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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN & COUNCIL WOMEN'S CAUCUS CELEBRATE DECISION TO PUT HARRIET TUBMAN ON \$20 BILL

*Announcement by U.S. Treasury comes in the wake of Council resolution
calling on federal gov't to honor women leaders on widely circulated currency*

New York, NY—Today, Council Member Margaret Chin, sponsor of [a resolution](#) calling on the federal government to put a woman on the \$20 bill, joined her colleagues in the Council's Women's Caucus to hail U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew's historic decision to honor Harriet Tubman – a hero of the abolitionist movement and the fight for equal rights for all Americans.

"I cannot think of an American more worthy of this historic designation than Harriet Tubman, a woman who had the rare courage to shepherd thousands of slaves to safety via the Underground Railroad. It is also fitting that she would replace Andrew Jackson, a slaveholder who followed a much different path as the architect of a Trail of Tears that led to the forced deportation and death of thousands of Native Americans," **said Council Member Margaret Chin.** "Even with this encouraging announcement, there is still work to be done to completely remove Jackson from the \$20 bill and ensure that this new currency is issued by 2020, in time for the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote. I am so proud of the women that have led this effort to honor our long struggle against discrimination and injustice, and I look forward to the day when our female leaders grace every form of U.S. currency."

Council Member Chin joined her Women's Caucus colleagues to introduce Res. 686 in May 2015 after being inspired by the hard-work and advocacy of Barbara Ortiz Howard and Susan Ades Stone, co-leaders of the [Women on 20s movement and the official W20 campaign](#). The resolution called for a woman on the \$20 bill by 2020 – the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

"As Chair of the Committee on Women's Issues, this week has been an incredible celebration of women trailblazers and our undeniable impact throughout American history. Women represent nearly half of our nation's labor force, contributing tremendously towards our economic growth and stability. Today's anticipated announcement of Harriet Tubman's future appearance on the \$20 bill is a reflection of our steady progress towards gender equality. As the conductor of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman became a modern-day Moses for the thousands of enslaved Africans she led to freedom. Her presence on American currency is a fitting tribute to her legacy as an abolitionist and former soldier who fought for the military pension she was owed but was later awarded a widow's pension of \$20 a month due to her second husband's service," **said Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus of the New York City Council.**

"Women helped to build the nation we live in today, and we are long overdue for representation on our paper currency. Harriet Tubman is renowned for her courage and selflessness, and she is a true American hero. Three cheers for Treasury Secretary Jack Lew for deciding to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the \$20 bill," **said Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus of the New York City Council.**

Also in May 2015, Ms. Howard and Ms. Ades Stone announced the results of a nationwide online vote held by W20 to consider potential new faces of the \$20 bill. More than 600,000 people voted over the course of approximately 10 weeks, ultimately choosing legendary abolitionist Harriet Tubman as the ballot winner. Also considered on the final ballot were former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, civil rights icon Rosa Parks and Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Wednesday's announcement included changes to the back of the \$10 bill to incorporate the images of women's rights pioneers like Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul. The U.S. Treasury is also looking into incorporating images of Civil Rights leaders on the back of the \$5 bill.

Sonia Ossorio, president of NOW New York, said: "Harriet Tubman on the twenty dollar bill will be a powerful symbol that rightfully recognizes the tremendous contributions and sacrifices women have made to build our country. It's about time. But waiting until 2030 is simply unacceptable. For far too long women have been erased from the celebration of historical figures. We shouldn't have to wait another 16 years."

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