



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**Testimony of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams
New York City Council Committee on Land Use
May 4, 2016**

Good morning, Chair David G. Greenfield and members of the New York City Council Committee on Land Use. My name is Eric L. Adams, and I am the Brooklyn borough president, representing the 2.6 million residents who call Brooklyn home. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Res. No. 0985, which calls upon the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to designate the Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island as a scenic landmark pursuant to Section 3020 of the New York City Charter. I thank Council Members Mark Treyger and Chaim Deutsch for introducing this resolution and for championing this important issue.

I understand that Res. No. 0985 would not grant landmark status to the iconic 93-year-old structure. Instead, it calls on LPC to provide the designation, which would recognize the boardwalk as one of the City's historic locations and prevent future changes from being done without a public review. I support the sentiments of several community leaders and advocates who have argued the wooden planks provide greater protection against storm surges than the new materials. As impermeable surfaces, concrete increases the risk of beach erosion and flooding during storms. Without the designation, the boardwalk is in danger of losing its character and charm.

Furthermore, the boardwalk's unique design has long been an inspiration to filmmakers, photographers, and painters. Modern artists have continued to explore the boardwalk's architecture while reflecting on its history. The boardwalk has shaped the history of Coney Island as much as — if not more than — the other resorts and amusement parks that have been lost to the ages.

In conclusion, I believe the tide is turning on the shores of Brighton Beach and Coney Island, with local residents and citywide leaders uniting to say that 'wood is good' for the historic Riegelmann Boardwalk.

This is a world-famous landmark with international appeal that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors a year, and serves as a catalyst of economic development for Coney Island and the rest of the borough. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to determine how we can best preserve the character of our beloved boardwalk.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Res. No. 0985.