



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 23, 2013

Joseph S. Genova, Chair, Board of Directors
Michael D. Young, Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Raun J. Rasmussen, Executive Director
Legal Services-NYC
40 Worth Street, Suite 606
New York, NY 10013

Dear Messrs. Genova, Young and Rasmussen:

We are strongly concerned about the strike at Legal Services-NYC, which will have a devastating impact on clients who desperately need your services.

We are particularly troubled that the LS-NYC Board and management appear more concerned with forcing employees to accept benefit cuts than reaching a fair and equitable settlement.

We understand that the Union has offered to agree to guaranteed savings in health insurance costs, provided that LS-NYC agrees to job security protections for bargaining unit members should layoffs become necessary. We also understand that LS-NYC currently employs 1 manager for every 3 bargaining unit employees (1:3), whereas the Legal Aid Society maintains a 1:5 management/staff ratio.

Finally, while management projects deep cuts to its Legal Services Corporation funding in 2014 and 2015, I understand that your own budget projections also show a \$10.5 million reserve at the end of this year. Moreover, management's budget projections do not take into account any possibility that the cuts to LSC funding may be less than projected, depending on what happens in Congress later this year. It is clear that extracting these cuts at this moment in time would be harsh and imprudent.

We will be closely monitoring this situation and urge you to come to an agreement shortly with the Union and its members.

Sincerely,

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Chair, Finance Committee

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Council Member

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Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member

cc: John Wright