

2011

New York City Council
Human Rights Report Card

CITY COUNCIL
AND YOUR
HUMAN RIGHTS



A publication of the
Human Rights Project
at the Urban Justice Center



About the Human Rights Project

The Human Rights Project (HRP) at the Urban Justice Center works to improve the lives of New Yorkers living in poverty. We do this by monitoring and advocating for government compliance with universal human rights standards, especially the human rights to employment, housing, health, food, education and other economic and social rights.

HRP began its work in 1999 to fight New York City's aggressive implementation of the Clinton Administration's welfare rollback policies. The City actively discouraged many eligible New Yorkers from seeking public assistance, and thousands went hungry. HRP has since fought for the rights of poor New Yorkers, particularly women, people of color, and immigrants, by:

- Exposing policies and practices that create barriers to economic equality and reform
- Enlisting and equipping allies to use human rights standards to combat poverty
- Motivating those in power to bring social and economic policies in line with human rights standards
- Serving as a thought leader in the domestic human rights field.

HRP's work serves as a model for local implementation of human rights nationally. The continued production of our Council Watch project—which monitors the City Council and produces the New York City Council Human Rights Report Card (Report Card) annually—depends on donations. **To support the work of the Human Rights Project**, for additional copies of the Report Card, or for more information about our work, please contact:

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Introduction

The Human Rights Project (HRP) at the Urban Justice Center is pleased to publish its fourth annual New York City Council Human Rights Report Card (Report Card). The Report Card is designed to advance the use of a human rights framework in policy evaluation and advocacy and to measure the commitment of the New York City Council to promoting human rights in New York City. This year, while we continue to grade council members individually, we emphasize our examination of Council as a whole. While some bills that promote human rights were passed into law, all of the legislation that we identified as having a major human rights impact was held up in Council. Our findings suggest that the political power of the Speaker, and the failure of Council to challenge it, has delayed hearings and votes in Council, and has restricted the passage of human rights legislation. We identify ways in which council members could act as individuals and as a collective to restore democratic processes and advance stalled legislation that promote human rights in New York City.

The Report Card is intended as a tool for education and for action. It is disseminated to advocates and activists working on a broad range of issues, and it can be utilized in a variety of campaigns. We hope it will encourage individuals and organizations alike to turn their attention to the Council with human rights in mind. We have included the contact information for each council member and we hope that you will call their offices with questions about any information you find in these pages or elsewhere.

A note on advocate voices: We surveyed 28 advocates (both group representatives and individual community members) to elicit their opinions about the Council and human rights. While our survey was not extensive enough to factor into the grading process, we have used direct quotations throughout the Report Card to illustrate the views that were shared in the surveys. All quotations are anonymous.

The Human Rights Framework

The Report Card brings a human rights framework to the examination of city government. This framework—drawing upon the substance, spirit, and language of international human rights laws and declarations—allows advocates to hold governments and the policies they create accountable to higher standards than those to which we are usually accustomed in the United States.

Here, we outline some main components of the human rights framework, and provide examples of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights.

→ **Human rights are universally accepted rights to which all people, by virtue of being human, may lay claim.**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted in 1948 in an effort led largely by the United States. The UDHR outlines a series of basic civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights that *all* people are entitled to, regardless of “distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”¹ That basic tenet—that human rights are to be extended to all people—has guided the work of human rights activists in the years since.

→ **Human rights are indivisible and interdependent.**

All human rights impact one another, and the violation of one right inhibits the actualization of others. For example, a person’s human right to education may be inhibited by her experience of racial discrimination in the education system. If her right to education is not met, her ability to enjoy the right to decent work will likely be impacted, which in turn could impact her rights to housing and to health.

→ **A human rights framework calls for government to be proactive in advancing human rights.**

Under human rights law, governments are called on to take concrete and appropriate steps to ensure the realization of human rights such as the right to an adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the right to continuous improvement of living conditions. Using this framework, advocates can call on governments to take steps to proactively advance human rights and prevent human rights violations. For example, collecting disaggregated data on social service programs would help governments and advocates to identify patterns of discrimination in order to address them.

→ **Human rights principles call for governments to operate in a transparent fashion, with mechanisms of accountability built in and with the fullest participation of community members possible.**

Members of the community should be aware of and involved in policy-making to the greatest extent possible. A human rights framework emphasizes that those most directly impacted by human rights violations have valuable insight into solutions for those violations, and should be involved in crafting and assessing policies designed to address them. Open forums, transparent decision making processes, and comprehensive outcome reviews are necessary to the establishment and maintenance of human rights.

Drawing on the human rights framework, advocates can identify human rights violations, contextualize them in human rights language, and demand transparent, proactive, and comprehensive solutions from government. For example, in advancing the human right to decent work, advocates could identify the failure to pay a living wage as a human rights violation and insist that the city government take proactive and comprehensive steps to address the problem based on universally accepted human rights law and principles. **The utilization of a human rights framework requires advocacy.** Governments rarely meet human rights standards without pressure from their constituents. Human rights at home are only as strong as we make them.

Why a Human Rights Report Card?

As one of the most culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse cities in the nation, New York City provides much to be celebrated. The richness of the city's offerings, however, is plagued by persistent social and economic inequities. While it is beyond the scope of the Report Card to provide a full analysis of the challenges to economic and social human rights in New York City, some current inequalities include:

Income Inequality and Poverty

→ New York City has the worst household income inequality of the 25 largest cities in the U.S. About 10.5% of city residents live in deep poverty, defined as an annual income of \$10,500 for a four person family—an annual income less than what the wealthiest 1 percent of residents earn, on average, in a single day.²

→ The income from low-wage jobs is too low to lift families above the poverty line—2 out of 5 New Yorkers living below the poverty line in 2008-2009 had at least one employed family member³.

→ At least 39,500 people found themselves homeless in New York City on any given night in February 2011⁴ and no less than 40% of them were children.⁵ These figures likely underestimate homelessness as they do not track the street-homeless population or those doubled up in unstable housing. The overcrowding rate in Asian American households in the city is nearly double that of the city-wide average.⁶

→ An estimated 3 million New York City residents have trouble affording food for themselves or their families, and around 1.3 million rely on soup kitchens and food pantries to meet their needs.⁷

Gender Inequalities

→ The majority of low-income working mothers in New York City (60%) do not receive paid sick days⁸, which means they may be forced to choose between caring for themselves or a child who is ill, and buying adequate food for the week, or even keeping their job.

→ Women workers in New York made on average only 84% of what their male counterparts earned in 2009⁹. In the restaurant industry in New York City, women face a “gender tax” manifest in lesser earnings as compared to men with comparable qualifications.¹⁰ Women are largely underrepresented in the highest paid positions of the industry, and women of color fare worse than white women do.¹¹

→ Transgender and gender nonconforming individuals are also economically marginalized. A recent survey found that 59% of transgender workers in New York City reported experiencing job discrimination.¹²

Racial Inequalities

→ Black residents of New York City have an unemployment rate more than twice that of white residents (12.7% compared to 6.2%) and Latina/os fare only slightly better (10.7% unemployment rate).¹³

→ In 2009, a person in New York City was 9 times more likely to be stopped by the police if they were black or Latina/o than if they were white.¹⁴

→ Over 90% of the adult detention population in New York City is black or Latina/o, and in the juvenile justice system the number is closer to 95%¹⁵.

→ The majority of Asian American immigrants in New York City have limited English proficiency (60% of Asian American’s as an aggregate; 67.3% of Chinese speakers, 62.5% of Korean Speakers, of 60.6% of Vietnamese speakers), which, due to institutional barriers in the city, can make it difficult to access employment, health care, social services, and education.¹⁶

The City Council, as the legislative body of the city, holds the power to make significant and enduring changes that would remedy these inequities and others. Under a human rights framework, Council has an obligation to do so. The human rights framework demands that government take proactive steps to advance equality and allows advocates to hold government accountable for creating basic conditions that satisfy the human rights of all people in New York City. The Report Card measures the extent to which Council succeeds in addressing such inequities and advancing human rights in New York City.

CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS	VIOLATIONS
<p>Civil and political rights are distinct but often overlap. These rights are recognized in universally accepted human rights laws and protected by the U.S. Constitution.</p>		
<p>Civil Rights</p>	<p>Equal protection of the law; Freedom from discrimination; Right to a fair trial; Freedom of association*; Freedom of speech.* <i>*also political rights</i></p>	<p>People of color are targeted in stop, frisk and arrest police practices; Discrimination against transgender job applicants results in lower hiring rates; Women workers are paid less than their male counterparts</p>
<p>Political Rights</p>	<p>Right to take part in political life; Right to vote; Right to participate fully in civil society</p>	<p>Accommodations at voting stations are not made for people with physical disabilities; Formerly incarcerated people are disenfranchised</p>
<p>Economic, social and cultural rights are recognized by universally accepted human rights law including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which the U.S. has signed but not ratified. Many of these rights are protected in U.S. state constitutions.</p>		
<p>Economic Rights</p>	<p>Right to decent work; Right to just and favorable conditions of work; Right to protection against unemployment; Right to rest, leisure, and reasonable limitation of working hours; Right to form a union</p>	<p>Employees are paid less than a living wage; Workers are denied paid family and sick leave; The right to form a union is infringed upon</p>
<p>Social Rights</p>	<p>Right to education; Right to adequate housing; Right to health; Right to social security</p>	<p>The public education system fails to provide quality education to all who wish to access it; There is insufficient affordable and safe housing that is near transportation and other amenities; There is a lack of universal access to mental or physical healthcare. There is no assistance for people who are unable to work due to age, disability or job shortages</p>
<p>Cultural Rights</p>	<p>Right to freely participate in cultural life.</p>	<p>Sacred land is taken away or restricted by land use decisions</p>

About New York City Council

The New York City Council, made up of 51 elected council members each representing a specific district, is the legislative body of the New York City. Each council member maintains a legislative office in lower Manhattan and at least one additional office in her or his district to serve constituents. Council members draft, introduce, sponsor, and vote on legislation as it passes through the legislative processes. The Council is also responsible for some land use issues, monitoring the operation and performance of city agencies, and approval of the budget of the city. The City Council Speaker, elected from and by the body of council members, plays a leadership role in the Council and is, according to the Council's website, primarily "responsible for obtaining a consensus on major issues"¹⁷. The Public Advocate may introduce legislation and the Mayor may also have legislation introduced upon her/his request (as Mayor Bloomberg, for example, did with legislation to extend term limits)¹⁸.

The Report Card provides an assessment of council members individually (see page 27-78). While we believe it is essential to look at each council member's record, our ultimate concern is with City Council as it functions in total as a lawmaking body. To that end, in the following pages we examine the Council's collective record in promoting human rights over the past 12 months, including patterns and roadblocks in legislative introductions, hearings, and votes.

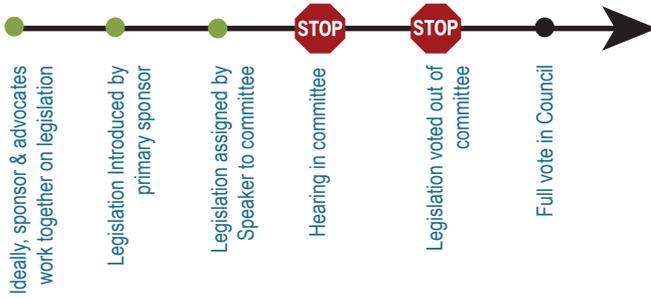
Note: To learn more and become involved with the Council process, please see page 110.

Human Rights in Jeopardy: The Legislative Session and the Power of the Speaker and the Mayor

The current legislative session began on January 1, 2010. We analyze all legislation introduced from that date through August 31, 2011, with a particular focus on legislation introduced over the past 12 months.

The legislative process, as laid out in the Council rules, outlines the way in which a bill is intended to move from introduction through committee and on to a vote. A piece of legislation is introduced by a lead sponsor, assigned to a committee, and made available for additional council members to sign on as sponsors. In the committee the bill should be assigned a hearing date by the

committee chair, and a hearing should be held. After a satisfactory hearing (or hearings) the bill is brought to a vote within the committee. If concerns sufficient to warrant revision are raised during the hearing, the bill should be revised and brought for a second hearing. The hearing process is designed as a transparent mechanism for dialogue among council members and as a forum public input. After a favorable vote in committee the bill should advance to the floor of the Council for a vote. Every council member is intended to vote on legislation on the floor of the Council to ensure equal and democratic decision-making.



The Political Power of the Speaker Disrupts the Progression of Legislation

In practice, the story is quite different. **The City Council operates according to a set of unwritten political rules** rather than according to the official rules of Council.** Most legislation does not move smoothly from introduction to hearing to vote, unless it has the support of the Speaker (the indicator we use for support in this report is sponsorship) or it was introduced on the request of the Mayor. We find stark evidence of delays in the scheduling of hearings and votes for legislation not supported by the Speaker or the Mayor. There are also much lower

“In setting the legislative agenda of the City Council, the Speaker has the opportunity to make human rights a top priority for the Council.”
— *Thought from an advocate*

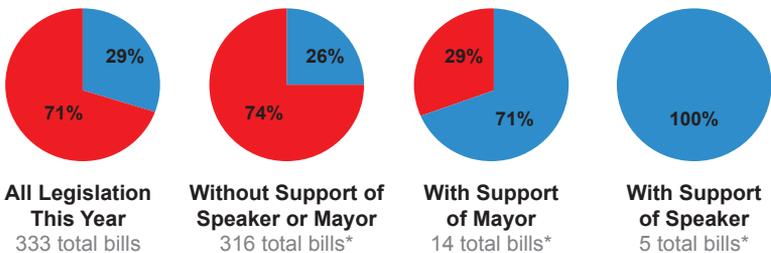
** While our focus is on City Council, an excellent evaluation of the political functioning of the New York State legislature published by the Brennan Center demonstrates many parallels at the State level: Stengel, Norden and Seago. (2008). Still broken: New York state legislative reform. Brennan Center for Justice. *Brennan Center for Justice Online*. http://brennan.3cdn.net/ec21bc2f8e70edb787_j9m6b0k88.pdf (Retrieved 7/22/2011)

rates of enactment for those bills that do not have the support of the Speaker or the Mayor. These trends hold true over the entire legislative session (January 2010-August 2011), as well as the last twelve months (September 2010-August 2011), which is the specific period covered by this Report Card. **It is much less likely that a bill will have a hearing, be brought to a vote, or pass if the Mayor or the Speaker does not support it.**

Legislation that has been stalled includes—as explored in the following page—many bills that would advance human rights, some of which have significant, sometimes even veto-proof, support in Council. Strong human rights legislation stalls both before and after the hearing process. And while there are mechanisms laid out in the Council rules to ensure democratic process, which allow individual council members or Council as a body to bring legislation to the floor if it is not advancing as it should, these rules have not been utilized a single time this legislative session (see page 17 for further discussion).

