

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 29, 2008

Michael Cardozo  
Corporation Counsel  
City of New York  
100 Church Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Cardozo:

We write to respectfully request that you postpone the Voting Rights Section 5 submission on Int. 0845A-2008 – the Mayor's bill to extend term limits for all elected offices – to the Department of Justice until the new Administration takes office. Such a major change to New York City's electoral process requires careful legal scrutiny that we are not confident the Bush Administration can provide.

The last eight years have witnessed systematic disregard for the spirit and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. There have been a series of serious allegations that, under the Bush Administration, the Department of Justice politicized the Civil Rights Division in several high-profile cases, including re-districting cases in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas. Former career staff attorneys within the department's Voting Section have detailed stories of political appointees exerting pressure to pursue a brazenly partisan agenda. Equally disturbing are reports that career staff attorneys of the Voting Section were barred from making recommendations on key Voting Rights Act cases.

In light of these issues, we suggest you wait to submit the necessary information required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act until the new Administration is in place. New Yorkers must feel confident that such sweeping change to the electoral process meets the highest standards of legal review. They must know that the individuals making decisions at the Department of Justice are objectively reviewing the matter to protect the rights and the best interests of minority communities in New York City.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY D. WEINER  
Member of Congress



NYDIA VELAZQUEZ  
Member of Congress



**MICHAELA A. CARDOZO**  
*Corporation Counsel*

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
LAW DEPARTMENT**

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November 5, 2008

Hon. Anthony D. Weiner  
Member of Congress

Hon. Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress

Re: Voting Rights Act Preclearance of Int. No. 845-A of 2008

Dear Mr. Weiner and Ms. Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter to me, dated October 29, 2008. In your letter, you inquire concerning the City's plans with respect to submitting Int. No. 845-A, which concerns the extension of term limits for elected City officials from two to three full consecutive terms, to the United States Department of Justice for preclearance pursuant to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. As you know, the Mayor signed the bill into law on November 3.

Please be assured that the City intends to make a submission to the Department of Justice in accordance with section 5 in relation to preclearance of the local law. This will be done as soon as practicable consistent with the need to make a thorough submission that satisfies the requirements of section 5, and without regard to political considerations.

Sincerely,

*Michael A. Cardozo*  
M.A.C.

Michael A. Cardozo