



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Contact: 212-788-7116
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Statement by Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Re: Disciplinary Action Against Council Employee Viola Plummer

Several weeks ago an employee of the New York City Council, Ms. Viola Plummer, flagrantly disrupted the proceedings of the Council by continuously shouting throughout an official meeting and not heeding the Public Advocate's requests to be orderly. At the meeting's conclusion, during an interview with the news media, she made an incendiary and violent statement about a Council Member.

Ms. Plummer's behavior and subsequent comments were disgraceful and thoroughly unacceptable for a Council employee or anyone on the City's payroll.

We fully respect individuals' right to free speech and expression. However, no one – most notably Council employees acting in their official capacity – has the right to willfully disrupt Council meetings or to threaten anyone.

We have determined that these behaviors warrant disciplinary action and that the most appropriate course of action is to suspend Ms. Plummer without pay for a period of six weeks. Further, as a condition for her return to work at the Council, Ms. Plummer must sign a document agreeing to conduct herself appropriately in the future and to cease being disruptive in the Council Chambers, as well as in other Council venues or during the course of Council affairs. She must sign and return this document to the City Council within three business days. After thoughtfully and deliberately considering legal and other factors, we decided this was the best course of action.

The Council will not tolerate violent or disruptive behavior, nor will we take lightly any threat made against one of our Members. When someone is entrusted with serving the people of New York City, they are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and professionally.

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