Disparate Hearing Rates

The dissonance between the Council rules and the political reality is attributed by many to the political power of City Council Speaker Quinn—as exercised through delayed hearings and votes¹⁹. While the power to schedule hearings technically lies with committee chairs, it is in practice the Speaker who controls that scheduling, and bills with significant support are held up in Council largely at the Speaker’s discretion²⁰. The exercise of this political power has resulted in significant delays in the progression of legislation to a hearing, and in many cases these delays inhibit the progression of human rights. **It is much more likely that a bill will have a hearing if it is supported by the Speaker or the Mayor.**

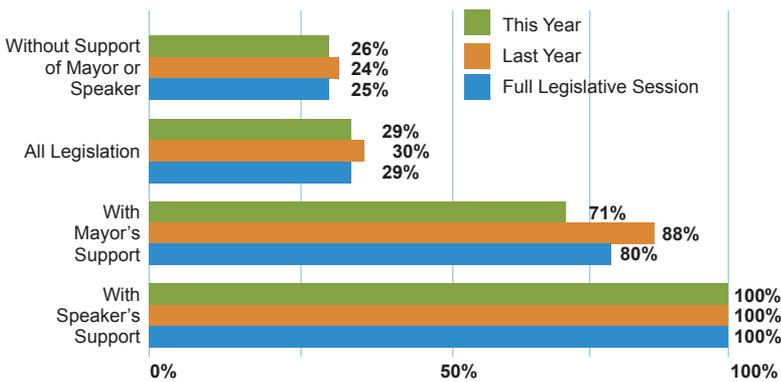


Had Hearing
 *Note 2 bills were supported by both Speaker and Mayor

Hearings Scheduled

Of the legislation introduced this year, less than a third (29%) has been brought to a hearing. If we look exclusively at legislation that did not enjoy the support of the Speaker or the Mayor, only about one quarter of legislation had a hearing (26%). In sharp contrast, the majority of legislation supported by the Mayor (71%) had a hearing, and every piece of legislation supported by the Speaker was brought to hearing.

When we compare this year’s Report Card time frame (September 2010 - August 2011) to that of last year’s Report Card (January 2010-August 2010), and also look at the entire legislative session, we see that this trend of hearing rates holds:



Percent of Legislation to Have a Hearing Scheduled

In the full legislative session, only 25% of bills introduced without the support of the Speaker or Mayor came to a hearing. The opportunity for discussion and advancement for the remaining bills—more than two thirds of all legislation— has been restricted; and among them we find bills with significant** support in Council: 13 pieces of legislation with 25 or more sponsors have not yet had a hearing. Legislation with significant support that has not had a hearing includes legislation to advance the human rights to decent work, housing, and freedom from discrimination. The 6 pieces of legislation below—all with 27 or more sponsors—would significantly promote human rights in the City, yet have not been scheduled for a hearing.

** For purposes of this report, "significant support" will denote bills with 25 or more sponsors.

Right to Housing

Tenants' Bill of Rights - Int 0477-2011

33 Sponsors (+ the Public Advocate) · No Hearing

Introduced 2/16/2011

Citywide Census of Vacant Properties - Int 0048-2011

29 Sponsors · No Hearing

Introduced 2/11/2010

Right to Work

Reduced Fine for Vending Regulations Violations - Int 0434-2010

30 Sponsors · No Hearing

Introduced 11/30/2010

Clarified Street Vendor Violations and Fines - Int 0435-2010

32 Sponsors · No Hearing

Introduced 11/30/2010

Right to Freedom From Discrimination

Human Rights Government Operations Audit Law - Int 0283-2010

30 Sponsors · No Hearing

Introduced 6/29/2010

Civilian Complaint Review Board Prosecution Power - Int 0072-2010

27 Sponsors · No Hearing

Introduced 3/3/2010

See page 79-91 for legislation summaries.

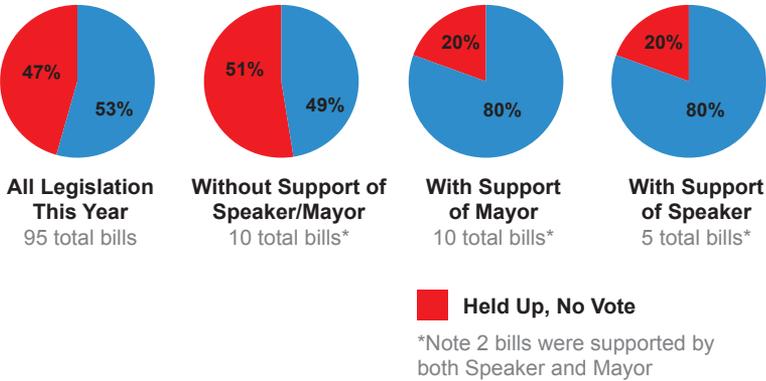
Vote Delays

The political power of the Speaker and the Mayor is also exercised after hearings have taken place. While the hearing process is intended to lead directly to a full vote on the floor of Council, in practice, the political reality differs. We find that **bills with the support of the Speaker or the Mayor are much more likely to move to a vote after a hearing.** Only half (51%) of the bills without the Speaker's or Mayor's support went from

“The Speaker wields incredible power in the City Council. Without the Speaker's support, it is unlikely for human rights bills—or any bills—to gain passage, even if there is a veto-proof majority of the City Council in support.”

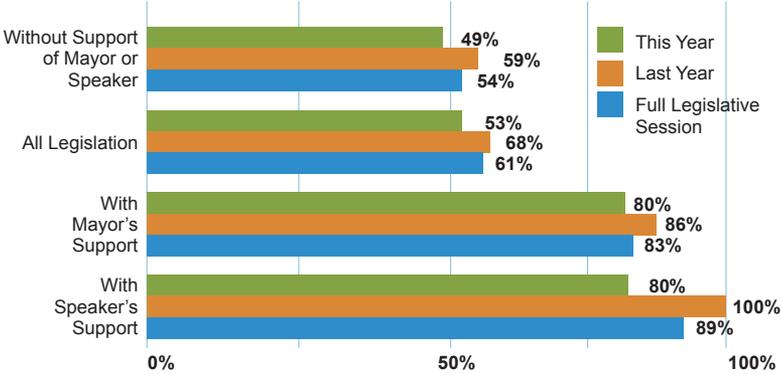
— *Thought from an advocate*

a hearing to a vote. In contrast, 80% of legislation introduced by the Speaker or the Mayor had a vote. While vote delays after hearings can sometimes be attributed to the fact that concerns raised in the hearing process were significant enough to necessitate revisions, there are clear indications that roadblocks generally lie within the office of the Speaker²¹. The Speaker, in practice, dictates the legislative agenda, largely irrespective—as we explore later—of the support demonstrated in Council for items of legislation.



Legislation Held Up After Having A Hearing

Comparing this year’s time frame to last year’s, we find consistency in the trend of vote scheduling. Many identify Speaker Quinn as the gatekeeper of the vote scheduling process²² -- and it holds true that legislation with her support, or that of the Mayor, is much more readily brought to a vote after having had a hearing.



Percent of Legislation Which Had a Hearing And Was Then Brought To A Vote

Nearly half (46%) of bills in the full legislative session that were not supported by the Speaker or Mayor never proceeded to a vote after the hearing process. That includes 14 bills with significant support* in Council that were never brought to a vote after their hearings, and 5 bills stalled after the hearing process despite having a veto-proof majority of council members signed on as sponsor (34 or more Council Members). If those five bills were allowed to progress to a vote, not only would they pass (assuming all sponsors vote in the affirmative), but a Mayoral veto could also be overridden if necessary. Six bills with significant support, including the five with veto-proof support are listed as follows.

See pages 79-91 for legislation summaries.

Right to Decent Work & Health Care

Paid Sick Time - Int 0097-2010

35 Sponsors (+ Public Advocate) · **Veto Proof** · No Vote

Hearing Date: 5/11/2010

Right to Decent Work

Prevailing Wage for Building Services Employees - Int 0018-2010

36 Sponsors (+ Public Advocate) · **Veto Proof** · No Vote

Hearing Date: 5/11/2010

Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act - Int 0251-2010

35 Sponsors (+ Bronx Borough President) · **Veto Proof** · No Vote

Hearing Date: 5/12/2011

Right to Freedom From Discrimination

Accessible New Taxi Cabs - Int 0433-2010

37 Sponsors · **Veto Proof** · No Vote

Hearing Date: 12/13/2010

Banks Addressing Community Needs - Int 0485-2011

35 Sponsors · **Veto Proof** · No Vote

Hearing Date: 3/7/2011

Right to Education

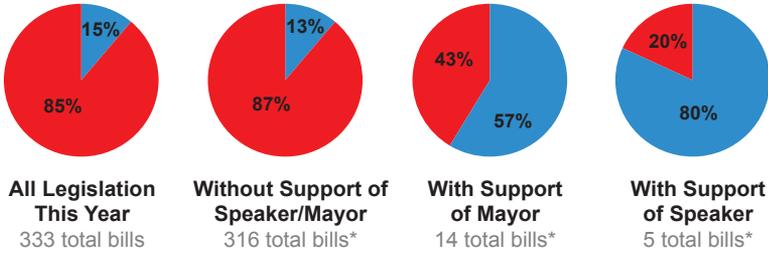
School Capacity Utilization Reporting - Int 0155-2010

32 Sponsors · No Vote

Hearing Date: 4/28/2010

Rates of Legislation Passed into Law

The Influence of the Speaker and the Mayor are also manifest in the rates of enactment for legislation: **bills without the support of the Speaker or the Mayor pass into law at a much lower rate.** Of legislation introduced this year that was not supported by the Speaker or the Mayor, only 15% was enacted. In contrast, 57% of legislation supported by the mayor, and 80% of legislation supported by the Speaker was enacted.

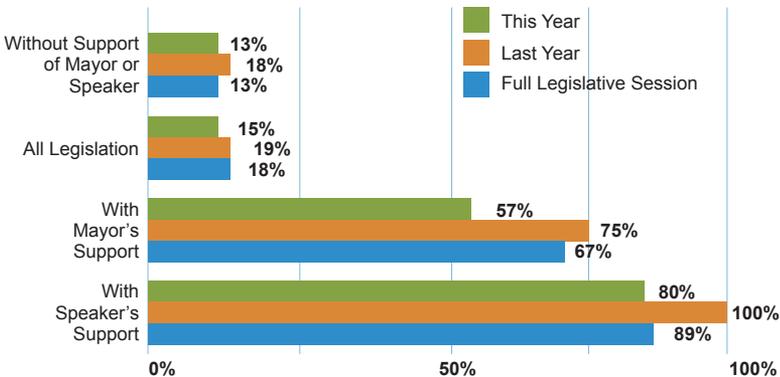


 Passed Into Law

*Note 2 bills were supported by both Speaker and Mayor

Rates of Legislation Passed Into Law

As with the rate of scheduled hearings and the rate of votes scheduled after the hearing process, the trend for enacted legislation holds over the entire legislative session: legislation with the support of the Speaker or the Mayor is more likely to pass into law.

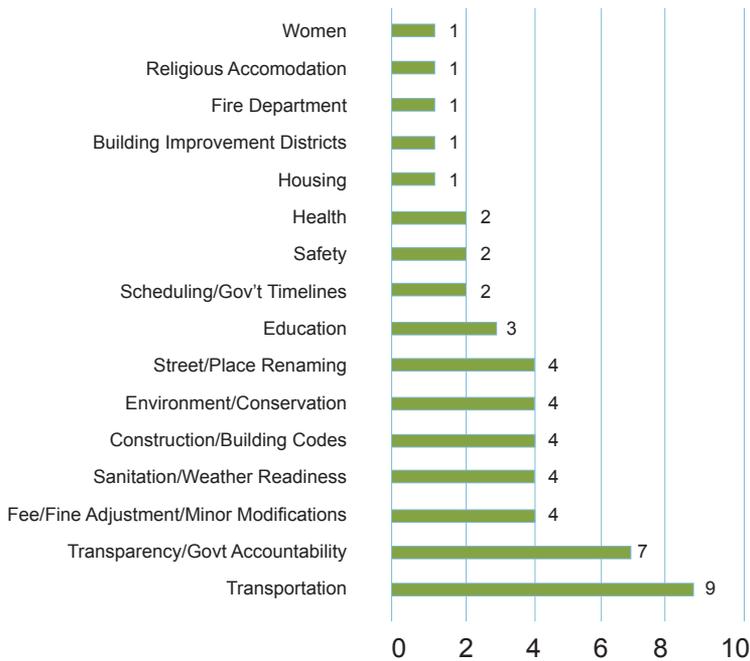


Percent of Legislation Passed

Human Rights Legislative Agenda This Year

The role of City Council necessarily encompasses the more mundane and minute tasks of lawmaking such as street renaming and date adjustments in existing legislation. However, Council's work should also include bold, innovative legislation that proactively advances human rights in New York City.

The political power of the Speaker—as exercised to delay hearings and stall votes—and the influence of the Mayor, restricts the pool of legislation that is enacted in Council. Our analysis finds that, while there have been laudable bills enacted over the past twelve months, there is—from a human rights perspective— still much room for improvement.



**Legislation Enacted This Year
(Sept 2010-Aug 2011)**

The largest categories* of legislation enacted this year were laws dealing with transportation-related issues and laws that required minor adjustments to existing law, such as the modification of fees or fines. These categories include laws making pedicabs subject to parking rules (Int 0334-2010) and changing the fees for building zone variance applications (Int 0571-2011). The next largest category of legislation enacted this year were laws addressing government transparency and accountability, such as posting hate crime and domestic violence statistics online (Int 0373-2010; Int 0393-2010.) Our human rights analysis determined that eight of the laws enacted in the past year had a positive human rights impact. Those laws, which are factored into council member grades, are:

Human Rights Legislation Passed This Year (all minor)

Human Right to Housing

Reporting Citywide Emergency Housing Use (LL 2011-037)

Though the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) provides daily data on people accessing DHS shelter, this information does not depict the true number of homeless persons because it does not include those in other city shelters. This law requires DHS to include in the daily census, the number of individuals who spent the previous night in other city shelters, including but not limited to, drop-in centers, faith-based facilities, and veterans housing. A more accurate count of the homeless population would help improve services.

Government Accountability

Reporting Hate Crimes Data Online (LL 2010-058)

This law requires the Mayor's Office of Operations to report New York City Police Department hate crimes data on the My Neighborhood Statistics section of the Office of Operations website. Data to be reported include the numbers of hate crimes, murders determined to be hate crimes, and felonious assaults determined to be hate crimes. The reporting of this additional information increases government accountability and increases the awareness of the occurrence of these crimes.

Reporting Domestic Violence Data Online (LL 2010-059)

This law requires the Mayor's Office of Operations to report New York City Police Department statistics on domestic violence on the My Neighborhood Statistics section of the Office of Operations website. These data include the number of domestic violence radio runs as well as murders, rapes and felonious assaults related to domestic violence.

Commission on Human Rights Annual Reporting (LL 2011-002)

While the Commission on Human Rights must submit an annual report to the Mayor

* Categories were assigned to all pieces of enacted legislation. Legislation that fell into multiple categories was assigned a single category for purposes of analysis

and the City Council on its efforts to enforce the Human Rights Law, the information in these reports is at the Commission's discretion. This law requires the Commission to include certain information in the annual report including, but not limited to, public inquiries, complaints filed and education and outreach efforts.

Human Right to Education*

Reporting School Discipline and School Police Department Activity (LL 2011-006)

This law requires the Chancellor of the Department of Education to submit to the City Council reports on the discipline of students in the New York City school system. The reports are to consist of data on suspensions, transfers in connection with a suspension, summons, arrests, and non-criminal activity, disaggregated by categories including, but not limited to, race/ethnicity and gender.

