

Judge Kaplan: Good morning.

Audience: Good morning.

Judge Kaplan: And love to everyone. My name is Debra Kaplan. I am the deputy chief administrative judge on the New York City courts, a position that Judge Ellerin herself once held, something that makes this very, very special.

I'm delighted to greet those of you who are present in the room as well as those joining us online for the dedication of the Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin Children's Center ceremonial space, children's section.

Because of the health and safety concerns, we were forced to limit the number of people here today but assembled are representatives of many facets of our community, legal and beyond, which Betty has touched by all that she has done, made so much better.

For her family, we just noted her selflessness personally [inaudible]. We have traveled from near and far, [inaudible] for [inaudible] family, for friends in the bar, for the greater New York Community, [inaudible] family, Women of the Courts, other committee members, and of course our own core family, all of which love you so very much, but we would open the doors to the love of all those who Betty has touched, who are enriched by her kindness. The line would stretch around the block.

This is an auspicious day for our court system and for our community at large. The force behind this momentous occasion is, of course, the Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin herself.

What a force of nature Judge Ellerin is. Judge Ellerin is energetic and unstoppable, and her extensive impact on our court system for the legal community and far, far because simply cannot be appreciated. On a personal level, first and foremost, Judge Ellerin is truly one of my dearest friends. I treasure her for her wisdom and for her support and am eternally grateful that she is [inaudible].

Judge Ellerin's friends never have to ask for her help. She intuitively knows when she is needed and makes certain to reach out to you before you even need to seek her assistance. Betty's love knows no bounds. However, Judge Ellerin is not just steadfast and supportive of her friends. She is the rare individual who will risk her own position and wellbeing to do what's right. Judge Ellerin always seeks out those who do not have a voice and advocate to speak for them.

[inaudible] perhaps the first of what will be many, many leadership roles as president of the New York [inaudible] Association in 1969, Judge Ellerin focused on issues affecting young lawyers and women in general, including abortion reform, breaking new barriers, and men only dining club, which it's hard to believe they still have, and domestic violence. Her work this year on the New York [inaudible] also demonstrates her lifelong dedication and commitment to the advancement of women.

Those are just two examples of Judge Ellerin's extraordinary and groundbreaking accomplishments. I'm certain you're going to hear about even more, but the fact is that by showing up and expressing her opinions boldly and sometimes loudly, again and again, rightfully so, Judge Ellerin has made the law and a lot of people's lives better, including domestic abuse survivors and their children.

When Judge Ellerin believes in a cause or a [inaudible], there is nothing in the world that can slow her enthusiasm or passion, and once you meet her, you know that you have met someone who never gives up when it comes to advocating for the ideas and ideals in which she believes, and Betty's commitment is infectious. You can't wait to take the journey with her, and all those in her hand that want to rise up with her and affect positive change, Judge Ellerin, as I'm sure you agree, the consummate leader.

She speaks eloquently and articulately and thoughtfully. There is a genuine and deep warmth and compassion, and sometimes wicked sense of humor, which indicates [inaudible] which makes whoever she is speaking with feel as if they are Judge Ellerin's best friend. I'd like to think I am among your best friends today.

Judge Ellerin, it's a supreme honor for me to be here and share this most special of days with you. You are an exceptional individual. You have much improved the lives of so many in so many ways. Your achievements are various and nothing short of remarkable. Personally, I value our friendship beyond all measure.

[inaudible] stand at someone's shoulder if you believe in the number one online source for legal, Google, [inaudible] that you wrote. If I have seen further, it's by standing on the shoulders of giants. Judge Ellerin, maybe short in stature but you are the giant among us. We all stand on your shoulders, so congratulations on this most [inaudible] honor.

I'd now like to call to the podium our chief administrative judge, the Honorable Lawrence K Marks.

