

## Background

The Advisory Commission For the Review of Compensation Levels of Elected Officials in their recommendation in October 26<sup>th</sup> of 2006 made incomparable comparisons and left out pertinent factors as follows

In their report dated October 23, 2006, their Appendix A had the Salary Data for Elected officials of the 25 largest Cities. The commission used this data to compare it to city council base salary of 90k. Without the lulus, it is falsely perceived our city council is the 6<sup>th</sup> top paid when in fact they are 4<sup>th</sup> top paid if lulus were rightfully included. (Appendix A-1).

In addition, full time or part time status and average district population represented should have been factored. As Appendix A-1 shows New York City Council was 4<sup>th</sup> top paid above their full time status counterparts. After they voted themselves a 25% pay hike in Nov 2006, they were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> top paid above their full time counterparts and 19% more their Seattle counterparts ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> top paid city council. Los Angeles city council makes 20% more with their salary of \$149,160 compared to our city council salary of \$124,000. However, Los Angeles counterparts are full time statutory and their represent 60% more residents in their district then New York City (Appendix A-2)

The above not factored by the Commission in 2006 actually resulted in the City Council members overpaid in comparison to their counterparts in the 25 largest Cities. (Appendix A-1)

In regards to Appendix E of the Commission report dated in 2006. The New York City Council members average staff of 10 people and the Borough Presidents and Public Advocate average staff of 50 people pales in comparison. These leaders in Appendix E have much larger staff to manage and their roles and functions are not the same. I do not think this should be used in the Commission methodology in assessing our elected officials' salaries.

In regards to Appendix J of the Commission report dated in 2006. The average salary of DC37 in 2006 was \$29,000 compared to the city council average salary of \$100,000. Most of DC37 jobs are clerical and maintenance and not comparable to our elected official's functions. Also city negotiations with DC37 may not be in the interest of the public if it indirectly determines the raises of our city elected officials.

In regards to Appendix K of the Commission report dated in 2006. The commission didn't take into consideration the recession during 2001-2005. Not

only were many New Yorkers not receiving raises but many lost their jobs and were unemployed during this period. Others took salaries below their past paid history to remain employed.

Also the City council members ran in 2005 knowing that their base salary was 90K . Therefore, the hypothetical salaries with increases consistent with CPI should have started from 2006 and not applied to past years from 2000 to 2005. Therefore no CPI adjustment should have been made before their term began in 2006.

## Appendix L

In regards to Appendix L of the Commission report dated in 2006. Similar to my concerns with gauging the city council raises to union contracts, Mayor's personnel orders may be comprised if the raises benefit the elected officials indirectly. There is a conflict of interest if the raises of the elected officials correlate with the raises they determine for their staff.

## Appendix M.

As I stated above, the commission did not include the lulus in comparing the salary of the city council with their counterparts. Appendix M is amended to reflect their total compensation in 2006. (Appendix M-1)

The above comments regarding 2006 Commission methodology were necessary to avoid repeating history. The city council received a 25% pay raise after serving less than a year in their new term. In fact my city council member James Vacca ran for the open seat in 2005 that paid 90k yet received a 25k raise after serving less than a year in office. CM Vacca and 46 city council members voted against the amendment eliminating lulu as recommended by the commission and gave themselves a 25% pay raise. Only 5 city council members including CM Avella voted to eliminate lulu as recommended by the Commission. Therefore it is important that lulu is included as their total compensation by this commission in 2015

## **Recommendations:**

### **Lulus:**

Lulus must be included with the base compensation of the city council members in comparing with their counterparts. Over 92% of the city council members received lulu, it is sort of Enron off balance reporting of their salary to the public. As I stated in 2006, my city council member James Vacca and 46 other city council member blatantly ignored the commission

recommendation of eliminating lulu and voted against Avella's amendment to eliminate lulu. Appendix A-1 has their adjusted based salaries

### **Part time or Full time**

In the prior commission, the city council Speaker Quinn and other city council members argued that they work full time. Unless there is time sheet to verify these continued claims, their job is statutory part time and should be factored in your computations as a part time. The city council could have recommended the statutory change to full time to the charter revision commission convened in August 2010.