Reporting School Discharges (LL 2011-042)

This law requires the Department of Education to report on student discharges, students whose enrollment has been voluntarily or involuntarily terminated or withdrawn. In doing so, it increases the transparency around student discharges and consequently enhances government accountability and the right to education

Reporting School Transfers Due to Closures (LL 2011-043)

This law increases the transparency regarding students who were transferred as a result of a school closure. Specifically, it requires the Department of Education to provide data on students who were transferred to an alternate school as a result of a school closure. Schools subject to closure usually have greater concentrations of high needs students and low-income students.

Women's Human Rights & Human Right to Healthcare**

Pregnancy Service Centers (LL 2011-017)

This law aims to prevent pregnancy services centers from engaging in deceptive practices. Specifically, it requires centers to disclose the types of reproductive health services provided on-site and creates protections for clients' health and personal information. In doing so, it protects consumers from misleading practices and protects a woman's right to health. Note that in July 2011, a Federal District Court Judge halted the law's enforcement, finding that the law compromised the centers' constitutional rights.

Power Ceded by the Council

Often the discrepancies between the rules of democratic decision-making and the actual political realities go unchallenged. However, our analysis reveals that the political machinations of Council—both the political power of the Speaker and the reticence of Council to challenge it—are inhibiting the advancement of human rights in New York City. The power of the Speaker has delayed

** In order to streamline the grading process, this bill is re-categorized under Health for the Council Member Grades

hearings, stalled votes, and restricted the passage of legislation. But the Speaker does not operate in a vacuum. There are 50 other council members who could, and should, be challenging that power. **Council members as individuals and as a collective have the opportunity to challenge the political power of the Speaker, and they consistently fail to do so.** Two rules in particular are noteworthy. **Neither of these rules has been exercised a single time during this legislative session.**²³

Sponsors Privilege: The Potential Power of the Lead Sponsor

If a committee fails to consider a piece of legislation within 60 days of its assignment to that committee, **rule 7.100²⁴**, called *Sponsor's Privilege*, allows the lead sponsor of a bill to petition the chairperson of the committee it is in for a meeting. The rules call for a meeting to be scheduled within 60 days of that petition, and for a vote to be taken on the spot or at a hearing held within 30 days. This rule also says that if a piece of legislation receives a favorable report from a committee and is not brought to the floor of Council within 45 days, the lead sponsor may move for that legislation to be considered immediately. Those bills stalled without a hearing due to the political power of the Speaker could be moved forward using *Sponsors Privilege*. **The lead sponsors of human rights bills, particularly those with significant support in Council have the opportunity and, under a human rights framework, an obligation, to move their bills forward.**

Discharge of Committee: The Potential Power of the Council

In addition to the ability of the lead sponsor to move legislation that is being stalled, the Council can act as a body to advance the process as well. **Rule 7.130²⁵**, called *Discharge of Committee*, states that if the majority of Council sees fit, they can (with the support of the lead sponsor and at least seven additional sponsors) act collectively to vote to discharge a piece of legislation from committee. If the Council acted collectively, those pieces of legislation with widespread support in Council that have had hearings—particularly the five bills with veto-proof majorities—could and be discharged from committee with the exercise of this rule.

There are no clear reasons for the Council's reticence in taking advantage of these two rules. However, based reports²⁶ that the Speaker readily wields political power internally, and on conversations with advocates, we speculate that failure to do so is linked with the desire of most council members to maintain a relatively friendly relationship with the Speaker. The Speaker controls the allocation of discretionary funding to council members for use in their districts²⁷, and there are indications that funds are allocated according to political relationships and the allegiances of council members.²⁸ Fear of cuts in funding or other political reprisals may make council members reluctant

to challenge the status quo. However, given its impact on human rights in New York City, business as usual is not sufficient to protect our human rights. Council members should act—individually and as a collective—to challenge the status quo even in the face of political reprisals.

The Budget: Cuts to Social Services and the Public Sector

The City Council is responsible for reviewing, modifying, and approving the Executive Budget for the city. An initial budget is proposed by the Mayor, and the Council is tasked with holding hearings, conducting internal debate, and negotiating with the Mayor to arrive at a final budget to be adopted by the City.*

This year, the budget proposed to the Council by Mayor Bloomberg included massive cuts to social services. The budget called for, among other cuts, the loss of 6,100 teaching positions (4,100 positions lost through teacher firings, and another 2,000 lost through attrition)²⁹, the closure of 20 firehouses, the elimination of 17,000 childcare slots, and 100 senior centers, and the defunding of some public libraries³⁰.

The final budget adopted by Council does not include some of the most severe of Bloomberg's proposed cuts—it doesn't close firehouses or eliminate teaching positions through immediate firings—but it still results in cuts to social services which jeopardize the human rights to education, decent work, and housing in New York City. Funding for day care and summer youth jobs³¹ are being cut, and more than 1,000 layoffs are slated in the public sector³².

Of particular concern are the cuts to the public education system. School budgets are expected to decline by around 2.4 percent, which will likely result in programmatic cutbacks. The central and field offices in Education Department will see their budgets cut by 13.5%, and an estimated 2,600 teaching jobs will be eliminated through attrition, causing class sizes to rise³³. College scholarship programs and funding to the CUNY system are also being cut. Cuts to public education have far-reaching human rights ramifications. Not only is the human right to education being infringed, but restricted access to equal education means restricted access to the rights to decent work, housing, and medical care later in life.

* For a comprehensive look at how the City budget is passed, see the Independent Budget Office's guide: <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/understandingthebudget.pdf>

The adopted budget is seen by many to constitute a success on the part of the Council³⁴, and much of that success is credited to the Speaker, who played a large and publicized role in the negotiations³⁵.

The extreme nature of Bloomberg's proposed cuts makes the compromises eventually reached by Council seem like gains, when in fact they are still losses, and losses that may not be necessary. For example, the Independent Budget Office ³⁶found that the initial need for teacher layoffs was overstated by the Mayor. This overstatement means that the compromise achieved by the Council is less significant than it initially appeared.

A human rights framework demands that the Council explore and advance alternative budget proposals that would not jeopardize social services to New York residents who are already systematically disenfranchised. There are two available options when determining a budget: cuts and revenue generation. The Mayor and the Council relied heavily on service cuts—which have a severe impact on low- and middle-income New Yorkers—in this year's budget. Revenue generation was not sufficiently explored or used. Even in a difficult economic climate, alternative revenue options for the city exist that, if pursued, would greatly improve the budget. Coherent and explicit solutions like closing tax loopholes that benefit hedge fund managers and amending city contracting policy are articulated by organizations like The Fiscal Policy Institute.³⁷ It is incumbent on council members as individuals and Council as a body to pursue revenue generating solutions in order to craft a budget that promotes human rights in this city. Some council members have emphasized this need in their responses to our questionnaire (see pages 27-78), and we encourage those council members who feel the budget insufficiently promotes human rights to continue to organize within Council to fight for a stronger budget.

Land Use and Human Rights

In addition to acting as the lawmaking body of the City, the Council also votes on the approval of land use applications. Land use projects have the potential to promote human rights by preserving and expanding quality affordable housing, fair-wage jobs, open spaces, community life, and services and amenities. However, development projects also have the potential to violate human rights by displacing low-income residents and workers diminishing affordable housing stock, and limiting the meaningful participation of community members in policy decisions that affect their lives. Those land use applications that violate human rights tend to have a disproportionate impact on low income communities of color.

This year saw fewer controversial land use decisions than last. While we did not conduct a complete human rights analysis of land use decisions for this report, we recognize that most of these decisions generally implicate human rights. The recently approved land use proposal for rezoning in South Jamaica, Queens, is an example of how land use can impact the **human rights to housing and health**, as it sought to preserve single-family homes against overdevelopment and to expand the reach of the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program, which provides incentives for the development of grocery stores in underserved areas. Conversely, the recently approved proposal for construction of a large tower—known as 15 Penn Plaza—in Manhattan raised issues about the **human right to work**, as Hotel Union workers objected to the job loss they would face due to the demolition of the Hotel Pennsylvania for construction of the new tower. Concern was also voiced by advocates (including Council Member Barron, who was the only member to vote ‘no’ on the proposal) about the **human right to freedom from discrimination**, because the developers initially failed to commit to contract with women and minority owned businesses, who are generally underrepresented in City contracts. Though the developers have since pledged to reserve 15 percent of contracts for those businesses, concerns remain that such a set aside is insufficient to address issues of systematic disenfranchisement.

Resolutions: Advancing Human Rights Dialogue

An additional mechanism available to council members wishing to advance political discourse and effect policy is the introduction of resolutions. Resolutions are communications issued to the state or national governments calling on them to take particular action on a political issue. While they don’t exercise direct power over the other governing bodies, the pressure of publicly issued recommendations can influence political decisions elsewhere and also advance discourse within the Council.

Direct reference to Human Rights conventions:

Res 0906-2011. 6/29/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Dromm

Resolution calling on on President Barack Obama to sign and ratify with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Res 0798-2011. 4/28/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Dromm

Resolution calling on President Obama to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Senate to ratify both the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Res 0693-2011. 3/2/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Rodriguez

Resolution calling on the United States Senate to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to enable New York City to participate in proceedings before its monitoring body.

Other Resolutions to Advance Human Rights

Res 0909-2011. 6/29/2011. Sponsor: Council Member James

Resolution calling for the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, the New York State pay equity legislative package.

Res 0905-2011 6/29/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Dromm

Resolution urging the United States Department of Homeland Security to investigate abuse allegations and take action to ensure the safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender immigrants in the custody of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Res 0631-2011. 1/18/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Williams

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to reintroduce and pass legislation that would require ex-felons to be fully informed of their voting rights.

Res 0364-2010. 7/29/2010. Sponsor: Council Member James

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign in to law the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Res 0164-2010. 4/14/2010. Sponsor: Council Member Mark-Viverito

Resolution urging President Obama to put an end to the 287(g) program, an immigration enforcement program that is causing an increase in racial profiling and civil rights abuses in localities throughout the U.S.

Res 0895-2011. 6/15/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Dromm

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R.1397/S.811, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

Res 0700-2011. 3/23/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Chin

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to renew and strengthen the laws regulating rents and the eviction of tenants.

Res 0666-2011. 2/16/2011. Sponsor: Council Member Arroyo

Resolution calling upon the United States House of Representatives to vote against H.R. 358, a bill which will severely restrict women's right to access abortion and endanger women's lives by permitting health care providers to deny life saving care in emergencies.

Individual Council Member Evaluation

Methodology

Assessing Legislation and Tracking Sponsorship and Votes

Using an assessment process rooted in human rights principles, and in consultation with advocate groups we reviewed all legislation before Council and developed a list of legislation that promotes human rights. This list was provided to all council members for review

prior to our grading process, as well as a deadline date by which sponsorship of legislation had to be recorded online in order to count toward a grade. Council members were graded according to the rubric specified in the chart to the right. Legislation determined to have a major impact was awarded twice the points as less significant legislation. Major bills, rather than proposing a narrow fix to a specific problem, attempt to change the landscape of the city in a manner that would move it towards becoming a standard-bearer in its protection of human rights. Minor bills are important bills that seek to affect a basic human rights issue with regard to a particular population, or that propose a limited solution to a larger human rights problem. Letter grades were awarded according to the following curve: A+=85-100; A=70-84; A-= 65-69; B+=60-64;B=45-59; B-=40-44; C+=35-39; C=20-34; C-=15-19; D+=12-14;D=9-11;D-=5-8;F=0-4. Selected legislation and council member sponsorship and vote tracking can be found on pages 79-103.

CRITERIA	POINTS
1. Votes on Key Legislation	45
Primary Sponsorship on Voted Legislation	+10
OR	
Co-Sponsorship on Voted Legislation	+5
2. Prime Sponsorship on Introduced Legislation	35
Co-sponsorship on Introduced Legislation	+5
3. Completion of Human Rights Questionnaire	5
Vote and sponsorship points doubled for major legislation	

Council Member Questionnaire

All council members were sent a Human Rights Questionnaire to allow them an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of and opinions about domestic human rights, and to indicate their legislative and budget priorities for the legislative session. Text from the questionnaire has been excerpted to create profiles for each council member. The questionnaire was graded according to the rubric on the following page.

CRITERIA	POINTS AWARDED
Submission of Questionnaire	1
Demonstrated leadership on human rights issues	1
Demonstrated understanding of human rights	1
Promoting economic and social rights	2

A Note on the Shortcomings of Council Member Grades

We recognize several ways in which our grading system falls short of fully capturing the human rights records of council members.

First, we grade council members only on legislation that has been introduced, so grades do not reflect our expectation that stronger human rights legislation

can and should be introduced by every member of Council. Second, we are not able to objectively capture the degree to which council members elicit and are receptive to the input of their constituents. The involvement of community members is crucial to good governance under a human rights framework. We hope to expand our advocate and community survey in the future to capture this information in a way that can be used in our grading process. Third, we are not able to objectively capture the work that council members do (or fail to do), to advance human rights legislation within the Council, and to promote human rights more generally using their position and associated powers. Advocacy and organizing with other council members, dialogue and pressure exerted on the speaker, and other work that council members do with their colleagues is, while a crucial component of good governance, not captured in these grades.

We are invested in pushing for transformational governance³⁸—in which legislators move beyond the bare minimum to garner reelection to focus on major, significant, long term transformative policies. While exemplary scores should be congratulated, these grades are only a snapshot of a portion of a council member’s work. We encourage our readers to push for transformational work from their legislators by taking action: contact council members to make your issues known, meetings at Council, and provide us with feedback so we can continue to improve our Report Cards. See page 110 for action steps.

“[An exceptional Council Member is connected to the people of his/ her community, not just the politics or businesses that affect it. He or she sees issues systemically, moves to educate the community and city about those system-wide issues, and ultimately takes action.”

