

## **Rep. Nadler Introduces Bill to Ensure Rights of All Married Couples**

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced the *Respect for Marriage Act*, a bill to repeal the discriminatory *Defense of Marriage Act* and ensure that all legally-married, same-sex couples are treated equally under federal law.

“We must finish the job begun by the Supreme Court by passing the *Respect for Marriage Act*. The Supreme Court has ruled that Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional, but Congress still must repeal the law in its entirety,” said Representative Nadler, sponsor of the House bill.

“The vast majority of Americans live in states where same-sex couples can marry and public support for marriage equality is growing stronger by the day. Repeal of DOMA is long overdue. That is why we are reintroducing the *Respect for Marriage Act*, which repeals DOMA in its entirety and sends DOMA into the history books where it belongs. The bill provides a uniform rule for recognizing couples under federal law, ensuring that lawfully married couples will be recognized under federal law no matter where they live and guaranteeing that all families can plan for a future of mutual obligation and support with confidence.”

## **Rep. Nadler Lauds Ban on Fracking in New York**

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Nadler welcomed Governor Cuomo’s announced ban on hydraulic fracturing in New York State.

“I have long advocated a ban on fracking in New York State to protect public health and safety,” said Nadler.

## **Rep. Nadler Calls for Greater Community Involvement in Old Chelsea Station Development Plan**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Nadler, along with other federal, state and local elected officials, called on USPS to solicit and incorporate community opinions and concerns as it proceeds with the development of the Old Chelsea Station. A copy of the letter is attached.

“Community input is a crucial part of any development at the Old Chelsea Post Office and USPS must include community feedback in their planning,” said Congressman Jerry Nadler. “We will continue to work to ensure that community voices are heard and neighborhood needs are met as USPS moves forward.”

## **Rep. Nadler Votes Against Omnibus Appropriations Act**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Nadler voted against the FY15 Omnibus spending bill.

“This bill undercuts spending levels for critical federal programs and includes egregious, non-germane policy provisions we simply cannot support,” said Nadler. “But most egregiously, while cutting funding for those who need it most, this spending bill includes several shocking, non-germane policy provisions solely designed to protect and promote special interests. The bill includes startling changes to campaign finance that will allow even more special interest money to flood our elections. Wealthy donors will now be able to give TEN TIMES the current limit to political parties. For the first time, the bill provides for severe cuts to guaranteed benefits to current retirees who worked for decades to secure their pensions. The bill even includes language authored by bank lobbyists to roll back an absolutely critical component of the Dodd-Frank Act specifically intended to prevent future bailouts for risky banks gambling with taxpayer money. Each of these provisions should have been separately debated on this floor, not slipped into a massive bill with the hope that no one would notice.

“But even without these provisions, I would oppose the bill. Don’t be fooled by the appearance of flat-funding for critical programs in this bill. Simply continuing to fund the government at the same level year after year without any increase for inflation is the same as a cut and leaves already underfunded agencies with no hope of recovering the ground lost under sequestration. For example, the funding level for Section 8 will allow public housing agencies to maintain their current load of vouchers but is so low that when families leave the program, agencies cannot transfer that voucher to a new tenant. Over time, as these low funding levels persist, we are providing fewer and fewer families access to safe, affordable housing. We owe it to our constituents to provide adequate funding for housing, education, infrastructure, and health care. We owe it to the American people to vote NO on this bill.”

The bill passed in the House by a vote of 219-206.

## **Rep. Nadler Deeply Disturbed by CIA Torture Report**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jerry Nadler, former Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, expressed his outrage over the practices described in the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on CIA interrogation methods.

“I am deeply disturbed, even disgusted, by the graphic scenes of torture described in the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report on CIA ‘enhanced interrogation’ techniques. They provide further confirmation of what we have already known for years, that America committed horrific abuses during the ‘War on Terror.’ Press accounts have informed us about CIA black sites, ‘renditions’ of terrorism suspects to foreign countries, and multiple instances of mistreatment at Guantanamo Bay Prison.”

