



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**JULY 14, 2016**

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## **COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN JOINS SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO TO HONOR OUTGOING GOVERNORS ISLAND TRUST PRESIDENT & CEO LESLIE KOCH**

CITY HALL –Council Member Margaret S. Chin, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and her Council colleagues presented a proclamation today to departing Governors Island Trust President and CEO Leslie Koch for leading the transformation of what was once an overlooked and largely abandoned island into a premier destination for New Yorkers and visitors alike.



“After years of inspired leadership, Leslie has truly made her mark – not only on Governors Island, but on the City as a whole,” Council Member Chin said. “Under her stewardship, the Governors Island Trust has introduced hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers to an idyllic greenspace that went unnoticed, unvisited, and unloved for decades. As she prepares to tackle other challenges, Leslie can be proud of her legacy of leadership that will continue to strengthen our City for years to come.”

"I am honored to receive today's proclamation. Our partnership with Council Member Chin's extraordinary service along with the support of Speaker Mark-Viverito and the New York City Council has been invaluable in transforming Governors Island into the beloved public space that it is today. The opening of the Hills is the next milestone in this transformation. I am very proud of what we have all accomplished together," said Leslie Koch, president and CEO of the Governors Island Trust.

Under the direction of Koch since 2006, Governors Island has been transformed from an abandoned military base into a vibrant public space, attracting hundreds of thousands of seasonal visitors and a diverse array of arts and cultural programs.

Koch has overseen the planning, redevelopment and on-going operation of the 150 acres of the Island owned by The Trust, including an ambitious \$300 million capital program which has added 30 new acres of park and public space, repaired and replaced over two miles of seawall, and brought the Island's infrastructure into the 21st century.

On Tuesday, July 19, Council Member Chin will join Koch and many others to celebrate the culmination of Governors Island's incredible transformation — the Hills — which will open next week a year ahead of schedule. Rising 70 feet above sea-level, the Hills will allow hundreds of thousands of visitors to enjoy breathtaking, never-before-seen views of the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor

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