



**JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**

**TESTIMONY OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS  
TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Good morning,

My name is Jumaane D. Williams, and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. I would like to thank Chair Schulman and the members of the Health Committee for holding this hearing today.

I had the great honor of serving alongside Paul Vallone during my tenure in the New York City Council. His untimely passing is a great loss not only to his friends, family and loved ones but also the communities he uplifted and the lives he touched. From his time in the Council to his time as Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs at the Veterans' Services Department, Paul was a dedicated public servant. As a former Council Member, he led with confidence and fought for what he believed in and as our Deputy Commissioner, he worked tirelessly on behalf of our city's veterans. Our city is stronger because of his hard work and efforts.

I support this Council's proposal to rename the Queens Animal Care Centers as the Paul A. Vallone Queens Animal Care Center. Renaming the Queens location after Paul would be a fitting tribute to honor Paul's work in passing legislation to ensure that there is an animal shelter in every borough. Godspeed Paul, you will be missed.

Thank you.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

Michelle Villagomez  
NYC Legislative Senior Director

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American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

*Hearing before the New York City Council's Committee on Health  
Intro. 1B : Designating the Animal Care Centers of NYC facility in the borough of  
Queens, as the Paul A. Vallone Queens Animal Care Center.*

**March 7, 2024**

Good morning. I am Michelle Villagomez, New York City Legislative Senior Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to thank Health Committee Chair Schulman, and Speaker Adams for this opportunity. I am honored to provide testimony in support of the proposed legislation to rename the Queens Animal Care Center after the late Councilmember Paul Vallone. He was a wonderful ally in the work of the ASPCA, and I genuinely enjoyed collaborating with him. As a resident of Queens and his district, I believe this renaming would be a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated himself to the well-being of both animals and the community he served.

Councilmember Paul Vallone's commitment to animal welfare was not only a personal passion but also a continuation of his family's legacy. The Vallone family has long been synonymous with advocating for the welfare of animals in New York City. Councilmember Vallone's father, Speaker Peter Vallone, played a pivotal role in passing legislation in 2000 that mandated the establishment of five full-service animal shelters across the city. His mother, Tina Vallone, demonstrated unwavering dedication as a volunteer in various animal welfare initiatives throughout the years, and his brother Councilmember Peter Vallone was a staunch advocate against animal cruelty. Paul Vallone carried this torch forward with great fervor. In 2018, he championed legislation to ensure that all five boroughs have access to full-service animal shelters. He recognized that animal shelters are not merely facilities for housing stray pets but vital community resources offering a wide array of services, including surrender prevention, food assistance, medical care, humane education, and adoption programs. He understood that by supporting animal welfare, we also support the well-being of our communities. His vision for the Queens

Animal Care Center was one of inclusivity and compassion, where both animals and people could find the assistance and resources they needed. Renaming the center in his honor would not only commemorate his dedication and hard work but also serve as a reminder of the profound connection between human and animal welfare.

The Queens Animal Care Center, under its new name, will serve as a lasting reminder of Paul Vallone's legacy of empathy, kindness, and commitment to making our world a better place for all living beings.

In conclusion, I urge the Health Committee and the City Council to support this important initiative, ensuring that Paul Vallone's legacy continues to inspire and uplift us all. It is imperative that we continue to invest in and advance the services provided by animal care centers throughout New York City. By doing so, we honor his memory and ensure that his compassionate spirit lives on.

Thank you.



**Testimony of Risa Weinstock, President and CEO, Animal Care Centers of NYC  
New York City Council**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

**Support for Proposed Int. No. 1-A**

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is proud to support Proposed Int. No. 1-A to name the newly constructed Queens Animal Care Center after the late Paul A. Vallone.

Councilmember Vallone's unwavering commitment to animal welfare and his instrumental role in advocating for improved conditions for NYC animals resonates deeply with the mission and values of everyone at ACC. This naming initiative not only honors his legacy but also serves as a symbol of our collective dedication to creating a compassionate and supportive environment for the animals in our care.

Through our mission driven work to end animal homelessness in NYC, every day we will be mindful that we are honoring his legacy as a champion of animal welfare, his dedication to the borough of Queens and his compassionate commitment to help ACC serve the pets and people of NYC.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Michelle Villagomez

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: ASPCA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



*Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms*

