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**New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm Applauds Governor Paterson's
Signing of Bill Eliminating the Stop and Frisk Database**

Jackson Heights, NY, July 18, 2010 -- On Friday, New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm attended Governor David A. Paterson's signing of the "Stop and Frisk" Bill into law. The legislation prohibits the retention, in an electronic database, of the personal information of individuals who are stopped, questioned and frisked by police, but are not charged with a crime or violation.

"Today, I attended Governor Paterson's signing of a bill to end the stop and frisk database currently in use by the New York City Police Department, said New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). "I applaud the Governor's action and that of the sponsors of the legislation, Senator Eric Adams and Assembly Member Hakim Jeffries."

The "stop, question and frisk" technique is used when a police officer reasonably suspects that an individual has committed or is about to commit a misdemeanor or felony. While this law does not prohibit the use of that technique, it ends the practice of storing the personal information that is collected in the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) database. The bill applies only to stops in New York City.

"I find this policy to be unfair and to be a violation of an accepted American freedom – the ability to live in this country without fear of unreasonable police intrusion into private citizen's lives," said Dromm. "There is a delicate balance between the protection of our right to walk the streets freely and the protection of public safety. This must be preserved. However, the collection of data on innocent people who have done nothing wrong violates a basic American right and threatens everyone. More and more, we see our freedoms eroded by government intrusion and this worries me."

Additionally, the stop and frisk database unfairly targeted people of color because 90 percent of all stop and frisks involve people of color.

"While the stop and frisk database has been stopped, we must now look at how this policy is enforced because today's legislation does not prohibit the police from still using these tactics," affirmed Dromm. "It is unacceptable to have children of color grow up expecting to become a target of a negative stop and frisk police interaction. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the NYC Council in addressing these concerns in the future."

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