

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NYC WILL LIGHT THE CITY PURPLE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH TO
CELEBRATE THE SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL**



*NYC Department of Records & Information Services Initiative Celebrates Key
Milestones of Women's Suffrage*

New York, NY, August 26, 2020 –The NYC Department of Records and Information Services announced that various properties around the city will be lit in the signature women's suffrage color of purple on the evening of **Wednesday, August 26th, Women's Equality Day**.

The event will be a high point of a dedicated five-year project led by the department to recognize the landmark events leading up to the date of the ratification of the women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution, which provided half of the country's population with the opportunity to more fully participate in our democracy. Other activities include an on-going effort to gather 20,000 stories of inspiring women <https://womensactivism.nyc/> "On this day, one hundred years ago, American women completed a 72-year struggle to win the right to vote in all United States elections. By lighting signature buildings throughout New York City in purple, we acknowledge their work and celebrate the expansion of suffrage. It's thrilling to have so many organizations participate in lighting up the City to

celebrate the right to vote, **said Pauline Toole, Commissioner, Department of Records & Information Services.** In this centennial year, the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) will continue to work with our partners in and out of government to encourage people to register and vote."

"On Women's Equality Day, we mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote in the U.S. Constitution. Now more than ever, we are committed to continuing our fight for equal opportunities and fairness for all," **said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Chair of the NYS Women's Suffrage Commission.**" As the birthplace of the women's rights movement - New York was the first major state to grant women the right to vote in 1917 helping lead the way three years later for the 19th Amendment - we celebrate and recognize the women in New York who made history and fought to change the culture. In anticipation of lighting up New York City landmarks with the colors of the suffrage movement, we are also reminded of how far we've come and the work we still need to do to ensure full equality for all."

Supporters of the lighting initiative include the Grand Central Partnership, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, the New York Historical Society, the Association for Better New York, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, NYC BID Association, the Downtown Alliance, the Real Estate Board of New York, The Related Companies, Vornado Realty Trust, RXR Realty, the Department of Cultural and Library Affairs, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the Durst Organization, among others. New York State government also is participating in this national celebration by lighting up State buildings and bridges.

"August 26, 1920 was a momentous turning point in our country's history, and its centennial deserves to be celebrated with fanfare. The purple lights on Manhattan buildings that night will be thrilling to see and will serve as a reminder of women and like-minded men's work to further advance equality and gender rights since the passage of the 19th Amendment, and how much more there is to do." -**Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President**

"I am proud to join leaders across this city and across our country in celebrating Women's Equality Day. This year's Women's Equality Day is extra special as we mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. To commemorate this milestone, we will be lighting up City Hall and the Municipal Building in purple. Now, more than ever, women must be counted and women must be heard." -**Lisette Camilo, Commissioner, Department of Citywide Administrative Services**

"We are proud to partner with the Department of Records and so many others to celebrate this critical milestone in American history, when decades of fierce advocacy resulted in a momentous expansion of rights to women," **said Cultural Affairs Commissioner Gonzalo Casals.** "Anniversaries give us the opportunity to reflect on the achievements that brought us to where we are today, and the work that still needs to be done to take us farther into a more fair, just, and equitable society."

Scores of buildings, individual businesses, bridges, and Business Improvement Districts are expected to program their windows and exteriors to be lit in purple Wednesday night to mark the occasion. A list of structures that will be lit is attached.

Local leaders express their support for the lighting initiative:

“A hallmark of a fair and functioning democratic society is the right of its people to have a voice and a vote. REBNY is proud to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage and we will honor those who fought for this right by continuing to remove barriers and open the doors needed to make our City and our industry more inclusive and equitable in the next 100 years.”

- James Whelan, President, Real Estate Board of New York

“In tribute to the centennial celebration of the 19th Amendment and women’s constitutional right to vote, the Grand Central Partnership proudly joins with its community partner MTA-Metro North Railroad to illuminate, in purple, the Pershing Square Viaduct – where 42nd Street meets Park Avenue at the doorstep of Grand Central Terminal – as part of New York City’s Celebrate Women’s Suffrage–Light the City in Purple Campaign.”