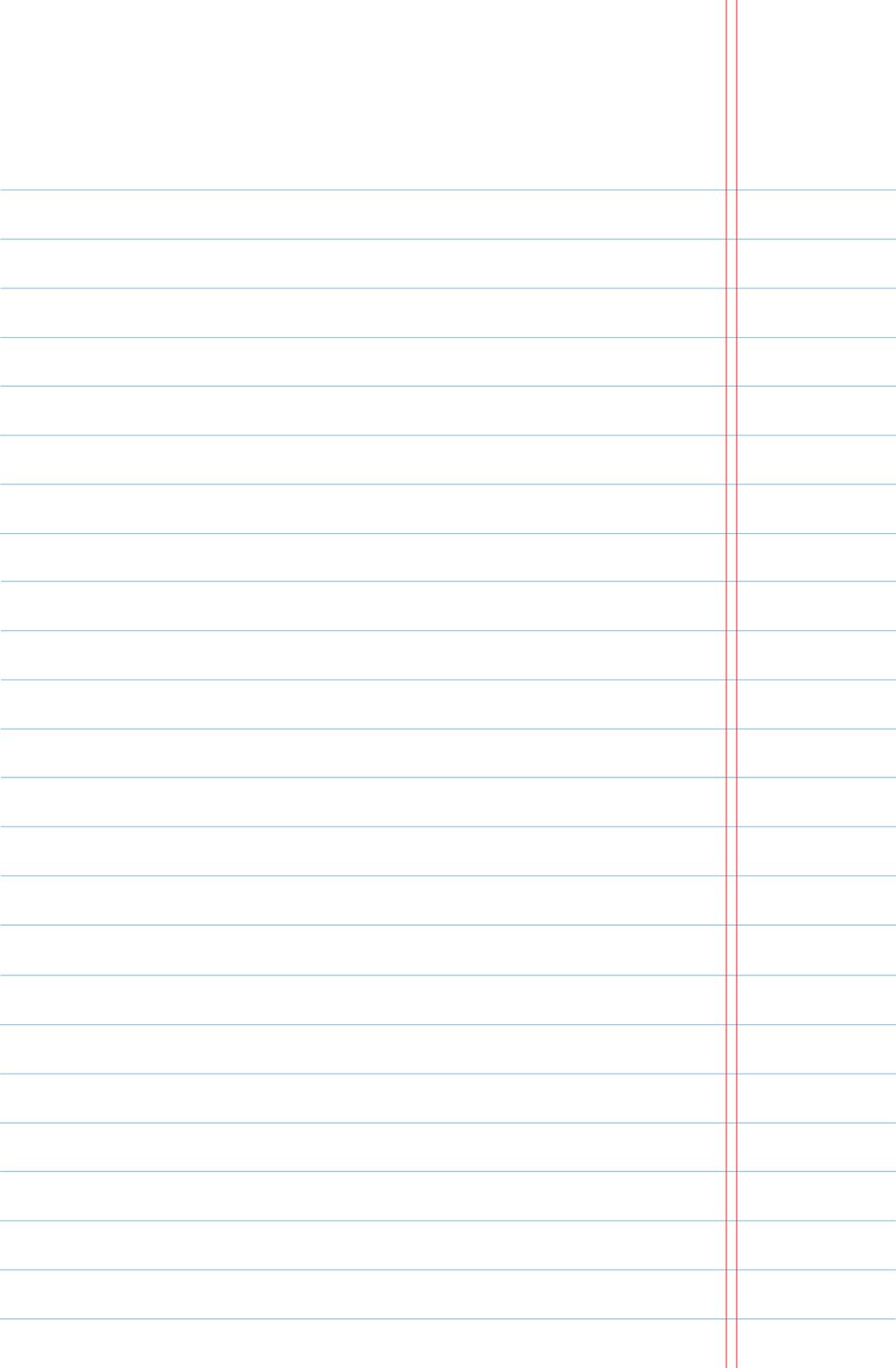
—Thoughts from an advocate

“[An exceptional Council Member shows]... [w]illingness to take a leadership role in carrying a piece of progressive legislation by developing substantive expertise, working with coalitions, persuading their fellow council members to come on board, speaking out forcefully and publicly on the issue and successfully advocating with and standing up for the issues.”

—Thoughts from an advocate

“[An exceptional Council Member] would hold public meetings in his district monthly, in order to get their input. He or she would also ferret out official corruption (of which there’s plenty in New York) and advocate raising taxes on the upper brackets.”

—Thoughts from an advocate



INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER PAGES

In the following pages you will find the individual council member report cards. We encourage you to contact your council member with any questions about their scores, and have provided their contact information for you.

Please note: Text that details council member's legislative and budget priorities is excerpted from responses to the Council Member Human Rights Questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.

If you don't know who your council member is, you can find out by entering your street address here:

<http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml>

Maria del Carmen Arroyo

Bronx Council District # 17 – Democrat



Took Office: March 2005
 District: 718-402-6130
 Legislative: 212-788-7384

Housing Rights	24%/C	
Workers' Rights	38%/C+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	11%/D	30%
Govt. Accountability	41%/B-	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Arroyo is the Chair of the Health Committee and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian and the Women's Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD



Mott Haven, Melrose, Longwood,
 Hunts Pont, Concourse sections

Charles Barron

Brooklyn Council District # 42 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-649-9495
 Legislative: 212-788-6957

Housing Rights	89%/A+	
Workers' Rights	76%/A	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	89%/A+	A
Disability Rights	77%/A	
Health	72%/A	80%
Govt. Accountability	76%/A	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Barron's 2011 legislative priorities have been the Fairness Arraignment Act, the Florence Rice Elderly Evictions Act, the Ramona Moore Missing Persons Act, and a resolution calling for compensation for the men in the Central Park Jogger lawsuit. His budget priorities included the Black Male Initiative at CUNY, preventing tuition increases, restoring cuts to scholarships and aid to community colleges, providing resources for the Summer Youth Employment Program, and cutting the corrupt contracting budget by 10% so money can be provided to meet human and social service needs. He was the only Council Member to vote against the budget, which he believes violates human rights.

Council Member Barron has attended press conferences and demonstrations, met with community leaders, and was arrested in a civil disobedience action defending public education. He is considering taking the issue of human rights around education, housing, income and wealth to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. He is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.



Parts of East New York, Brownsville, East Flatbush, Canarsie

Gale A. Brewer

Manhattan Council District # 6 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 212-873-0282
 Legislative: 212-788-6975

Housing Rights	62%/B+	
Workers' Rights	84%/A	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	<i>A</i>
Disability Rights	78%/A	
Health	63%/B+	<i>73%</i>
Govt. Accountability	83%/A	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Brewer's 2011 legislative priorities include guaranteed paid time for employees who fall ill or who must care for an ill family member, promoting open data, and promoting smart development. Her budget priorities were averting teacher layoffs, preserving funding for daycare and restoring funding to cultural organizations and libraries. Council Member Brewer has met with the Speaker, the administration, advocates, and community members regarding her legislative priorities. She attended a national summit to discuss paid sick days and paid family leave legislation. She worked to advance human rights for older adults in her district, and also partnered with institutions in her district to fill jobs with NYCHA residents. She is an advocate of domestic workers; she was delighted that they were successful at the state level in obtaining a bill of rights, and she supports their federal efforts. She is Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations, Co-Chair of the Manhattan Delegation and a member of the Women's Caucus.



Upper West Side, northern part of Clinton

Fernando Cabrera

Bronx Council District # 14 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 347-590-2874
 Legislative: 212-788-7074

Housing Rights	42%/B-	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C+
Disability Rights	33%/C	
Health	9%/D	39%
Govt. Accountability	60%/B+	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Cabrera’s legislative priorities include protecting the vulnerable in our society: children (through legislation on carbon monoxide detectors in schools, structures of school buildings, and penalties for drug use around schools); seniors; and persons with disabilities (legislation calling for efficiency of service in the Adult Protective Services). He also prioritizes protecting and empowering tenants through the Tenants Bill of Rights. His budget priorities included allocating funds to provide every middle school in his district with after-school programming and funding summer sports leagues, cultural activities, equipment, and libraries for schools. He has also allocated funds to several housing organizations that help serve tenants throughout his district.

He has met with the Speaker and the Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee regarding the Tenants Bill of Rights. He has visited buildings that have fallen into disrepair and hosted forums for tenants and homeowners, providing them resources. He is the Chair of the Technology Committee and the Co-Chair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.



Fordham, Kingsbridge, Morris Heights, West Bronx

Margaret Chin

Manhattan Council District #1 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 212-587-3159
 Legislative: 212-788-7259

Housing Rights	50%/B	
Workers' Rights	69%/A-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	B
Disability Rights	44%/B-	
Health	38%/C+	54%
Govt. Accountability	58%/B	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Chin's legislative priorities for 2011 include promoting legislation to ensure safe housing for low-income individuals, placing the costs of vacated buildings on landlords, promoting affordable housing, and addressing the sale of counterfeit goods. Her budget priorities have included the restoration of proposed cuts to teachers, firehouses, youth programs, senior services and daycare, the preservation of the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative and the Adult Literacy Initiative, and full funding for health and mental health services. Council Member Chin has worked with community members to increase confidence in government and to direct them to obtain jobs (encouraging ESL and training classes for Asian immigrants, increasing awareness of individual human rights protections, and directing them to appropriate agencies). She provides assistance such as translation to immigrant constituents to ensure their needs are properly met. She is the Chair of the Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Committee and is a member of the Women's, the Progressive, and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



SoHo, NoHo, TriBeCa, Washington Sq. area, So. Village, Battery Park City, Wall Street area, South St. Seaport area, City Hall area, Little Italy, Chinatown, Lower East Side

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.

Queens Council District # 27 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-776-3700
 Legislative: 212-788-7084

Housing Rights	7%/D-	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	C
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	20%/C	20%
Govt. Accountability	42%/B-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Comrie is the Chair of the Committee on Land Use, the Chair of the Queens Delegation and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



St. Albans, Hollis, Cambria Heights, Jamaica, Baisley Park, Addisleigh Park, parts of Queens Village, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens

Elizabeth Crowley

Queens Council District # 30 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2009
 District: 718-366-3900
 Legislative: 212-788-7381

Housing Rights	18%/C-	
Workers' Rights	44%/B-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	20%/C	27%
Govt. Accountability	44%/B-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Crowley’s legislative priorities include public safety (reforms to the tracking of Fire Department response times), education (promoting additional science instruction in public schools and hiring and retaining the best teachers), and promoting advances in women’s health care. Her budget priorities included preventing fire company closures and teacher firings, and funding senior centers.

She held rallies with other Council Members, families, and concerned constituents to protest the proposed closure of fire companies.

She held women’s health awareness advocacy events and met with women’s health leaders to discuss ways to implement change. She

is coordinating an effort with constituents, local leaders, and city agencies to stop freight trains carrying solid waste from idling on tracks adjacent to residential homes. She is working with the Department of Transportation and colleagues in the Assembly and Congress to create a truck bypass for a major shopping strip in Maspeth. She is Chair of the Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee and is a member of the Women’s Caucus.



Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village,
 Richmond Hill, Ridgewood,
 Woodhaven

Inez E. Dickens

Manhattan Council District # 9 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 212-678-4505
 Legislative: 212-788-7397

Housing Rights	29%/C	
Workers' Rights	38%/C+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	21%/C	34%
Govt. Accountability	53%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Dickens is the Chair of the Committee on Standards and Ethics and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian and the Women's Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Central Harlem; parts of Morningside Heights, Upper West Side, East Harlem

Erik Martin Dilan

Brooklyn Council District # 37 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-642-8664
 Legislative: 212-788-7284

Housing Rights	12%/D+	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	D+
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	11%/D	13%
Govt. Accountability	29%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Dilan is the Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, the Co-Chair of the Brooklyn Delegation and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



East New York, Bushwick, Cypress Hills, City Line, Wyckoff Heights, Ocean Hill-Brownsville

Daniel Dromm

Queens Council District # 25 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-803-6373
 Legislative: 212-788-7066

Housing Rights	66%/A-	
Workers' Rights	56%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	B
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	38%/C+	56%
Govt. Accountability	65%/A-	
Voting Rights	100%/A+	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

Council Member Dromm’s legislative priorities include restoring non-citizen voting rights in municipal elections, improving the NYPD response to immigrants, and ensuring students can learn in an environment free of bullying and harassment. His budget priorities included the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative and the Immigrant Opportunities Center, LGBT and HIV/AIDS programs, and the expansion of park and recreation space for communities of underserved immigrant and working New Yorkers. Council Member Dromm’s background in politics stems from his grassroots advocacy for the human rights of LGBT New Yorkers. His activism culminated in his election as one of the first openly gay Council Members outside of Manhattan. He has participated in events to demand an end to New York’s participation in Secure Communities, and sent letters to the Obama Administration urging action on immigration. He has also advocated for immigrants facing deportation in their individual cases, in his district and throughout the city. He is Chair of the Immigration Committee and a member of the Progressive Caucus.



Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, East Elmhurst, LeFrak City, Corona, Rego Park, Woodside

Mathieu Eugene

Brooklyn Council District # 40 – Democrat



Took Office: May 2007
 District: 718-287-8762
 Legislative: 212-788-7352

Housing Rights	12%/D+	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	5%/D-	24%
Govt. Accountability	34%/C	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Eugene is the Chair of the Veteran’s Committee and is a member of the tBlack, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Kensington, Prospect-Lefferts, Ditmas Park; parts of Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush

Julissa Ferreras

Queens Council District # 21 – Democrat



Took Office: March 2009
 District: 718-651-1917
 Legislative: 212-788-6862

Housing Rights	30%/C	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	25%/C	B-
Disability Rights	23%/C	
Health	29%/C	42%
Govt. Accountability	58%/B	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Ferreras is the Chair of the Committee on Women's Issues and is a member of the Progressive, the Women's and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Elmhurst, East Elmhurst, Corona,
 Jackson Heights

Lewis A. Fidler

Brooklyn Council District # 46 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-241-9330
 Legislative: 212-788-7286

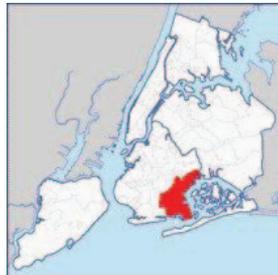
Housing Rights	24%/C	
Workers' Rights	6%/D-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	25%/C	C
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	66%/A-	34%
Govt. Accountability	54%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Fidler is the Assistant Majority Leader of the City Council and is the Chair of the Committee on Youth Services.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD



Bergen Beach, Canarsie, Georgetowne, Starrett City, Flatlands, Futurama, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Mill Island, Gerritsen Beach, Madison, Sheepshead Bay

Helen D. Foster

Bronx Council District # 16 – Democrat



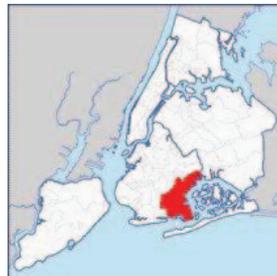
Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-588-7500
 Legislative: 212-788-6856

Housing Rights	87%/A+	
Workers' Rights	88%/A+	A+
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	88%/A+	
Disability Rights	88%/A+	
Health	89%/A+	88%
Govt. Accountability	90%/A+	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Foster's legislative priorities for 2011 include legislation to promote human rights in government operations, legislation that supports low-income workers, legislation to oppose the creation and use of a database on the city's neediest populations, as it infringes privacy. Her budget priorities for 2011 have included children services, senior centers and youth initiatives.

Council Member Foster has sought community input, and the support of the Speaker and fellow council members for legislation that supports her legislative priorities. She has also petitioned State level officials and the Governor and conducted outreach that expands outside her district. Council Member Foster is the Chair of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation and is a member of the Progressive, the Women's and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



West Bronx, Morrisania, South Bronx, Highbridge, Melrose

Daniel R. Garodnick

Manhattan Council District # 4 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 212-818-0580
 Legislative: 212-788-7393

Housing Rights	50%/B	
Workers' Rights	57%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	64%/B+	<i>B</i>
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	55%/B	<i>55%</i>
Govt. Accountability	71%/A	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

Council Member Garodnick’s 2011 legislative priorities include authorizing the Civilian Complaint Review Board to prosecute substantiated cases of police misconduct, requiring city contractors to post information on employees’ whistleblower rights, and addressing the predatory practices of debt settlement companies. His budget priorities have been avoiding teacher layoffs, protecting child care slots, and restoring Department of Aging funding and civil legal services funding.