### **Outside Income:**

As reported and verify by the annual financials Disclosure forms. 40 of the 51 city council members do not have any outside income. And 7 of the 11 make an averaged round \$1000-\$5000. The remaining 3 city council members have income as follows.

- Chaim Deutsch (D-Brooklyn), the only Council member to report minimum outside income that topped six figures — between \$100,000 and \$250,000 from his real estate company, Chasa Management.

- Peter Koo (D-Queens) continues to collect a minimum salary of \$70,000 from his pharmacy companies, K&F Drug Corp. and Koo & Co. The maximum is \$195,997.
- David Greenfield (D-Brooklyn), an attorney, reports a minimum salary of \$60,000 (the maximum at \$99,999)

The lack of outside income doesn't mean they are working full time in the city council. It may mean they make sufficient money not in need of a second job unlike many new Yorkers who have more than one job to pay their bills. It may also mean they are not employable in the private sector and should be appreciative of their current employment.

### **Additional factors. - Office Perks**

After my city council member James Vacca and 28 oily council mummies voted themselves a 3<sup>rd</sup> term in 2008, they gain a lifetime retiree health insurance that costs the city up to \$12,600 a year. Those benefits could amount to millions of dollars in expenses over the next few decades. Under current rules, city employees must work 10 years and pay into the pension system to become eligible for retiree health benefits. But the term limits law restricts members of

the City Council, the mayor, public advocate, and comptroller and borough presidents to two consecutive four-year terms — two years shy of the requirement. By voting themselves a third term, their members and staff hit the 10-year mark without having to look for a new job with the city.

Also when comparing with their counterparts, health plans, retirement plans, and other perks should be taken into consideration.

### **Retroactively or not:**

First it should not be applied to the current term but the next term since how can it be permissible for an elected official to vote for their own raise as they did in 2006. Second any methodology or CPI applied should be from the start of the current term not before it begun as it was done in 2006. For instance at the charter revision commission, several city council members including CM Williams argued that they ran in 2009 when three terms was the law. And applying the 2 terms limits retroactively to those who ran in 2009 would be unfair. So the commission undid the wrong done in 2008 when term limits were extend, they revert the term limits to 2 terms but did not apply it retroactively to those who ran in 2009. So it is only fair and consistent to not apply any increase

retroactively since 112,500 salaries is the law of the land when they ran in 2013 for the term beginning in 2014.

In fact in 2006 the city council member were overpaid since lulus and their part time statue were not included in comparison to their counterparts. Also the CPI should have only apply to 2006, the beginning of their new term. However since it was apply to 2001, it gave city council members like CM James Vacca a 25% pay raise after serving less than a year in office He received increases for years that he didn't even serve in office.

### **Pay Cut or no raise should be considered.**

In 2006 San Francisco, the 11 members of the Board of Supervisors received \$112,000 until a salary-setting commission decided that \$112,000 was too much and chopped their pay to \$90,000. The commission should look at their constituents' median income. In some districts the city council member will make more than 4 times than their constituents. The Bronx has a median household income of less than 35K.



## **What a City Council does:**

I have witnessed by city council member James Vacca campaigning for DA Darnel Clark during business hours. I seen him barely stay longer a few minutes at council hearing to make has sound bites against bills and then leave before I testify. I seen him basically schmoozing the community groups but I don't see any real value to me personally. SO this article describes perfectly how I view my city council member Vacca "work". He is basically campaigning for the next job again. He just announced after 39 years in political carrier, that he would run for another office after his 3<sup>rd</sup> term ends in 2017. Basically we pay them 6 figures to schmoozes. I have included this article "Six-Figure Schmoozers by Seth Barron" because I agree wholeheartedly.

