

November 16, 2004

Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10009

Re: Arrests of Protestors at the Republic National Convention

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As residents of the City of New York, we are appalled at the conduct of the police in regard to protestors of the RNC. Fully endorsed by you before, during and after the convention, police officers illegally repressed, bullied, abused and arrested protestors, many of them residents of New York.

Once arrested, most of the protestors were detained in a toxic, contaminated facility at Pier 57 and denied access to attorneys for an inordinate and inexcusable length of time. Court orders were required to enforce the rights of the detainees.

The record of the subsequent legal proceedings for the majority of the protestors lends credence to the unlawful police conduct: most of the cases have been summarily dismissed either by the Court or the District Attorney's Office itself.

The result of those dismissals will result in false arrest and false imprisonment claims against the City. The irony of that is that neither you, Commissioner Kelly or any of the arresting officers will be in any way accountable for the violation of the Constitutional rights of the protestors. It is taxpayer dollars that will pay such claims.

Finally, the refusal of either you or Commissioner Kelly to appear at the City Council's inquiry into the arrests is irresponsible and reflects poorly on each of you and your decisions regarding the protestors.

This is the City of New York where millions of people choose to live because it offers unending opportunity and freedom, including freedom of expression. To have the principal of the City lead an effort to completely and systematically repress that freedom of expression and subsequently laud that repression, it is contrary to the basic tenants by which we, as City residents, embrace.

Very truly yours,

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

By:

STEVEN SKYLES-MULLIGAN, PRESIDENT