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Planned Parenthood of New York City

**\*\*\*OFFICIAL STATEMENT\*\*\***

**Planned Parenthood of New York City Supports  
Ending the Use of Condoms as Evidence of Prostitution in New York State**  
*Urges the NYC Council to Pass Res 0264-2014 in support of A.2736/S.1379*

Planned Parenthood of New York City urges the New York City Council to pass Res 0264-2014 in support of A.2736/S.1379, which would amend state law by prohibiting using possession of a condom as evidence in prostitution and prostitution related trials, hearings or proceedings.

For several years, we have worked alongside fellow advocates to support comprehensive legislation to prevent the use of condoms as evidence of charges related to sex work. As a leading reproductive health care provider in New York City, we strongly believe that no New Yorker should fear carrying condoms because they risk those condoms being introduced as evidence of prostitution. We are proud to provide services in a city that, due in large part to the leadership and innovation of our Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has one of the largest and most successful condom distribution programs in the country. We know that a combination of access, education and service provision will ensure a safer, healthier city.

We applaud the recent announcement by the NYPD that they will stop confiscating condoms for certain charges related to sex work. However, we urge the New York City Council to strongly advocate for the passage of statewide legislation to ensure that no one anywhere in the state of New York has to fear arrest or harassment for carrying condoms. For too long our policies have made many New Yorkers afraid to protect themselves. Carrying condoms should never be used as evidence for a crime.

As a leading healthcare provider in New York City serving all individuals regardless of their ability to pay, we recognize the intersection of public safety and public health. We applaud Council Members Menchaca and Williams for their leadership on this issue and thank members of the New York City Council for continuing to stand up with Planned Parenthood.

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Since 1916, Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) has been an advocate for and provider of reproductive health services and education for New Yorkers. Serving more than 50,000 clients annually, PPNYC's health care centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Staten Island offer reproductive health services, including gynecological care, life-saving cancer screenings, male reproductive health services, contraception, pregnancy testing, abortion, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and HIV testing and counseling. Through a threefold mission of clinical services, education, and advocacy, PPNYC is bringing better health and more fulfilling lives to each new generation of New Yorkers. As a voice for sexual and reproductive health equity, PPNYC supports legislation and policies to ensure that all New Yorkers—and, in fact, people around the world—will have access to the full range of reproductive health care services and information.