



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 25, 2016

CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO SIGNS LEGISLATION TO CO-NAME 42
THOROUGHFARES AND PUBLIC SPACES**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I want to welcome everyone for this wonderful occasion – being joined by –

Unknown: [inaudible]

Mayor: Yes – Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and members of the City Council.

[Applause]

I want to thank our Police Commissioner, Bill Bratton, for being with us. Thank you, Commissioner.

[Applause]

So, today, we are going to be talking about one piece of legislation, but one piece of legislation that matters to so many people in this city. So many families are here – so many neighborhoods this is an important moment for.

Intro 1054, which co-names 42 thoroughfares and public places across the five boroughs – this legislation – you know what they say? Success has many mothers and fathers. This legislation has many mothers and fathers, starting with Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Councilmembers Barron; Cabrera; Chin; Constantinides; Cumbo, Dromm; Ferreras-Copeland; Gintile; Gibson; Lander; Levin; Levine; Matteo; Miller; Palma; Richards; Rodriguez; Rose; Torres; Ulrich; Vallone; Van Bramer; Williams; and Wills. So, a lot of Council Members, a lot of communities represented.

[Applause]

Now, we get to do this once in a while – we get to rename things in this city, and it's a formal act of law by the City Council, and it's something very sacred. When we rename a part of this city, it's because something is important – someone did something great for this city, someone sacrificed who loved our city and served our city. Someone epitomized all that was great about New York. Sometimes – mostly, it's a person, but sometimes it may be an organization, or it may be something that happened in history, but, any way you slice it, it's somebody worthy, or it's something worthy that we celebrate that's also a part of us – a part of the personality, and the character, and the history of this city. So, it's a great moment when we celebrate things that matter so much.

The most sacred thing we do is we honor those who served us and gave their lives for us. Literally – took an oath, went out to protect us, knew they might one day make the supreme sacrifice, and they did because they cared so much for the lives of others. And I want to talk about three such examples today.

First – and I know so many hearts are still heavy because we lost Detective First Grade Randolph Holder – a man who, as we came to know him after his death – there was so much admiration for what he had done, how he had served, the way he had comported himself throughout his life and career, and for the wonderful family we came to know. Five-year veteran of the NYPD – he immigrated to New York City from Guiana 12 years ago. He embodied the American dream. Detective Holder was determined to follow in the footsteps of his father, his grandfather, and his great uncle, all of whom had been police officers, and he wanted to serve as well, and he did so with such great distinction. Our entire city mourned when we lost him last October, while on patrol in East Harlem. So, it is fitting that we will be honoring him with Detective First Grade Randolph Holder Way.

[Applause]

Police Officer Kevin Joseph Gillespie – now, this is about something that happened a long time ago, but we never forget. One thing Commissioner Bratton, and the leaders of the NYPD have shown me through their actions over the last two years is that the NYPD never forgets none of our uniformed services – ever forget those who have served. So, Officer Gillespie was a four-year veteran of the NYPD, and he was fatally shot on March 14, 1996, almost exactly 20 years ago, while pursuing suspects in a car jacking. We will honor Officer Gillespie by naming this street Police Officer Kevin Joseph Gillespie Way.

[Applause]

Recently, all over this city, all over this nation, we had a moment to be proud, and a moment to celebrate progress when the Zadroga Bill was passed in Washington, finally providing the services, and the support, and the healthcare our first responders and other survivors of 9/11 needed for the long haul. It was a hard-fought battle, but the fact that that victory was won does not take the burden off the men and women who still suffer, and we lost a good man – Captain John R. Graziano of the FDNY – a 26-year veteran of the FDNY who died last year from 9/11-related illness. And we will rename a street in his honor – FDNY Captain John R. Graziano Way.

[Applause]

Now, I'm going to now name some people who made a big impact on their communities. And, as I said, sometimes we're also naming a street for something important, something that happened there – a piece of history – something we remember that touched us all. This could be a part of our culture now, a part of our history. So, streets that will be co-named in the Bronx include, Loretta Ruddock Smith Way; Reverend William E. Thompson Way; Reverend Abner Bernard Duncan Way; John C. Flynn Way; this is a personal favorite of mine – Hip Hop Boulevard.

[Applause]

Just – if you have friends on the west coast, remember to tell them it all started here, okay? Just remind them of that fact.

[Applause]

Sorry, west coast.

Unknown: [inaudible] start another beef.

Mayor: And one more, Kips Bay Boulevard –

[Laughter]

– Kips Bay Boulevard.

[Applause]

Streets to be co-named in Brooklyn – the first one, I have to say – a man I knew very well and did so much for Crown Heights and for Brooklyn, in general, and gave a lot of good council to a lot of us – Reverend Clarence Norman Sr. Way.

[Applause]

Dr. Derek E. Griffith Way –

[Applause]

This next one also pulled at our heartstrings and our hearts too deeply, and I also came to know this family after the loss of this good man who had so much promise. Someone we lost who was doing so much good and was on the way to doing so much more – Carey Gabay Way.

[Applause]

Patrice T.C. Capo Memorial Way; Ragamuffin Way; Robert P.H. Diaz Way; Sergeant Bobby Mendez Way; Alfred J. Vigilante Way.

[Applause]

Now, in Manhattan – alright, Reverend Dr. Jasper Simmons Place; this is one for a great American – Norman Rockwell Place.

[Applause]

Ms. Aida Perez-Loiza Way – Aldea Lane, sorry – yes, Aldea Lane. Many names – Aida Perez-Loiza Aldea Lane, try saying that five times fast.

[Applause]

Freddy Beras-Goico Way; Sidney Offerman Way; and Evacuation Day Plaza.

[Applause]

Streets to be co-named in Queens – Vincent Cangelosi Memorial Way; Charles Lucania Memorial Way; Demetris Kastanas Way; a very admirable name – Diversity Plaza; Edward Fr. Guida Sr. Way; John Watusi Branch Way; Qadri's Way; for all you Knick fans – Anthony Mason Way; and National Herald Way – now, this is said [inaudible] going to be two titles – Εθνικός Κήρυξ in one language – National Herald Way in another language.

[Applause]

And streets to be co-named in Staten Island – School Security Agent Sandra P. Cranford Way; Sergeant Donald B. Heisler Way; Joseph DeNicola Way – Lane, I'm sorry – Lane; Anthony Manifold Way, World War II hero, MIA; Connor and Breandon Moore Way; Roberta Bobbie Jacobowitz Way; and Robert S. Farrell and Donald H. Farrell Way.

[Applause]

And finally, we are updating and making some changes to three previously co-named streets. They will now be – Police Officer Kenneth Anthony Nugent Way; Captain James McDonnell Way; Tanaya R. Copeland Avenue.

[Applause]

Now, before I turn to my colleagues, I want to thank the labor leaders that are here with us – Roy Richter, the president of the Captains Endowment Association; and Derek Harkin and George Fariacci, from the Uniformed Fire Officers Association.

[Applause]

And, with that, it's my honor to turn to our Police Commissioner, Bill Bratton.

[...]

Thank you. Thank you very much. Alright, we're just going to say a few quick words in Spanish to summarize what we're doing here, and then we're going to sign this bill into law. Here we go –

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that, I will now sign this into law.

[Mayor de Blasio signs Intro 1054]

The legislation is now law.

###