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**MAYOR DE BLASIO SIGNS LEGISLATION TO EXTEND HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF LATE SERGEANT FRANK MUSELLA AND BILL TO STRENGTHEN SCHOOL DISCIPLINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**NEW YORK**—Mayor de Blasio today signed two pieces of legislation – Intro. 903, granting the Mayor authority to extend health insurance benefits to the widow and family of Frank Musella, a sergeant in the New York City Department of Sanitation who passed away while on duty; and Intro. 730, in relation to reports on school discipline and police department activity in schools. The Mayor also held public hearings for Intros 917-A, 885, and 897, which would provide additional tools for City agencies to combat the manufacture and sale of the synthetic drug K-2.

The first bill, Intro. 903, grants the Mayor authority to extend health insurance benefits to the widow and family of Frank Musella, a sergeant in the Department of Sanitation who passed away while on duty in Staten Island. New York City Code grants authority to the Mayor to use his or her discretion to extend benefits to the spouses, domestic partners and eligible dependent children of employees of the specified agencies who died during the course of their employment. This bill makes it possible for Mr. Musella’s family to be included within the purview of this section of the law.

“For nearly a decade, Sergeant Musella worked hard to keep our city clean and safe. This bill grants me the authority to show the City’s deep respect for one of our city’s families and pay tribute to legacy of a New Yorker who is greatly missed,” said **Mayor de Blasio**. “I want to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito for her leadership, and Council Member Daneek Miller for sponsoring this legislation.”

"The Council’s expansion of the SSA is a step forward in ensuring all students in New York City schools are able to learn in a welcoming environment," said **Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito**. "Our schools should be a safe place for students and it is critical that we have the relevant data to keep them that way. I thank my colleagues on the Council and the de Blasio Administration for their partnership on this legislation."

“On July 29th, 2015, Sergeant Frank Musella tragically lost his life while on duty – a loss the Department of Sanitation mourns deeply. Intro 903, provides critical health insurance to his widow, Alessandra, and two young children, Frank Jr. and Anthony. Sergeant Musella made important contributions to keeping the city clean and safe over his nine year career. Passage of intro 903 recognizes his service and seeks to ease the financial burdens on his family,” said **Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia**.

“This Administration and Council have once again demonstrated their commitment to working people and through the enactment of Intro 903 we may honor Frank Musella’s dedicated service. Sgt. Musella made the ultimate sacrifice for our City and today we are able to provide some security and comfort to the family he leaves behind,” said **Council Member I. Daneek Miller, Chair of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor**.

“I want to thank Council Member Miller for putting forward this important legislation and Mayor de Blasio for signing it into law today. Sgt. Musella died in service to our city as one of New York’s strongest, and it is crucial that we ensure his family is supported,” said **Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Chair of the Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management.**

The second bill, Intro. 730, requires reporting on the interactions between students, teachers, police officers and school safety agents in our schools as they relate to discipline. The bill requires additional annual and bi-annual reporting from the DOE related to student suspensions, teacher removals, student transfers that occur during a suspension, and instances where EMS is called and students are transported to a hospital. The bill also requires the NYPD to report data relating to the use of handcuffs in schools, arrests, summonses and violations issued in a school or on school grounds, complaints lodged against School Safety Agents, as well as injuries sustained by SSAs due to student misconduct. The bill also requires NYPD to report on permanent and temporary metal detectors in schools. In his remarks, the Mayor thanked Speaker Mark-Viverito and the bill’s sponsor and Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, Council Member Gibson.

“The safety of our students is extremely important and so is the climate in which our students learn. Suspensions and zero tolerance policies adversely impact vulnerable students and do not lead to positive behavioral changes or academic success. Today, as these critical amendments to the Student Safety Act become law, we are taking an important step towards a system that treats each and every student with fairness, dignity, and respect. I am proud to have sponsored this important legislation and am thankful to have the support of Mayor Bill de Blasio, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the partnership of my co-sponsor Council Member Corey Johnson and my colleague Chair Committee on Education Council Member Daniel Drummer, and the assistance of so many dedicated advocates and youth leaders as we together shift the conversation on school safety away from detention and towards one of de-escalation and prevention,” said **Council Member Vanessa Gibson, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety.**

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