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**THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**  
COUNCIL MEMBER · 45<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT · BROOKLYN

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October 18, 2017

To my colleagues on the Council,

As you know, I am deeply committed to becoming the next Speaker of the New York City Council. In recent weeks, I have been speaking to a diverse coalition of New Yorkers both inside and outside of the city government. I've had the privilege of speaking with many of you, and I look forward to continuing our personal conversations about how I could best raise your voices and those of all New Yorkers as Speaker.

In my conversations and in some media outlets, there has been significant confusion and misconception regarding my positions on two issues of deep concern to this governing body and the entire city, and I want to take this opportunity to address and clarify those issues.

*Let me be as clear as I can.* I support marriage equality for our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQIA communities. I support a woman's right to have access to a safe, legal abortion.

Like many of us, I'm sure, I have views and beliefs which have developed and progressed throughout a lifetime of experiences, conversations and engagement with people all across our city. Constant among them is the promotion of equality, equity, and access to healthcare for all New Yorkers, a fundamental principle for which I've long worked and on which I would never relent or compromise. If I am privileged enough to become your Speaker, I would continue these efforts as a firm advocate for LGBTQIA and women's rights.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to discuss these and the many other issues facing our city with you all. Thank you very much for sharing your concerns and counsel with me as we work to improve the everyday lives of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Williams", written in a cursive style.

Jumaane D. Williams  
Council Member 45<sup>th</sup> District