HIRAM MONSERRATE

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FIRE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES PUBLIC SAFETY STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION CIVIL RIGHTS

Statement on Behalf of Councilman Monserrate Intro 717, MIA/POW legislation

Council Member Hiram Monserrate would like to thank the members of the Veterans Committee and his cosponsors of Intro 717, including Council Members Gentile, James, Liu, Oddo and Felder, for their support of legislation that will at long last properly display our support for veterans.

He would also like to express his gratitude to the many members of the veterans community who joined in the effort to bring this legislation to the City Council, to this committee and hopefully, by the end of the week, to the Mayor where it will, at long last, become city law.

As you know, this legislation states that the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag shall be displayed on all city-owned or occupied buildings on all days of the year, except Sundays.

More importantly, the POW/MIA flag will fly next to the American flag at each of these buildings. That's because the POW/MIA flag is an American flag. It is a flag that represents the sacrifices made by individuals for our country. And it represents the hope we still hold for their return home.

Historically, the POW/MIA flag was created by the National League of Families and officially recognized by the Congress in conjunction with the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue, "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation."

But currently and in the future, this flag is a symbol of our abiding commitment to those who have served on behalf of our country. This legislation will provide and ensure an expression of that support, always.

Thank you.

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

	
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