens. Over the past several weeks, foodies nominated and voted on their favorite bagel establishments from across the borough, with the Middle Village eatery emerging as the winner.

“Bagels are not only a breakfast food, they are a staple in New York City enjoyed throughout the day, and Queens has some of the best out there,” said **Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce**. “Congratulations to co-owners Frank Barbone and Joseph LaRosa and the entire team at Middle Village Bagels on winning this competition. This recognition is a testament to their commitment to serving up delicious deals to their loyal customers. I’ve tried the bagels and can vouch for the quality and taste!”

"It is an honor to have Middle Village Bagels win the title of 'Queens Best Bagel.' We take great pride in putting out a great product. We would like to thank our staff and, most importantly, our loyal customers who took the time to vote for us over the past few weeks," said **co-owners Frank Barbone and Joseph LaRosa**. "One thing is very clear: New York City is the Bagel Capital of the World and for us to be named as having the best bagel in the borough is an incredible honor. Thank you to the Queens Chamber of Commerce for this opportunity."

“Even with our unmatched culinary diversity across the five boroughs, arguably the most quintessential New York City staple when it comes to food is the bagel. And like so many other kinds of food, we definitely have the best bagels here in Queens,” said **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.** “Congratulations to Middle Village Bagels for being crowned the best of the best when it comes to the bagel by the Queens Chamber of Commerce.”

“Simply put, Queens bagels are the best!,” said **Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-Queens)**. “I congratulate Middle Village Bagels for coming in first place in the Queens Chamber of Commerce’s Best Bagel competition and I’m thrilled that a bagel establishment in my district has been crowned the winner. I also commend all 55 establishments that were nominated. Thanks to the Queens Chamber of Commerce for continuing to shine a light on the different types of outstanding food in our borough.”

“A huge congratulations to Middle Village Bagels for being voted as ‘Queens’ Best Bagel’! As a cornerstone of our community since 2018, Middle Village Bagels has consistently served up more than just great food; it has long nurtured a sense of belonging and community pride,” said **Assembly Member Catalina Cruz**. “This award is a testament not only to your delicious bagels but also to the strength of our community’s small businesses. I look forward to your continued success.”

In total, 55 establishments were nominated for this contest and after more than 3,000 votes were tallied Middle Village Bagels was selected the winner. Over the past year, the Queens Chamber of Commerce has held three other “Best of Queens'' food competitions, including pizza, empanadas, and barbecue. This was the closest vote of all the competitions, with the top three eateries separated by a margin of less than 50 votes.

The top three eateries selected by the public were:

1. Middle Village Bagels (Eliot Avenue, Middle Village)
2. Utopia Bagels (Utopia Parkway, Whitestone)
3. Rockaway Bagels (Beach Channel Drive, Rockaway Park)

In addition to earning the title of Queens’ Bagel, Middle Village Bagels received a plaque and a complimentary year of membership to the Queens Chamber of Commerce. The second and third place winners also received certificates.

**About the Queens Chamber of Commerce:**
The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in Queens, representing more than 1,400 businesses and more than 150,000 Queens-based employees. Its mission is to foster connections, educate for success, develop/implement programs and advocate for members’ interests. [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org)

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