## **District Attorney**

A dark day for democracy in the Bronx after Darcel Clark was coroneted as our new DA. Our current Bronx DA was nominated to a judgeship and the Bronx Democrat Party handpicked his successor. This orchestrated plan was reported over a year ago before it happened in September. The party cut the voters out of the election process and there was no

debate since the candidate refused one. Based on this alone, I think the DA should not have a raise. Also there is nothing wrong with DA staff making more money than the DA. The DA has the authority and power and prestige of his office. The DA should not compare himself to those in the private market. There are just as many lawyers who are looking for jobs as there are lawyers making millions. The DA chose to run for this office to serve the people, not to make money.

### **Public Advocate and Borough Presidents.**

These offices have little power over city budgets and policies. They advocate for causes and serve as got liaisons. Many Critics argue theses positions should be eliminated. Even though I do like my Public Advocate and some of the borough presidents, I don't think a raise beyond the CPI adjustment beginning 2014 is appropriate.

### **Mayor**

The mayor should not get a raise. He is provided with free housing in Gracie Mansion and other perks, He makes substantial money. The commission should look at the median income of all workers The Mayor salary of \$225k is the highest paid mayor in the

nations. If he receives any raise, it is truly the tale of two cities.

## **Conclusion**

In the Bronx, voter turnout is at its all time low. Less than 3% of registered voters went to the polls. Apathy is at its highest at well. We have politicians who lied to get elected and ignore the people once in office. My city council member James Vacca voted against eliminating Lulus as well as voted to extend this own term. He makes sounds bites that the proposed 5-cent fee on plastic bags is another tax to hurt the poor. It's not a tax, just use a reusable bag. The city spends more money (10 millions) to transport plastic bags as well as the cost of these bags jamming expensive sanitation machinery. Not to mention the damage it does to our environment and sea life.

In CM James Vacca's 2014 Annual Disclosure Form, I noted he has over 500,000 in his deferred compensation plan in addition to his city pension. It was a sign of injustice when I give my own time and money to help our environment while he gets generously paid to do the opposite.

Kindest regards, Roxanne Delgado, Bronx, NY 10461



## Appendix A

**Salary Data for Elected Officials of the 25 Largest Cities**

City	Population	Mayor	Comptroller/CFO	City Council
Los Angeles, CA	3,845,541	\$193,908	\$164,076	\$149,160
Chicago, IL	2,862,244	\$216,210	\$148,476	\$98,125
Houston, TX	2,012,626	\$165,816	\$90,965	\$49,794
Philadelphia, PA	1,470,151	\$144,009	\$99,853	\$102,292; Council President- \$128,292
Phoenix, AZ	1,418,041	\$88,000	\$160,243	\$59,000
San Diego, CA	1,263,756	\$100,464	\$183,568	\$75,386
San Antonio, TX	1,236,249	\$2,080		\$20/mtg
Dallas, TX	1,210,393	\$60,000		\$37,500
San Jose, CA	904,522	\$105,019	\$168,542	\$75,048
Detroit, MI	900,198	\$176,176	\$142,800	\$81,312
Indianapolis, IN	784,242	\$95,000	\$91,999	\$11,400-\$13,382
Jacksonville, FL	777,704	\$166,533	\$175,000	\$42,884; President-\$57,179
San Francisco, CA	744,230	\$171,262		\$89,648
Columbus, OH	730,008	\$141,001	\$126,110	\$36,252
Austin, TX	681,804	\$53,000		\$45,000
Memphis, TN	671,929	\$160,000		\$30,600; Chair-\$32,600
Baltimore, MD	636,251	\$125,000	\$80,000	\$48,000; President-\$50,000
Fort Worth, TX	603,337	\$30,000		\$27,000
Charlotte, NC	594,359	\$38,482		\$22,745
El Paso, TX	592,099	\$38,079		\$22,432
Milwaukee, WI	583,624	\$139,549	\$135,346	\$69,352; Council President-\$78,376
Seattle, WA	571,480	\$148,540		\$103,878
Boston, MA	569,165	\$175,000		\$87,500
Denver, CO	556,835	\$136,920	\$118,416	\$73,512; President-\$82,320
Washington, D.C.	553,523	\$145,000		\$92,500

Chicago recently passed a law that annual increases in the aldermanic salary will be determined over the next four years according to the federal CPI.