Council Member Garodnick has held hearings on debt settlement companies and employment agencies that target, and frequently scam, low-income New Yorkers by charging for services that are not delivered. He held a rally at the Governor’s office and led a group of tenants on a bus trip to Albany to fight for rent regulation. He joined other elected officials in urging Governors Paterson and Cuomo to rescind the memorandum of agreement with the Secure Communities Initiative, which requires participating states to provide fingerprints of all arrested individuals to federal immigration authorities. He is Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee.



Upper East Side, Central Park So., Grand Central, Tudor City, Waterside, Peter Cooper Village, Carnegie Hill, Stuyvesant Town, United Nations, part of Yorkville, Turtle Bay

James F. Gennaro

Queens Council District # 24 – Democrat



January 2002
 District: 718-217-4969
 Legislative: 212-788-6956

Housing Rights	8%/D-	
Workers' Rights	19%/C-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	D+
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	28%/C	14%
Govt. Accountability	20%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Councilmember Gennaro is the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Briarwood, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest, Hillcrest Estates, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Kew Gardens Hills, Utopia Estates, parts of Forest Hills, Flushing, Jamaica, Rego Park

Vincent Gentile

Brooklyn Council District # 43 – Democrat



Took Office: March 2003
 District: 718-748-5200
 Legislative: 212-788-7363

Housing Rights	23%/C	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	25%/C	C+
Disability Rights	33%/C	
Health	26%/C	35%
Govt. Accountability	46%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Gentile's legislative priorities for 2011 include improved emergency response, fee mitigation/reductions for non-profit organizations, and veteran rights protections. His budget priorities for 2011 have included library restorations, senior services, social services, fire, and criminal justice.

This year, Council Member Gentile led the fight in a lawsuit against the MTA's bus service cuts as a violation of New York City and New York State human rights laws for having a disparate impact on physically handicapped New Yorkers. He is the Chair of the Select Committee on Libraries.



Bayridge, Dyker Heights, Fort Hamilton, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach

Sara González

Brooklyn Council District # 38 – Democrat



Took Office: November 2002
 District: 718-439-9012
 Legislative: 212-788-7372

Housing Rights	18%/C-	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	38%/C+	C+
Disability Rights	44%/B-	
Health	20%/C	36%
Govt. Accountability	42%/B-	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member González is the Chair of the Committee on Juvenile Justice and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian and the Women’s Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Bay Ridge Towers, Borough Park, Brooklyn Waterfront, Park Slope, Red Hook, Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace

David G. Greenfield

Brooklyn Council District # 44 – Democrat



Took Office: March 2010
District: 718-853-2704
Legislative: 718-853-2704

Housing Rights	13%/D+	
Workers' Rights	13%/D+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C-
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	21%/C	19%
Govt. Accountability	32%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Greenfield is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Senior Centers.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Borough Park, Midwood, Bensonhurst

Daniel Halloran

Queens Council District # 19 – Republican



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-631-6703
 Legislative: 212-788-7250

Housing Rights	12%/D+	
Workers' Rights	6%/D-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	43%/B-	22%
Govt. Accountability	39%/C+	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Bayside, College Point, Auburndale,
 Beechhurst, Whitestone, Bay Terrace,
 Robinwood; parts of Flushing,
 Douglaston, Little Neck

Vincent Ignizio

Staten Island Council District # 51 – Republican



Took Office: March 2007
 District: 718-984-5151
 Legislative: 212-788-7390

Housing Rights	7%/D-	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	D+
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	10%/D	12%
Govt. Accountability	33%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD



Arden Heights, Annadale, Bay Terrace, Tottenville, Oakwood, Great Kills, Richmondtown, Charleston, Rossville, New Sprinville, Eltingville, Woodrow, Richmond Valley, Huguenot, Princes Bay, Pleasant

Robert Jackson

Manhattan Council District # 7 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 212-928-1322/212-234-0551
 Legislative: 212-788-7007

Housing Rights	29%/C	
Workers' Rights	56%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C+
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	12%/D+	39%
Govt. Accountability	59%/B	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

Council Member Jackson’s 2011 legislative priorities include requiring the Department of Education to submit information on the nature of student discharges and promoting a living wage. His budget priorities included preventing teacher lay-offs, the loss of child care slots, and the closure of fire companies. He believes that extending the Millionaire’s Tax would have provided an alternative to cutting vital services for already struggling New Yorkers.

As Chair of the Education Committee, Council Member Jackson led press conferences with advocates on students’ rights to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. As Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, he met with the Speaker to explore ways to address the issue of diversity among fire fighters. He met with State legislators asking them to help maintain critical services to our children, families and seniors. He also signed onto a lawsuit against the Department of Education, regarding improper practices in school closures and the promotion of inequitable learning conditions in school co-locations.



Morningside Heights, West Harlem and Hamilton Heights, Central Harlem, Washington Heights, Inwood

Letitia James

Brooklyn Council District # 35 – Democrat



Took Office: November 2003
 District: 718-260-9191
 Legislative: 212-788-7081

Housing Rights	89%/A+	
Workers' Rights	89%/A+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	93%/A+	A+
Disability Rights	77%/A	
Health	89%/A+	88%
Govt. Accountability	87%/A+	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member James' legislative priorities for 2011 include pay equity, paid family leave, and human rights in housing. She has met with the Speaker about legislation to promote pending pay equity and housing legislation as well as partnering with advocates. She has spoken in the press about the need for a living wage and about the issues surrounding Walmart coming to New York City. Council Member James was also involved in leading the effort to remove a racist anti-abortion billboard in the city. Council Member James is the Chair of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, the Co-Chair of the Brooklyn delegation and is a member of the Progressive, Women's and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



Clinton Hill, Fort Greene; parts of Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Bedford Stuyvesant

Peter Koo

Queens Council District # 20 – Republican



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-888-8747
 Legislative: 212-788-7022

Housing Rights	12%/D+	
Workers' Rights	6%/D-	C-
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	17%/C-	16%
Govt. Accountability	36%/C+	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Koo is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Flushing, Queensboro Hill, Mitchell Gardens, Kissena Park, Harding Heights, Auburndale; part of Whitestone

G. Oliver Koppell

Bronx Council District # 11 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-549-7300
 718-882-4000 x 353
 Legislative: 212-788-7080

Housing Rights	61%/B+	
Workers' Rights	58%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	64%/B+	<i>A-</i>
Disability Rights	72%/A	
Health	63%/B+	<i>65%</i>
Govt. Accountability	77%/A	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Koppell's 2011 legislative priorities include the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act, the Accessible Taxi Mandate and improving Department of Building inspector access to illegal residential housing conversions. His budget priorities included the Children under Five Mental Health Initiative, the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative, and ensuring teachers were not laid off.

Council Member Koppell has met with the Speaker and worked to engage the support of his colleagues for the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act. He drafted a letter to the Speaker requesting a hearing, which all but one of the bill co-sponsors signed, and worked with stakeholders to organize rallies, meetings and other events in support of the bill. He has met with the Speaker and worked with advocates for people with disabilities for the Accessible Taxi Mandate. He has marched with and spoke on behalf of unions in support of fair contracts. He is the Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, and Disability Services.



Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Woodlawn, Norwood, and parts of Bedford Park, Wakefield, Bronx Park East

Karen Koslowitz

Queens Council District # 29 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-544-8800
 Legislative: 212-788-6981

Housing Rights	28%/C	
Workers' Rights	31%/C	C
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	30%/C	31%
Govt. Accountability	49%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Koslowitz's legislative priorities for 2011 include a focus on quality of life and economic development initiatives, education matters and improving health standards for consumers. Her budget priorities have included fighting against cuts to seniors, education and social services. She was vocal in lobbying Albany to save our senior centers (including a key center in her district).

Council Member Koslowitz has been a strong supporter of marriage equality and equal rights and has attended rallies and press conferences for many years. She lobbied Albany regarding Marriage Equality along with many of her colleagues, and she is very proud that New York became the 6th state in the nation to legalize same sex marriage. She is also a proponent of local officials lobbying federal elected leaders to strengthen human rights, especially in the fields of immigration and criminal justice. She is the Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and is a member of the Women's Caucus.



Forest Hills, Rego Park, Kew Gardens, parts of Richmond Hill, Maspeth, Elmhurst

Brad Lander

Brooklyn Council District # 39 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-499-1090
 Legislative: 212-788-6969

Housing Rights	79%/A	
Workers' Rights	75%/A	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	75%/A	A
Disability Rights	55%/B	
Health	38%/C+	74%
Govt. Accountability	91%/A+	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Lander's 2011 legislative priorities include providing living assistance for those who need stable and secure housing by requiring the Mayor's Office to report data on the utilization and applications for temporary emergency housing, holding banks responsible for their actions, requiring lenders to post a bond when they commence foreclosure proceedings, making public schools a safer place for students, and fighting to provide workers a livable wage. His budget priorities included extending the Millionaire's Tax, eliminating tax loopholes for hedge-fund managers, and restoring child care cuts. Council Member Lander helped launch and currently co-chairs the Progressive Caucus, which seeks to combat inequality, and to help create an economy that offers good jobs, thriving communities, and a healthy environment. He joined thousands to call on the Mayor to support fair taxation, end Wall Street tax breaks, and end practices that cost New York City money and hurt the economy. He is Chair of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses.



Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens,
 Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park
 Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington,
 Boro Park

Jessica S. Lappin

Manhattan Council District # 5 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 212-980-1808
 Legislative: 212-788-6865

Housing Rights	11%/D	
Workers' Rights	32%/C	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C+
Disability Rights	23%/C	
Health	41%/B-	36%
Govt. Accountability	65%/A-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Lappin is the Chair of the Aging Committee and is the Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Beekman, Sutton Place, Upper East Side, Yorkville, Roosevelt Island; part of Turtle Bay, Carnegie Hill

Stephen Levin

Brooklyn Council District # 33 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-875-5200
 Legislative: 212-788-7348

Housing Rights	29%/C	
Workers' Rights	39%/C+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	20%/C	28%
Govt. Accountability	41%/B-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Levin is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions and is a member of the Progressive Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint; parts of Williamsburg, Park Slope, Boerum Hill

Melissa Mark-Viverito

Manhattan Council District # 8 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 212-828-9800
 Legislative: 212-788-6960

Housing Rights	89%/A+	
Workers' Rights	89%/A+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	88%/A+	A+
Disability Rights	88%/A+	
Health	89%/A+	90%
Govt. Accountability	92%/A+	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Mark-Viverito's 2011 legislative priorities include a bill requiring discretion in information sharing between the Department of Corrections and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, living and prevailing wage legislation, pushing for a state-level bill to de-criminalize small amounts of marijuana in public display, and less aggressive marijuana arrests at the city level. Her budget priorities included greater tax system equity, avoiding city worker layoffs, and funding programs serving vulnerable populations. She co-chairs the Progressive and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses. She has worked with advocacy groups on organizing and political strategies and meets regularly with the Speaker. She created the El Barrio/East Harlem Youth Violence Task Force which works with young people on reducing gang-related violence, giving them a voice in and ownership over these efforts. She coordinates the City's first-ever Age Improvement District, which helps make the community a more enjoyable place to grow old. She is Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee and a member of the Women's Caucus.



Manhattan Valley, El Barrio/East Harlem in Manhattan; part of Mott Haven in the Bronx

Darlene Mealy

Brooklyn Council District # 41 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 718-953-3097
 Legislative: 212-788-7387

Housing Rights	18%/C-	
Workers' Rights	69%/A-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	0%/F	30%
Govt. Accountability	38%/C+	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Mealy is the Chair of the Contracts Committee and a member of the Black, Latino and Asian and the Women's Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Parts of Bedford Stuyvesant, Ocean Hill-Brownsville, East Flatbush

Rosie Mendez

Manhattan Council District # 2 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 212-677-1077
 Legislative: 212-788-7366

Housing Rights	68%/A-	
Workers' Rights	63%/B+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	B
Disability Rights	77%/A	
Health	30%/C	58%
Govt. Accountability	63%/B+	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Mendez's 2011 legislative priorities include amending the administrative code relating to work permits issued by the Department of Buildings, and legislation to establish smoke free zones in parks, beaches, and plazas, which she introduced because of concerns that the outright smoking ban infringed on civil rights and would be used to stop and frisk people of color. Her budget priorities included preventing teacher lay-offs, day care and senior centers closings, and cuts to housing advocacy groups including legal services and HASA.

Council Member Mendez works closely with advocates to develop legislative strategy. She organized with a coalition of anti-sexual violence groups around the recent rape acquittal of the two policemen from her district, and organized a march to the Rent Guidelines Board final hearing where she testified. She joined Latino leaders in voicing strong support for Marriage Equality. She Chairs the Public Housing Committee, Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus and a member of the Progressive and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



Lower East Side, East Village, Gramercy Park, Rosehill, Kips Bay; southern part of Murray Hill

Michael C. Nelson

Brooklyn Council District # 48 – Democrat



Took Office: February 1999
 District: 718-368-9176
 Legislative: 212-788-7360

Housing Rights	50%/B	
Workers' Rights	38%/C+	B-
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	38%/C+	
Disability Rights	44%/B-	
Health	45%/B	42%
Govt. Accountability	41%/B-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Nelson's 2011 legislative priorities include the completion and release of the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, passage of the Parking Violations Amnesty Bill, and introduction and passage of legislation enhancing balcony inspections in response to a young man falling to his death when his balcony railing gave way. His budget priorities included ensuring all senior centers are properly funded, ensuring public safety is not compromised by maintaining, at the very least, current levels of NYPD funding and averting the closure of firehouses, and allocating the necessary funding to continue free legal services at his district office.

Council Member Nelson fought against landlords who disregard the basic needs of their handicapped and elder tenants and eventually acquired the installation of handicap ramps in front of apartment buildings. He also issued a press release urging the Public Advocate to include NYCHA on his list of the city's worst landlords, as NYCHA buildings have an abundance of long-standing violations. He is the Chair of the Waterfronts Committee.



Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay,
 Brighton Beach, Midwood

James S. Oddo

Staten Island Council District # 50 – Republican



Took Office: February 1999
 District: 718-980-1017
 Legislative: 212-788-7159

Housing Rights	7%/D-	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	D
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	0%/F	10%
Govt. Accountability	29%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Oddo is the Minority Leader of the City Council and is the Chair of the Staten Island delegation.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Arrochar, Bulls Head, Concord, Dongan Hill, Emerson Hill, Fort Wadsworth, Grant City, Graniteville, Grasmere, Island of Meadows, Midland Beach, New Dorp, Prall's Island, Richmondtown, South Beach, Todt Hill, Travis, Westerleigh, Willowbrook, parts of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst, Brooklyn

Annabel Palma

Bronx Council District # 18 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2004
 District: 718-792-1140
 Legislative: 212-788-6853

Housing Rights	57%/B	
Workers' Rights	69%/A-	B+
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	25%/C	
Disability Rights	66%/A-	
Health	46%/B	61%
Govt. Accountability	74%/A	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Palma's 2011 legislative priorities include promoting transparency and accountability in social service agencies, breaking down walls of discrimination and intolerance, particularly in the provision of social services, and protecting rights to services such as temporary emergency housing. Her budget priorities included preserving services that individuals and working families in poverty rely on such as child care vouchers, medical services for adults in homeless shelters, and HASA housing case managers. She advocated for funding for Teen RAPP (which educates and counsels teens about domestic violence) and homeless prevention programs. Council Member Palma met with the Speaker and the Administration to ensure the integrity of her legislation promoting transparency in the reporting on applications for temporary emergency housing and associated services. She co-hosted a forum where those in the shelter system could speak freely about frustrations and obstacles. She chairs the Bronx Delegation and the General Welfare Committee, and is a member of the Progressive, the Women's, and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



Parkchester, Soundview, Castle Hill,
 Classon Point, Harding Park

Christine C. Quinn

Manhattan Council District # 3 – Democrat



Took Office: February 1999
District: 212-564-7757
Legislative: 212-788-7210

Housing Rights	7%/D-	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	D+
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	21%/C	12%
Govt. Accountability	29%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Quinn is the Speaker of the City Council. She is also a member of the Women's Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



West Village, SoHo, NoHo, Flatiron,
Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen/Clinton,
Murray Hill (portions)

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.

