



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

**OCT. 30, 2018**

---

Contact: Rush Perez [CM Chin] (212) 788-7259, [ruperez@council.nyc.gov](mailto:ruperez@council.nyc.gov)

# **STATEMENT FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS REGARDING PLANNED NYU APPEARANCE BY MILO YIANNOPOULOS**

*In response to Milo Yiannopoulos' scheduled visit to a class at NYU on Wednesday, October 31, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick, Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Margaret Chin and Council Member Carlina Rivera issued the following statement:*

“We are united as a community in denouncing the hate expressed by Milo Yiannopoulos. We also share the values enshrined in the 1st Amendment, and the principle of academic freedom and would not attempt to thwart free expression. Nevertheless, we believe that this right should not come at the cost of the safety of residents, students, and participants in cherished community events. The longstanding Children’s Halloween Parade and the immediately following Greenwich Village Halloween Day Parade put enormous pressures on this part of the City in terms of crowds and stretch our City’s police and public safety resources. Adding such a potentially controversial event at the same time in the same neighborhood is not prudent.

The timing of this visit is particularly troubling in other ways. Wednesday marks the 1st anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on New York City since Sept. 11, 2001, and is just days from the horrific shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh and incidents involving mailed explosives to prominent current and former officials.

In light of these factors, we urge the NYU professor who made the invitation to heed calls to reschedule this visit. While our right to free speech is sacred, so is the ability of families to take part in community Halloween festivities without fear.

If this visit proceeds on Halloween as currently planned, we urge the New York Police Department to coordinate with NYU and others to ensure the safety of the entire community. Though we disagree vehemently with the hateful views of this individual, it is our hope that any protests that might occur are peaceful. We believe that our democratic values will ultimately triumph over hate and division.”

###