

Opening Statement of Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Hearing of the Consumer Affairs Committee
Vote on: Intro. 287-A
August 10, 2015

Thank you Chairman Espinal and good morning everyone. I want to thank Chairman Espinal for co-sponsoring Intro. 287-A with myself and Council Member Koo and for hearing this bill and bringing it to a vote today along with the other important bills the Consumer Affairs Committee is considering. I know the Chair has reiterated the need for the bill and highlighted its relevant provisions so I just want to make sure that all those who worked hard to draft this bill, review it, refine it and make it better before enacting it into law have been acknowledged and thanked.

First, I'd like to thank the Members of the Committee in advance for their support. I'm very gratified that we had a strong dialogue regarding the legislation and that it is being brought to a vote today. I want to thank the former Committee Counsel and current Deputy Director of the Governmental Affairs Division, Rachel Cordero, for her diligence in helping draft this legislation and move it through the process. I'd also like to thank the current Committee Counsel and Analyst, Laboni Rahman and Israel Martinez, for their work on the bill and for putting together today's hearing. I'd also like to thank the various people from Department of Consumer Affairs who have worked to ensure the bill does what it is supposed to and for all our industry partners and advocates who worked with us to make sure we are solving problems without creating new ones. Finally, I'd like to thank Reggie Thomas of the Mayor's office and my staff for all of their work on the bill.

While it seems simple on its face this was a multi-layered issue as it relates to important gas station sign requirements and really clarifies what is required of our gas station owners to inform the public without overburdening our small owners or putting owners in conflict with our Zoning regulations while attempting to comply with our Administrative Code. Our goal has always been to work with all sides to hear their concerns and make the legislation, better, stronger, and more importantly clearer for everyone who has to deal with it to comply with. I think we've done that successfully so once again, I'd like to thank everyone who helped bring us to this point and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor. Thank you Mr. Chairman.