



**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
PUBLIC ADVOCATE
ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to policy issues facing the City of New York that are of concern to Citizens Union and the citizens of the city. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire in our Voters Directory, on our website, and in other appropriate venues. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union will use to evaluate candidates who are running for office in order to determine our "Preferred Candidates" for the primary election and "Endorsed Candidates" for the general election. In order to receive Citizens Union's "preferred" or "endorsed" status, in addition to completing the questionnaire, candidates must participate in an interview with Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee.

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Mark Green Age: 64

Campaign Address: 215 Park Avenue South, Suite 1914, New York, NY 10003
(zip)

Campaign Telephone Number: (646) 405-5550 Fax: () _____

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Anne Strahle

Website & Email: http://markgreen.com & mark@markgreen.com

Education: Harvard Law School (1970); Cornell University School of Arts & Sciences (1967)

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected office): Public Interest Lawyer; author/editor of 22 books on public affairs; teacher at NYU (2002-2007).

Previous Offices and Campaigns: NYC Public Advocate, 1994-2001 and NYC Consumer Affairs Commissioner, 1990-1993. Campaigned for U.S Congress in 1980, U.S. Senate in 1986, NYC Mayor in 2001, and NYS Attorney General in 2006.

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES X

Have you completed requisite campaign finance filings? YES X

(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" or "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed. We will make every effort to interview candidates in this race.)

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Please state your position on the following issues by indicating whether you support or oppose each, where applicable. Please also use the space provided below each question or on a separate sheet of paper to elaborate on your positions on the questions which require a detailed answer. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

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| 1. What is your position regarding the creation of a Charter Revision Commission to review specifically the roles of the various offices of government and how well government has functioned since the 1988 and 1989 charter review commissions? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |
| 2. What is your position on the passage of state legislation that would allow for other charter measures, such as those initiated by the City Council or by citizens, to appear on the ballot at the same time as when there is a charter reform proposal initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |
| 3. What is your position on restructuring New York's current board of elections model to eliminate political party responsibility for overall election administration and replace it with a system that narrows political party involvement to certification of candidate petitions and the actual counting of votes? | Support | <u>Oppose</u> |
| 4. What is your position on having an election administration system where there is a local elections executive director appointed by the mayor upon recommendation by a new board that is chosen by the mayor and the city council? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |
| 5. What is your position with respect to allowing voters who are registered as independents to vote in party primaries? | Support | <u>Oppose</u> |
| 6. What is your position on term limits for elected officials? | <u>Support</u> | Oppose |

7. **What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?** Support Oppose

7. **What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.** Support Oppose

I strongly disagreed with the suspension of term limits enacted by the City Council and the Mayor. I believe I was the first to speak out publicly against this undemocratic power grab – from the Democratic convention in Denver in August. It was self-serving and undemocratic for the City Council and Mayor to disregard two public referendums to give themselves one more term in power. The extension of term limits was among the reasons I decided to enter the race for Public Advocate. I can support term limits of 12 years but only if it is put to the public in a new referendum.

8. **How would you use the office of the Public Advocate to impact public policy in the City to serve the broad public interest?**

To see how I would impact public policy in the City and serve the public interest, one could look at what I did as Public Advocate previously. I treated the office as a public interest law firm, using investigation, litigation and legislation to expose problems and solve problems. We: led the fight to get organized crime out of the carting industry, twice successfully sued Mayor Giuliani over racial profiling, protected domestic violence victims in the workplace, wrote the original law providing for multiple matching grants for small donations, reduced tobacco advertising aimed at children, reformed the child welfare system, and produced a series of influential reports entitled *The Poor Pay More*.

If elected Public Advocate again, I will again be a strong advocate for all New Yorkers, holding government bureaucracy, City Hall and business accountable, as well as bring new ideas to solve old problems.

9. **What would be your most important legislative and non-legislative priorities as public advocate?**

The Public Advocate should be a socket that residents across the City can plug into. That's why I'll move to implement my ideas (a) in *Government 2.0: New Technology for a New Democracy* (available at markgreen.com) and (b) for the creation of Public Advocate Locals (PALs). *Government 2.0* proposes 30 ideas—like Open 311 and Twitter hashtags (such as #NYCWatch or #311NYC)—to use information technology to make government more transparent and accountable. PALs would be local groups working on local issues to solve problems. You see, I can't know what is happening in every neighborhood as well as advocates in that neighborhood can. That is why when I was Public Advocate previously, I visited all 59 community boards as well as a community

police precinct or school. While I plan to do that again, PALs would be an instantaneous way for me to find out what's going on and use the power of my office to correct it. In addition, no one of us is as strong as all of us together. Advocates across the City working alone cannot accomplish as much as if they are organized together to fight for one another's causes.

The Public Advocate is a non-voting member of the City Council with the power to introduce legislation, like my 1998 law that limited the influence of special interests by providing matching dollars for smaller donations. Our most important legislative priorities include:

- Restoring the budget for Public Advocates office from the 40% cut and providing for an independent budget so that the watchdog over the Mayor and City Hall cannot be cut by those who would prefer not to be watched;
- Growing jobs and local small business by simplifying and increasing access to economic development programs and financing so that New York becomes THE Creative City;
- Preserving affordable housing by closing loopholes in City housing law and building regulations;
- Going greener by phasing in congestion pricing and other green initiatives;
- Restricting donations by groups receiving Member Items; and
- Harnessing technology for a more transparent, efficient and responsive government through *Government 2.0*.

