

THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007 OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERO

June 29, 2009

Michael McSweeney City Clerk of the Council 141 Worth Street New York, NY 10013

Dear Mr. McSweeney:

Pursuant to Section 37 of the New York City Charter, I hereby disapprove Introductory Number 992-A, which would amend the City residency requirements for City employees by allowing them to live in Nassau, Westchester, Suffolk, Orange, Rockland or Putnam County, but only after completing two years of City employment. While this legislation expands upon and covers more employees than the Council's previous "DC37" residency bill, it is still inconsistent with the residency exemption that would have been provided under the legislation the City committed to support through the collective bargaining process.

On September 29, 2006, the City entered into a collective bargaining agreement with District Council 37 in which the City agreed, among other things, to support legislation that would allow employees in the bargaining unit to be deemed to meet the City's residency requirement if they lived in any of the above mentioned six counties. Subsequent agreements reached with approximately 27 other unions included identical commitments. Nothing in these agreements required an employee to complete two years of employment with the City in order to live in those counties. Introductory Number 452, which was introduced at my request, was consistent with the agreements made with District Council 37 and the other unions, and would also have allowed the expanded residency provision to apply to employees in categories designated by the Mayor in the interest of the City who are not in titles certified to a collective bargaining representative.

By contrast, Intro. 992-A would cover <u>all</u> City employees, regardless of whether they reached an agreement with the City through the collective bargaining process or not. Moreover, this bill would require employees to have two years of City service before they could live outside the City limits and within one of the enumerated counties, which was never even discussed in collective bargaining with DC37 or any of the other unions. Lastly, the Administration's original residency bill (Intro. 452) provided the Mayor with discretion to exempt other City titles from

the residency requirement. By contrast, this bill improperly fragments personnel authority by granting power to establish additional residency requirements to other elected officials namely the Council Speaker, Comptroller, Borough Presidents and Public Advocate.

The Council's failure to enact the legislation that the City committed to support through the collective bargaining process, and its substitution of legislation containing terms that are not consistent with the City's commitment, are not in keeping with the expectations of employees in the bargaining units which reached agreements with the City, and may very well detract from the City's ability to bargain effectively in the future. My signing legislation that strays so far from the terms agreed to in negotiations would only compound the problem even further. I urge the Council to reconsider this issue and adopt the legislation that the City and the various constituent unions committed to support in collective bargaining.

For the foregoing reasons, I hereby disapprove Introductory Number 992-A.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg

Mayor