Brooklyn Council District # 47 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-373-9673
 Legislative: 212-788-7045

Housing Rights	24%/C	
Workers' Rights	19%/C-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	28%/C	25%
Govt. Accountability	45%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Recchia is the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Coney Island, Gravesend,
 Bensonhurst, Brighton Beach

Diana Reyna

Brooklyn Council District # 34 – Democrat



Took Office: November 2001
 District: 718-963-3141
 Legislative: 212-788-7095

Housing Rights	24%/C	
Workers' Rights	25%/C	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	13%/D+	C
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	21%/C	30%
Govt. Accountability	48%/B	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Reyna is the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and is a member of the Women's and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Williamsburg and Bushwick, Brooklyn;
 Ridgewood, Queens

Joel Rivera

Bronx Council District # 15 – Democrat



Took Office: February 2001
 District: 718-842-8100
 Legislative: 212-788-6966

Housing Rights	12%/D+	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	C
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	
Disability Rights	11%/D	
Health	20%/C	26%
Govt. Accountability	40%/B-	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Rivera is the Majority Leader of the City Council, the Chair of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Bathgate, Belmont, Crotona,
 Fordham, East Tremont, Van Nest,
 West Farms

Ydanis Rodriguez

Manhattan Council District # 10 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 917-521-2616
 Legislative: 212-788-7053

Housing Rights	40%/B-	
Workers' Rights	75%/A	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	63%/B+	B+
Disability Rights	33%/C	
Health	63%/B+	63%
Govt. Accountability	79%/A	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Rodriguez’ 2011 legislative priorities include affordable and accessible higher education, immigration reform, and affordable housing and decent living conditions. His budget priorities have included preventing teacher layoffs and preventing cuts to higher education (CUNY), senior centers and social services. Council Member Rodriguez passed a resolution calling on the Governor to expand the Immigration Pardon Board to ensure immigrants facing deportation for minor non-violent crimes have the opportunity to be heard and pardoned, allowing them to remain in the country. He was vocal in opposing the federal “Secure Communities” program and worked with community groups, advocates, and Council colleagues to pass a resolution asking the Governor to immediately rescind New York’s participation. As the Chair of the Higher Education Committee, he has focused on improving college access. He is also working on a tenant protection bill that would penalize landlords who falsely report fixing class C violations. He has used his office to address the immediate and pressing concerns of his constituents, such as deportations, evictions, issues with the school system, and unemployment. He is Chair of the Higher Education Committee and a member of the Progressive and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



Washington Heights, Inwood and Marble Hill

Deborah Rose

Staten Island Council District # 49 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-556-7370
 Legislative: 212-788-6972

Housing Rights	50%/B	
Workers' Rights	69%/A-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	<i>B</i>
Disability Rights	33%/C	
Health	38%/C+	<i>53%</i>
Govt. Accountability	58%/B	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Rose's 2011 legislative priorities include education and transportation, with a focus on ensuring child safety, and holding awardees of city contracts accountable if they exceed anticipated contract costs. Her budget priorities included preventing teacher layoffs, keeping firehouses open, and restoring child care funding and mental health cuts.

Council Member Rose has worked with the State and City Human Rights Commissions to thwart bias attacks that plagued her district. She convened meetings of stake holders which resulted in a strategy to address bias and violence, and started the "I AM STATEN ISLAND" initiative to promote the concept that Staten Island residents are members of a shared community and must take responsibility for ensuring that it is safe and welcoming for all people. She is Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and is a member of the Progressive, the Women's and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



St. George, Tompkinsville, Stapleton, Snug Harbor, Livingston, New Brighton, Randall Manor, W. Brighton, Silver Lake, Clove Lakes, Westerleigh, Clifton, Concord, Rosebank, Port Richmond, Elm Park, Mariners Harbor

James Sanders, Jr.

Queens Council District # 31 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-527-4356
 Legislative: 212-788-7216

Housing Rights	34%/C	
Workers' Rights	50%/B	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	38%/C+	B-
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	45%/B	44%
Govt. Accountability	58%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Sanders' 2011 legislative priorities include requiring the Department of Homeless Services to report inspection results of housing, supporting seniors and retirees from the Department of Education, and a resolution calling on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide an emergency room, treatment facility, and domiciliary for homeless veterans and a facility for female veterans in the St. Albans Community Living Center. His budget priorities included fighting predatory lending, supporting job and youth development programs, preventing teacher layoffs, and saving day care centers and libraries.

As Chair of the Civil Service and Labor Committee, he has championed union rights. He brought attention to discrimination against those trying to hail a cab and contacted the head of the Taxi and Limousine Commission who promised to fine drivers who do not pick up the first customer they see. He also opened a job bank in his district. He is a member of the Progressive and the Black, Latino and Asian Caucuses.



Rosedale, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, Far Rockaway, Arverne, Bayswater, Edgemere

Larry B. Seabrook

Bronx Council District # 12 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-994-9900
 Legislative: 212-788-6873

Housing Rights	29%/C	
Workers' Rights	69%/A-	B-
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	25%/C	
Disability Rights	22%/C	
Health	28%/C	40%
Govt. Accountability	41%/B-	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Seabrook is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD



Edenwald, Co-Op City, Wakefield,
 Williamsbridge, Baychester

Eric Ulrich

Queens Council District # 32 – Republican



Took Office: March 2009
 District: 718-738-1083
 Legislative: 212-788-7069

Housing Rights	7%/D-	
Workers' Rights	25%/C	C-
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	9%/D	16%
Govt. Accountability	33%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Councilmember Ulrich is the Minority Whip of the City Council.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Parts of Woodhaven and Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Howard Beach, part of the Rockaways

James Vacca

Bronx Council District # 13 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2006
 District: 718-931-1721
 Legislative: 212-788-7375

Housing Rights	40%/B-	
Workers' Rights	25%/C	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	38%/C+	B-
Disability Rights	23%/C	
Health	71%/A	43%
Govt. Accountability	56%/B	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Councilmember Vacca is the Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Pelham Parkway North and South,
 Pelham Bay, Country Club, City
 Island, Throggs Neck, Allerton, Morris
 Park

Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

Queens Council District # 22 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-274-4500
 Legislative: 212-788-6963

Housing Rights	0%/F	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	14%/D+	D+
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	18%/C-	12%
Govt. Accountability	28%/C	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Vallone is the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Astoria, Long Island City; parts of Jackson Heights, Rikers, Randalls and Wards Islands

Jimmy Van Bramer

Queens Council District # 26 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-383-9566
 Legislative: 212-788-7370

Housing Rights	82%/A	
Workers' Rights	44%/B-	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	A-
Disability Rights	55%/B	
Health	63%/B+	65%
Govt. Accountability	79%/A	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT CARD

Council Member Van Bramer's 2011 legislative priorities include living wage and paid sick time legislation, and a resolution calling on NYCHA to stop charging a debit card convenience fee. His budget priorities included restoring funding for libraries and cultural institutions, and preventing as many layoffs as possible.

As a member of the Progressive Caucus, Council Member Van Bramer is fighting for extending the Millionaire's Tax and adopting the living wage and paid sick leave. He stood with union workers when their funding was in jeopardy. He has also spoken with the Speaker on numerous pieces of legislation. He believes funding the library systems helps advance human rights for low-income workers, English language learners, and those who lack access to educational resources. As one of four openly gay Council Members, he fights for the human rights of the LGBT community and has been an active supporter of Marriage Equality in New York State. He chairs the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.



Woodside, Sunnyside, Long Island City, Astoria, Maspeth

Albert Vann

Brooklyn Council District # 36 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2002
 District: 718-919-0740
 718-919-0741
 Legislative: 212-788-7354

Housing Rights	60%/B+	
Workers' Rights	56%/B	B
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	50%/B	
Disability Rights	55%/B	
Health	54%/B	59%
Govt. Accountability	65%/A-	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

Council Member Vann is the Majority Whip of the City Council, the Chair of the Committee on Community Development and a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights

Mark Weprin

Queens Council District # 23 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-468-0137
 Legislative: 212-788-6984

Housing Rights	13%/D+	
Workers' Rights	0%/F	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%/F	C-
Disability Rights	0%/F	
Health	11%/D	15%
Govt. Accountability	37%/C+	
Voting Rights	0%/F	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

Council Member Weprin’s 2011 legislative priorities include affordable housing, the Workplace Religious Freedom Act to protect religious liberty and make it more difficult for employers to deny religious accommodation, and legislation requiring public education on bias-related harassment. His budget priorities included senior citizens, schools, youth programs, and the Autism Initiative.

Council Member Weprin worked with advocates and constituents to develop the Workplace Religious Freedom Act and has met with the Speaker’s staff on the issue.

As Chair of the Sub-committee on Zoning and Franchises, he is involved in the land use process and worked with stakeholders to ensure appropriate levels of affordable housing are included in proposals and that minority and women-owned contractors have access to bid for projects. As founder and Chair of the Co-op and Condo Caucus, he has organized a grassroots movement for a more equitable property tax system. He worked with social service agencies and families affected by Autism to organize a rally in support



Hollis Hills, Queens Village, Little Neck, Douglaston, Bayside, Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, New Hyde Park, Hollis, Hollis Park Gardens, Holliswood, Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens

Jumaane D. Williams

Brooklyn Council District # 45 – Democrat



Took Office: January 2010
 District: 718-629-2900
 Legislative: 212-788-6859

Housing Rights	89%/A+	
Workers' Rights	88%/A+	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	88%/A+	A+
Disability Rights	88%/A+	
Health	79%/A	86%
Govt. Accountability	84%/A	
Voting Rights	88%/A+	

Questionnaire **complete** **incomplete**

Council Member Williams' 2011 legislative priorities include requiring Council's advice and consent on Rent Guidelines Board appointments, a resolution to modify and extend a tax rate on incomes over one million dollars, and a resolution urging the Department of Education to assist recruited Caribbean international teachers to attain citizenship and Congress to include international teachers in the immigration reform debate. His budget priorities included promoting revenue generating options, opposing youth program cuts, and fighting to create more open space and recreational centers in his district.

As a community organizer, he believes in coalition-building to affect changes in human rights. He fought for tenant rights in Albany and was arrested for protesting school closings and Arizona's anti-immigrant law, SB 1070. He is researching charter revision strategies to create stronger checks and balances between the city's executive and legislative branches. He is Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Investigations, Co-Vice Chair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus and a member of the Progressive Caucus.



Flatbush, E. Flatbush Flatlands, parts of Midwood and Canarsie

Ruben Wills

Queens Council District # 28 – Democrat



Took Office: November 2010
 District: 718-206-2068
 Legislative: 212-788-6850

Housing Rights	13%	
Workers' Rights	13%	
Criminal/Juvenile Justice	0%	NEW
Disability Rights	0%	COUNCIL
Health	11%	MEMBER*
Govt. Accountability	26%	
Voting Rights	0%	

Questionnaire complete incomplete

*Council Member Wills has not been awarded a grade for the 2011 Report Card because he is new to the City Council. Evaluation of his voting record was restricted to those votes that occurred after he entered Council.

Council Member Wills is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Drug Abuse and is a member of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

Text excerpted from the human rights questionnaire. Limited or no text in this section indicates that the Council Member did not respond to the questionnaire.



Richmond Hill, Jamaica, South Ozone Park, Ozone Park, Baisley Park

VOTES,
SPONSORSHIPS,
AND
LEGISLATION SUMMARIES

On the following pages you will find—listed by human rights category— the descriptions of all legislation that factored in to council member grades as well as tables documenting the votes and sponsorships of each council member for each piece of legislation.

If you don't know who your council member is, you can find out by entering your street address here: <http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml>

Housing Rights: Legislation Summaries

Reporting Citywide Emergency Housing Use - Int 0444-2010 (LL 2011-037)

Though the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) provides daily data on people accessing DHS shelter, this information does not depict the true number of homeless persons because it does not include those in other city shelters. This law requires DHS to include in the daily census, the number of individuals who spent the previous night in other city shelters, including but not limited to, drop-in centers, faith-based facilities, and veterans housing. A more accurate count of the homeless population would help improve services.

Emergency Management Housing Services - Int 0012-2010

This bill would require the Emergency Management Department to designate one deputy commissioner as responsible for coordinating services for residents who have been displaced from their homes due to emergencies. Ensuring that New Yorkers who are displaced from their homes are supported in finding new housing and other services is an important protection of the right to housing.

City-Owned Property Ownership Option - Int 0034-2010

Tenants of some city-owned properties have an option to collectively purchase the property if the City is planning to dispose of it. Often, these tenants are not notified or instructed about their options in adequate time to plan for such a purchase. This bill would require that the City notify tenants and provide them sufficient information and time to exercise their ownership option, increasing opportunities for home ownership and protecting the right to housing.

Citywide Census of Vacant Properties - Int 0048-2010

This bill would require the Office of Operations to conduct an annual census of vacant buildings and lots. The information gathered in this census would include the condition and ownership status of these properties and be available to the public in print and on the Office of Operations website. Homeless advocates argue that tracking vacant property (which the city does not currently do) is the first step to possibly transforming vacant property into housing for the homeless.

Legal Counsel for Senior Citizens Subject to Eviction, Ejectment or Foreclosure - Int 0090-2010

This bill would help to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to legal representation in the event of a housing crisis. It would require the Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services to appoint a civil justice coordinator responsible for establishing a program of legal services for eligible senior citizens facing eviction, ejectment or foreclosure proceedings.

Priority Public Housing Placements for Revoked Section 8 Voucher Holder - Int 0217-2010

Those who have had their Section 8 vouchers revoked are often homeless or on the verge of homelessness. This bill would require the Department of Homeless Services to refer those receiving homeless services whose Section 8 vouchers have been revoked to the New York City Housing Authority for priority placement in public housing apartments.

Notification of Rent Control Housing Demolition - Int 0274-2010

The bill increases notification and oversight of rent control housing demolition and may lead to the retention of some rent control units. Namely, it would require the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal to notify the community board and the council members in whose respective districts any housing is permitted for demolition within five days of the issuance of a demolition permit.

Co-op Rejection Disclosure - Int 0326-2010

This bill addresses the often arbitrary and discriminatory nature of a co-op's refusal to consent to sales. Specifically, it would require a co-op's board of directors to disclose to prospective purchasers the reasons for withholding consent to a proposed sale within five days of withholding the consent.

