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Press Release

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FEDERAL APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CITY'S RIGHT TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES IN RNC CASE

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New York, June 9, 2010 – The Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled today that the New York City Police Department's right to protect sensitive materials – which include the identities of undercover officers – outweighs the rights of plaintiffs to have access to that information.

The ruling arises from federal lawsuits brought by the New York Civil Liberties Union, and others, contesting the arrests during the 2004 Republican National Convention. The lower court previously ruled that the Police Department release 1,800 pages of confidential intelligence documents.

"We are gratified the Court recognized that plaintiffs have no compelling need for these sensitive materials – which reveal the identities of undercover officers. As the Court recognized, the information in the documents 'reinforces the City's assertions that the public faced a substantial threat of disruption and violence during the RNC,'" said Celeste Koeleveld, Executive Assistant Corporation Counsel for Public Safety at the New York City Law Department.

"As recent events only reinforce, undercover NYPD officers safeguard the public. The Court recognized that protecting their identities and methods of operations is important to the public interest and crucial to undercovers' safety and effectiveness," said Paul J. Browne, Deputy Commissioner of Public Information for the New York City Police Department.

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