



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0006-2002, **Version:** *

Res. No. 6

Resolution condemning former Mayor Giuliani for his surreptitious negotiation with the City's baseball teams, granting them huge financial concessions and the promise of 1.6 billion dollars in new ball parks, and, in so doing, leaving our City's taxpayers with crushing obligations to wealthy enterprises at a time when the City is in fiscal crisis.

By Council Members Jennings, Foster, Monserrate, Barron, DeBlasio and Sanders Jr.; also Council Member Boyland

Whereas, Three days before the expiration of former Mayor Giuliani's term of office, he entered the City into an agreement, amending the lease provisions of the City-owned Yankee and Shea Stadiums; and

Whereas, The former Mayor, behind closed doors and without any input from the City Council or then-Mayor-elect Bloomberg, negotiated a tentative agreement for the City to contribute \$800 million to build the teams brand new stadiums and decrease their rent a total of \$50 million over five years; and

Whereas, The former Mayor sprung the news of this furtive negotiation upon the City just before leaving office; and

Whereas, The City, already taken aback by this news, endured yet another surprise upon discovering that the former Mayor also provided the Yankees and the Mets with 60-day escape clauses from their lease if the teams believe that the City is not intending to build the new stadiums as "tentatively" promised by the former Mayor; and

Whereas, The City also discovered at this time that the Mayor had released the Mets from a \$83,000 debt to the City, leaving it with all that much less revenue; and

Whereas, The former Mayor provided these fiscally burdensome deals to these very wealthy and profitable teams at a time when the City is in recovery from a massive and heartbreaking disaster that has placed its budget in a 4 billion dollar deficit; and

Whereas, These deals were negotiated while the City's 4 billion dollar deficit has threatened the scope of vital services, such as the Head-Start programs, fire and police protection, health care to the poor, and library service; and

Whereas, By attempting to saddle the City with this hastily crafted sweetheart deal for building new stadiums, the former Mayor has engaged in a reverse Robin Hood syndrome by robbing from the poor and giving to the rich; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York condemns former Mayor Giuliani for his surreptitious negotiation with the City's baseball teams, granting them huge financial concessions and the promise of 1.6 billion dollars in new ball parks, and, in so doing, leaving our City's taxpayers with crushing obligations to wealthy enterprises at a time when the City is in fiscal crisis.