“As I said first many years ago, torture is inconsistent with democratic principles of freedom and is a violation of the right to be free from cruel, unusual, and inhumane treatment at the hands of the government. Waterboarding – one of the methods described in the report - has long been considered torture and committing or ordering torture is a severe crime under both international and U.S. laws. Moreover, torture has never proven to be more effective than other methods of interrogation and did not produce any blockbuster intelligence while in use.

“As these acts are violations of both American law and morality, we must hold those accountable and prevent such abuses from happening in the future. In 2009, I called for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate allegations of torture and have today joined with my colleagues on the House Judiciary

Committee to advocate for a new round of hearings on the Senate CIA Torture report.

“I am also announcing today plans to reintroduce the *American Anti-Torture Act of 2014*, which would extend the Army Field Manual standards to all interrogations, ensuring that U.S. law has a single, uniform, baseline of treatment of prisoners. Additionally, the bill would clarify that interrogation techniques that are prohibited for use by the military’s own field manual on interrogations are similarly prohibited if used by the CIA or other government agencies. We must prohibit torture by law once and for all.”

### **Congressman Nadler Reacts to Tragic Deaths of Officer Rafael Ramos and Officer Wenjian Liu**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Congressman Nadler made the following statement regarding the tragic deaths of Office Rafael Ramos and Officer Wenjian Liu.

“This weekend, we witnessed a tragic and horrifying event: the cold blooded assassination of two police officers. We mourn the loss of Officer Rafael Ramos and Officer Wenjian Liu, who were upstanding members of their communities and part of the cadre of NYPD men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. We grieve for their families, for their colleagues in the NYPD, and for the entire City as we pay tribute to their service and their lives.

“The individual who perpetrated this crime traveled from Maryland with the express purpose of committing this horrible act. This senseless violence sent another round of shock waves through our already grieving city. Of course well before, and certainly since, the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, we have been struggling as a nation and as a city with how to move forward together; how to face the very real problems that often exist in police-community

relations while supporting our officers in their efforts to keep our streets safe. Mayor de Blasio has worked tirelessly alongside many in the City and in the NYPD to maintain peace and safety, continue critical discussions about reforming those policing tactics that jeopardize civil rights, civil liberties and individual security, and to support the NYPD and the officers who come to work every day and take risks to make our City safer.

“Those who have cynically and erroneously blamed Saturday’s tragedy on the Mayor’s previous acknowledgements of the challenges in community-police relations, or on peaceful and respectful protestors, do nothing to help move the conversation forward and in fact, foment more discord and strife. This must end. No one – on any side—should use this tragedy to advance a political point of view.

“We should object to any rhetoric that equates criticism of police tactics or policies with disrespect for the men and women of the NYPD. And we should object to rhetoric of those who minimize the significant sacrifices these dedicated public servants make every day for our City.

“We must all stand together and look to the future. That future must include discussion of the reality of how communities in our city experience policing, and a discussion of police and grand jury reform. And it must also include a discussion about investing in and valuing our police so they and the neighborhoods they serve are as safe as possible. We simply cannot prevent tragedies like the deaths of Officer Ramos, Officer Liu, Eric Garner and Michael Brown unless we are all focused, together. For now, let us all take the appropriate time as a City to mourn, and then let’s re-start those discussions, calmly and in earnest, towards a better future for all New Yorkers.”

## **Rep. Nadler Decries Grand Jury Decision in Eric Garner Case**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rep. Nadler expressed his dismay at the grand jury's decision not to indict the officer implicated in Eric Garner's death.

"The grand jury's failure to indict the officer in the Eric Garner case is shocking and almost unfathomable. Here you have a case of a video tape of an officer using a chokehold -- a hold that is known to be able to cause death, a hold that is banned under the NYPD's own policy -- which caused the death of Eric Garner. It is hard to understand how there cannot be probable cause that a crime was committed -- especially when there is a videotape. The fact that there won't even be a trial is shocking.

