

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 28, 2022

Location: Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center

Remarks: Introduction of Coach Felisha Legette-Jack

Good Morning. This is a happy day for Syracuse. I am overjoyed to join in welcoming Coach Felisha Legette-Jack home to this University and community.

I thank Athletic Director John Wildhack and everyone who helped in the search process to find us the right person at the right time for Syracuse Women’s basketball.

I conferred with Coach Legette-Jack at the end of the search process. We talked about growing up in Syracuse, about winning state titles while a student at Nottingham High School. About playing pickup games in Thornden Park. About playing at Syracuse and winning the Big East Championship and our first NCAA tournament appearance. About her remarkable achievements coaching at Indiana and Hofstra and Buffalo.

But most of all, Coach Legette-Jack talked about her students. This is a coach who wants her students to succeed as human beings, as students, and on the Court. To quote one of the wisest people I have met in a long time: Character, Academics, Basketball.

Everybody here knows that when a bad call is made in Syracuse, whether in the Dome or outside it – in the University, in the ACC, in the NCAA – when a bad call is made the Orange Nation is NOT quiet. We hear from them, loud and clear.

Coach Legette-Jack: A good call was made by our athletic director this week, and what you are hearing, loud and clear, is joy that you are coming home.

So, if you are one of the 10,000 people who have shouted for joy on social media or in every other venue, I have a request for you. Let’s turn that joy into support for this coach, for the students on this team, and for Syracuse Women’s Basketball. I know Coach Legette-Jack is going to make us a better place, and that she and her team are going to be leaders in the ACC. So let’s attend the games and let’s show our support loud and clear.

That’s what I intend to do. That is what John Wildhack has told me I am going to do. And when the man who kept the ACC playing sports through covid tells me to do something, I sure try to do it.

Welcome home, Coach. We are with you all the way.