LA: Elected officials salaries tied to salaries of State Supreme Court judges

Phoenix: City Council salaries are 2/3 of Mayor's. Formula and ratio of salaries approved by voters every 2 yrs.

Appendix A-1					
2006			2006 after City Council voted for 25% Raise		
Top City Council Salaries Base Salary			Top City Council Salaries Base Salary		
1	Los Angeles	149,160	1	Los Angeles	149,160
2	Seattle	103,878	2	NYC	112,500
3	Philadelphia	102,292	3	Seattle	103,878
4	Chicago	98,125	4	Philadelphia	102,292
5	Washington, D.C.	92,500	5	Chicago	98,125
6	NYC	90,000	6	Washington, D.C.	92,500
7	San Francisco	89,648	7	San Francisco	89,648
Top City Council Salaries (lulus included)			AFTER NYC 25% RAISE IN 2006 Top City Council Salaries (lulus included)		
1	Los Angeles	149,160	1	Los Angeles	149,160
2	Seattle	103,878	2	NYC	124,000
3	Philadelphia	102,292	3	Seattle	103,878
4	NYC	100,000	4	Philadelphia	102,292
5	Chicago	98,125	5	Chicago	98,125
6	Washington, D.C.	92,500	6	Washington, D.C.	92,500
7	San Francisco	89,648	7	San Francisco	89,648
		Part Time			

Created By Roxanne Delgado

## **Appendix E**

### **Salary Information on Leaders of Public Agencies, Corporations, Authorities and Unions**

<b>Official</b>	<b>Salary</b>
DOE Chancellor	\$250,000
HHC President	\$260,454
Criminal Justice Coordinator	\$190,445 <sup>1</sup>
MTA Exec. Dir.	\$235,000
Port Authority Exec. Dir	\$231,764
UFT President	\$241,450
TWU President	\$129,724
Unite Here President	\$339,043
SEIU 1199 President	\$162,826
SEUI 32BJ President	\$204,445
DC 37 Exec. Dir.	\$209,368

<sup>1</sup> As of 2/2007

<b>Appendix A-2</b>				
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>New York</b>		
<b>Population</b>	3,845,541	8,104,079		
<b>Number of City Council Members</b>	15	51		
<b>District average population of residents</b>	256,369	158,904	61%	
<b>Created by Roxanne Delgado</b>				



## Appendix K

### Hypothetical Salaries with Increases Consistent With CPI (NY/NJ/CT)

		Mayor	Borough President	Comptroller	Public Advocate	City Council Member	District Attorney
1999 Salary	CPI %	\$ 195,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 150,000
CY 2000	3.1%	\$ 201,045	\$ 139,185	\$ 164,960	\$ 154,650	\$ 92,790	\$ 154,650
CY 2001	2.5%	\$ 206,071	\$ 142,665	\$ 169,084	\$ 158,516	\$ 95,110	\$ 158,516
CY 2002	2.5%	\$ 211,223	\$ 146,231	\$ 173,311	\$ 162,479	\$ 97,487	\$ 162,479
CY 2003	3.1%	\$ 217,771	\$ 150,764	\$ 178,684	\$ 167,516	\$ 100,510	\$ 167,516
CY 2004	3.5%	\$ 225,393	\$ 156,041	\$ 184,938	\$ 173,379	\$ 104,027	\$ 173,379
CY 2005	3.9%	\$ 234,183	\$ 162,127	\$ 192,150	\$ 180,141	\$ 108,085	\$ 180,141
CY 2006 <sup>1</sup>	3.9%	\$ 243,316	\$ 168,450	\$ 199,644	\$ 187,166	\$ 112,300	\$ 187,166
Average	3.2%						

