



# *THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK*

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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### **Council Member Dromm Helps to Launch Progressive Caucus of the New York City Council**

**New York, NY**, March 23, 2010 -- Council Member Daniel Dromm and eleven other members of the New York City Council announced today the formation of the Progressive Caucus of the New York City Council. The Progressive Caucus will push for a more just, more equal city that offers genuine opportunity to all New Yorkers.

"We believe that most New Yorkers want a more just, more equal city," said Council Member Dromm. "As we work to pull out of an economic crisis that has left so many of our neighbors without jobs or homes – one largely rooted in speculative real-estate investments that saw our neighborhoods as commodities to be packaged by investment banks – we must plan a recovery that diversifies our economy and looks to narrow the growing economic divide."

Council Member Dromm was joined by the following Council Members in announcing the Caucus's formation today: Margaret Chin (Manhattan), Julissa Ferreras (Queens), Leticia James (Brooklyn), Brad Lander (Brooklyn), Melissa Mark-Viverito (Manhattan-Bronx), Rosie Mendez (Manhattan), Annabel Palma (Bronx), Ydanis Rodriguez (Manhattan), Debi Rose (Staten Island), Jimmy Van Bramer (Queens) and Jumaane Williams (Brooklyn). Council Members Lander and Mark-Viverito will be serving as the Caucus co-chairs. Many of these Council Members were part of a sweep of progressive Democrats into the City Council and citywide offices last year. Other council members who share the goals of the Caucus will be invited to join.

"Cities around the country have adopted innovative, progressive policies – and New York City must do the same," said Caucus Co-Chair Melissa Mark-Viverito. "That's why we are launching the Progressive Caucus."

"The economic development policies of the Bloomberg Administration have been far too focused on real estate development, high-end housing, and low-wage jobs," said Co-Chair Brad Lander. "We need to focus on creating good jobs, narrowing the income gap, preserving affordable housing, and strengthening our neighborhoods from the inside."

Building upon the passage of historic health care legislation in Congress, many council members see a need to tackle similar progressive issues at the local level. The Caucus plans to begin its work by focusing on several key issues facing the City Council:

- pushing for passage of the Paid Sick Days bill, which would cover the more than 1 million working New Yorkers who don't currently receive a single paid sick day from their employers;
- addressing the Section 8 voucher crisis created by Bloomberg Administration mismanagement, which is putting thousands of families at risk of homelessness;
- and shifting to an economic development policy focused on creating quality jobs, in diverse economic sectors, and strengthening neighborhoods from the inside.

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