Judge Marks:

Good morning everyone, and thanks for coming out today in not such great weather. What a privilege it is to be here this morning to dedicate the court system's newest children's center in honor of Betty Weinberg Ellerin, a trailblazing judge whose seven decade career has been defined by so many historic firsts such as the first woman law clerk in the New York State courts, and the first woman presiding justice of the Appellate Division First Department, and by her deep commitment and impeccable work to improve the treatment of women and children in our courts and the justice system.

I want to start by acknowledging the role of District Attorney Cyrus Vance and thanking him for his generous work on this much needed children's center in one of the busiest courthouses in our state, a safe, welcoming place that will allow caregivers and caring in the Manhattan branches of the civil, housing, and criminal courts to leave their children in the caring hands of trained professionals while they appear for important court business.

Experience has shown that many of the children who accompany their parents to court come from low-income backgrounds and other [inaudible] communities. The children's center will offer opportunities for positive interventions in the lives of these children with access to enriching educational resources, vital healthcare, and nutritional support services while avoiding the need to expose them to disturbing scenes or to make them wait in tedious and uncomfortable court spaces where they can become a distraction to caregivers in the transaction of court business.

So not only are we absolutely thrilled to open this much needed children's center in this busy court location to provide a safe and supportive haven for children, but we are beyond elated, over the moon in fact, to be able to dedicate this space in honor of Betty Weinberg Ellerin, a veritable giant as Judge Kaplan said, not so much in height, but in every other aspect, American giant in the history of the justice system in this state.

Judge Ellerin's entire legal and judicial career has been devoted to ensuring equal treatment of women in the justice system. In the early 1960s, she worked with Chief Judge Lawrence Cook to create... Did I say the '60s? In the early 1980s, she worked with Chief Judge Lawrence Cook to create a taskforce on women in courts, a process that led to the creation of a permanent institution, the Committee on Women in Courts, which under her leadership has worked tirelessly over the last 25 years to secure equal justice, equal treatment, and equal opportunity for women

working and appearing in the New York State courts, for changes in law, policy, and education and training.

So, it's not surprising that when Chief Judge Judith Kaye created the permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, one of the very first people she consulted was Judge Ellerin, who had the brilliant idea of creating nurturing spaces in our courthouses where overwhelmed parents could safely leave their children for a few hours while appearing in court to deal with stressful family, matrimonial, and other issues.

That idea, of course, took off. At the time that we had to sharply reduce in-person operations due to the pandemic, there were 29 children's centers in courthouses all across the state. Today, we are pleased and excited that the prospect of adding to this network, thanks of course to the vision and foresight of Judge Ellerin, who used her considerable powers of persuasion, and I emphasize considerable, to enlist the generous support of District Attorney Vance to create another children's center here in this busy location in Lower Manhattan.

So, thank you, Judge Ellerin. You are a force of nature, and we are so proud and delighted that your inspiring legacy in leadership and service to women and families will live on in the caring work being carried on each day to enrich the lives of children at the Betty Weinberg Ellerin Children's center. Thank you.

Judge Kaplan: Thank you, Judge Marks. I'd like to thank Charlie for his generosity with this endeavor and many others. I'd now like to ask Honorable Cyrus Vance, Jr., District Attorney of New York, back to the podium to address us.

Cyrus Vance: Good morning, everybody.

Audience: Good morning.

Cyrus Vance: I personally am thrilled to see everybody, many of whom I've not seen in person for more than a year and a half, but to have us all join here today in honor of Judge Ellerin and the work that she had fought so hard to promote is fantastic. In my office, I just want to recognize Maggie Wall and Catherine [inaudible] who are probably known to many of you very well, who are the folks who took the idea and were able to run with it and Judge Ellerin working with the court system, and I think they deserve the real thanks of my office.

Well, Judge Ellerin. I can think of no better way to honor your legacy than the opening of this center to be designed to help families, fathers, mothers, and their children while they are in this court system and in this courthouse. I also want to thank all members of the unified court system and the Department of Citywide [inaudible] Services for their hard work in making this children's center a reality.

