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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

IN
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ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

January 7, 2009

Hon. Mark Page
Director
Office of Management and Budget
75 Park Place
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Page:

We are writing on behalf of the Commissioners of Elections to request a Budget Modification for the agency's Fiscal Year 2009 budget to accommodate Special Elections that Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently called in accordance with the New York City Charter and to adjust the budget for necessary expenditures that the agency made to fulfill its legal obligations for the September Primary and November General Elections.

The Board of Elections was severely under-funded to carry out its mandated tasks during this Fiscal Year. At a time when everyone clearly anticipated historic activity and voter participation and when the Board's obligations were increased significantly by a federal court order, its budget was reduced by more than \$6.5 million. Board staff worked around the clock to process hundreds of thousands of voter registration forms to ensure that these voters would be able to vote on Election Day. Similarly, the staff worked tirelessly to meet the requirements of a federal court order that mandated an additional voting system at every poll site throughout New York City, thereby requiring the staff to literally set up the election twice using two different voting systems.

As a result of the enormous work that the staff performed to meet its obligations and the initial under-funding of the P.S. appropriation of approximately \$5 million dollars, we project a deficit in P.S. of \$6.5 million dollars. Without additional funding to cover this shortfall, the Board will be forced to spend a significant portion of the \$15,470,000


dollars allocated in FY09 for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to cover essential expenditures that were not funded by the City. As you know, the Board has been responsible with these funds in the past by returning them to the City as a result of various State delays to implementing HAVA. Now that we are actually involved in implementing HAVA, these funds are critical and are needed for a successful implementation.

Finally, as you know, Mayor Bloomberg on January 3, 2009 issued three proclamations for Special Elections to be held to fill newly vacant City Council seats. Pursuant to these proclamations, the Special Elections will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 to fill vacancies in the 21st, 32nd, and 49th Council Districts. Currently, there is no funding for the Board of Elections to administer these elections, which are projected to cost approximately \$1 million.

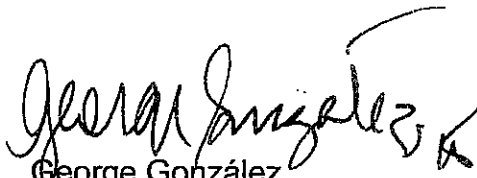
Attached for your review is a chart detailing the agency's funding needs to ensure its ability to serve the voters of New York City. The nearly \$11 million represents a good faith estimate of our funding needs at this time. Should Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion be appointed to a position in President-elect Barack Obama's Administration, we would also be required to conduct a borough-wide Special Election at a cost of up to an additional \$3 million dollars.

In closing, we want to assure you that we understand the city's fiscal situation. However, we do not control the level of activity required by the Board of Elections but rather respond to legal mandates, court orders, and election cycles. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Marcus Cederqvist
Executive Director



George González
Deputy Executive Director

cc: Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Kevin Sheekey, Deputy Mayor for Government Affairs
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council
Hon. David I. Weprin, Chair of the Finance Committee
Hon. Simcha Felder, Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations
Commissioners of Elections

FY09 OTPS PROJECTION

1-06-09

OTPS ALLOCATION		\$69,365,767	
Minus Rent Money and Inter-City		<u>\$17,231,848</u>	
Adj. Total		\$52,133,919	Includes HAVA Holding Code

Day to Day Spending		<u>\$5,000,000</u>	
Adj. Total		\$47,133,919	

Event Codes (Actual+Mgr Est.)

117 Postage	\$2,500,000	
412 Rental tables and chairs	\$350,000	
417 Advertising	\$400,000	
600 Contractual	\$650,000	
615 Printing	\$12,000,000	
633 Trucks-Cabs	\$4,000,000	
414 Poll sites	\$300,000	
686 Pollworker	<u>\$15,000,000</u>	
Event code Total	\$35,200,000	\$35,200,000

Adj. Total		\$11,933,919	Includes HAVA Holding Code
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Other Factors

PS Deficit	\$6,500,000	
3 Specials	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	
	\$7,500,000	-\$7,500,000

Balance		\$4,433,919	Includes HAVA Holding Code
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HAVA Holding Code	\$15,470,000	
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Potential Deficit w/o HAVA \$		-\$11,036,081
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If we use the money in the HAVA Holding Code. We can pay our bills.

Without the HAVA money we have a \$11,036,081 deficit.

The HAVA funds were to be used for New Voting System implementation.

For example:

The Burson-Marsteller Contract for \$6,727,897 was to be funded out of the HAVA funds.

Assumptions:

All Rent and Inter-City money is spent.

No other cuts.

New Machine implementation has begun.

Most numbers rounded