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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 29, 2015

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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO HOLDS PUBLIC HEARINGS AND SIGNS INTROS 318-A, 125-B, 456-A, 723-A, 724-A, 725-A, 726-A, and 729-A**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Welcome, everyone. We have a lot of legislation to work on today and a lot of people who are interested in it. So, we're going to keep this moving along. And at one point, I think we are going to have to bring people in who are not yet in, and shift the room around a little – so, just warning you up front. The first bill is of particular importance to our quest to lift up all New Yorkers. And it's a milestone for equal opportunity in this city. Today, we ban the box in New York City.

[Applause]

Intro 318-A, otherwise known as the Fair Chance Act, strengthens provisions in our city's Human Rights Law that prohibit discrimination based on a person's arrest or criminal conviction history. Sponsors are Council Member Jumaane Williams and Borough President Gale Brewer.

[Applause]

The bill opens the door to jobs for New Yorkers who have paid their debt to society, rather than condemning them to a constant economic struggle. We all know that employment is key to reintegration into society for those who have paid their debt. But until now, employers had the ability to demand applicants' criminal history early in the hiring process. And far too often, for too many New Yorkers, that obliterated a chance for any job – denying the very opportunity that many people needed to be back on a pathway to success.

One low-level offense could cripple someone's ability to support a family and perpetuate so much of the inequality we face every day. We want to end that with this legislation, level the playing field, give people a chance to move forward again with their lives and make their lives work. And because this bill prohibits most employers from inquiring about anyone's criminal record until after making a conditional offer of employment, it allows the abilities of the job applicant to shine through. My administration is committed to breaking down barriers and opening doors of opportunity for all New Yorkers.

I want to thank so many people who did great work on this. I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. And I will now call up some of the other people we have to thank, starting with my counsel, Maya Wiley.

[...]

**Mayor:** Okay, everybody ready? Almost. Jon Paul, let's get the door. Okay, we are here to discuss Intro 125-B – excuse me – 125-B, which requires car washes to be licensed for the first time ever in New York City. Sponsor is Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. This legislation gives the Department of Consumer Affairs another tool to protect consumers, and it's also a step in protecting our environment, especially – especially New York City's water supply. The legislation requires car washes to obtain and renew licenses, complying in the process,

with local environmental laws and regulations – must also comply with the surety bond requirement like so many businesses currently licensed by DCA.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. And I now want to introduce the commissioner for the Department of Consumer Affairs, Julie Menin.

[...]

**Mayor:** Okay, here we go. We're going to be now discussing Intros 456-A, 723-A, 724-A, 725-A, 726-A, and 729-A, which aim to educate small businesses about rules and regulations, and allows DCA – the Department of Consumer Affairs – to analyze fines issued to businesses.

The sponsors are – here we go – 456-A, sponsor is Council Member Helen Rosenthal; 723-A, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; 724-A, Council Member Margaret Chin; 725-A, Council Member Robert Cornegy, Jr.; 726-A, Council Member Rafael Espinal; 729-A, Council Member Vincent Gentile.

As we know, small businesses are the backbone of our communities and of our economy. We know how hard small businesses owners work and we know that they need all the time they can get to build their businesses. So, the city is doing its part to support their success by making it easier to comply with city regulations. That's part of our Small Business First Initiative. And these bills will compliment that work. And they will create designated advocates to help small business owners get the services they need, and education events to help businesses understand licensing, pricing, and other consumer protection laws. It will also allow the city to do a better job of analyzing the fines given to businesses and improving the ways that we regulate businesses.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and small business services Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer. And now it's my pleasure to introduce consumer affairs Commissioner Julie Menin.

[...]

**Mayor:** Thank you very much. Thank you, councilman. Thank you for your leadership as chair of the Small Businesses Committee. I want to just conclude with a few words of Spanish before I sign this legislation.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that, let's sign these pieces of legislation.

[Applause]

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