My sister, Amy, who passed away in 2008 was a long-term employee of OCA working with Judge Kaye. I think she would be very happy today to see where your efforts, Judge Ellerin, have taken us. Now, it's been a very... We're proud to be able to support this center, being the center of commerce and finance in Manhattan. We are shocked, shocked to find there was financial grumbling by certain of the large banks that belong to our system but thank you.

I've got a great office, great assistants, and great investigators who over the course of decades have prosecuted or investigated about 12 of those banks, which returns the city or the state well deserved funds for [inaudible], a portion going to our office. Of a portion that came to our office, we've been able to use it to help children and families and returning citizens from prison as well as especially [inaudible] the victim and any other programs that were funded by our Criminal Justice Investment Initiative.

Today, [inaudible] of funding, I couldn't be prouder to say that we are here to invest in Betty Ellerin and her ideas and the future of this course of support for men, women, and kids who are in the court system and who need our help.

Anyone who has spent any time in this building, and that's you, knows how important this can be. It's not uncommon to hear and see children in our courtrooms, and you know that those courtrooms are really no places for children. Crimes are discussed in those courtrooms and hearings and calls before a case on arraignment. Crimes are described sometimes in graphic detail, and it really is just about the opposite place you would imagine you want a child to be when you come to this courthouse, whether you come as someone accused or you come as the spouse of someone accused. We really need to provide a space for the entire family as part of the service we provide as an institution.

Most families go to court [inaudible] have nowhere to take their children while they come to court. That's going to end soon enough. If you squint and imagine this space in January, February, once hopefully the COVID restrictions have passed, this will look very different. It will be welcoming.

It will be focused on families and focused on a space where children can feel comfortable. I just can't imagine an addition to our courthouse that has provided a free of cost, positive environment for kids and their parents and their caregivers while their parents attend to court matters.

I also am sure this will probably improve the attendance rate of their parents for court hearings, which in turn should mean faster and I think therefore fairer solutions to court matters that many have here.

Like all of our investments, our goal is to meet and serve the needs of those who are in this courthouse, but also to provide pathways to longer term solutions for folks who find themselves in the justice system. With that goal in mind, it's our hope, as has been referenced, that the center will not only provide valuable childcare, but importantly will also serve as a resource center for participating families.

Employees of the center will provide referrals for food assistance, for shelter, for early childhood education, employment assistance, and other community programs for participating families who may not have otherwise been able to seek out these opportunities. From my perspective, those are huge additions to the work of this center when it's up and running, and ones of which I think we all can be very proud.

As we've seen time and time again, the chance to provide families and children assistance [inaudible] services will also, I think, go a long way towards keeping families out of the criminal justice system.

In closing, it's been a great run to have been the district attorney for 12 years. It's been fabulous to work with all of you, and I've truly loved it. When I recover, I will look back on the opportunity to have played a role in creating this children's center and family support center for the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands of families who you've seen come through this courthouse in the last 10 years. Think forward 10 years how many families and how many kids will benefit from what Judge Ellerin foresaw in her mind because of her commitment, and which she never, ever let me forget every time she'd see me, so [inaudible].

I'm very proud to be part of this. My office is proud to be part of this. My sister Amy would be very proud to have known that we were all here together, and all that's now left, I think, is to introduce the star of the show, the woman whose idea brings us all here today and makes this possible, Judge Ellerin.

Judge Ellerin:

I'm very overwhelmed, almost speechless [inaudible]. You notice I took the mask off. It's not for me. First, I want to thank my [inaudible] Chief Judge, my gratitude for a beautiful and overly generous remarks she made about me in her last broadcast. It's no secret that I have been an admirer and supporter of the Chief Judge's programs from the beginning when she came in and said court backlogs were intolerable. She endeared herself to me beyond belief. My attitude is people bring cases. They want resolution, and that's exactly what she started to do, and very effectively with her excellent program.

