



**THE HONORABLE TINA BROZMAN FOUNDATION FOR OVARIAN
CANCER RESEARCH**

Prepared remarks before the New York City Council in support of Res. 380
Resolution recognizing September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in New York City

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Good morning and thank you to the members of the Council for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of Resolution No. 380. My name is Andrew Brozman and I address you in my capacity as a member of the board of directors of the Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research, known as "Tina's Wish." Tina's Wish is focused on one thing – to fund research to promote the early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer.

Our mission was undertaken at the request of my wife shortly before she died of this insidious disease. We have served that mission for just six years but have grown to the third largest independent source of funding for ovarian cancer research in the country. Her charitable foundation has created the Tina Brozman Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium embracing five of the leading research institutions in the country – Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dana Farber, Penn, Yale and Johns Hopkins. MSK currently is acting as the coordinating center for a groundbreaking, collaborative, consortium-wide project of potentially great importance to our mission.

For the last forty years, government funding for ovarian cancer research has declined in real dollars. But the pace of deaths from late detection has not. Unfortunately, with so few survivors of ovarian cancer, the cause has not been broadly championed. That is one of the reasons this Resolution is so appropriate.

Tina's life and work were inextricably bound to the City of New York. She served as the Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York with a view of the Statue of Liberty from her chambers. She practiced law here for almost thirty years, a career sadly interrupted. She raised and educated our children in this great metropolitan area. Finally, this is where she died of a disease that took hold with no warning and no means to beat back its unerring assault.

Without greater and more widespread knowledge about this stealthy killer, women will continue to die owing to late detection. It is fundamental to the protection of the women of the City of New York and elsewhere that a heightened level of knowledge and scrutiny is spread among the general public and the medical community.

It is unfortunate, even unacceptable, that a large portion of our physicians in New York and nationally know too little about, and fail to diagnose, this disease. It is essential that the doctors who treat the citizens of our city at publicly funded or managed medical facilities are equipped with both the knowledge, and, eventually, the means to seek out this hidden illness. They should be fluent in the symptomatology, understand the importance of intra-uterine ultrasounds and, until there is a better test, selectively monitor CA-125 levels, however imperfect the results might be. The women of our city should be counseled to be aware of and take charge of their bodies, to recognize the rather unremarkable symptoms of this disease, at least to the point of asking their physicians to consider the possibility of ovarian cancer.

We and medical science have made great progress in fulfilling Tina's Wish – to save women from her own fate. But, we have much work ahead of us. That work requires the support of the broader citizenry of our city. The adoption by the Council of Resolution 380 will help serve that salutary purpose.