



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus

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BLACK, LATINO, AND ASIAN CAUCUS
CELEBRATES PUSH FOR GREATER DIVERSITY

New York, NY – The Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus (BLAC) together with Speaker Mark-Viverito are excited and proud to announce that the 2014-2017 legislative term has been immensely successful for expanding opportunity for New Yorkers through more diverse hiring by the New York City Council.

Between 2013 and 2017, the Council saw marked increases in the percentages of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian staff at all levels of central staff and in the Speaker’s Office. Beginning with single-digit percentages in some cases, the Council is proud to have increased Black, Hispanic, and Asian representation by as many as 20 percentage points. Perhaps most praiseworthy is the fact that the vast majority of these increases came no other group’s expense—through innovative new initiatives and expansion of Council divisions, the Council was able to achieve greater diversity by *adding* jobs and establishing genuine promotional paths for talented existing staff.

As Speaker and as a longtime member of the BLAC, Speaker Mark-Viverito has consistently demonstrated her commitment to equity and to building an inclusive team to serve and represent New Yorkers, who are a diverse mix of cultures, languages, and backgrounds. Our city is truly a global city, and having community members of all backgrounds serve the public good makes our city stronger.

“I commend the Speaker’s dedication to increasing the number of minority employees within the Council’s staff, which also mirrors the great diversity of our City. The next Council session presents an opportunity to continue and improve on the progress the Speaker has made, and I look forward to being a partner in that effort,” **said BLAC co-Chair, Council Member Ritchie Torres.**

“The increased number of African Americans, Latinos, and Asians working for the Council’s Central Staff is a testament to the outstanding leadership of Speaker Mark-Viverito in championing hiring practices that take stock of the great diversity of our city. The hiring procedures implemented during her tenure represent best practices that will have a lasting positive impact on the Council. We in the BLAC look forward to continuing to build on this progress under the leadership of the next Speaker,” **said BLAC co-Chair, Council Member Robert Cornegy.**

“Thank you to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her steadfast commitment to achieve greater diversity and inclusion in City Council central staff by adding new jobs and strengthening the leadership pipeline for existing staff,” **said BLAC co-Vice Chair Council Member Margaret Chin.** “In order to build a democracy that accurately reflects our City’s diverse communities, we need reflective representation at all levels of government and all forms of public service. While our work for a more inclusive democracy continues, especially in the efforts to increase language access for immigrant communities, we are more than ready to continue this legacy.”

“Diversity in management and central staff helps create a healthy workplace that is reflective of the city in which we work. Workplace diversity manifests in new programs, ideas and innovations and responsiveness for all New Yorkers. In doubling the number of Asian staff, we see a serious commitment from the Council to creating a government that is of the people, by the people, for the people,” **said BLAC member Council Member Peter Koo.**

We commend Speaker Mark-Viverito for her leadership and her vision, and we look forward to seeing similar consistent gains in the next legislative term under the leadership of a Speaker who shares our dedication to inclusivity. We also expect that our government partners, including all New York City agencies and offices, stand with us in striving for a more balanced, accurate reflection of the New York City Community.

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