
January 11, 2017

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

Speaker of the New York City Council
Councilmember for District 8
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Dear Speaker Mark-Viverito:

We want to thank you for your tireless work in fighting for equality and fairness in our city.

Under your leadership, the City Council has promoted progressive politics which have resulted in reductions of criminal justice involvement for low level offenses, the creation of the Office of Civil Justice, and the reinforcement of New York City (NYC) as a sanctuary city, #AquiEstamos, by providing legal support to the immigrant community.

NYC remains a national leader and beacon of hope that consistently shows Americans how a multicultural city can come together to continue providing opportunity and safety for all its residents. Your leadership and support is needed now more than ever to show that our city will continue to be a champion of human rights and progressive values.

As public defenders and civil rights advocates, we come together to call on you to immediately call for a vote and pass the Right to Know Act. Every day, our attorneys hear examples of community members being intimidated or abused by police officers, while avenues to accountability remain opaque and ineffective. The public has the right to *know* who is stopping them, why they are being questioned and how to address any improper behavior by police officers. These are issues you have always been very vocal about. Passing this legislation will demonstrate your continued commitment to public safety, fairness, transparency and accountability.

Madame Speaker, you have consistently shown a strong moral compass. Hold a vote now! Pass the Right to Know Act!

In Solidarity,

The Legal Aid Society
The Bronx Defenders
Brooklyn Defender Services
Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem
Queens Law Associates

New York County Defender Services
Center for Constitutional Rights
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
New York Civil Liberties Union