1. Assumes same as 2005

# Appendix L

## Hypothetical Salaries with Increases As Per Mayor's Personnel Orders 2000-2007

		Mayor	Borough President	Comptroller	Public Advocate	City Council Member	District Attorney
1999 Salary		\$ 195,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 150,000
Eff. 7/1/00	4.00%	\$ 202,800	\$ 140,400	\$ 166,400	\$ 156,000	\$ 93,600	\$ 156,000
Eff. 7/1/01	4.00%	\$ 210,912	\$ 146,016	\$ 173,056	\$ 162,240	\$ 97,344	\$ 162,240
Eff. 7/1/03	3.00%	\$ 217,239	\$ 150,396	\$ 178,248	\$ 167,107	\$ 100,264	\$ 167,107
Eff. 7/1/04	2.00%	\$ 221,584	\$ 153,404	\$ 181,813	\$ 170,449	\$ 102,270	\$ 170,449
Eff. 7/1/04	1.00%	\$ 223,757	\$ 154,908	\$ 183,595	\$ 172,120	\$ 103,272	\$ 172,120
Eff. 7/1/05	3.15%	\$ 230,805	\$ 159,788	\$ 189,378	\$ 177,542	\$ 106,525	\$ 177,542
Eff. 8/1/06	2.00%	\$ 235,421	\$ 162,984	\$ 193,166	\$ 181,093	\$ 108,656	\$ 181,093
Eff. 2/1/07	4.39%	\$ 245,761	\$ 170,142	\$ 201,650	\$ 189,047	\$ 113,428	\$ 189,047
AVERAGE	2.94%						

**Appendix M****City Council Stipends (Lulus) 2006\***

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>Lulu</b>
Speaker	Christine C. Quinn	\$28,500
Majority Leader/Health	Joel Rivera	\$23,000
Deputy Majority Leader/Consumer Affairs	Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.	\$20,000
Minority Leader	James S. Oddo	\$18,000
Welfare	Bill de Blasio	\$15,000
Assistant Majority Leader/Youth Services	Lewis A. Fidler	\$15,000
Majority Whip/Standards and Ethics	Inez E. Dickens	\$11,000
Minority Whip	Dennis P. Gallagher	\$5,000

**Standing Committees**

Finance	David I. Weprin	\$18,000
Land Use	Melinda R. Katz	\$18,000
Housing and Buildings	Erik Martin Dilan	\$10,000
Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse & Disability Services	G. Oliver Koppell	\$10,000
Women's Issues	Helen Sears	\$10,000
Aging	Arroyo	\$10,000
Civil Rights	Larry B. Seabrook	\$10,000
Civil Service and Labor	Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.	\$10,000
Contracts	Yvette D. Clarke	\$10,000
Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations	Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.	\$10,000
Economic Development	Thomas White, Jr.	\$10,000
Education	Robert Jackson	\$10,000
Environmental Protection	James F. Gennaro	\$10,000
Fire and Criminal Justice Services	Miguel Martinez	\$10,000
Governmental Operations	Simcha Felder	\$10,000
Higher Education	Charles Barron	\$10,000
Immigration	Kendall Stewart	\$10,000
Juvenile Justice	Sara M. Gonzalez	\$10,000
Lower Manhattan Redevelopment	Alan J. Gerson	\$10,000
Oversight and Investigations	Eric N. Gioia	\$10,000
Parks and Recreation	Helen D. Foster	\$10,000
Public Safety	Peter F. Vallone, Jr.	\$10,000
Rules, Privileges and Elections	Diana Reyna	\$10,000
Sanitation and Waste Management	Michael E. McMahon	\$10,000
Small Business	David Yassky	\$10,000
State and Federal Legislation	Maria Baez	\$10,000
Technology in Government	Gale A. Brewer	\$10,000
Transportation	John C. Liu	\$10,000
Veterans	Hiram Monserrate	\$10,000
Waterfronts	Michael C. Nelson	\$10,000

**Subcommittees**

Zoning and Franchises (Land Use)	Tony Avella**	\$4,000
Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses (Land Use)	Jessica S. Lappin	\$4,000
Planning Dispositions and Concessions (Land Use)	Daniel R. Garodnick	\$4,000
Drug Abuse (Mental Health)	Annabel Palma	\$4,000
Public Housing (Housing and Buildings)	Rosie Mendez	\$4,000
Senior Centers (Aging)	James Vacca	\$4,000

