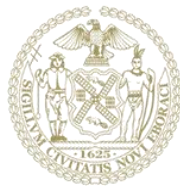


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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

JULIE WON

COUNCIL MEMBER, 26TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

COMMITTEE CHAIR
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COMBAT HATE
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TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

May 29, 2026

Dear Chair Weisbrod, Commissioner Angelo, Commissioner Barrios-Paoli,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I have long supported legislation advocating for the increase of compensation for elected officials, and I strongly urge the commission to recommend a meaningful increase of compensation for council members. The cost of waiting has already become too high.

The cost of living has skyrocketed since the last compensation review occurred in 2015. The cost of living for NYC is 27% higher than the national average. A Council Member's current salary is barely keeping up with the city they're meant to serve, as net pay can barely cover more than a month's rent. When dedicated public servants are forced to worry about making rent or supporting a family on a salary frozen in time, that load does not stay neatly compartmentalized. It bleeds into the work and frays focus. The role of Public Service should not be gridlocked for only those with independent wealth, family support, or a willingness to take on significant financial strain. It filters out exactly the kind of diverse, working and middle-class voices our government desperately needs. Fair pay is about ensuring that the door to public service remains open to every qualified New Yorker.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Julie Won", written in a cursive style.

Council Member Julie Won
26th District, New York City Council