



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Acting Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 12, 2018
(347) 396-4177

**STATEMENTS FROM ACTING HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. OXIRIS BARBOT;
CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON; AND CHAIRS OF THE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY BOARD ON GENDER MARKER CHANGE REQUIREMENTS
CARRIE DAVIS AND ETHAN RICE ON THE BOARD OF HEALTH, CITY
COUNCIL PASSING LANDMARK GENDER MARKER PROPOSAL AND BILL**

Statement from Acting Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot: "Today the New York City Board of Health and City Council voted to allow New Yorkers to choose a non-binary gender-marker on their birth certificate and self-attest to changing their gender on their birth certificate. This is truly a momentous occasion and testament to the work of Board Members, Council Members, but most of all the members of the transgender community whose dedication, work and perseverance made this possible. The Health Department and the Board of Health will continue to work toward a more equitable city, one that reduces stigma, eliminates barriers, and promotes the health of all transgender, gender nonconforming, and non-binary New Yorkers."

Statement from City Council Speaker Corey Johnson: "Today is a historic day for New York in its role as a worldwide champion for inclusivity and equality. New Yorkers will no longer need a doctor's note to change their gender on their birth certificates, and will no longer be treated as if their identify was a medical issue. I'm extremely proud of the work the Council and the Administration has done to make this groundbreaking legislation happen and I especially want to thank the LGBTQ community for their advocacy and work on this issue to keep New York City in its rightful place as a leader in human rights."

Statement from Carrie Davis, Chair of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Report and Advisory Board on Gender Marker Change Requirements: "Today's action by the New York City Board of Health and City Council regarding non-binary gender identity and self-affirmation updates New York's birth certificates to meet modern medical and scientific and criteria. The birth certificate is a basic and fundamental foundation document that most day-to-day identification documents develop from. These actions offer direct and tangible support to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers and are exceptionally critical during this time of danger and uncertainty regarding healthcare and human rights for transgender Americans at the national level."

Statement from Ethan Rice, Vice Chair of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Report and Advisory Board on Gender Marker Change Requirements: "Transgender and non-binary people are entitled to and must be able to have accurate identification in order to secure employment, housing and health care, among other things, particularly in today's environment where they often face unrelenting attacks. We thank the New York City Board of Health and City Council for the critical action taken today that will impact the lives of many transgender and non-binary people. It is important to note that this would not have been possible without many years of tireless work by New York City advocates."

###

MEDIA CONTACT: (347) 396-4177
PressOffice@health.nyc.gov