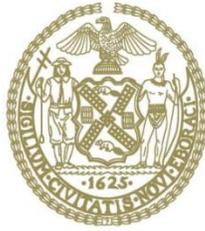


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Members Cumbo and Rosenthal Elected New Co-Chairs of Women's Caucus

NEW YORK, NY – The Women's Caucus of the New York City Council has new leadership after Council Members Laurie A. Cumbo and Helen Rosenthal were elected as co-chairs on Wednesday.

Cumbo and Rosenthal will lead the 14-member Caucus, which is committed to advancing women's rights through public policy, education, legislation, and advocacy and funding nonprofit organizations that will positively impact the lives of New York City women.



From left to right: Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Vanessa Gibson, Karen Koslowitz, Laurie Cumbo, Elizabeth Crowley, and Helen Rosenthal, and former Women's Caucus liaison Amanda Farias (February 24, 2016).

“The Women's Caucus has an awesome responsibility to prioritize and address the needs or challenges faced by women of all ages and backgrounds within the City of New York,” said **Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, newly elected Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus**. “Under the leadership of Council Members Crowley and Mealy, this Caucus has made exceptional progress towards a more equitable city where women have better access to reproductive healthcare, humane treatment while in the criminal justice system, supportive programs and employment opportunities to thrive as parents,

heads of households, entrepreneurs, career women, and survivors of domestic violence. Through our continued collaboration, we can build upon the strong foundation that exists to amplify the voices of women.”

“Council Members Elizabeth Crowley and Darlene Mealy did an excellent job as Co-Chairs of the Women’s Caucus, and I’m honored to follow in their footsteps. I look forward to continuing legislative efforts to support women and maintaining a vibrant and active Women’s Caucus,” said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal, newly elected Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus.**

"The Women's Caucus is a crucial part of the City Council's efforts to support and empower women throughout New York City. I look forward to working with Chairs Cumbo and Rosenthal and all the members of the Women's Caucus as we work to advance gender equality and women's rights across all sectors of our society," said **Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.**

In the past year, the Women’s Caucus has advocated for the rights of women and girls all over New York City. Most recently, members participated in “Wear Red Day” with the American Heart Association in order to bring awareness to heart disease, of which women are disproportionately affected, and also collected toys for the holidays for the Women’s Prison Association. The Caucus also spent months organizing and hosting town halls in all the five boroughs to highlight the issues faced by minority- and women-owned businesses. Members additionally hosted young women in the City Council as “Council Members for a Day,” and organized a Women’s History Month celebration. It held briefings on a multitude of programs helping women and their families, including domestic violence and sexual assault victims, and additionally fought successfully for funding for women’s health initiatives and organizations.

In addition, members of the Caucus have held hearings on sex education in schools; sexual assault on college campuses; women in New York City’s criminal justice system; the effectiveness of Human Trafficking Intervention Courts; the coordination of services for victims of domestic violence; women’s health and reproductive rights; the implementation of the minority and women-owned business enterprise program; prohibiting employment discrimination; and examining ways to increase the number of FDNY female firefighters.

"It has been a very rewarding experience working with the fearless and dedicated members of the Women's Caucus over the last two years. We have worked very hard to strengthen the voices of women all across New York City and expand access to vital services. We fought for equal employment opportunities, greater access to women’s healthcare services, and domestic violence and sexual assault awareness, as well as greater resources for survivors. I am proud of our achievements, and want to thank my co-chair, Council Member Darlene Mealy, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the entire caucus for their advocacy. I congratulate Council Members Rosenthal and Cumbo and look forward to working with them to continue to fight for all women in New York City," said **Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, former Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus.**

"I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Council members Cumbo and Rosenthal as the new Co-Chairs of the Women’s Caucus. I look forward to working closely with them to advance the issues that matter most to women and our City," said **Council member Darlene Mealy, former Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus.**

“Congratulations to Council Members Laurie A. Cumbo and Helen Rosenthal on their appointment as co-chairs of the New York City Council Women’s Caucus. The Caucus plays a key role in enhancing the lives of women and girls across NYC, and is critical to the overall advancement of our City. I know that Council Members Cumbo and Rosenthal will continue the significant work of the Caucus in addressing the complex and changing needs of women and families in NYC,” said **Ana L. Oliveira, President & CEO of The New York Women’s Foundation.**

"I am thrilled that Council Members Laurie Cumbo and Helen Rosenthal have been elected to Co-Chairs of the Women’s Caucus,” said **National Organization for Women - New York City President Sonia Ossorio.** “These two leaders have passionately and effectively led the charge to promote and protect the rights of women and girls in our city, whether it’s increasing access to reproductive and family planning services for women or demanding serious action to end rape and sexual assault. We look forward to our continued work of challenging discrimination, advancing women in the workplace, and proactively addressing violence against women.”

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