

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on May 19, 2022

Location: JMA Wireless Dome

Remarks: JMA Wireless Dome Naming Announcement

Good morning, everyone.

And thank you for joining us on this very exciting day. One that has been in the making for quite some time.

Before I begin, I’d like to recognize a few individuals who are here with us today and thank them. That includes two members of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees – Pat Mautino and Neil Gold. It includes Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh, our County Executive Ryan McMahon, representatives from New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Congressman John Katko, and Assemblymembers Bill Magnarelli and Pamela Hunter.

This is a historic moment for Syracuse University, our city, our county, and Central New York.

The Dome is a special place. From the outside, it’s one of the most recognizable buildings in Syracuse, and anywhere in sports. But what makes it truly special is what happens inside.

So much history has been made right here. Memorable sports moments. Iconic performances. Cherished university traditions.

The Dome is home to five athletic programs, something no other college facility like this can claim. But to our University community, the Dome is more than an athletic venue.

For our students, the Dome is where they begin their time at Syracuse at New Student Convocation. And like so many before them, the Dome is also where they celebrate their graduation with their family and friends in these stands.

Recently, during COVID, the Dome became our testing center and vaccination site. To accommodate social distancing, it became the largest college classroom in the country. And it became a main rehearsal space for our programs in the performing arts.

Equally special as what happens inside this building is how the Dome contributes to life beyond the University.

For more than 40 years, the Dome has been a hub of activity for our community and a catalyst for economic impact.

* 935,000 visitors attend events at the Dome each year.
* The Dome generates more than $240 million in income to the Central New York Community.
* In January, the Dome became a COVID testing center for the Central New York community during the Omicron surge.
* We host law enforcement trainings, the New York State marching band championships, high school football championships, and dozens of other high school athletic events and graduations.

As we prepare to embark on the next era of the Dome, we are doing so with a partner that is equally committed to this city and this region.

This morning, I have the distinct pleasure of introducing, for the first time, the JMA Wireless Dome!

I want to thank JMA’s founder and CEO, John Mezzalingua. We are happy his wife Kim, and three of his children, Daniel, Christian and Katherine. are with us today.

This partnership is unique from other stadiums and other naming agreements. It is different because Syracuse University and JMA Wireless are so deeply connected to this region. JMA has brought jobs to Clay, and will soon open its new 5G campus in the South Side neighborhood of Syracuse. John’s investment in our community and its prosperity is inspiring and will have a lasting impact. That is one of many reasons why we are so proud of this partnership with JMA Wireless.

I also want to thank Director of Athletics John Wildhack and Chief Campus Facilities Officer Pete Sala. Getting to this point has required a lot of hard work from them and their teams.

Coach Felisha Legette-Jack – how’s this for a homecoming? This isn’t the same Dome you played in as a student-athlete. We have a new scoreboard. A new roof – which has your jersey hanging from the rafters. And now we have a new name!

Finally, I want to thank the people of Syracuse. Our communities – the City and our campus – have never been more intertwined and aligned than they are now. The JMA Dome is as much a part of Syracuse as it is a part of our campus.

With JMA as our partner, that impact will continue to grow. With JMA as our partner, all the traditions we’ve come to relish will continue and new history will be made. With JMA as our partner, our campus community, student-athletes and fans can expect an experience unlike anything they’ve ever seen before.

Thank you all for being here today as we mark this historic occasion. It is my pleasure to welcome JMA Wireless to the Orange family!