Unfortunately, a little thing called COVID came in and interrupted it rather brutally, but even there, she managed to overcome the terrors of that disease, which we're still confronted with, as I look around at the masks that all of you are wearing, but she did it courageously and really in a way that made the courts stay open and for purposes of handling all the cases that were critical. I think we all, every citizen of the state, owes her a vote of thanks for the manner in which she has conducted the court system under these terrible conditions.

In this sense, she was lucky. She has a wonderful partner, and his name is Larry Marks. You heard it today. Larry is terrific, to put it mildly. I didn't always feel that way. I felt he was a little [inaudible]. I'll put it like this. As time has gone on, I realized that really what a terrific person he is in so many regards.

First of all, he's unflappable. Nothing upsets him too much. He also is a person to whom you can come and bring ideas and problems and he listens. And when he makes a case, I can sometimes sell him on it, but that's one thing I couldn't sell him about for this event, and you'll hear about it later, but I'm going to forgive him anyway.

Those were beautiful, beautiful remarks, Larry, and I can't tell you how much I appreciate them coming from you. Whenever I've asked for anything, you've always come through.

Now, let me also acknowledge the very recently retired chief administrative judge for the courts of the city of New York, George Sylva, who single handedly settled the most difficult and contentious cases pending throughout the court system and at the same time Larry and I [inaudible] administrative duties throughout COVID, not an easy task to put it mildly, but in today's context, he also played a critical role in recapturing the physical space where the original children's center had been located and before it had to be abandoned in 2007 and '08 due to,

as usual, a financial crisis. The consequences of that recession linger on, and the space was commandeered for other purposes.

Well, when George came in, he managed to make it available again for us for the children's center. Now his successor, and that would be Debra Kaplan, is, as you have already heard, a remarkable talent who is also doing a superb job as she has already proven administratively, in her new position, and let me say my affection for both Judges Kaplan and Sylva is boundless.

I was honored to swear each of them in when they were elected to the Supreme Court and to watch their wonderful careers emerge, and I consider them my judicial children and I love them very dearly. I continue to be proud.

By the way, I've got to say that Judge Kaplan and I both have great judgment. We share an internist [inaudible]. Are you here? [inaudible] the best doctor in the whole world. Okay.

Now finally, let me firstly welcome all of you to this ceremony. The very limited number of family and friends that I was permitted to invite in person under COVID restrictions and the court leaders, some of whom are here, who will have the benefit of this new facility and they also will be its caretakers, I want to greet you warmly. I appreciate your being here, especially since you did not put in an order for today's [inaudible]. I do want to say to all of the friends and colleagues who I would have invited but unfortunately because of those restrictions could not, and I wish you were here, but we are going to have this thing taped and hopefully, if you would like, a link will be sent to you and you can watch these proceedings.

Actually, I feel I really should not be the one for whom this center is named. When Judge Marks called to tell me that Judge DiFiore had decided that the children's center should be named for me, I said, "No, no. It really should be named after Cy Vance, District Attorney Vance. He's the one who really made it possible."

When Larry responded, "No, it's going to be you," I'll tell you the truth. I didn't fight. [inaudible] listen, I accept [inaudible]. But in fact, were it not for District Attorney Cyrus Vance, we would not be here today.

My commitment to safe places within the courthouse, within courthouses, where parents who cannot afford childcare or babysitters can safely leave their young children while attending court proceedings

goes back to the mid-1980s when the various gender bias task forces, including one in New York established by Judge Cook, held hearings raising relevant issues about the treatment of women in various capacities in our court system. As litigants and as victims, it was clear that access to our courts was essential.

When a litigant, a potential litigant, and frankly primarily women, could not attend crucial court proceedings in housing court or the civil court or the criminal court because of childcare responsibilities, devastating consequences could and did ensue. What [inaudible] many children's centers were open throughout the state until the 2008 recession that you heard about. That caused many to be closed or the hours to be sharply curtailed.

