THE COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

Whereas: Ethel Rosenberg, nee Ethel Greenglass, lived on New York City's Lower East Side in the 1920s and 1930s where she excelled at Steward Park High School and dreamed of college. She graduated before her 16th birthday but, unable to afford college, she took a clerical training course. In 1935, at the age of 19, she worked as a clerk at the National New York Packing and Shipping Company, and helped lead a strike for union recognition and a pay raise. The New York Times reported that "about 150 young women pickets moved in squads. ... They lay on the pavement in front of trucks and dared the drivers to move;" and

WHEREAS: Ethel was fired and filed a claim for wrongful termination with the National Labor Relations Board, which found in her favor. "There is no allegation or evidence that she was not an efficient employee. The company's antagonism to Ethel Greenglass unabashedly arose by virtue of the fact that she was active in organizing the Union." Ethel remained active in union organizing and swung to raise funds. While performing, she met Julius Rosenberg, whom she later married; and

WHEREAS: During World War II, Ethel joined the East Side Defense Council as the only full-time volunteer. It was the first such organization in the nation and became a model for others. She organized blood donation drives and gave speeches on the importance of the war effort. Her first son, Michael, was born during the war, and her second son, Robert, was born after it ended; and

WHEREAS: In August 1935, Ethel was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Espionage. FBI documents reveal that chief prosecution witnesses David and Ruth Greenglass provided no evidence against Ethel Rosenberg in their initial confessions. The Greenglass's recently released Grand Jury testimony also excludes mention of Ethel's involvement. FBI documents show that members of the prosecution team determined that she should be convicted with a "stiff sentence" and he used a "leverage" to induce her husband to cooperate. After deciding her testimony was false and would not be accepted, FBI did not create such a list for Ethel and did not ask if she was involved. Instead, a question on the list was: "Was your wife cognizant of your activities?" Since despite this, the government wrongfully executed Ethel Rosenberg; now therefore

BE IT KNOWN: That we, the undersigned Members of the New York City Council, honor the life and memory of

Ethel Rosenberg

in observance of the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Signed this 25th day of September in the year Twenty Fifteen.

Daniel Dromm
Council Member, 25th District

Helen Rosenthal
Council Member, 6th District

Corey Johnson
Council Member, 3rd District

Mark Levine
Council Member, 7th District

Shea Wexler
Council Member, 2nd District

Carlos Menchaca
Council Member, 38th District

Dow Constantine
Council Member, 31st District

Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member, 4th District

Margaret Chin
Council Member, 3rd District

Ydana Rangel
Council Member, 10th District

Vanessa L. Gibson
Council Member, 16th District

[Signatures]