"I want to extend my sympathies to the family and to the community.

"I urge the Justice Department, which is already investigating the case, to proceed as quickly as possible with a view toward indictment for possible civil rights violations."

## **Rep. Nadler Calls for an End to Pregnancy Discrimination in the Workplace**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Congressman Nadler attended the Supreme Court oral arguments in the case of *Young v. UPS* regarding pregnancy discrimination in the workplace. Rep. Nadler is the author of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which was introduced in the House in 2013, has 140 cosponsors, and would close loopholes in

current employment law affecting pregnant women's rights in the workplace.

"It is imperative that we continue to work together to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) and settle this issue once and for all," said Rep. Nadler. "I introduced the PWFA to require employers to make reasonable accommodations to employees who have limitations stemming from pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer. These on-the-job accommodations are low-cost and not disruptive.

Rep. Nadler stated that he vows "to continue the fight [against pregnancy discrimination] until no one has to choose between a healthy pregnancy and a paycheck."

**Sign up for Congressman Nadler's [e-newsletter](#) by visiting [www.nadler.house.gov](http://www.nadler.house.gov)**

**Also, please visit Congressman Nadler on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/congressmannadler](http://www.facebook.com/congressmannadler) and Twitter: @ RepJerryNadler**

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December 11, 2014

The Honorable Pat Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

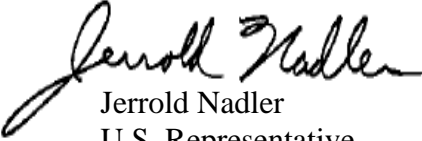
As the local elected officials representing the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea, we are writing concerning the Old Chelsea Post Office, located at 217 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011.

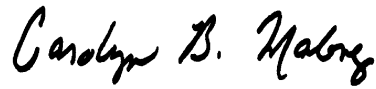
It has come to our attention that the United States Post Office (USPS) is considering the sale of a portion of the property the Old Chelsea Station occupies, along with associated air rights that the USPS believes may be used for additional construction. We first learned of the proposal just last week when a copy of a November 26, 2014 notice that was posted in the Old Chelsea Station was brought to our attention. The notice states that there is a 15-day comment period, beginning the date on the notice, during which comments on the proposal from the general public will be accepted. It is our understanding that this comment period will end December 11, 2014. We also understand that a letter was sent to Governor Cuomo, Mayor DeBlasio, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Community Board 4 (CB4), also dated November 26, 2014, that provides those offices with a 60-day period beginning the date of the letter to offer comments on USPS's proposed sale, ending on January 25, 2014.

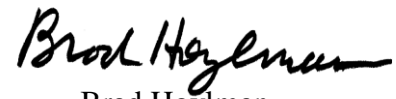
CB4 is scheduled to discuss the proposed sale at CB4 Chelsea Land Use meeting on December 15, 2014, which is after the close of the 15-day comment period for the general public. This will be the first opportunity for the community to hear a discussion of the proposed sale and to ask questions about the proposal. While we understand that CB4 has until the end of January to offer comments to USPS, it is important for our offices and members of the public to have an opportunity to have a robust discussion before providing comments on the proposal. As you know from our previous discussions about the Old Chelsea Post Office, this location is a very important one for the community and we anticipate a number of questions about the proposal. Therefore, we request that USPS extend the comment period for the general public until December 31, 2014 to allow sufficient time for informed public comment.


Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to continuing to work with USPS.


Sincerely,

  
Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. Representative

  
Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. Representative

  
Brad Hoylman  
State Senator

  
Richard N. Gottfried  
Assembly Member

  
Deborah J. Glick  
Assembly Member

  
Corey Johnson  
City Council Member

cc: Joseph Mulvey, USPS