**Select Committees**

Community Development	Albert Vann	\$4,000
Libraries	Vincent J. Gentile	\$4,000

\* Adopted at the State Meeting of the New York City Council, January 18, 2006

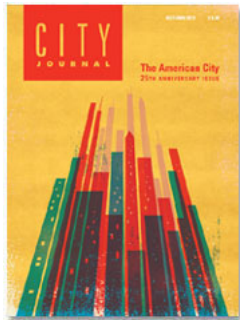
\*\*Declines lulu

M-1

		Before Raise		25% Raise		
		LuLus	Base Salary	Adj Base Salary	New Base Salary	Adj Base Salary
1 Quinn	Speaker	\$28,500	\$90,000	\$118,500	\$112,500	\$141,000
2 Rivera	Majority Leader/Health	\$23,000	\$90,000	\$113,000	\$112,500	\$135,500
3 Comrie	Deputy Majority Leader/consumer affairs	\$20,000	\$90,000	\$110,000	\$112,500	\$132,500
4 Oddo	Minority Leader	\$18,000	\$90,000	\$108,000	\$112,500	\$130,500
5 DeBlasio	welfare	\$15,000	\$90,000	\$105,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
6 Fidler	Assistant Majority Leader/ Youth Services	\$15,000	\$90,000	\$105,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
7 Dickens	Majority Whip/ standard and ethics	\$11,000	\$90,000	\$101,000	\$112,500	\$123,500
8 Gallagher	Minority Whip	\$5,000	\$90,000	\$95,000	\$112,500	\$117,500
Standing Committee					\$112,500	\$112,500
9 Weprin	Finance	\$18,000	\$90,000	\$108,000	\$112,500	\$130,500
10 Katz	Land Use	\$18,000	\$90,000	\$108,000	\$112,500	\$130,500
11 Dilan	Housing and Buildings	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
	Mental Health,Developmental Disability, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disability					
12 Koppell	Services	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
13 Sears	Women's Issue	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
14 Arroyo	Aging	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
15 Seabrooks	Civil Rights	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
16 Addabbo	Civil Service & Labor	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
17 Clark	Contracts	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
	Culturel Affairs, Libraries & International					
18 Recchia	Intergroup Relations	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
19 White	Economic Development	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
20 Jackson	Education	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
21 Gennaro	Environmental Protection	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
22 Martinez	Fire and Criminal Justice Services	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
23 Felder	Governmental Operatons	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
24 Barron	Higher Education	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
25 Stewart	Immigraiton	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
26 Gonzales	Juvenile Justice	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
27 Gerson	Lower Manhattan Redevelopment	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
28 Gioia	Oversight and Investigation	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
29 Foster	Parks and recreation	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
30 Vallone	Public Safety	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
31 reyan	Rules, Privelegs and Elections	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
32 McMahon	Sanitation and Solid Waste Management	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
33 Yassky	Small Business	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
34 Baez	State and Federal Legislation	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
35 Brewer	Technology	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
36 Liu	Transportation	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
37 Monseratte	Veterans	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
38 Neilson	waterfronts	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$112,500	\$122,500
Sub Committes						
39 Avella	Zoning	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
40 Lappin	Landmarks	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
41 Gardonick	Planning Dispositions	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
42 Palma	Drug Abuse (Mental Health)	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
43 Mendez	public housing (housing and budget)	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
44 Vacca	Senior Center (aging)	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
45 Vann	community development	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
46 Gentile	libraries	\$4,000	\$90,000	\$94,000	\$112,500	\$116,500
Total		\$483,500				

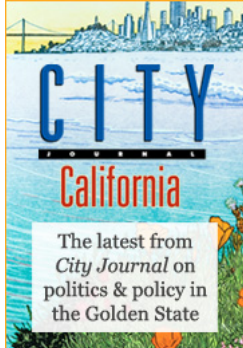
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## Eye on the News

SETH BARRON

### Six-figure Schmoozers

*Overpaid already, New York City lawmakers propose a big, fat raise.*

November 13, 2015

The news that six city council members are angling to give themselves a [71 percent raise](#) will test even New Yorkers' high tolerance for chutzpah. The pay proposal, if approved, would boost council member salaries from \$112,500 to a staggering \$192,500. The city's 51-member council would become the highest-paid legislative body in the nation—including Congress—and council members would receive a higher base pay than any state governor.



