

Chair Mark-Viverito and fellow Council Members,

Today we will hear from the family and friends of dozens of New Yorkers who have dedicated their lives to the service of their community, New York City and the world. These individuals undoubtedly had a positive impact on the lives of those around them. The Council will then vote to bestow a unique honor on them by co-naming a street after them, so that their legacy can live on.

We are also gathered to discuss Intro 448, a local law that will amend the City map to restore the historical names of 6 streets in my district. This bill will seek to help preserve some of the unique historical character of Douglaston, Queens, a community that was first settled in 1656 and has remained largely unchanged since the mid 1800s. Douglaston is home to two recognized landmarked communities and the residents take this designation extremely seriously. Everything from the original cobblestone curbs to massive tree canopy reminds visitors of a much simpler time.

As with many other communities, including right outside this building in lower Manhattan, the original settlers named streets after things that they encountered on a daily basis, or after prominent families that owned property in the area. When the Village of Marathon, now known as Douglaston, mapped their properties in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, every street was given a name. Over 100 years later, the City determined that numbering streets was more efficient and allowed for greater ease of traveling and following directions. Unlike the grid pattern that shapes most of New York City, Douglaston is a small community of short winding streets that often don't go farther than a block or two. The entire community of Douglaston is about 10 blocks long, north of Northern Boulevard and cut off from the neighboring areas by the Long Island Railroad. In fact, there are only two routes into and out of Douglaston, one of which is a winding "back road" known only to the locals.

Despite the City's insistence that every street be given a numerical designation, the community of Douglaston has been fighting to keep, and then subsequently to restore their historic street names for nearly 100 years. Through the efforts of Council Member Matthew Troy in the early 1970's many of these streets were restored to their historical names. Over the past 4 decades other council members, including my predecessor, have attempted to finish restoring the historic names of these streets with none, or limited success. The map change that we are discussing today represents the final restoration of the historic names for this community. Prospect Avenue, Hamilton Avenue, Orient Avenue, Church Street, Pine Street and Popular Street will join existing street names such as Cherry, Ridge, Forrest, Manor and Shore.

My office has reviewed, and would be happy to provide to you, maps and other historical documents from as early as 1853, and as late as 1934 showing these historic street names. The Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society has been tireless advocates for this historic restoration and protection. This bill will have a very minuscule cost impact on the City and will go a long way to preserving our community's heritage and history.

This bill has unanimous support from the community and other elected officials. In addition to the Little Neck Douglaston Historical Society the bill has the support of the local civic associations and Community Board 11. I am in receipt of letters of support from numerous residents of Douglaston as well as Congressman Gary Ackerman and Assembly Member Ed Braunstein.

Unfortunately, I am unable to be with you today in person. I had previously planned to attend this hearing when it was scheduled earlier this week, but the rescheduled time conflicts with a proceeding at the New York State Supreme Court which I was not able to reschedule. I express my strongest support for this bill and I wish to thank Council Member Mark-Viverito for scheduling this hearing and voicing her support of the bill, Speaker Christine Quinn for bringing the bill to a vote later this month, Council Member Koo for his support as a co-sponsor and to Pat Mulivhill, Kris Satori, Jeff Habermann and all of the other Council staff that has worked to make this bill a reality.

I look forward to voting yes in the near future.

Dan Halloran  
Council Member  
District 19 - Queens

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 448 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 2-10-2012

Name: John MULVEY (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 16608 24 Rd 11357

I represent: CM HALLORAN

Address: 16608 24 Rd 11357

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 448 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 2/9/12

Name: William SIEVERS (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 240-40 42nd Ave

I represent: DOUGLASTON N.Y. 11313

Address: SAME

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 448 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

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

Name: Eliott Soggi (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 46-50 241 St Douglaston, NY 11362

I represent: Douglaston Civic Assoc.

Address: Po Box 222, Douglaston, NY 11362

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 448 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: Feb. 10, 2012

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOAN HELLMANN

Address: 240-34 43<sup>RD</sup> AVE.

I represent: Self

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 2/10/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHRISTOPHER CAMPESE

Address: 8 PROSPECT AVE

I represent: AFFECTED HOMEOWNER

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 2/9/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JULIA SCHOECK

Address: 328 MARJOR RA

I represent: DOUGLASSON & LITTLE NECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Address: same

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