



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2015

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RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT QUEENS PRIDE PARADE

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Muchas gracias, Concejal Dromm. Let's thank Danny Dromm for all he does for this community.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

Mayor: Okay, thank you as well to all the people who make this extraordinary parade happen. Thank you.

I am honored to be the first mayor to be one of your grand marshals. It is a tremendous honor.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

I want to thank so many great people who are here today, because they believe in the message of this parade. It is a message of inclusion. It is a message of unity. This parade stands for a rejection of any bias and prejudice against the LGBT community. We will not stand in this city for anyone who would harm our brothers and sisters in the LGBT community. And this parade stands for that resolute value of New York City.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

Let's thank also Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Corey Johnson and Jimmy Vacca.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

Let's thank Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

Public Advocate – Public Advocate Tish James.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

[inaudible] Scott Stringer.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

Congressman Joe Crowley, thank you.

[Applause]

[Cheers]

I want to thank my fellow grand marshal, [inaudible] – thank you so much.

And our first lady, who is working every day for a better and more inclusive New York City – thank First Lady Chirlane McCray for [inaudible].

[Applause]
[Cheers]

Brothers and sisters, since 1993, you have gathered, but each year it's gotten stronger, it's gotten bigger. The meaning is even more intense with every passing year.

It started – it started with a memory of those who were lost because of who they were in a society that did not accept people for who they were. We march in memory of Julio Rivera. We remember his loss – and he is alive and with us today in this march, because we carry on his memory to make sure others are safe, to make sure others are treated fairly.

We will make this a tolerant city more with every passing day and year.

And it's an extraordinary year, because this will be – God willing – this will be the year the Supreme Court recognizes the right of all to marry [audible].

[Applause]
[Cheers]

And this was the year when the people of Ireland voted – were the first nation in history to vote on marriage equality – and they voted for equality, they voted for freedom, they voted for inclusion, sending a powerful message around the world.

Here in this city, we keep moving forward every day.

I am so honored that we will be landmarking the Stonewall Inn as part of our history.

[Applause]
[Cheers]

I am honored that we have capped the rents of low-income people with HIV and AIDS so they can live in peace and respect.

And we will keep going. We have launched the nation's largest HIV testing initiative. We will keep reaching out to help people in need.

And brothers and sisters, we know something about history. We know what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told us – “The arc of history is long but it bends towards justice.” This parade epitomizes that constant movement towards justice. Let's keep going. Let's keep marching on until the day when everyone is truly embraced. God bless you. Muchas gracias a todo.

Unknown: Let's hear it for the mayor!

[Applause]
[Cheers]

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