Well, that was a *bête noire* to me, and at our various court meetings, which take place regularly throughout the year, I would raise the issue. "We've got to do something," and at one of those meetings one of the members, I think it was Juanita [inaudible], said, "You know, the DA's office has forfeiture money."

Well.

Now, within a few days I called District Attorney Vance. I had been a very early supporter of his because he ran shortly after I went off the bench. Let me digress for one moment and say I think Cy has done a wonderful job in that office in the tradition of Bob Morgenthau, who we all idolize, and he really has done credit to his late mentor. I certainly hope that even though he's now leaving the office, he will continue to be a voice in the community because he is a very valuable and persuasive voice, and I know I have never for one moment regretted my strong support of him.

In any event, I did call. I got an appointment immediately, and he met with me and I told him what I wanted. Without the slightest hesitation, he said, "Yes," that there was a fund that could be used for worthy causes such as this, and that could fund the center for three years after it was constructed.

He called in a couple of his top aides, assigned the project to them, and told them to work with me, actually with the city and the court people who take care of the many details necessary to make it a physical reality, and voila, one morning I'm in my office in the middle of this pandemic, and I see in my mail a letter mailed [inaudible] address, very impressive, of Mr. [inaudible]. I opened it quickly and was advised that a check for

\$988,000 is being allocated for the construction of the young children's center.

Well.

I ran out screaming, [inaudible] people, and in addition, the operation will be funded for three years. I think you can understand why I believe that the center really should be named for Cy because he truly made it possible, and he is owed a debt of gratitude, not just from the courts, but from the litigants and from others who otherwise would not have access to the critical proceedings and [inaudible] that requires their presence in court. Please give District Attorney Cyrus Vance a standing ovation.

At this point, I also want to thank the members of one of our committees, New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts. You never accomplish things all by yourself. I am so lucky to have really a statewide committee of very talented members and let me thank Larry in that regard. He won't appoint anybody until he calls me. "What do you think of so-and-so," and I really appreciate that, Larry.

In any event, the court dedicated that our committee is really dedicated to eliminating bias in consequentialities such as gender. We are really committed for affording all, everyone, who uses our courts fair and equitable treatment.

Now, our committee was set up by then Chief Judge [inaudible] in 1986, and it was recommended by a report issued by the Gender Bias Task Force, and that task force detailed the extent of bias and unfairness that infected our court system in the treatment of women lawyers, women litigants, and witnesses, and extensive and exhaustive recommendations were made as to how to address these wrongs. Our committee has worked, I'd say, tirelessly over the years to implement as many of those recommendations as are possible.

To see where we were, a couple of years ago at one of our meetings, we said, "You know, it's time to do another report." Little did we know some of the handicaps that [inaudible]. In any event, we did. We worked for a couple of years on this report, gathering statistics, and working with [inaudible] very, very hard. That report was issued in, I think, November 2020. It documents in detail the progress we have made in overcoming many of the wrongs identified in the earlier report, but it also details continuing persistence of inappropriate conduct that were committed to [inaudible].

Again, this report too includes very specific recommendations about how to do that. Our commitment to that goal is strong and unswerving. If you have not yet read the 2020 report, I urge you to do so. It's on our website and I think you'll find many aspects [inaudible], unfortunate [inaudible].

At this point, I want to warmly acknowledge the critical role played by our executive director, Sean [inaudible], a native of Texas, whose contributions to the successes we have achieved in our committee are incalculable. Her extraordinary knowledge and insight into the scourge of violence against women and the tireless efforts to keep a local [inaudible], we have one in every district in the state, active in achieving our goals has been both remarkable and invaluable. Frankly and personally, I find her indispensable and want to tell her how grateful both I and every member of the committee are for everything she does. Show of hands.

