

# Municipal Labor Committee

125 Barclay Street, Room 540 / New York, NY 10007-2179 / (212) 349-6280

## CHAIRPERSON

HARRY NESPOLI  
Local 831, I.B.T. Uniformed  
Sanitationmen's Association, AFL-CIO

## CO-CHAIRPERSON

RANDI WEINGARTEN  
United Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

## EXECUTIVE VICE-CHAIR

LILLIAN ROBERTS  
District Council 37

## SECRETARY

GREGORY FLOYD  
Local 237, City Employees Union,  
B.T., AFL-CIO

## TREASURER

STEPHEN CASSIDY  
Local 94, Uniformed Firefighters Association  
of Greater New York

## VICE CHAIRPERSONS

JOHN T. AHERN  
International Union of Operating Engineers,  
Local 30, AFL-CIO

BARBARA BOWEN  
Professional Staff Congress  
City University of New York

ARTHUR CHELIOTES  
Local 1180, NYC Administrative Employees,  
CWA, AFL-CIO

JOSEPH COLANGELO  
I.Y.C. LOCAL 246, S.E.I.U., AFL-CIO

ROBERT CROGHAN  
Organization of Staff Analysts

THOMAS DROGAN  
Tenants Benevolent Association

JANCY KALEDA  
New York State Nurses Association

WILLIAM LACEY  
District Council of Carpenters, AFL-CIO

HARRY LIEBOWITZ, M.D.  
Doctors Council

JOSEPH MANNION  
Sanitation Officers Association

JOHN J. MCDONNELL  
Local 854, Uniformed Fire Officers  
Association, AFL-CIO

ERONICA MONTGOMERY-COSTA  
Local 372, Board of Education Employees,  
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

AYE MOORE  
Local 371, Social Service Employees,  
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

MICHAEL PALLADINO  
Detectives Endowment Association

DAVID ROSENZWEIG  
Fire Alarm Dispatchers Benevolent Assn.

NORMAN SEABROOK  
Correction Officers' Benevolent Association

MAF MISBAH UDDIN  
Local 1407, NYC Accountants, Statisticians  
& Actuaries, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JENNIS SULLIVAN

Executive Secretary  
THERESA SIRABELLA

## Rubenstein Associates, Inc.

### Public Relations

Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Chair of Municipal Labor Committee Says City Employees Deserve Good Pay and Benefits

NEW YORK, NY, January 9, 2009 – Municipal Labor Committee Chair Harry Nespoli today issued the following statement concerning a Citizens Budget Commission report on New York City employee compensation:

New York City workers, our police and firefighters, teachers and sanitation workers, social workers and all those who deliver the services help make this the greatest city on earth. We have helped these workers enter the Middle Class. We should not throw out generations worth of struggle to meet a problem they did not cause.

When Citizens Budget Commission members read that this is the safest City in the US; that graduates of the City public schools are the leading winners in science awards in the US; that the average response time for fires is down; when they read that sanitation worker productivity has saved the city more than \$2.5 billion since 1980, do they ask say how much is their health care?

The CBC should be looking at the real problems, rather than just suggest we cut worker benefits. Health care costs are high because there is no national health policy. Pension costs are high because Retirement Systems investments have lost \$20 billion due the failure of the national economy and Wall Street.

The CBC conveniently picks the 2000-2007 time period to look at wage growth. If you look at this over a realistic time period – since the end of the City's fiscal crisis in 1978 – the average city employee's wages have fallen behind by almost 2% per year when compared to the cost of living in the City, while on average the City surplus has been \$1.4 billion per year.

You take a public sector job not to get rich but to have a steady income, health benefits and a decent retirement income. What is wrong with

# *Municipal Labor Committee*

125 Barclay Street, Room 540 / New York, NY 10007-2179 / (212) 349-6280

---

that? Is America better off if there is no middle class, if public sector workers get no benefits and low wages?

This is a blatant attack on the middle class. In 2007, when the average Wall Street salary was \$400,000 and the average sanitation worker made about \$40,000, did CBC complain? When Wall Street profits declined in 2007 but bonuses increased, did CBC say something is wrong? When the banks failed and CEOs walked away with retirement income in the millions, did the CBC say give it back?

To repeat, let's not use this difficult moment to take unwarranted actions that only meet the bottom line.

\*\*\*

*The Municipal Labor Committee is a coalition of more than 90 unions representing more than 500,000 active and retired municipal employees.*