



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

**Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.**

Dear Hostos Community,



The Hostos Community Family extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of former Deputy Borough President and New York State Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene, a champion for the Bronx and a supporter of the mission of our college. We are saddened by her loss.

A Bronx native, Greene served in the New York State Assembly for the 77<sup>th</sup> district from 1982 to 2009, and before that she was the Female Democratic District Leader of the 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in the Bronx. In 2009, incoming Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. asked Assemblywoman Greene to join his administration as Deputy Borough President, a position that she stayed in until her retirement in 2017.

“During my time in the New York State Assembly, there was a trailblazing woman that I looked up to for guidance. When the people of The Bronx gave me the opportunity to serve as Borough President, I knew I needed her by my side. Aurelia Greene embodied what it means to be both a public servant and profound human being. She had her own life and family, but she dedicated herself to the borough for more than five decades, and never stopped serving us,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Greene was the one-time Dean of the Assembly’s Bronx Delegation, a leadership position recognizing her wealth of knowledge about Bronx politics and keen understanding of what the people of the Bronx needed from their elected officials. She was also the one-time Chair of the Assembly’s powerful Banking Committee. Greene used her office to fight for affordable housing and healthcare, quality education, senior services, youth services, and employment opportunities for her constituents.

Friend and former colleague, retired Assemblyman Joe Lentol who worked with Greene for over 25 years said, “She was a class act, and I don’t think anyone would disagree with that. She presided over the Assembly as

Speaker Pro Tempore from 2006 to 2009, the first African American man or woman to hold that position, and she made the Assembly look good in doing so. She treated everyone with respect. Intelligent, knowledgeable about government, and never afraid to speak her mind on behalf of her constituents, that was Aurelia Greene.”

Greene was also a mentor to two of the Bronx’s current elected officials, Council Member Vanessa Gibson and Assembly Member Latoya Joyner, both of whom began their careers in government as interns in Greene’s Assembly office, later becoming staff members and ultimately succeeding her in her Assembly seat, first Gibson in 2009 and later Joyner in 2014.

“Mrs. Greene was my political mentor and a second mother to me and many others in the Bronx,” Council Member Gibson stated. “Mrs. Greene was committed, compassionate, caring, consistent, and most importantly, a woman of faith. She was a role model that exemplified what it meant to be a public servant and empowered youth to follow in her footsteps. Mrs. Greene truly meant the world to me and to so many others whose lives have been impacted by her over 40 years in public service as a parent leader, a community leader, an Assemblywoman, and Deputy Borough President.”

“She was a personal mentor to me and countless other women, and her dignified leadership set a fine example that I have sought to follow throughout my tenure as a state legislator,” said Assembly Member Joyner. “A truly wise woman of great distinction and dignity, Mrs. Greene assisted countless families in the Claremont, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden and Morris Heights communities.”

Greene was married to the late Reverend Jerome A. Greene, and is survived by two children, Rhonda and Russell, and five grandchildren.

“I would like to extend my condolences to Aurelia’s friends and family, and pray that they find comfort during this time,” Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said in a statement. “I know that those who knew her will forever cherish the many great memories we shared with her, and will strive to continue the legacy she has left behind.”

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