

TESTIMONY OF GREGORIO MAYERS
NOMINEE TO THE LOCAL CONDITIONAL RELEASE COMMISSION
BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, & ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Greetings Chair Powers, Speaker Adams, and members of this distinguished Committee. My name is Gregorio Mayers, and I have been nominated to serve on the Local Conditional Release Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you to testify and share my background and why I believe I will bring value to this Commission.

I am a Tenured Professor of Law and Government at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, where I teach courses in Criminal Law, State and Local Government, Administrative Law, and Disaster Management. I have been a resident in the great borough of Brooklyn for a little over 40-years. I live in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood with my wife and two children for 20-years.

Throughout the years, I have maintained an active presence in community developments having served on Community Planning Board No. 9, on the Board of LAMAD Charter School, as well on the Deacon Board of my Church, Cornerstone Baptist Church. In addition, I speak at many organizations on preparing young people for college. At the College, I am the coordinator for the Law Pathway Program, and I served as the College Ombuds, where I represent students on their Complaints. I am also serving as the Title IX Facilitator.

I believe that my personal and professional experience will allow me to bring value to this Commission. I am an Afro-Latino Male, immigrant from Central America, who has lived and experienced both the social challenges and the discrimination in certain environments that all new immigrants face, and I had to lend my voice in speaking for equality during my years as an undergraduate student as well as in Law School. As a result of such activism, I was invited to be one of the keynote speakers by Nelson Mandela's Team when he visited New York City after being wrongfully incarcerated for defending the rights of his people. I was one of the co-founders of the Black and Latino Male Initiative at Medgar Evers College, where the goal was to address the racial inequalities in the system that prevented this population from achieving their desired goals. Many of the students were also formerly incarcerated and came back to school to change their lives. Today I am proud that CUNY's Central Office has recognized this program as a model program, and it is now in more than 15 of the CUNY Colleges.

Given the current societal challenges, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic, I see the need now, more than ever to evaluate applicants who perhaps can be released back to the community with the services and assistance needed. It will be the job of the Commission

members to ensure that we are balancing public safety and fairness, while assuring members of the respective communities that if released, the services and resources will be made available.

I am interested in serving on the Commission because I believe that my collective experiences, in academia, law, community development, and prior experience in government, gives me the necessary tools in decision-making to ensure fairness; that the residents of the community feel safe with our decisions and that we can balance both the safety of the public and giving an opportunity to those people in custody who can be safely returned back to their communities and successfully complete their sentence.

Thank you the opportunity to speak with you today, and I look forward in answering any questions from the Councilmembers.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof Gregorio Mayers

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11-14-25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregorio M. Adams

Address: 1650 Bedford Ave Bklyn NY 11217

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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