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**REPORT APPLAUDS CITY COUNCIL FOR PASSING HUMAN RIGHTS BILLS;
EXPECTS NEW COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS**
Thirteen Council Members Score in the “A” Range in Annual Human Rights Project Report Card

New York— Today, [the Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center](#) released its 6th annual *New York City Council Human Rights Report Card*. The *Report Card* is the only comprehensive assessment of City Council members’ legislative records across a range of human rights areas including housing, workers’ rights, criminal and juvenile justice, health, disability rights, government accountability, and voting rights.

The *Report Card* grades each member of the 2013 City Council on his or her human rights record, based on (1) votes and sponsorship of 187 human rights bills as well as (2) submission of an eight-question Human Rights Questionnaire. Thirteen Council members — listed below— scored in the “A” range.¹ Council Speaker Christine Quinn did not receive a letter grade, but rather an assessment of her leadership on human rights legislation. The *Report Card* also includes the legislative and budget priorities of newly elected Council members who responded to the Human Rights Questionnaire.

- **Ydanis Rodriguez.** Manhattan Council District #10—Democrat. (Score: 88%; A+)
- **Melissa Mark-Viverito.** Manhattan Council District #8—Democrat. (Score: 87%; A+)
- **Charles Barron.** Brooklyn Council District #42—Democrat. (Score: 85%; A+)
- **Letitia James.** Brooklyn Council District #35—Democrat/Working Families. (Score: 85%; A+)
- **Jumaane Williams.** Brooklyn Council District #45—Democrat. (Score: 80%; A)
- **Gale Brewer.** Manhattan Council District #6—Democrat. (Score: 79%; A)
- **Brad Lander.** Brooklyn Council District #39—Democrat. (Score 76%; A)
- **Stephen Levin.** Brooklyn Council District #33—Democrat. (Score: 71%; A)
- **Jimmy Van Bramer.** Queens Council District #26—Democrat. (Score: 68%; A-)
- **G. Oliver Koppell.** Bronx Council District #11—Democrat. (Score: 68%; A-)
- **Deborah Rose.** Staten Island Council District #49—Democrat. (Score: 67%; A-)
- **Robert Jackson.** Manhattan Council District #7—Democrat. (Score: 66%; A-)
- **Annabel Palma.** Bronx Council District #18—Democrat. (Score: 65%; A-)

In addition to grading each Council member, the *Report Card* assesses the Council as a legislative body. Since last year’s *Report Card*, the Council passed thirty-nine bills that promote human rights, including eleven bills in response to Hurricane Sandy. For six of these thirty-nine bills, the Council overrode Mayor Bloomberg’s vetoes. Also, while Council passed laudable human rights bills, too many bills did not receive hearings or votes. “We are pleased to see our legislators taking action to promote human rights,” said **Nicole Bramstedt, Policy and Research Coordinator of the Human Rights Project**. “We look to the new Council to enhance this work. New Yorkers’ quality of life depends on it.”

The *Report Card* aims to enhance transparency in City government and hold Council members accountable for the human rights impact of their work. It revisits two recent land-use projects— Willets Point in Queens and Seward Park Extension Urban Park Renewal Area in Manhattan, which impact New Yorkers’ housing, workers’ and government accountability rights. It also discusses the human rights implications of waterfront redevelopment projects in Mill Basin, Brooklyn and St. George, Staten Island in post Hurricane Sandy New York City.

The implications of the *Report Card* are vast. “Human rights principles call for discriminatory outcomes to be addressed, even if there is no proof of discriminatory intent. Employing this type of frame means we can call on the City to proactively address disparities that can be tied to City policies,” states **Shani Jamila, Director of the Human Rights Project**.

An hour-long report release webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 25th at 3pm. Registration is required.

¹ 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.