



MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Bold, Progressive, and Effective

GENERAL PLATFORM

Support for the LGBTQIA Community: Melissa has spent a lifetime advocating for the rights of and providing support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Community. As a City Councilmember for 12 years, including 4 years as Speaker, of the Council, Melissa built a record of getting results for the LGBTQIA community.

Among her many notable accomplishments benefiting the community, Melissa:

- 1) Enacted legislation requiring single occupant restrooms be usable by persons of any gender — allowing transgender and gender non-conforming individuals to use the restroom that best aligns with their identity;
- 2) Expanded housing opportunities for LGBTQIA seniors;
- 3) Allocated funding to hire a dedicated staff member to act as LGBT liaison for schools at the Department of Education;
- 4) Allocated millions of dollars to fund and support organizations and institutions dedicated to the betterment of the lives of LGBTQIA New Yorkers;
- 5) Organized local activists and her colleagues in the City Council to fight right-wing, conservative, anti-gay forces within the Puerto Rican community during the movement for Marriage Equality; and
- 6) Championed LGBTQIA rights and issues both in her East Harlem neighborhood and across the City as well as with local activists in Puerto Rico.

As Public Advocate, Melissa is committed to continuing this level of support for the community through her attention to, advocacy for, and implementation of specific projects, proposals, and legislation identified as priorities by the LGBTQIA community, including:

- 1) Support an Executive Order that prohibits the expenditure of City funds to any entities that engage in discrimination against the LGBTQIA community;

- 2) Advocate for legislation to create a new procurement program to support LGBT entrepreneurs and LGBT-owned businesses access City contracts;
- 3) Support City funding to provide HIV testing, care, and support services, with an emphasis on communities of color, those currently most disproportionately affected by HIV;
- 4) Support City funding for runaway and homeless LGBTQIA youth services in the form of education, transitory housing, paid agency internships, and other transformational opportunities designed to help them break the cycle of homelessness;
- 5) Advocate for City funding for programs to support the unique needs of LGBTQIA Seniors including programs designed to protect these seniors from elder abuse in all its various forms from financial abuse to physical abuse;
- 6) Identify and support the specific, unique needs of the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community (TGNC) including economic justice in the form of educational, employment, and housing opportunities for the transgender community
- 7) Convene public hearing on the effectiveness of transgender guidelines based on the NYPD Patrol Guide revisions;
- 8) Continue the staff position of liaison to the LGBTQIA community in the Public Advocate's office;
- 9) Introduce legislation to have an LGBTQIA liaison in each New York City Agency; and
- 10) Introduce legislation to form a TGNC Advisory Board for NYC Health and Hospitals.

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