



# ***THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK***

## ***WOMEN'S CAUCUS***

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

Contact:

Marian Guerra (212) 587-3159, [mguerra@council.nyc.gov](mailto:mguerra@council.nyc.gov)

Jeremy Unger (212) 677-1077, [junger@council.nyc.gov](mailto:junger@council.nyc.gov)

## ***NYC COUNCIL WOMEN'S CAUCUS ANNOUNCES CM MARGARET CHIN & CM CARLINA RIVERA AS NEWEST CO-CHAIRS***



CITY HALL – The New York City Council Women's Caucus announced new leadership after Members unanimously elected Council Members Margaret S. Chin and Carlina Rivera to serve as Co-Chairs.

“I am so proud to receive the support of my sisters in New York City Council to Co-Chair the Women's Caucus alongside Council Member Carlina Rivera,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “In the age of *Me Too*, *Times Up* and the *Women's March*, young women and girls across the City are looking to their elected leaders to take an unapologetic stand against discrimination and misogyny and lead the movement for women's rights. I thank former Co-Chairs Council Members Helen Rosenthal and Laurie Cumbo for their fierce, principled leadership. I am

excited to continue the work with my fellow Members of the Women's Caucus, community advocates and everyday residents to lead the fight for gender equity, access and inclusion in New York City.”

“I am honored and grateful to be serving as the Co-Chair of the New York City Council’s Women’s Caucus. I am particularly excited to be joined in this role by a dedicated advocate and sister in the Council, Council Member Margaret Chin,” said **Council Member Carlina Rivera**. “With only 11 women in this legislative body of 51 members, we must work to ensure that the voices of the more than 4 million women in our city are heard on every important decision being made by their representatives. As Co-Chair, I will work to continue the fantastic work set out by my predecessors Council Members Helen Rosenthal and Laurie Cumbo to strengthen the rights and voices of women across the city.”

Comprised of the New York City Council’s women-identified Members, the Caucus has served as a pivotal force in advancing the rights and representation of women and girls by tackling key issues, public policies and budgetary priorities through a gender equity lens.

“Congratulations to Council Members Margaret Chin and Carlina Rivera, the new co-chairs of the New York City Council’s Women’s Caucus,” said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Chair of the Committee on Women**. “All of us in the Caucus are grateful to have their leadership as we fight to empower women in the Council and across New York. And special thanks to Council Member and Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo. It has been a true honor co-chairing the Women’s Caucus with her these last two years, and we accomplished a great deal, especially in calling attention to the declining number of women on the Council. I look forward to tackling that issue with the Caucus going forward.”

“The New York City Council Women’s Caucus is a dynamic group of visionaries and trailblazers that I have had an incredible opportunity to lead and work alongside to advance public policy and initiatives that will expand gender equity and responds to the everyday challenges women of all backgrounds encounter at home or in the workplace,” said **Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo**. “I am truly proud of our accomplishments during these past two years – menstrual equity, expanded access to paid family leave, more supportive services for survivors of violence, and increased opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses enterprises - to strengthen households, small businesses, and communities throughout the City of New York. I look forward to working with Council Members Margaret Chin and Carlina Rivera, the newly-elected co-chairs of this body, on the Women’s Caucus legislative package, engaging young women to close the political ambition gap, raise awareness that women’s issues are people’s issues.”

Last year, the Women’s Caucus released an eye-opening report that addressed the lack of women’s representation in the New York City Council by sharing the personal leadership journeys of the women currently serving in City Council and offering recommendations that aim to break the structural barriers that keep women from running for office. Before November, only 13 of the New York City Council’s 51 seats were held by women.

Today, that number is now 11, further emphasizing the importance for all New Yorkers – elected officials, community leaders and voters – to take a more proactive role in increasing the number of women to achieve a more reflective democracy. Representation will continue to be a core issue for the Women’s Caucus under the leadership of Co-Chairs Council Members Chin and Carlina Rivera, as they work to bring the voices of more women and women of color in important policy conversations and dismantle the systemic barriers to women’s leadership in New York City.

###