Mandatory DHS Inspections Report - Int 0336-2010

This bill would help to ensure all New Yorkers have housing free from health and safety hazards. It would require the Department of Homeless Services to report the inspection results of potential transitional housing for the homeless to the Council Speaker as well as the council member and community board in the districts where the housing is located.

Housing Discrimination Pamphlet - Int 0420-2010

This bill would mandate the Commission on Human Rights to develop a housing discrimination pamphlet for city agencies administering public or housing assistance for distribution to housing subsidy recipients. The pamphlet would make clear that recipients of housing assistance are protected from housing discrimination and possess rights if discriminated against.

Evictions of Elderly Tenants - Int 0475-2011

This bill would amend the New York City code regarding the evictions of elderly tenants. Specifically, it would require the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, upon receiving notification of an impending eviction, to provide the tenant with a list of legal services. In doing such, the bill helps to ensure the right to housing for all New Yorkers.

Tenants' Bill of Rights - Int 0477-2011

Too often tenants are taken advantage of because they do not know their basic rights. This bill would require every owner of a multiple dwelling to post and provide to all residents a tenants' bill of rights. The bill of rights would include 11 rights, including those related to eviction, heat and hot water, roommates and subletting and contain a special section for tenants in rent-regulated apartments.

Family Shelter Eligibility Guidelines - Int 0568-2011

This bill would amend the New York City code in regards to families' eligibility for shelter. Specifically, it would codify various guidelines the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) currently must adhere to in determining whether a family is in immediate need of shelter. It would also require DHS to post additional data on families re-applying for shelter on its website.

Inspection and Correction of Structural Defects - Int 0572-2011

This bill would help to ensure the right to adequate housing that does not compromise one's health and safety. It would require the Department of Buildings to conduct structural inspections of those multiple dwellings that have a dangerous number of hazardous or immediately hazardous violations. It would also require the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development to correct structural defects when the owner fails to do so, at the expense of the owner.

Landlord Failure to Maintain Residential Buildings - Int 0605-2011

This bill would broaden the scope of Section 8 discrimination law in New York City. Specifically, it would make it an unlawful discriminatory practice for landlords participating in Section 8 or other government rental assistance programs to fail to maintain their buildings so as to discourage participation in such assistance programs.

Requiring Brokers Provide Notice that Income Discrimination is Illegal - Int 0606-2011

This bill would require real estate brokers to provide notice that it is illegal to deny housing because of any lawful source of income. It would also invalidate any rental application that fails to contain a statement regarding such.

Workers Rights: Legislation Summaries

Prevailing Wage for Building Service Employees - Int 0018-2010

MAJOR BILL

This bill would establish a prevailing wage requirement for building service employees in buildings owned or managed by persons receiving financial assistance or rent from the city treasury. It would also protect service employees

who make a claim that they are owed prevailing wages from retaliation or discrimination.

Paid Sick Time Act - Int 0097-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill would require private employers to provide paid sick time to their employees. Specifically, it would require employers of twenty or more full time employees to provide a minimum of one hour of paid sick time for every thirty hours their employees work. Sick time could be used for personal health needs and for the care of family members. The bill also protects employees from retaliation that may result from the use of paid sick time.

Child Care Employer Tax Credit - Int 0198-2010

This bill would implement a tax credit on the rent or occupancy tax imposed by the City to tenants who use taxable premises for employer-provided child care. The tax credit would be equivalent to 25% of the qualified employer-provided child care expenditures paid or incurred in establishing and operating a qualified child care facility. This bill would promote the human right to decent work for working parents and set a good example for other businesses to follow.

Nail Salon Working Conditions - Int 0245-2010

This bill would regulate nail salons with regard to health and safety conditions for workers, who are mainly immigrants and women of color. It would also promote the human right to health of workers by regulating the use, storage and available information about the chemicals being used, and require the issuance of certain safety equipment to minimize exposure to these dangerous chemicals.

Fair Wage for New Yorkers Act - Int 0251-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill would require that workers employed on property developed with government development assistance be paid a wage of at least \$10 an hour and a supplemental health benefits rate of \$1.50 per hour. This bill should eventually create a measureable increase in the number of living wage jobs in New York City, reduce poverty rates and income disparities, and promote the right to decent work.

Street Vendor License Availability Increase - Int 0261-2010

This bill would seek to reform the problematic street vendor permitting system by removing current restrictions and allowing for an annual increase in permits. Permits would increase to twenty five thousand, and upon reaching this number, permits would increase by 5% annually.

Private Employee's Paid Family Leave - Int 0432-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill aims to promote the health and general welfare of private employees

and their families. It would require private employers to provide 12 work weeks of paid family leave annually to any worker eligible to take such leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Reduced Fines for Vending Regulation Violations - Int 0434-2010

This bill would reduce the maximum fine amount for violations of vending regulations. Under the bill, a vending regulation violation (some as simple as not wearing one's license visibly) within two years of an initial violation would be subject to a lower fine of \$250 rather than a maximum fine of \$1000. The bill would promote economic equality by ensuring the human right to work and to a livelihood.

Clarified Street Vendor Violations and Fines - Int 0435-2010

This bill would clarify the actions for which street vendors may be fined. Currently the New York City code does not differentiate between related and unrelated vendor violations. Specifically, it would define unrelated violations of vending rules and regulations as separate offenses.

Mandatory Postings of Employee Whistleblower Rights Int 0479-2011

This bill would help to protect the right to decent work and just and favorable work conditions. Specifically, it would require city contractors to post their employees' whistleblower protection rights and remedies as established by the state and federal false claims acts.

Criminal & Juvenile Justice: Legislation Summaries

Youth Violence Task Force - Int 0013-2010

This bill calls for the creation of an advisory board to the Mayor and City Council. The advisory board would produce a report that tracks youth violence trends and provides recommendations on the prevention of youth violence and treatment of youth violence perpetrators.

Civilian Complaint Review Board Prosecution Power - Int 0072-2010

This bill would equip the Civilian Complaint Review Board with additional power to independently prosecute cases in which it finds substantiated reports of misconduct. This replaces the current process in which the Board investigates civilian complaints of police misconduct and passes on substantiated complaints to the New York City Police Department who has been found to not prosecute these cases in a significant number of instances.

Police Civil Lawsuit Reporting - Int 0130-2010

This bill would require the Corporation Counsel to submit a quarterly report to the City Council, Comptroller, and Civilian Complaint Review Board detailing the number and disposition of civil lawsuits filed against the New York Police Department. Making this information more readily available would highlight the cost of police misconduct and provide the opportunity for better oversight for the Police Department, protecting the civil rights of all New Yorkers.

Fairness Arraignment Act - Int 0178-2010

This bill will ensure that New York City meets its legal obligation to promptly arraign individuals within 24 hours of their arrest, creating reasonable oversight over the arrest-to-arraignment process. The bill would also create a private right of action for individuals arraigned more than 24 hours following arrest. The New York Police Department and the Department of Correction would provide information to the City Council and Public Advocate on the cases in which arraignment took place more than 24 hours after arrest.

Adolescent Jail Discharge Plan - Int 0196-2010

This bill will require the Department of Correction to develop a discharge plan for all adolescent inmates who serve, after sentencing, 10 days or more in any city correctional institution. It would also assist youth with preparation of application for government benefits and identification and, therefore, ensure youth are availed any additional services for which they are eligible.

Adolescent Jail Data Reporting - Int 0197-2010

This bill would require the Department of Correction to include the following additional census data in its quarterly report posted on the Department website: the number of adolescents admitted to city jails disaggregated by race and ethnicity, zip code of residence, precinct of arrest and charged offense. The reporting of this additional data would promote government accountability and would help address the over-representation of youth of color in the criminal justice system.

Police Investigation Auditing Board Creation - Int 0308-2010

This bill would establish an independent audit board to investigate the anti-corruption measures taken by the New York Police Department. The Board would be able to issue subpoenas and would report back to the Mayor and City Council through an annual report of its activities and investigations. This legislation would promote transparency and accountability within the Police Department.

Disability Rights: Legislation Summaries

Residential Protective Services for Seniors and Persons with a Disability - Int 0219-2010

This bill would require owners/managers of multiple dwellings to provide, install and maintain protective devices such as grab bars when senior citizen residents and residents with disabilities request them. It would also require owners/managers to provide notice of their obligation to do so equipping these residents with knowledge of their rights.

Disability Permit Applications for Legally Blind Individuals Int 0244-2010

Currently those individuals with a “permanent disability seriously impairing mobility” may apply for a disability permit application. This bill would amend the New York City charter to expressly include those legally blind within this category of individuals and therefore would promote rights of persons with disabilities.

Air Conditioned Transportation of Children with Individualized Education Program - Int 0327-2010

This bill would require that all children with an individualized education program be transported to and from school in buses with air conditioning. This bill would help to protect the health and education of children with disabilities and therefore promotes rights of persons with disabilities.

Accessible For-Hire Vehicles - Int 0367-2010

This bill seeks to enhance the role of for-hire vehicles (FHVs) in providing transportation for persons with physical disabilities. It also requires the Commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission to submit an annual report to the Mayor on the accessibility of FHVs in New York City.

Accessible Taxi Cab Designs for Persons with Disabilities - Int 0433-2010

This bill would require that any new taxicab design, approved by the Taxi and Limousine Commission, be accessible to all New Yorkers. In particular, the vehicle must be equipped with a lift, a listening device, signs printed in Braille and large-print text, and sufficient floor space to accommodate a service animal.

Livery Passenger Right to Accessible Vehicles - Int 0449-2010

This bill amends the livery passenger bill of rights to accommodate persons with disabilities. Specifically, it equips people needing wheelchair accessible transportation with the right to request an accessible vehicle and be provided with equivalent services pertaining to fares charged, service availability days and hours and response time.

Audible Pedestrian Crossing Signals - Int 0455-2011

This bill seeks to address one of the barriers within our city transit system that impede the mobility of persons with disabilities. It would mandate that all pedestrian crossings with countdown signals in New York City be equipped with an audible pedestrian signal.

Accessible Taxicab Passenger Enhancement System - Int 0599-2011

This bill helps to ensure that city taxicabs, specifically the passenger enhancement systems, are accessible to people with disabilities. It would require that, enhancement systems be equipped with assistive listening devices, equipped with instructions in Braille and large-print text, and in a uniform location.

Health: Legislation Summaries

Pregnancy Service Centers - Int 0371-2010 (LL 2011-017)

This law aims to prevent pregnancy services centers from engaging in deceptive practices. Specifically, it requires centers to disclose the types of reproductive health services provided on-site and creates protections for clients' health and personal information. In doing so, it protects consumers from misleading practices and protects a woman's right to health. Note that in July 2011, a Federal District Court Judge halted the law's enforcement, finding that the law compromised the centers' constitutional rights.

Creation of LGBT Youth Services Division - Int 0094-2010

This bill would establish a division of LGBT youth services within the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Division would address the physical and mental health needs of the LGBT youth community. The Division would also research and develop programs and initiatives including, but not limited to, the prevention of suicide, depression, and violence, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

City Ward HIV/AIDS Test Availability - Int 0144-2010

Improving access to and opportunities for HIV/AIDS testing is an important public health goal. This bill would require the City to provide anyone released from a Department of Juvenile Justice facility, a corrections facility, or foster care the option of a free HIV/AIDS test.

Notice on Food Allergens in Restaurants - Int 0160-2010

This bill would require restaurants that use as ingredients any major food allergens to post a sign provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and to notify customers on their menus. The bill also requires that restaurants request that customers inform their servers about any food allergies they have before placing an order. This bill would help protect the public health.

Training on Food Allergies - Int 0161-2010

This bill would educate restaurant employees with information to better avoid allergic reactions. It would require restaurant staff to undergo trainings provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on food allergies once every five years.

Ban on Toys Containing Dangerous Chemicals - Int 0175-2010

This bill would prohibit the sale and distribution of any child feeding product, child care product and children's toy that contains Bisphenol A or contains a concentration of phthalates of more than 0.1%. Bisphenol A and phthalates are commonly found in plastics and resins used to make baby food containers and toys, and can be harmful to the health of the children who eat and drink from containers made with them.

Notice of Removal of Emergency Medical Services - Int 0190-2010

This bill would require the New York Fire Department to provide notice on the closing of any emergency medical service station to council members, community boards and borough presidents in districts where these stations are located. It would help monitor changes in the provision of emergency services with an aim to ensuring the equal protection of health and wellbeing for all communities.

Mold and Vermin Removal Pilot Program - Int 0224-2010

This bill would promote a healthy living environment particularly in low-income communities where many of the worst landlord violators are found. It would require the City to create a mold and vermin remediation pilot program in at least 175 multiple dwellings with the greatest number of violations related to mold, rats, mice, insects, water accumulation, and garbage.

Parking Permit for Difficult Pregnancies - Int 0468-2011

This bill would create a new parking permit for expectant mothers experiencing a difficult or complicated pregnancy. The permit may only be used for parking a vehicle where parking is prohibited or allowing a vehicle to stand where standing is prohibited.

Notifying Parents of School PCB Test Results - Int 0563-2011

All New York City children should have the right to attend a school devoid of health and safety hazards. This bill would require the Department of Education to notify parents of any PCB contamination found in a public school and post the results of all inspections and testing on the Department's website.

Government Accountability: Legislation Summaries

Reporting Hate Crimes Data Online - Int 0373-2010 (LL 2010-058)

This law requires the Mayor's Office of Operations to report New York City Police Department hate crimes data on the My Neighborhood Statistics section of the Office of Operations website. Data to be reported include the numbers of hate crimes, murders determined to be hate crimes, and felonious assaults determined to be hate crimes. The reporting of this additional information increases government accountability and increases the awareness of the occurrence of these crimes.

Reporting Domestic Violence Data Online - Int 0393-2010 (LL 2010-059)

This law requires the Mayor's Office of Operations to report New York City Police Department statistics on domestic violence on the My Neighborhood Statistics section of the Office of Operations website. These data include the number of domestic violence radio runs as well as murders, rapes and felonious assaults related to domestic violence.

Commission on Human Rights Annual Reporting - Int 0396-2010 (LL 2011-002)

While the Commission on Human Rights must submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on its efforts to enforce the Human Rights Law, the information in these reports is at the Commission's discretion. This law requires the Commission to include certain information in the annual report including, but not limited to, public inquiries, complaints filed and education and outreach efforts.

Reporting School Discipline and School Police Department Activity - Int 0442-2010 - (LL 2011-006)

This law requires the Chancellor of the Department of Education to submit to the City Council reports on the discipline of students in the New York City school system. The reports are to consist of data on suspensions, transfers in connection with a suspension, summons, arrests, and non-criminal activity, disaggregated by categories including, but not limited to, race/ethnicity and gender.

Reporting School Discharges - Int 0354-2010 (LL 2011-042)

This law requires the Department of Education to report on student discharges, students whose enrollment has been voluntarily or involuntarily terminated or withdrawn. In doing so, it increases the transparency around student discharges and consequently enhances government accountability and the right to education.

Reporting School Transfers Due to Closures - Int 0364-2010 (LL 2011-043)

This law increases the transparency regarding students who were transferred as a result of a school closure. Specifically, it requires the Department of Education to provide data on students who were transferred to an alternate school as a result of a school closure. Schools subject to closure usually have greater concentrations of high needs students and low-income students.

