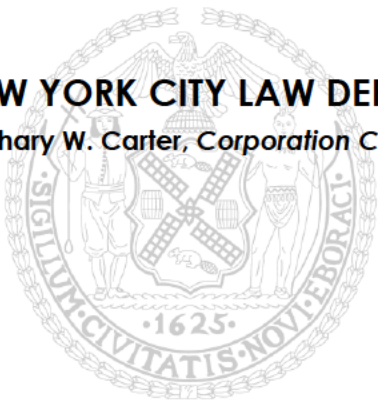


NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

Zachary W. Carter, Corporation Counsel

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JEFFREY D. FRIEDLANDER, A “BRILLIANT LEGAL LEGEND” AND “NEW YORK CITY INSTITUTION” TO DEPART NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT AFTER 44 YEARS, 20 AS SECOND IN COMMAND

FRIEDLANDER IS THE LONGEST-SERVING FIRST ASSISTANT IN OFFICE’S HISTORY WHO WORKED WITH SEVEN MAYORS AND 13 CORPORATION COUNSELS; MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO CALLS HIM THE “EPITOME OF SOMEONE WHO’S DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE – AND TO WHOM NEW YORKERS OWE A GREAT DEBT,” AND CORPORATION COUNSEL ZACHARY CARTER CALLS HIM “A LEGAL ICON WHO HAS SERVED THE CITY”

Jeffrey D. Friedlander, First Assistant Corporation Counsel of the New York City Law Department for the last 20 years and a 44-year Law Department veteran, announced his retirement today. Friedlander, the second in command of an office of 730 lawyers, served under seven mayors and alongside 13 corporation counsels.

Friedlander joined the Law Department as a member of its Honors Program in 1970 and became First Assistant in 1995. He is the longest-serving First Assistant in Law Department history.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said, "Jeffrey Friedlander is a humble yet brilliant legal legend, the epitome of someone who's dedicated his life to public service -- and to whom all New Yorkers owe a great debt. He has worked for seven mayors and 13 corporation counsels, and his wise counsel helped guide the City and the Law Department through many highs and lows, in particular the Sept. 11th tragedy. We are all appreciative that he elected to spend his entire 44-year career serving this great city."

Corporation Counsel Zachary W. Carter also praised Friedlander's brilliance; his dedication to New York and the Law Department; his unwavering, consistent, steadfast office leadership; and his involvement in so many historic New York City developments. "Jeff is a living New York City institution," Carter said. "Across seven different mayoral administrations, he has championed the interests of the City of New York with a fierce loyalty. We all knew this day would come, as much as we regret it."

Carter continued, "Jeff is a legal icon who has served the City through its many ups and downs, including the fiscal crisis of the 1970s and the horrors of Sept. 11th. He's been as solid as bedrock, the kind of person that everyone relies on; looks to for astute, insightful, laser-sharp legal advice; and wishes they had in their arsenal. Since coming here last year, I have come to regard Jeff both as a trusted confidant and a good friend. It is our great loss that he's retiring. But -- knowing Jeff's altruistic tendencies -- we hope to persuade him to continue to serve the City."

In a message sent to his Law Department colleagues, Friedlander said: "The decision to spend my legal career at the Law Department was the best I could have made. I love the City of New York, this office, and the able and dedicated women and men with whom I have been blessed to work these many years."

He continued, "After having the privilege to serve you as First Assistant Corporation Counsel for two decades, I have, with much ambivalence, let me assure you, decided to step down in the next few months. I can never adequately repay this City and this office for the gift of a career in the public service. Mayor Koch, whom I revere, was surely correct that public service when done well and honorably is the noblest of professions." In a nod to the probity and professionalism of the office, he added: "But you already know that."

Friedlander concluded, "I will depart a Law Department that under Zach Carter's leadership is stronger than ever with confidence that it is poised to face whatever challenges, some predictable, some not, that will come its way."

William K. Nelson, Edward Weinfeld Professor of Law at New York University (NYU), and author of "Fighting for the City: A History of the New York City Corporation Counsel," confirmed that Friedlander is the longest-serving First Assistant in New York City's history, besting David Dean, who served in the position for 15 years from 1873 to 1898.

Friedlander's career reads like a panorama of New York City's legal, political, cultural, and developmental milestones. He played a significant role in many cases and laws during his Law Department tenure, including:

- Expanding the Landmarks Preservation Law.
- Handling New York City's South African anti-apartheid legislation and divestiture.
- Drafting the Gay Rights Bill.
- Establishing the New York City Campaign Finance Law.
- Establishing the Civilian Complaint Review Board.
- Drafting of the Watershed Protection Agreement.
- Consolidating the Housing Authority Police Department and Transit Authority Police Department with the New York City Police Department.
- Approving a major tobacco litigation settlement (to redress the industry's concealment of the adverse health effects of smoking and the addictiveness of nicotine, and to recover health-care costs associated with treating tobacco-related illness).
- Working on the agreement to ensure Yankee Stadium disabled access.
- Advising on Lincoln Center's redevelopment.
- Offering expertise on the World Trade Center security plan.