[inaudible] restrictions on numbers, we decided not to invite a few members of the committee, but just they're all going to see it on tape. Now needless to say, today's a pretty wonderful day for me, notwithstanding [inaudible]. Never did I dream that I would have a courtroom named after me, and I thank Judge DiFiore and Judge Marks beyond measure for making that decision. The day's made extra special because I'm surrounded by my immediate family, by some members of my court family, and my newest family from the firm of Wilson and [inaudible].

First let me introduce my immediate family who have given me more joy over the years than I can express. My eldest son, Seth Robert [inaudible] in Houston, Texas. My younger son, Bruce Elkin Ellerin, a radiology oncologist in Tyler, Texas. He also happens to have a law degree and a PhD. My daughter [inaudible], from [inaudible] is a healthcare specialist, frequently included in the 100 best lists. My younger granddaughter, Alexandra Ellerin [inaudible] who is in real estate in Houston, and my grandson, Morgan [inaudible], a supervisor and tennis pro at Houston's most exclusive country club. [inaudible] sideline, they got married on February 29th, 2020. Okay? One week later and it would have been disaster.

Now I would like to acknowledge those of my appellate division family. First, the current presiding justice, the Honorable [inaudible] Acosta who is [inaudible] successfully navigated the court through the [inaudible] and dangers of COVID. Thank you for doing a good [inaudible]. The most senior associate justice of that court, the Honorable Angela [inaudible]. When she was a law assistant and I was about to go on the bench, and

she truly is my younger sister at the law, and when I was on the appellate division, I was the only woman for 10 years. Then Angie became my colleague, and we had the most wonderful 10 years together. By the way, today that bench [inaudible] women.

While we were together, we were planning Angie's wedding. Let me tell you, the appellate division never saw anything like that before. Her husband Steve is here. Then I think Barbara [inaudible] is here. Now Barbara [inaudible]. She worked for a judge. Then the chief judge, clerk of the court I believe is here, Joanne Susanna Rojas, and Peter Johnson. He's chair of the first department Committee on Character and Fitness. Peter has a special place in my life. He's a son of the legendary fire warden, Peter Johnson, who adopted me when I was a young law assistant, and our families became intertwined. I remember when Peter was born, and he has been a part of our family ever since and has done a wonderful job as chair of the committee. Peter, you are here. Stand up.

Veronica [inaudible], the chief counsel executive director of the Committee on Character and Fitness, she has brought a breath of fresh air and creativity to the meetings of the committee, has done a wonderful job. Veronica, stand up.

Now, when I reached mandatory retirement age and had to leave the court system after 50 years, 20 as a law clerk to a judge or a couple of judges, and 30 as a judge myself, it was a pretty traumatic time. I guess, and [inaudible] the time it's still problematic to me, but I had been a [inaudible] when my time was coming to a close. I had been approached by several firms, and I was close to accepting one of the offers that had been made, although I really wasn't quite sure that it was right for me.

Then I received a call from a lawyer who I did not know, and he said he was calling at the suggestion of that icon [inaudible], Roy Grimm, who I had known and loved for 50 years, and Roy unfortunately can't be here because [inaudible], and the minute he mentioned that name, of course, I sat up and listened. And [inaudible], Mr. Cambria indicated that he was a partner at [inaudible], a firm whose headquarters were in Atlanta, but they had an office in New York. He [inaudible]. Joe Adams stand up. Where are you?

[inaudible] he brought along... By the way, by the time he came for lunch, I checked him out. I had heard he was a fabulous trial lawyer, and I heard it from some of the toughest people in the profession. I now can add to that list of [inaudible]. He's a dynamo, okay? He brought along a younger

partner named Carl [inaudible] who I also know to be a very fine lawyer in the tradition of John.

Well, that was a very interesting lunch. It ended then, chatting, and the bottom line is they charmed me. They charmed me into going. Hey, listen. You got good trial lawyers; they know how to do that. Then I agreed I would go to Atlanta to meet the firm's top management, including the then [inaudible] managing partner, Ben Johnson, a truly, you know, the classical southern gentleman. He charmed me, too.

