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FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES (FPWA) HOSTS ITS 15th ANNUAL CITY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST FEATURING NYC CITY COUNCIL LEADERS

New York, NY (Friday, May 1, 2015) - The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) held its 15th Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, April 30th featuring New York City Council Members Margaret Chin, Robert Cornegy Jr., Laurie Cumbo, Corey Johnson, Donovan Richards and Helen Rosenthal. The breakfast was an open and host dialogue between elected officials and community-based organizations about programs and policies directed at providing economic opportunities and upward mobility to disenfranchised groups.

Speakers at the City Legislative Breakfast included FPWA CEO and Executive Director, Jennifer Jones Austin, who outlined FPWA's key initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, advancing upward mobility, and creating shared prosperity. Jones-Austin said that "In order to create a city of shared prosperity, we must create strategies for upward mobility for the most vulnerable. Every individual and family must have equal access to quality education, and health and income opportunities that will further ensure economic stability and upward mobility. To us, that means a city where workers do not retire in poverty, families are adequately housed, no one is hungry, everyone is employed, healthcare is accessible to all, and neighborhoods are thriving."

The FPWA initiatives Jones-Austin highlighted included Access Health NYC, the Anti-Poverty Initiative, Career Ladder Project/Non-Profit Living Wage Campaign, Day Laborer Initiative, Senior Case Management programs and the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative. Other highlights of the FPWA 15th Annual Legislative Breakfast included Council Member Margaret Chin, who discussed how increased funding is needed for seniors in New York, while Council Member Donovan Richards addressed environmental issues as equal opportunity issues and he proclaimed that climate change can't be addressed without addressing inequality. Council Member Corey Johnson said talked about providing all New Yorker's with access to affordable and culturally competent health care

and Laurie Cumbo talked about diversity and inclusion for minority businesses. Among those from FPWA leading the citywide legislative and advocacy efforts are James March, the Chair of the Social Policy Committee of the Board of Directors of FPWA, Wayne Ho, Chief Program Officer for FPWA, and Esther Lok, Interim Director of Policy, Advocacy and Research for FPWA.

About FPWA

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy, and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of nearly 200 human-service and faith-based organizations. Each year, through its network of member agencies, FPWA reaches close to 1.5 million New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations. FPWA strives to build a city of equal opportunity that reduces poverty, promotes upward mobility, and creates shared prosperity for all New Yorkers. Visit us at www.fpwa.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).