Other accomplishments:

- Following Sept. 11th, Friedlander supervised the drafting of the executive orders and legislation necessary to respond to the emergency and help keep the City functioning.
- Friedlander played a pivotal role in settling litigation on community gardens in a manner that allowed for both the preservation of community gardens and the construction of much needed affordable housing
- He helped negotiate the enactment of the New York City False Claims Act.
- He also played a key role in the establishment of Brooklyn Bridge Park and the transformation of Governors Island.

In addition to serving as the Law Department's second in command, Friedlander oversees the office's corporate side, which includes key divisions like Economic Development and Municipal Finance. Friedlander also oversees Affirmative Litigation, Environmental Law, and Legal Counsel, the latter of which provides ongoing legal advice to City Hall and all City agencies; it also prepares the City's legislative proposals. Pursuant to the City Charter as the second-in-command, Friedlander also assumes all powers and performs all duties of the office when the Corporation Counsel is absent from the Law Department. He served as the City's Acting Corporation Counsel from November 1997 to March 1998, and again in January 2014.

Throughout his career, Friedlander has demonstrated a deep, abiding commitment to public service and the role it plays in City policy. His column, "Municipal Law," appeared in the *New York Law Journal* for more than a decade. For his work as an attorney, Friedlander received the Corporation Counsel Award for Distinguished Legal Service (1988) and the New York County Lawyer's Association Public Service Award (1991). The New York State Bar Association awarded Friedlander its "Award of Excellence in Public Service" for 2003. The *New*

York Post selected Friedlander as a “Liberty Medal Awards Finalist for Lifetime Achievement” in 2006, and *City Hall Magazine* named him as “One of the 20 Most-Influential Unelecteds” in 2010.

Upon 35 years of public service by Friedlander in 2005, then-Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg presented him with a City Hall proclamation. Awarded to Friedlander in the City Council Chamber, the Mayor’s proclamation read: “Jeffrey Friedlander’s 35-year career with the Law Department coincides with a period of unprecedented change in New York City.... Through it all, Mr. Friedlander has been an exemplar of selflessness and integrity.” Mayor Bloomberg continued in the proclamation, “Jeffrey Friedlander’s 35 years of service embody our City’s founding principles. On behalf of the City of New York and its Law Department, I congratulate and commend Mr. Friedlander on reaching this significant milestone.” Mayor Bloomberg concluded by declaring Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005, as “Jeffrey Friedlander Day” in New York City. Former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone also presented Friedlander with a proclamation on behalf of the New York City Council.

At the time, *The New York Times* wrote a column on Friedlander entitled “Attention for One Who Avoids It.” Commending Friedlander’s many decades of public service, writer Joyce Purnick noted that Friedlander “knows he could earn much more with a private law firm than he does with the city.... But he stayed, and sounds as if he will as long as he can, for the most basic of reasons: ‘I love being here.’”

After joining the Law Department in 1970, Friedlander served as the Chief of the Legal Counsel Division; Chief Counsel of the Law Department; and Counsel to the New York City Board of Estimate before being appointed to his present post in 1995. Friedlander has served as the Mayor’s appointee to the Executive Committee of the Watershed Protection and Partnership Council; and serves as one of the Mayor’s appointees to the Board of Directors of the WTC Captive Insurance Co., which defends the City and its contractors from claims for injuries arising from Sept. 11th; and as an alternate member of the Executive Committee of NYC & Company. Before graduating from law school, Friedlander was an intern for U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits and spent a summer in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Friedlander is very active in professional and community service. He has served as a member of the New York State Unified Court System Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee and on the New York City Bar Association’s Committee on the Judiciary. He was the founding Chair of the Association’s Government Counsel Committee, which adopted guidelines for hiring and retaining minority attorneys in government agencies. His other Bar Association activities include membership on the Municipal Affairs, State Legislation, Membership, and Housing and Urban Development Committees.

Mr. Friedlander served as Chair of the Board of Trustees and President of the Congregation of the Unitarian Church of All Souls, and as President of its Board of Deacons. He is President of the Board of Directors of the Heart and Soul Charitable Fund, Inc., which funds charitable activities in Manhattan that include meal programs for the needy as well as a number of youth programs. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Youth Services Opportunity Project, a non-profit corporation that provides opportunities for high school and college students to serve the homeless community, and he is a member of the Hunter College Pre-Law Advisory Board.

A lifelong New Yorker, Friedlander obtained his B.A. from Hunter College in 1967 and his J.D. from NYU Law School three years later. He has been married to Marjory K. Friedlander since 1970. They reside in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn. They have one daughter, Julia, who lives with her husband in Washington, D.C.

Tracing its roots back to the 1600s, the New York City Law Department is one of the oldest and most dynamic legal offices in the world, ranking among New York City’s largest law offices and the country’s largest public law offices. Led by the Corporation Counsel, the Department’s 730-plus attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues, and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles, encompassing a caseload of 70,000 active or ongoing legal matters each year in 16 legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City, and all its agencies. For more information, visit the Law Department’s website at www.nyc.gov/law.

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