

**The Women's City Club of New York
307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1403
New York, NY 10001**

**Statement about Funding for the Office of Public Advocate
June 29, 2009**

If the position of Public Advocate exists, the Mayor and City Council should fund it adequately. It is not for them to decide to slash the Public Advocate's budget because the holder of the office took a position they oppose. Bullying is the nicest way we can think of to characterize their actions.

The fact that the Mayor and the City Council have the power to drastically reduce the budget for the Public Advocate demonstrates the need for an independent funding formula for that office.

The 2010 budget allocation also affects Betsy Gotbaum's successor. Absent a budget mod, the incoming Public Advocate will be subject to a wholly inadequate budget for the first six months in office. This reduction in funding represents abuse of budgeting power by the Mayor and the City Council.

WCC, established in 1915, is a nonprofit, non-partisan, multi-issue activist organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. The WCC works to shape public policy to promote responsive government through issue analysis, education, advocacy and civic participation.

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