PHOTO BY NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

Council speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito dismissed the suggestion that council members would receive such an extravagant raise, and said that she awaits the advice of a commission appointed to make recommendations about elected officials' salaries. New York's lawmakers haven't received a raise since 2006, when their \$90,000 salary was bumped up 22 percent, to its current level. (Mayor Michael Bloomberg opted not to convene the so-called Quadrennial Commission in 2010 because of the recession.) While a 71 percent raise sounds absurd, it's likely intended as a highball opening bid so that any eventual increase—say, a mere 20 or 30 percent—will be seen as a reasonable compromise.

But the proposal has raised an important question: what do city council members do to justify the six-figure salaries they already enjoy? Their jobs, after all, are meant to be part-time. By law, the city council must meet twice each month, except during July and August. At these 20 "stated meetings," votes are held and bills are introduced. After winning the speakership, Mark-Viverito promised to run the meetings efficiently, and indeed she starts them on time and typically adjourns them within 90 minutes or so. Almost every council member—except for the handful of Republicans and the speaker's political enemies—gets assigned chairmanship of a committee, which usually meets once a month.

Council members serve on a number of these committees and are expected to attend committee hearings. They routinely show up just long enough to be marked "present" or to ask a question that could get them

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on the evening news. Each council member has a district office and a staff to deal with constituent services, media inquiries, and legislative matters. Council members keep themselves busy by attending events at senior centers or schools, meeting with local businesspeople, breakfasting with civic groups, and talking to other elected officials. To outsiders—whether employed in the public or private sector—it seems that council members make good money for doing what amounts to schmoozing for a living.

And the schmoozing comes with perks. Committee chairs are granted an additional “lulu” (payment in lieu of expenses) of \$8,000 to compensate for time spent overseeing one committee hearing per month. The council’s majority leader, a position with no specific duties, gets a \$15,000 lulu. The speaker gets an extra \$25,000.

Advocates for the pay raise, in what they tout as a reformist measure, pledge to forego outside income and give up their lulus for the higher salaries. Earning outside income through a professional practice or a business, they suggest, is an inherently corrupting influence on the honorable execution of the “people’s business.” But the offer to go “full-time” in exchange for more money is just a bluff. Virtually no council members are capable of earning outside income, because few of them have any nongovernmental work experience. One-third of the 51 council members have zero significant prior work experience, except as aides to elected officials—frequently the council member whose seat they now occupy. Another six council members are former public school teachers. Several, including speaker Mark-Viverito, were union staffers or community organizers. Aside from a handful of lawyers who could possibly maintain private practices and an evangelical minister who continues to preach every Sunday, it’s hard to imagine that many members of the New York city council have much earning potential in the real world.

Council member Peter Koo, an immigrant from Hong Kong, is the exception. In 1971, Koo came to New York penniless. He worked his way through pharmacy school and now owns a successful chain of drugstores in Flushing. In a sad irony, if the council votes itself this raise and foregoes outside income, the only member of the body who actually employs people and generates revenue may have to step down.

