



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
WOMEN'S CAUCUS

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

DEC 11, 2018

Contact:

Rush Perez (212) 587-3159, ruperez@council.nyc.gov

Jeremy Unger (212) 677-1077, junger@council.nyc.gov

NYC COUNCIL WOMEN'S CAUCUS
ANNOUNCES FIRST EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR JULIE AE KIM

NEW YORK — The New York City Council Women's Caucus Co-Chairs Margaret Chin and Carlina Rivera today announced the Caucus's first-ever Executive Director, Julie Ae Kim. As a second-generation Korean American who grew up in a working-class family in Bayside, Queens, Julie brings a fresh perspective around issues of gender in the context of New York City. She also brings a wealth of government and organizing experience from her work at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and as the co-founder of the Asian American Feminist Collective. In her work with the Feminist Collective, Julie has worked to revive Asian American feminism to ensure political resistance also adequately represented the needs of Asian American women, girls and gender non-binary people.

Julie's appointment this month signals a new commitment from the Caucus, empowered by the recent federal and state elections that saw record numbers of women win, to push for greater Council representation and progressive solutions to a number of issues that New York City women face. Caucus Co-Chairs Carlina Rivera and Margaret Chin fought hard for funding in 2018 to create and fund the Executive Director position in this year's budget and are calling on Speaker Corey Johnson to give the Caucus more power in 2019.

Co-Chairs Rivera and Chin, along with their fellow caucus members, are working on a new list of priorities for the Caucus for 2019 that emphasize gender equity and could include criminal justice, harassment and safety, sex education, and child care funding. In her role as Executive Director, Julie will liaise with community-based organizations, activists, and other elected officials to build momentum for these legislative, budgetary, and campaign priorities.

“I am honored to be the first-ever Executive Director of the Women’s Caucus and work for the city that I grew up in,” said Executive Director Julie Ae Kim. “But I am also honored to be surrounded now by 11 elected women who are doing such important and intersectional policy and activist work. At a time when reproductive, immigrant, and gender rights are being challenged every day, the work of the Caucus needs to be felt throughout this city. I am excited to work closely with Co-Chairs Margaret Chin and Carlina Rivera to bring real gender equity to the City Council and the city as a whole.”

The Caucus’s new focus comes at a time when the Council comprises an abysmally low number of women members – 11 out of 51, which is down from 18 in 2009. The low number of women in the Council sadly means that there are eight Council Committees without even a single woman on them, leaving a crucial viewpoint out on some of the biggest issues in the city, including immigration, the environment, parks, sanitation, technology, veterans, and government operations and oversight. In addition, there are only two Latinas and one Asian American woman in the Council, making it challenging to focus on the wide swath of intersectional feminist challenges in both of these communities.

“Every issue is a women’s issue, from how a damaged environment can affect the health of women and their children, to the specific needs of women in our veteran and immigrant communities. But our voice is completely missing from the Council’s oversight mission in these key areas. Julie’s appointment will help begin to change that. Julie has been fighting for underserved and oft-ignored communities for years, and her knowledge and passion will help lift the Women’s Caucus to new heights in 2019. We may only be 11 women strong, and we may have a daunting agenda, but trust me, we’re going to make sure we are heard loud and clear in this Council,” said **Council Member Carlina Rivera.**

“Julie Kim brings deep experience in government and advocacy to the Women’s Caucus, and to the City Council as a whole,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin.** “She is a second-generation Korean American who grew up in a working-class family in Bayside, Queens. Her background as a staffer at the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and as a co-founder of the Asian American Feminist Collective will help guide our Caucus in a bold direction as we lead local efforts against a Federal Administration that is deeply hostile to women’s equality. Here in the City, Julie’s leadership will mean a bold 2019 agenda, which includes continuing the

Council's efforts to empower women inside and outside of government. I look forward to working with Julie to fight for gender equity, reproductive rights, and the right of every woman and girl to meet and exceed their potential."

"I send my warmest congratulations and a hearty welcome to Julie Ae Kim, the first-ever Executive Director of the New York City Council Women's Caucus. The Caucus has fought hard for a staff person that will help us advance our legislative and public policy agenda on behalf of New York's women and girls. We are thrilled that Julie is joining us at this critical moment for women across the country," said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Chair of the Committee on Women.**

"I am thrilled to welcome Julie Ae Kim as the Women's Caucus Executive Director," said **Council Majority Leader, Laurie A. Cumbo.** "It is critical that we take the Council's gender equity agenda to the next level and remain diligent in advancing greater protections for women and girls."

"As a member of the Women's Caucus, I am ecstatic to welcome Julie Kim as Director. Her experience working with issues related to gender will greatly benefit the Caucus as we continue to establish our agenda. I would like to thank the Women's Caucus Chairs, Council Members Rivera and Chin, for fiercely advocating for funding for this position," said **Council Member Diana Ayala.**

"The Women's Caucus has a robust agenda for the coming year, and the hiring of an executive director is key to elevating our role within the Council. Ms. Kim brings a wealth of talent and experience to this position, and I welcome her to this position. I look forward to working as a member of the caucus to fight for our continually threatened rights and on a set of policies that will further our collective fight for gender equity," said **Council Member Debi Rose.**

"Having an Executive Director of the caliber of Julie Ae Kim will enable the Women's Caucus to be even more productive in their mission of achieving gender equity in our city," said **Council Member Karen Koslowitz.**

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