



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation


Whereas, You cannot tell the story of New York, the cradle of the American labor movement, without acknowledging the workers who built it, maintained it, and who continue to keep it moving. In 1833, 65 years before the five boroughs unified, the first General Trades' Union was formed. In 1882, 30,000 workers marched in the first Labor Day Parade; and in 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire—a tragedy that claimed the lives of 146 garment workers—necessitated the sudden growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and many of today's comprehensive workplace safety laws and standards. There is no New York City without unions, which is why I am so honored to pay tribute to the New York Labor History Association (NYLHA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Whereas, Founded in 1976 by academics, trade unionists, students, archivists, educators, labor editors, attorneys, and retirees, mostly from New York City and State, NYLHA is a scholarly collective that encourages the study of workers and their organizations and serves as a bridge between past and present labor unionists and historians. Every year, this nonprofit presents free public programs, offers awards for the best research papers in labor and work history by undergraduate and graduate students, and for accomplishments in labor education and journalism. The association will usher in its fifth decade by hosting panel discussions chronicling the last 50 years of US labor history and an analysis of its remarkable achievements.

Whereas, New York City is a union town, and organized labor is one of the strongest tools we have at our disposal for combating income inequality and the affordability crisis so many face today. Generations of working people before us made invaluable contributions to ensuring our metropolis remains the greatest in the world, and through their sweat and struggle have won so many of the hard-earned rights that are taken for granted today, including the 40-hour workweek, minimum wage, overtime pay, Social Security, weekends, and workplace safety standards. Organizations like NYLHA ensure that its time-honored legacy of putting working New Yorkers first, and amplifying their voices, is at the heart of reversing the disparities that have run rampant for far too long in this city and across the nation.

Now therefore, I, Zohran Kwame Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 27, 2026, in the City of New York as:

New York Labor History Association Day


Zohran Kwame Mamdani
Mayor

