

### **Rosanna Vargas Opening Statement**

I want to thank everyone for coming this morning and the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Election for holding this important hearing to consider my nomination to serve as the Bronx Democratic Commissioner of the Board of Elections.

As this Committee is aware, I was born and raised in the Bronx. I'm a practicing attorney in Akerman's New York law office. I'm an associate in the litigation department and my focus is on commercial litigation in state and federal court, mediations and arbitrations. I believe that my experience as a lawyer and the analytical skills that comprise much of practice will be an asset in identifying the issues and challenges of the Board of Election.

I am an active member of the Dominican Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Hispanic National Bar Association and Latinas Organizing Latinas in Action. I'm also a member of the Law Committee of the Bronx Democratic County Committee which is being led by counsel to county. The law committee will focus on the needs of the community, such as youth seminars and events to assist in college application and personal statement, introduction to LSAT, mock job interviews and resume reviews, tailored to the community and youth involvement. I am also part of Akerman's internal network of Women's Initiative Network where one of the components is the community engagement program. Akerman also works alongside of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association program to promote volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

I am committed and personally vested in the Bronx and in the State of New York. I believe that I'm able to protect each citizen's fundamental right to have their voices heard and counted through the electoral process. My goal is to ensure that the Bronx community voice is heard by ensuring their access to the ballots. I am confident that I am qualified for this position and that I am prepared to serve as Bronx Democratic Commissioner at the Board of Elections and I hope you will appoint me. I look forward to working with the Board and all the other Commissioners.

Good Morning, my name is Allen Cappelli.

Let me begin by thanking Mayor de Blasio for submitting my name to the City Council for your review, and to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chairman Brad Lander and the members of the Rules, Elections and Privileges Committee for the opportunity to be considered for a position on the Civil Service Commission of the City of New York. Let me specifically acknowledge my Councilmember and friend Debbie Rose, who has been a partner with me for many years, fighting for equity and justice for all of our City's residents.

I have been in public service for over 30 years, whether in full time government positions or by serving the City and State as I have for the past 8 years as a member of the MTA, a significant governmental entity impacting the lives of millions of New Yorkers.

I am a native of New York City and began my career in government, working in the Manhattan Borough President's office. In 1982, when Mario Cuomo was elected governor, he asked me to join his administration, where I worked throughout his 12 year tenure in several positions and was appointed the Chairman of the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board at the end of his administration. I served on that board until I joined the staff of former Bronx Borough President, Fernando Ferrer, whom I served with for four years as one of his chief assistants until he left office in 2002.

I spent the next year managing the campaign of Carl McCall in his effort to defeat Governor George Pataki. At the conclusion of that effort I went into the private practice of law where I have spent the past 14 years doing primarily criminal defense work, with a significant part of my practice devoted to indigent defendants.

The common thread between all of my endeavors has been a commitment to social justice and reform, and a desire to make government work for all of the residents of our City and our State.

My tenure in government, including the MTA, has been defined by my independent spirit, obliged to seek ways for the government to work in a transparent way for all of our residents, so that everybody can share in the opportunities available, particularly in education, housing and employment. I know that a good City job is a pathway to a better life. I will give each applicant the serious consideration to which they are entitled. If the City Council approves my appointment, I pledge to do everything the law permits to ensure that those whose appeals are before me are treated in as timely, fairly and in as transparent manner as the law permits. Again thank you for your consideration and I welcome your questions.

## **Larry Dais – Personal Statement June 15, 2016**

### **Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections**

Good morning Chairman Lander, and members of the Rules, Privileges and Elections Committee of the New York City Council. It's an honor and pleasure to appear before this body as one of the Mayor's nominees to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission. If this body approves my nomination, I assure you I will serve with the highest of standards and tradition and great regard towards the Civil Service system and the civil servant employees of New York City.

I stand before you as a first generation graduate in my family. My father died when I was a toddler. A loving and devoted mother, with an eighth-grade education, who worked as a domestic worker, raised me. It was my mother who instilled the values and principles that have been the foundation of my personal and professional successes. She believed that hard work and fairness are core values, ones that I have fully embraced.

I have had an extended period of time serving in various capacities in community and public service in New York City. An appointment by this body to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission would be an honor and another opportunity to serve New York City and its residents. If appointed, I will look to my colleagues to learn and to work collectively as Commissioners to maintain and enhance the core mission of the Civil Service Commission.

I am currently an arbitrator; the role of an arbitrator is similar to the role of the Civil Service Commissioner. As an arbitrator, I preside over disciplinary hearings as well as employee's grievances. As an arbitrator you have to render fair and equitable decisions. If appointed, I will strive to bring these past experiences and skills to enhance the work

of the Commission. As I understand it, the mission of the Commission is to be fair and impartial in deciding matters before it and to assure that the treatment of civil service employees and applicants is consistent with the Civil Service Laws and the City's personnel rules. I will work with my fellow commissioners to render decisions that would be reflective of our collective thinking and reasoning in support of decisions that would stand on its merits, as well as decisions that are fair to New York City employees and agencies.

I believe good judgment is critical in this position and I welcome the opportunity, if appointed, to demonstrate my talents and skills as a Commissioner. Moreover, I will bring the same determination and commitment to the work of the Commission as I have in my past endeavors as a professional and volunteer in community and public service.

I close by restating, if the Committee and Council deem me worthy and confirm my appointment, I will do my very best to represent those who affirmed my nomination to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Thank you again for your consideration and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 20200223 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/15/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marissa Soto

Address: 3208 Randolph Place, Bklyn 10405

I represent: myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Allen Cappelli

Address: 148 Kessel Ave

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Larry Davis

Address: 260 W 117

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Name: ROSANNA VARGAS Date: 02/15/2016  
**(PLEASE PRINT)**  
COMMISSIONER

Name: MARIA KHURY

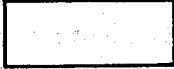
Address: 4430 CAYUGA AVE

I represent: MY SELF

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Steven Polivy **(PLEASE PRINT)**

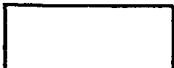
Address: 666 Fifth Ave, NY, NY 10103

I represent: Akerman LLP

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Rosanna Vargas **(PLEASE PRINT)**

Address: 16 Clinton Place Bronx NY 10453

I represent: Candidate for Commissioner of NYC BOE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_