NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Press Release

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

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For Immediate Release

NEW YORK METS SETTLE WITH CITY OVER RENT PAYMENTS

TEAM AGREES TO PAY \$2.75 MILLION BY DEC. 10TH

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New York, Oct. 16, 2003 – Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe announced today that the City resolved an outstanding dispute with the New York Mets involving back rent due under the terms of the City's lease with the Mets. The agreement covers the seasons 1995 to 2001 during which there were outstanding disputes. The team agreed to pay \$2.75 million to the City by Dec. 10, 2003.

Under the lease, rent is payable to the City based, in part, upon a percentage of revenues the Mets receive from gross admissions, concessions, wait service, pre-paid parking, certain advertising, and a portion of cable television receipts. The Mets are authorized to make deductions against these revenue streams for payments made to Major League Baseball and new stadium planning costs in determining the amount of percentage rent due under the lease.

The City charged that the Mets had not paid enough in rent by underreporting advertising revenue and overstating deductions for payments made to Major League Baseball. The City uncovered these discrepancies as a result of two recent audit reports issued by the City Comptroller's office. The Mets and the New York City Law Department engaged in amicable discussions to arrive at the current settlement.

"We are very pleased that the Mets have agreed to pay their current lease obligations to the City," said Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo. "We feel the resolution is a fair settlement for both parties that will allow us to focus on more important issues, including looking ahead to next year's baseball season."

"The Mets have been an important part of New York for over 40 years," said Commissioner Benepe. "We are pleased that the matter at hand has been resolved, and we look forward to continuing a strong working relationship with the Mets."

Law Department attorneys negotiating the settlement included Senior Counsels Terri Feinstein Sasanow and Robin Green of the Commercial and Real Estate Litigation Division. Department of Parks & Recreation Assistant Commissioner for Revenue Joanne G. Imohiosen as well as Parks General Counsel Alessandro G. Olivieri and Parks Chief Accountant Michael Leonetti also worked on the settlement.

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.

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation maintains and develops clean, safe and accessible parkland and provides free education and recreation programs. The agency manages more than 28,000 acres of parkland comprising nearly 4,000 properties including four major stadiums. Its web site can also be accessed at the City government home page at www.nyc.gov or via direct link at www.nyc.gov or via direct link at www.nyc.gov/parks.