Domestic Violence Data Publication - Int 0088-2010

This bill would require the New York Police Department to publish certain domestic violence-related crime data on the front page of their public crime statistics webpage. The data would include the number of the following: (1) domestic violence radio runs; (2) murders related to domestic violence; (3) rape incidences related to domestic violence; and (4) felonious assaults related to domestic violence.

City Oversight Agency Budget Independence - Int 0095-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill would increase the autonomy of four important New York City agencies charged with government oversight—The Public Advocate, Comptroller, Conflict of Interest Board, and the Civilian Complaint Review Board. Currently these agencies can have their ability to monitor government operations weakened if the Mayor decides to cut their budgets. This bill would allow these agencies to set their own budget, and in the case of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, would tie the budget directly to the budget of the New York City Police Department who they are charged with overseeing.

Indigent Legal Defense Reporting - Int 0098-2010

This bill would establish the position of criminal justice coordinator in the Mayor's executive office. The Coordinator would: (1) advise/assist the Mayor on increasing coordination among agencies involved in criminal justice programs and activities; (2) review budget requests for criminal justice-related programs; and (3) produce an annual report for the Mayor and City Council on indigent legal defense representation.

City Council Webcast Requirement - Int 0132-2010

This bill would require all public meetings to be webcast live and archived on the City and/or City Council website within 72 hours of the end of each public meeting. Making the business of the City Council more accessible to the public is always a positive step that encourages residents to exercise their right to political participation.

School Capacity Utilization Reporting - Int 0155-2010

This bill would require the Chancellor of the Department of Education to submit to the City Council an annual report on school enrollment, capacity and utilization data in order to be used for the current or future school year plan. This bill would improve access to information to address persistent problems in the public school system including class size.

Corporate Campaign Donation Disclosure - Int 0167-2010

This bill would require every corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or partnership to disclose independent expenses related to their activities in support of the election or defeat of any candidate in a covered election. It would promote transparency and accountability in elections and ultimately enhance the voting rights of New Yorkers.

Foster Care Separation Reporting - Int 0168-2010

Youth who age out of foster care are often at risk for homelessness and criminal justice involvement. This bill would require the Administration for Children's Services to regularly report comprehensive statistics on the demographics and situation of youth aging out of foster care in the interest of ensuring they are receiving access to the proper services to assist them with this transition.

Reporting Harassment in Transit System - Int 0253-2010

This bill would require the New York Police Department to include the following complaints of harassment in the transit system in the crime status report: sexual harassment; forcible touching; public lewdness or exposure; and unlawful surveillance. The reporting of this additional information would promote government accountability as well as help to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers.

Human Rights in Government Operations Audit Law - Int 0283-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill would require the City to ensure that policies that have a disproportionate negative impact based on gender, race, sexual orientation, and other protected classes are remedied. Specifically, it would require city agencies to conduct a human rights

audit and analysis, and develop a human rights action plan to address any problematic policies. The bill would also create a task force that would hold public meetings to garner public input on problematic city policies.

Webcast School Meetings - Int 0290-2010

This bill would require the Department of Education to make available to all parent associations, parent teacher associations and community education councils webcast technology and equipment to enable digital recording of their public meetings. It would improve the access of information for parents and community members in the public education system and would promote the right to education.

City Council Advise and Consent on Mayoral Appointees - Int 0423-2010

This bill would require the advice and consent of the City Council for mayoral appointees. Specifically, it would require the City Council to hold a hearing and act upon such nomination within 30 days after the first stated meeting of the Council after receipt of a mayoral nomination.

Development Projects Community Impact Report - Int 0438-2010

This bill would require the preparation of a community impact report for each economic development project prior to the project's approval. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of residential units created, residents and businesses displaced, and jobs created as well as the impact on community infrastructure.

Banks Addressing Community Needs - Int 0485-2011

Many consumers and community groups contend that banks do not offer products that meet the needs of the community, including affordable products and products targeted to seniors and immigrants. This bill would require the Commissioner of Finance to establish criteria to evaluate whether the banks are meaningfully addressing the credit and financial needs of New York City and its communities.

Officer Overseeing Minority-owned, Women-owned, and Emerging Business Enterprises in City Contracting - Int 0607-2011

This bill seeks to promote equality in the city government contracting practices. Specifically, it would require the Mayor to appoint an officer to act as the City's Director of M/WBE affairs and oversee the participation of minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging business enterprises in city procurement.

Voting Rights: Legislation Summary

Legal Immigrant Participation in Municipal Elections - Int 0410-2010 MAJOR BILL

This bill would allow those immigrants lawfully present in New York City to vote in the municipal elections. In doing so, it would enhance the voting and political rights of immigrants and expand democracy to one in five New Yorkers.

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

HOUSING RIGHTS																
	LL 2011-037	Int 0012	Int 0034	Int 0048	Int 0090	Int 0217	Int 0274	Int 0326	Int 0336	Int 0420	Int 0475	Int 0477	Int 0568	Int 0572	Int 0605	Int 0606
Arroyo	Y(s)			S	s						S					
Barron	Y(s)	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	S		PS	S	S	S	S	S
Brewer	Y(s)		s	S	S		S	S	S		S	S	S	PS	S	S
Cabrera	e(s)	S		S				S	S					PS	S	S
Chin	Y(s)		S	S	S	S	S		S						S	
Comrie, Jr.	Y															
Crowley	Y			S		S	S									
Diakens	Y		PS	S		S					S					
Dilan	Y				s											
Dromm	Y(s)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S			
Eugene	Y															
Ferreiras	e(s)			S	S	S		S								
Fidler	Y(s)		S	S	S				S						S	
Foster	mat(s)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Garondick	Y		S	S	S		S		S		S	S	S	S	S	S
Gemaro	Y(s)															
Gentile	Y				S	S									S	
Gonzalez	Y							S			S					
Greenfield	Y(s)										S		S			
Halloran	Y													S		
Ignizio	Y															
Jackson	Y(s)			S				S		S	S	S				
James	Y(s)	PS	S	S	S	PS	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Koo	Y				S											
Koppell	Y(s)	S	S		S	S	S				S			S	S	S

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

WORKERS' RIGHTS										
	Int 0018 PS	Int 0097	Int 0198	Int 0245	Int 0251	Int 0261	Int 0432	Int 0434	Int 0435	Int 0479
Arroyo	S				S			S	S	
Barron	S	S	S	S	S	PS		S	S	S
Brewer	S	PS	S	PS	S		S	S	S	S
Cabrera	S	S			S			S	S	S
Chin	S	S		S	S	S		S	S	S
Compte, Jr.										
Crowley	S	S		S				S	S	
Diekens	S				S			S	S	
Dilani										
Droom	S	S	S		S				S	S
Eugene	S	S			S			S	S	
Ferreas	S	S		S	S					S
Fidler										S
Foster	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Ganondick	S	S	S	S	S					PS
Gemaro	S									S
Gentile	S	S	S		S					S
Gonzalez	S	S			S			S	S	
Greenfield								S	S	
Halloran										S
Igenzio										
Jackson	S	S			S			S	S	S
James	S	S	S	S	S	S	PS	S	S	S
Koo										S
Koppell	S	S			PS			S	S	S

Criminal & Juvenile Justice

Koslowitz									
Lander	S	S	S	S	S	S			
Lappin		S							
Levin									
Mark-Viverito	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Meady									S
Mendez		S							
Nelson	S		S			S			
Oddo									
Palma	S		S						
Quinn									
Recchia									
Reyna		S							
Rivera									
Rodriguez		S	S			S	S	S	S
Rose		S	S			S	S	S	
Sanders		S	S			S	S	S	
Seabrook		S			S				
Ulrich									
Vacca	S		S			S			
Vallone			PS						
Van Bannet	S		S			S	S		
Vann	S	S				S	S		
Weprin									
Williams	S	S	S		S	S	S		S
*Wills									

PS = Primary Sponsor

S = co-sponsor of bill

* New Council Member

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

	CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE							
	Int 0013	Int 0072	Int 0130	Int 0178	Int 0196	Int 0197	Int 0308	
Arroyo		\$						
Barron	\$	\$	\$	PS	\$	\$	\$	
Brewer	\$	\$	\$		\$			
Cabrera								
Chin	\$	\$			\$	\$		
Comrie, Jr.		\$	\$		\$	\$		
Cowley								
Dickens		\$						
Dilan		\$						
Dromm	\$	\$			\$	\$		
Eugene								
Ferreras		\$			\$			
Fidler			\$		\$			
Foster	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Garondick	\$	PS	\$		\$	\$		
Gennaro								
Gentile			\$		\$			
Gonzalez		\$			\$	\$		
Greenfield								
Halloran			\$					
Ignizio								
Jackson		\$						
James	PS	\$	\$	\$	PS	PS	\$	
Koo								
Koppell	\$	\$	\$		\$		PS	

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

DISABILITY RIGHTS								
	Int 0219	Int 0244	Int 0327	Int 0367	Int 0433	Int 0449	Int 0455	Int 0599
Arroyo					S			S
Barron	S		S	S	S	S	S	S
Brewer	S	PS	S	S	S	S		S
Calbera					S	S	S	S
Chin					S	S	S	S
Comrie, Jr.								
Crowley					S			
Dickens		S			S			
Dylan								
Dronnn					S		S	
Eugene								
Ferreras					S		PS	
Fidler					S			S
Foster	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Garondick					S			S
Gemaro								
Gentile			S		S			S
Gonzalez		S	S		S			S
Greenfield					S	S		
Halloran					S			
Ignizio								
Jackson					S			
James	S		S	S	S	S	S	S
Koo								
Koppell	PS	S		PS	PS	PS		S

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

HEALTH										
	LL 2011-017	Int 0094 **	Int 0144	Int 0160	Int 0161	Int 0175	Int 0190	Int 0224	Int 0468	Int 0563
Arroyo	e(s)									S
Barron	Y(s)			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brewer	Y(s)	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$
Cabrera	X						\$	\$		\$
Chin	Y(s)						\$	\$		\$
Comrie, Jr.	Y						\$	\$		\$
Crowley	Y							\$		
Dickens	Y(s)									\$
Dilan	Y									
Dromm	Y(s)	\$						\$		\$
Eugene	a									
Ferreras	Y(s)			\$				\$		\$
Fidler	Y(s)		PS	\$		\$	PS	\$		\$
Foster	Y(s)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Garondick	Y(s)	\$			\$		\$	\$		\$
Gennaro	Y					\$		\$		\$
Gentile	X					\$	\$			\$
Gonzalez	Y			\$						
Greenfield	Y								PS	
Halloran	X		\$			\$	\$		\$	\$
Ignizio	X									PS
Jackson	Y(s)									
James	Y(s)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Koo	X							\$		\$
Koppell	Y(s)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$		\$

Government Accountability

Koslowitz	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)											
Lander	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	S	S	S								
Lappin	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	S	S								
Levin	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Mark-Viverito	Y(PS)	Y(PS)	Y(PS)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	PS	S	S							
Mealy	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Mendez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Nelson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Oddo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y										
Palma	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	med(s)	med(s)	S	S							
Quinn	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y										
Recchia	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y(s)									
Reyna	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y										
Rivera	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y										
Rodriguez	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	S	S								
Rose	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(PS)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Sanders	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	S									
Scarbrook	Y	Y	Y	e	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y										
Ulrich	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Vacca	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	S	S								
Vallone	nv	nv	nv	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y	Y										
Van Branner	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	S									
Vann	Y	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Weprin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)										
Williams	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	S									
*Wills	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y	Y										

Y = Voted in favor of bill
Y(PS) = Voted in favor & primary sponsor
Y(s) = Voted in favor & co-sponsor

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el(s) = Excused & co-sponsor
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* New Council Member
** Public Advocate was the primary sponsor.
Shaded bills denote major bills

Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY												
	LL 2010-058	LL 2010-059	LL 2011-002	LL 2011-006	LL 2011-042	LL 2011-043	Int 0088	Int 0095**	Int 0098	Int 0132		
Arroyo	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Barton	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	s		s			
Brewer	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	s	s	PS	PS		
Cabrera	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Chin	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)			s			
Comrie, Jr.	Y	Y(s)	Y	e	Y	Y(s)			s			
Crowley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y						
Dickens	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)			s			
Dilan	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y	Y				s		
Dromm	Y(s)	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)				s		
Eugene	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Ferreras	Y(s)	Y	Y	e(s)	Y	Y(s)	s			s		
Fidler	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(PS)	s					
Foster	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	e	Y(s)	Y	s	s	s	s		
Garondick	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y	Y	s	s	s	s		
Gemmaro	e(s)	e	Y(s)	e(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Gentile	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)		s				
Gonzalez	Y(s)	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Greenfield	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)						
Halloran	Y(s)	Y(s)	e	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)			s			
Ignizio	Y	Y	Y	Y(s)	Y	Y						
Jackson	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(PS)	Y(PS)	Y(s)		s	s			
James	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	s	s	s	s		
Koo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Koppell	e(s)	e	Y	Y(s)	Y(s)	Y(s)	s	s	s	s		

Government Accountability & Voting Rights

Koslowitz	\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Lander	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Lapin	\$	\$	\$	PS	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Levin					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mark Viverito	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mealy					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mendez	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nelson	\$			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oddo																			
Palma	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quinn									PS										
Recchia	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Reyna					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rivera					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rodriguez	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rose	\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sanders				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Seabrook	\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ulrich	\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Vacca	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Vallone					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Van Bramer	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Yann	\$				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Weprin					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Williams	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	PS
*Wills					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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 med(s) = Medical(excused) & co-sponsor

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Council Member Votes & Sponsorships

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY (CONTINUED)										VOTING RIGHTS	
	Int 0155	Int 0167**	Int 0168**	Int 0253	Int 0283	Int 0290**	Int 0423	Int 0438	Int 0485	Int 0607	Int 0410
Arroyo					S				S		S
Barron	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
Brewer	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S		S
Cabrera	S						S		S	S	
Chin	S	S	S	S	S						S
Comrie, Jr.	S							S	S		
Crowley	S		S		S						
Dickens	S		S		S				S		
Dilan											
Dromm	S	S	S		S		S		S		PS
Eugene									S		S
Ferreras		S	S	S	S				S		S
Fidler	S		S	S				S	S		
Foster	S	S	S	S	PS	S	S	S	S	S	S
Garondick	S	S	S	S			S		S		
Gennaro											
Gentile	S								S		
Gonzalez					S				S		
Greenfield											
Halloran			S				S				
Ignizio	S										
Jackson	PS				S				S		S
James	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Koo			S						S		
Koppell	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S	

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Take Action

The human rights framework promotes government transparency and civic participation. Some ways that you can become involved with Council proceedings are:

- Get to know your council member. Read up on her/his legislative priorities, and if you don't see the issues you care about reflected, give your council member a call. **If you don't know who your council member is**, you can find out by entering your street address here: <http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml>
- Attend an open committee meeting where you can observe or provide testimony on issues and policies that affect you. <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/Calendar.aspx>
- Search, track, and read legislation: <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/Legislation.aspx>
- Attend a meeting of your community board—these have insight into and influence in the City Council legislative process: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/directory.shtml>

“The voters themselves have got to demand more access to, and influence over, their elected officials.”

— Thought from an advocate

NOTES



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