I was asked to join the New York office as a senior counsel for motivation [inaudible]. I accepted. The leadership of the firm, the current Richard Hayes [inaudible], and I must commend how he has steered the firm through the COVID period, actually brilliantly on and upbeat way and without [inaudible] and sowing confidence in all those who work for the firm. He I'm most appreciative, because he and all the other leadership of the firm have been tremendously supportive of my various bar and committee activities and pro bono activities.

In the earlier years, having the [inaudible] Jane Hutchinson was terrific in that regard to me. They not only supported me in my pro bono efforts, but they also made the firm and firm resources to the committees' activities. I'd say [inaudible] our report 2020 could not have been written without the way in which the firm greeted all of our members and meetings that we had. I do want to mention a partner named Matt [inaudible]. They had pro bono. The firm is so good to pro bono, and Matt is a wonderful representative of that.

Okay? Then there are a group who I consider part of my family because they're the ones, really, who keep me going through thick and thin and have been over the years, my administrative assistants. First, Lisa [inaudible] who always [inaudible] while she efficiently fulfills all the duties I give her, but our corner of the office, people come because it's so much fun. I'm telling you the truth. Then [inaudible] any situation, and she too gets it as done, and then Doris [inaudible] COVID as the opportunity to retire, I mean the most... Talk about unflappable. I never saw her lose her cool in all of the years that we've worked together. She's just remarkable. She still calls me regularly to make sure that I'm okay, and then someone who couldn't be here, Judy Kidd who had a dental appointment today, but who is utterly wonderful in ensuring that I'm okay.

Now, Carl and John, where you are, I will be ever grateful that you charmed me into joining the firm, which has truly been one of the most

enriching periods of my professional life. As you've heard, I was limited to a very small number of invitees, and everyone in this room is very special to me. I think you all know that.

There are many, many more that would have been. Actually, I gave Charlotte a much longer list, and then she said, "No, you can't invite... You can only invite this many," and there was this thick red line. I can only communicate with the rest of them by the link.

Before I close, there are a few friends. As you can see, my physical condition, I'm okay from the neck up [inaudible] created some problems in the last couple of months, but there are a few friends who for the past 12 months have really been above and beyond, schlepping me to appointments. They made sure I had everything I need. I want to acknowledge them because I will truly be forever grateful. Sherry and Dean Heitler [inaudible], [inaudible] Sherman, Joanne Douglas, and the Honorable Carl [inaudible] with everything that's going on. I will be ever grateful to each of you.

Listen, it's no secret that I'm a Jewish mother, so my daughters were having this ceremony. Clearly at the end of the ceremony, we've got to have some kind of collation or repast, and I said I'm perfectly willing to pay for it. No, we can't have it. I called Larry. I must have called him 100 times. He stopped taking my calls. That was the first time he ever did that. I'm really sorry that there is no such collation. I'm hopeful in the future we may be able to set something up where we can just celebrate, but I can't tell you what it means to me to have had all of you here today to join with me in what is a day that I will never forget. Again, thank each one of you for being here, and I look forward to our continuing seeing each other and working together on behalf of good causes and Cy, I wish you not only the best, but I'm sure the community is going to benefit from having your unique talents. Thank you again.

Judge Kaplan:

So we simply cannot thank you all enough for being here today at this very special dedication ceremony. I know that it's time to leave, but as Judge Ellerin said, we will have a much [inaudible] celebration [inaudible] together. Nonetheless, not even a nor'easter can dampen the joy and excitement of this moment. [inaudible]. The children's center is but a token of the deep respect and tremendous love we have for you and all that you do. You are an outstanding role model, trailblazer, [inaudible] and a beloved, cherished friend to so many of us here today. Betty, may you continue to continue to [inaudible].