the Islanders, a Down Time



One Sparkling Season

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Mark-Viverito Makes Her Case

East Harlem Council Member Claims Backing to Win Race for Speaker; a Foe Says He Can Still Win

The bruising, behind-the-scenes contest to lead the New York City Council spilled fully into public view Thursday, as one front-runner declared she had the votes to succeed Christine Quinn as speaker—only to have a rival insist the race was far from

Melissa Mark-Viverito, a close ally of Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio, had released a list Wednesday night of 30 written endorse-

> By Josh Dawsey, Mara Gay and Joe Jackson

ments from council members She needs 26 supporters when the 51-member council votes Jan. 8 for its new leader.

By midafternoon Thursday, Mr. de Blasio, at an unrelated event, was referring to "a great working relationship" with her and saying a "pretty extraordi-nary consensus" apparently had coalesced around her candidacy.
Ms. Mark-Viverito, who would









Cyclists Jingle Bells in Prospect Park

A parade of bicyclists will be jingling all the way through Prospect Park on Saturday, dinging their bike bells in time with a musical score.

The occasion for the melodic procession on two wheels is Make Music New York's annual Make Music Winter project

This is the third year that the nonprofit group has sponsored the musical celebrations around the city timed with Dec. 21, the winter solstice. It also hosts events on the summer solstice. June 21.

This month, Make Music New York is hosting 13 parades, but this is the first winter one to feature bicycles.

Make Music New York's goal was to add a new kind of parade to the lineup, said Aaron Fried-

man, the group's president.
"Because Make Music Winter takes place outdoors on what may be a very cold day...it's not always easy to come up with something that works," Mr. Friedman said.

The organization put out a call for proposals, and one from Merche Blasco titled "Blink" caught his eye.

a Spanish-born multimedia artist living in New York, proposed a procession of



Merche Blasco, in the 'conducting helmet'; the artist proposed 'Blink:

bicycles with their riders ringing a musical score on their bikes' bells.

Leading the parade will be two cyclists wearing helmets with five different colored lights attached. The helmets have the musical score preprogrammed and will flash a different light depending on which bell needs to be rung.

All the other cyclists will have color-coded bells, which they will tap when they see their color flash.

"Cyclists will need to listen and respond to each other-and to the ambient sounds in the park-and adjust their rhythm and volume accordingly to create the best music that they can," Mr. Friedman said.

Ms. Blasco said she came up with the idea from cycling around the city.
"Usually while I ride, I am

mumbling or singing improvised pieces where I include signs or billboards that I find in my way, and I am always tempted to in-clude the bell for some parts," she said.

"So as a starting point I wanted to create something around that experience, where we could all use the sound of our bells to contribute to the soundscape of the area of the parade," Ms. Blasco said

As with all Make Music New York parades, participants can show up before the start time and starting point—4:30 p.m. at Grand Army Plaza—to pick up a

The score for "Blink" has two movements. The first will take place before the parade, so rid-ers can get used to following the lights with their bells; the second, longer movement will take place during the 20-minute ride on Prospect Park Drive. The roadway will be closed to mo-

Earlier this week, Make Music New York hosted a rehearsal of the score at Cornelia Street Café with Ms. Blasco wearing the gold "conducting helmet" emblazoned with the word "blink" and with five light bulbs attached. It went off mostly smoothly, with the invitees cre-ating a tinkling score that had echoes of the holidays.

'After Midnight.'

Cyclists will need to listen and respond to each other—and to the ambient sounds in the park.

The rehearsal proved beneficial, since Ms. Blasco noticed that ringers with green and blue bells sometimes chimed in at the wrong times because of the color similarity; she said she would clarify the colors before

the parade.

Even with that glitch, the preview demonstrated what Mr. Friedman described as the "Make Music" spirit, "where any location can become a stage, and anyone can become a mu-sic-maker."

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A call to help Ariel