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For Immediate Release
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MAYOR SIGNS MARK WEPRIN'S WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT INTO LAW

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has signed into law a bill sponsored by Council Member Mark S. Weprin to strengthen the City's Human Rights Law with respect to religious practices in the workplace. The bill passed unanimously at the last Council meeting.

Similar to the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the law requires employers to provide a reasonable accommodation of a religious practice, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the employer. Council Member Weprin's bill redefines what qualifies as an undue hardship and offers greater protection for religiously observant employees than what is currently available under the federal standard. Council Member Weprin believes that Americans should not have to choose between practicing their religion and performing their job, provided that the religious observance will not stop the employee from doing his or her job safely. Council Member Weprin believes that this new law will lead to appropriate accommodations being granted and strengthen religious freedom.

(photograph attached)

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