***Seth Barron blogs about the New York City Council at [City Council Watch](#).***



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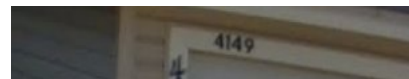
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City	Council salary ▼	Number of council members	Total population, 2013	Median household income, 2013
Los Angeles, California	\$184,610	15	3,884,307	\$48,466
Washington, District of Columbia	\$132,990	13	646,449	\$67,572
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	\$127,085	17	1,553,165	\$36,836
Seattle, Washington	\$119,976	9	652,405	\$70,172
Chicago, Illinois*	\$112,587	50	2,718,782	\$47,099
New York, New York	\$112,500	51	8,405,837	\$52,223
San Francisco, California	\$105,723	11	837,442	\$77,485
Boston, Massachusetts	\$87,500	13	645,966	\$53,583
San Jose, California	\$81,000	10	998,537	\$80,977
Denver, Colorado***	\$80,753	13	649,495	\$51,089
Detroit, Michigan	\$76,840	9	688,701	\$24,820
San Diego, California	\$75,386	9	1,355,896	\$63,456
Austin, Texas	\$70,075	10	885,400	\$56,351
Houston, Texas	\$62,409	16	2,195,914	\$45,353
Phoenix, Arizona	\$61,600	8	1,513,367	\$46,601
Columbus, Ohio	\$52,585	7	822,553	\$44,426
Jacksonville, Florida	\$44,100	19	842,583	\$47,424
Dallas, Texas**	\$37,500	14	1,257,676	\$41,978
El Paso, Texas	\$30,450	8	674,433	\$41,129
Memphis, Tennessee	\$29,070	13	653,450	\$36,722
Charlotte, North Carolina	\$26,784	11	792,862	\$51,034
Fort Worth, Texas	\$25,000	9	792,727	\$52,430
Nashville,	\$15,000	40	634,464	\$46,803



2015

		LuLus	Base Sala	Adj Base Salary	
1	Mark-Viverito	Speaker	\$25,000	\$112,500	\$137,500
		Deputy Leader/Economic			
2	Garodnick	Development	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Majority Leader/Culturel			
		Affairs, Libraries &			
		International Intergroup			
3	Van Bramer	Relations	\$20,000	\$112,500	\$132,500
		Deputy Leader/Oversight			
4	Gentile	and Investigation	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
5	Ignizo	Minority Leader	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Deputy Leader/Public			
6	Torres	Housing	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Deputy			
7	vacca	Leader/Technology	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Deputy Leader/Housing			
8	Williams	and Buildings	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Deputy			
9	Rose	Leader/Waterfronts	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Deputy Leader/Rules,			
10	Lander	Privelegs and Elections	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
	Standing Committee			\$112,500	\$112,500
11	Ferreras	Finance	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
12	Greenfield	Land Use	\$15,000	\$112,500	\$127,500
		Mental			
		Health,Developmental			
		Disability, Alcholism,			
		Drug Abuse and			
13	Cohen	Disability Services	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
14	Cumbo	Women's Issue		\$112,500	\$112,500
15	Chin	Aging	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
16	Mealy	Civil Rights	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
17	Miller	Civil Service & Labor	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
18	Arroyo	Community Development	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
19	Espinal	Consumer Affairs	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
20	Rosenthal	Contracts	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
21	Dromm	Education	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
22	Constantinides	Environmental Protection	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
23	Crowley	Fire and Criiminal Justice	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
24	Levin	General Welfare	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
25	Kallos	Governmental Operatons	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
26	Johnson	Health	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
27	Barron	Higher Education	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
28	Menchaca	Immigraiton	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
29	Cabrera	Juvenile Justice	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
30	Levine	Parks and recreation	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
31	Gibson	Public Safety	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
32	Trayger	Recovery and Resiliency	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
33	Reynoso	Sanitation and Solid Wast	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
34	Cornegy	Small Business	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
35	Maisel	Standard and Ethics	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
36	Koslowitz	State and Federal Legisla	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
37	Rodriguez	Transportation	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
38	Ulrich	Veterans	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
39	Cumbo	Women's Issue	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
40	Eugene	Youth Services	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
		Sub Committes			
42	Richards	Zoning	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
42	Koo	Landmarks	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
43	Dickens	Planning Dispositions	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
44	Wills	Drug Abuse (Mental Healt	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
45	Vallone	Senior Center (aging)	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
46	King	libraries	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500
47	Deutsch	Non Public Schools (educ:	\$8,000	\$112,500	\$120,500

\$467,000