

December 11, 2008

To: City Council Members Who Voted For Term Limits

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Maria del Carmen Arroyo | Sara Gonzalez | Joel Rivera |
| Maria Baez | Robert Jackson | James Sanders, Jr. |
| Leroy Comrie, Jr. | Melinda Katz | Larry Seabrook |
| Inez Dickens | G. Oliver Koppell | Helen Sears |
| Erik Martin Dilan | Miguel Martinez | Kendall Stewart |
| Simcha Felder | Darlene Mealy | James Vacca |
| Lewis Fidler | Michael Nelson | Peter Vallone, Jr. |
| Helen Foster | Christine Quinn | Al Vann |
| Alan Gerson | Domenic Recchia, Jr. | Thomas White, Jr. |
| | Diana Reyna | David Yassky |



Dear Council Members:

We were dismayed by the recent vote in the New York City Council to amend the term limits law twice affirmed by voters. Our individual opinions on term limits vary enormously; there are members who are in favor of the strictest possible two-term limit and others who do not believe in term limits at all. In spite of this, our sense of the process followed to change the law is very clear: it was undemocratic.

What is the purpose of a referendum if its results can be so lightly overturned by elected representatives purporting to act in the people's best interests? This action on the part of the City Council has rendered moot one of democracy's most critical tools for reform. While there may be a legal case for the City Council's action, common sense – and good politics – should have suggested that it was not the right way to approach the issue.

We are deeply disappointed in you and all other City Council members who chose the easy way out and voted for this ill-conceived legislative fix. We anticipate that our disappointment – echoed by so many of the City's most progressive organizations – will have repercussions for those who participated in this process and now seek to continue in office.

This is no way for a democracy to work – or for Democrats to behave.

Very truly yours,

CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Lynn Kotler (ll)

Lynn Kotler, President

cc: City Council Members Who Voted Against Term Limits:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Joseph Addabbo, Jr. | Bill de Blasio | Vincent Gentile | Jessica Lappin | Rosie Mendez |
| Tony Avella | Mathieu Eugene | Eric Gioia | John Liu | Hiram Monserrate |
| Charles Barron | Daniel Garodnick | Vincent Ignizio | Melissa Mark-Viverito | James Oddo |
| Gail Brewer | James Gennaro | Letitia James | Michael McMahan | Annabel Palma |
| Anthony Como | | | | David Weprin |

Home club of: City Council Speaker: Christine C. Quinn, State Senator: Tom Duane and Assembly Member: Richard Gottfried
State Committeewoman: Doris Corrigan; District Leaders: Mary Dorman and Tom Schuler
Club President: Lynn Kotler
Vice Presidents: Judith Richheimer and Luke McAuliffe;
Secretary: Linda Longstreet; Treasurer: Paul J. Groncki