



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, *Corporation Counsel*

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**COURT UPHOLDS RULES FOR CITY CORPORATE PARK
AND DIRECTS THE REMOVAL OF ADVERTISING BILLBOARD**

***LARGE BILLBOARD IN COLLEGE POINT CORPORATE PARK NEAR WHITESTONE EXPRESSWAY
ORDERED TO BE TAKEN DOWN***

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New York, June 28, 2004 – Justice Allan B. Weiss of the State Supreme Court, Queens County, acting at the request of New York City Economic Development Corp., has ordered the removal of a very large advertising billboard at the College Point Corporate Park along the Whitestone Expressway in Queens. The sign had been erected in violation of the City's Urban Renewal Plan for the Corporate Park, which prohibits the erection of advertising signs. Justice Weiss held that the advertising sign prohibition is valid. His decision came down this past Friday (June 25, 2004). A trial on damages against the defendants is to be scheduled.

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel for the City of New York said: "The Corporate Park business had improperly allowed the construction of the billboard, and the billboard company refused to stop construction and remove the billboard. Legal action was accordingly required. The victory is another example of the rule of law being applied equally to all businesses for the good of the City of New York."

"The City, through the New York City Economic Development Corporation, has fostered the growth of a wonderful business community in College Point," noted Andrew M. Alper, President of the New York City Economic Development Corp. "The College Point Corporate Park promotes economic development, creates jobs and serves as a good neighbor to the residents of the College Point community. The Court order permits us to continue our efforts to maintain the College Point Corporate Park to everyone's benefit."

In the Spring of 1999, in direct violation of the Urban Renewal Plan controlling the College Point Corporate Park, which prohibits advertising signage, T.C. Foods Import and Export Company, a business within the Park, allowed the construction of the large advertising sign tower on its property at 31-69 College Point Boulevard, adjacent to the Whitestone Expressway. The advertising billboard was constructed at the direction of PNE Media of Union, N.J., and has been maintained by Titan Outdoor since January of 2003.

The case, *New York City Economic Development Corporation v. T.C. Foods, et. al.*, was handled by James A. Aldag, an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Affirmative Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department, and Alan H. Kleinman, a Senior Counsel in the Affirmative Litigation Division. Aldag said, "The restrictive covenant was an active and important piece of the rules of the College Point Corporate Park. The enforcement of the rules is a vindication of the Urban Renewal Plan and the development activities of the City."

The 550-acre College Point Corporate Park is one of New York City's most successful industrial,

commercial and retail centers, combining the advantages of a bustling urban setting with the amenities of a convenient suburban environment. The New York City Economic Development Corp. manages the Corporate Park on behalf of the City of New York.

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world, ranking among the top three largest law offices in New York City and the top three largest public law offices in the country. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 90,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate 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. The Department's attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at www.nyc.gov or via direct link at www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html.

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