-Fred Cerullo, President and CEO of the Grand Central Partnership

The Center for Women's History at the New-York Historical Society was created to foreground the important—and often forgotten—role women have always played in American history," said Valerie Paley, New-York Historical's senior vice president, chief historian, and director of the Center for Women's History. "We're proud to join cultural organizations across the city and light up our landmark building to honor the struggle for equality that generations of women fought for and continue to fight for today.

- Valerie Paley, New York Historical Society

“The Howard Hughes Corporation is honored to illuminate the Pier 17 light band purple in support of Women’s Equality Day this year. We are pleased to celebrate 100 years of women’s suffrage as we continue to support the advancement of all human rights for our community and for our city.”

Saul Scherl, President, New York Tri-State Region at The Howard Hughes Corporation

“The Staten Island Museum is thrilled to light up our landmarked façade in suffrage purple, bringing visibility to this important milestone in American democracy as we also highlight Staten Island suffragists through our online and outdoor exhibition. As a founding Steering Committee member of the Women’s Activism initiative, I am proud to see the culmination of a five-year effort with so many organizations participating to mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment and Women’s Equality Day.”

-Janice Monger, President & CEO, Staten Island Museum

“We are honored to join with other buildings in NYC and celebrate the anniversary of this historic occasion by shining purple light through the dome of our 44 Union Square building,

the newly restored and expanded former headquarters of Tammany Hall and the International Ladies Garment Union.”

-Margaret Cotter, Reading International, Inc.

“Luna Park in Coney Island is thrilled to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women gaining the right to vote in the United States, but we recognize that we have a long road ahead of us and much work to do in order to truly achieve Women’s Equality - an essential objective in a just society.”

- Alessandro Zamperla, President and CEO of Central Amusement International Inc.

“We are proud to help commemorate this important moment in the history of our nation.”

-Helena Durst, Durst Organization.

“We are pleased to participate in this effort to help celebrate Women’s Equality Day.”

- Jason Morros, Edison Properties – Manhattan Mini Storage

“We are proud to partner with WomensActivism.NYC to help light the city in purple in honor of Women's Equality Day. One hundred years after the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave some but not all women the right to vote, we continue to explore the complex legacy of this legislation. We are shining a light on the steps still left to take on the road to universal suffrage by uplifting the voices of women artists, activists, scholars, students, and leaders in our community through the 100 Years | 100 Women initiative found at 100years100women.net.”

-Rebecca Robertson, Park Avenue Armory, Founding President & Executive Producer

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**Department of Records
& Information Services**

Buildings and Bridges that will be lit in purple on August 26, 2020 – list in formation

Central Amusement International Inc

Luna Park in Coney Island (Brooklyn)

The City of New York

City Hall (Manhattan)

David N. Dinkins Municipal Building (Manhattan)

The Durst Organization

One Bryant Park (Manhattan)
151 West 42nd Street (Manhattan)
One World Trade Center (Manhattan)

Edison Properties, Manhattan Mini Storage

220 South Street (Manhattan)
543 West 43rd Street (Manhattan)

Empire State Realty Trust

Empire State Building

Grand Central Partnership

Grand Central Station windows (Manhattan)
The Pershing Viaduct (Manhattan)

The Howard Hughes Corporation

Pier 17 in the Seaport District (Manhattan)

The New-York Historical Society

170 Central Park West (Manhattan)

Park Avenue Armory

643 Park Avenue (Manhattan)

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Bayonne Bridge
Goethals Bridge
One World Trade Center (Manhattan)

Reading International, Inc.

44 Union Square (Manhattan)

Related Properties

Bronx Terminal Market – 610 Exterior Street (Bronx)
Hudson Yards (Manhattan)
The Shops at Columbus Circle (Manhattan)

RXR Realty

Helmsley Building – 230 Park Avenue (Manhattan)

The Staten Island Museum

1000 Richmond Terrace (Staten Island)

Vornado Realty Trust

The Bloomberg Tower - 731 Lexington Avenue (Manhattan)