



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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*For Immediate Release*

**MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
AND DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUE  
COMPTROLLER WILLIAM THOMPSON TO COMPEL  
REGISTRATION OF BROOKLYN HOUSE OF DETENTION DESIGN CONTRACT**

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New York, Dec. 1, 2009 – Today Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) brought suit against Comptroller William C. Thompson in Supreme Court, New York County to compel the Comptroller to perform his mandatory statutory duty under the New York City Charter to register and pay for services to be provided under a contract to provide architectural and engineering services in connection with the proposed renovation and expansion of the Brooklyn House of Detention (BHOD). That contract, between The City of New York acting through DDC and the architectural joint venture of 1100 Architect and Ricci Green Associates, is for professional consulting services to be performed on behalf of DDC's client agency, the Department of Correction.

After the Comptroller had objected to registration of the contract, on November 18, 2009, the Mayor, acting by the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services and City Chief Procurement Officer, directed registration of the contract, using powers available to the Mayor under section 328 of the New York City Charter to direct that a contract be registered notwithstanding the Comptroller's objection. Under that section, the Comptroller is required to register the contract within 10 days of such directive. The Comptroller has failed to do so, thus leading to the lawsuit.

**Statement by Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo  
on BHOD**

"The Mayor and the Department of Correction believe that the Brooklyn House of Detention should be expanded to relieve pressure on antiquated and over-burdened facilities at Rikers Island and effectuate the Department of Correction's plan to create efficiencies and obtain environmental benefits by housing criminal defendants near the courts. The Department of Correction has agreed to conduct further environmental review and put any expansion of the facility through the City's land use review procedure (ULURP). The City's Department of Design and Construction has sought to register a contract -- properly procured -- that will permit the City to perform the environmental review that the Comptroller has said is necessary. We had hoped that the Comptroller's personal disagreement with Administration policy regarding the project would not cause him to ignore his statutory obligation to register the contract. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The Comptroller has improperly sought to substitute his judgment for that of the Mayor and two of his agencies -- the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Correction and has ignored his Charter obligation to register the contract after being directed to do so by the Mayor on November 18, 2009. Accordingly, the Mayor and DDC have brought suit to obtain a court order to compel the Comptroller to register that contract so that it may be implemented, as is his statutory duty."

### About the New York City Law Department

Michael A. Cardozo oversees more than 650 attorneys in the 17 divisions of the New York City Law Department, which traces its origins back to 1683. It ranks in the top three largest law offices in New York City, and is among the largest public law offices in the country. The Law Department has an active caseload of 90,000 matters and transactions, covering a wide diversity of subject matters, including Environmental Law, Contracts, Tort, Labor & Employment, Tax & Bankruptcy and Family Court. You can find out more about the NYC Law Department at [nyc.gov/law](http://nyc.gov/law).

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