10. What are the three most important oversight functions of the Public Advocate?

1. *Charter Cop.* The Public Advocate provides a check and balance on City Hall, which a necessary role especially with a Mayor and City Council who would ignore the people who spoke twice in favor or term limits and that would decimate the budget of its watchdog. In this role we previously forced Mayor Giuliani and the City Council to fund the Independent Budget Office, established an Independent Police Investigation and Audit Board, forced independent reviews of Administration for Children's Services, and compelled the Police Department to reveal how often verified complaints from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) were actually punished in *Green v. Safir*.

2. *Ombudsman.* The Public Advocate resolves some 12,000 individual grievances annually and investigates systemic problems as well. The Public Advocate's office is essential in acting as an Ombudsman and independent third party, empowered by the Charter, to help the aggrieved party gain some sort of satisfaction where the bureaucracy failed. The great reward for the Ombudsman occurs when he or she successfully untangles the proverbial red tape and helps a resident obtain his or her due from the government or a business. Some examples of individual complaints include:

- responded to a "Dear Santa" letter from a child by arranging for a homeless family to be reinstated in the section 8 housing subsidy program to which it was entitled;
- arranged for a Bronx mother to get \$1,420 in back child support that had been "stuck" in the Human Resources Administration bureaucracy;
- worked with the Bureau of Pupil Transportation Services to get a new bus for a public school in Manhattan that was using a dangerously overcrowded school bus; and

- worked with the Police Department to expedite issuance of accident reports for insurance purposes to victims, scores of whom complained of waiting more than six months for such reports.

Through the Public Advocate's handling of individual grievances, we are able to identify systemic problems that have arisen, investigate them, and work with agencies or corporations towards a solution. Some examples include:

- winning refunds ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 for 40 complainants, emanating from complaints of erroneous water bills, which ultimately resulted in the Department of Environmental Protection to promise to reduce errors and improve customer services through a centralized billing system;
- removing fines on thousands of single family homeowners who were punished for failing to file a low-pressure boiler inspection report, even though one-family homes are exempt from the local law requiring such reports; and
- cleaning up the environment in response to a young couple with a baby that had a defective dry cleaning machine on the ground floor of their residential building emitting large and illegal amounts of toxic perchloroethylene ("perc") fumes into their apartment.

3. *Citizen Access.* The Public Advocate must ensure the free flow of public information and community outreach. It is tasked by the City Charter with providing citizen access as Chair of the Commission on Public Information and Communication (COPIC); COPIC in turn is tasked with reviewing information policies and compliance, facilitating public access, holding public hearings, making recommendations about new technology, publishing a data directory and broadcasting public proceedings. But COPIC has been dormant. Instead, it should be a cornerstone of Government 2.0. So rather than just going back to the same job and using the same old rules, let's modernize the office of Public Advocate with new technology and a new spirit of civic engagement.

In my pre-Wiki decade as the first Public Advocate, we worked hard to make sure we were a "socket for citizens to plug into." What seems normal now were information innovations then. We:

- held 70 town hall meetings covering all of the City's 59 community board districts;
- sued Mayor Giuliani in *Green v. Safir* to get Police Department records of how it handled substantiated complaints of police misconduct referred by the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB);
- published "The People's Green Book: Your Guide to New York City Government Services," a user-friendly guide organized by type of service rather than agency name (as found in the standard City-issued "Green Book");
- published "A People's Guide to New York City Agency Publications," a survey of the materials available from City agencies;
- established the first City website and email address at NYC.GOV and rolled out a public policy discussion area on NYC.GOV, "Vox New York: A Public Policy Forum for the City" in conjunction with the Baruch College School of Public Affairs; and
- advocated to bring 311 to New York City so that New Yorkers could call one number for government services.

11. How would you leverage the office of the Public Advocate to address:

- a. Affordable Housing,**
- b. Education,**
- c. Budget and Fiscal Responsibility,**
- d. Health and the Environment, and**
- e. Economic Development?**

a) AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

The Public Advocate must investigate current challenges facing tenants in affordable housing, propose legislation to close loopholes that allow for the reduction of our affordable housing stock and provide public forums to discuss the City's current housing crisis. And we must also create the next Mitchell-Lama housing program to encourage the construction of a new generation of affordable housing. I will be releasing a policy paper in the coming weeks with new ideas for improving our City's affordable housing system, which you will be able to read online at MarkGreen.com.

b) EDUCATION:

While I applaud many of the efforts of the Bloomberg administration, such as closing down large, failing schools, and replacing them with smaller, more focused ones, too often parents are left out of the decision making process and teachers are forced to teach to a test. It is my opinion that teachers know how to best run their classrooms and parents know what is best for their children's education. That is why the ideas and needs of both must have a voice in the education system. As Public Advocate I will be an advocate on behalf of the needs and concerns of parents, teachers, and students to ensure that at least their voices are heard. I will be releasing a policy paper in the coming weeks with new ideas for improving our City's education system, which you will be able to read online at MarkGreen.com.

c) BUDGET:

The budget must be addressed through fiscal responsibility, which can start by continuing investigation into the City's contracting practices that recently uncovered a jump in spending from \$6.7 billion to \$9.2 billion – a 36% percent increase since 2005. We must also investigate current spending on private contractors and whether we can save money and lift the moral of the City's workforce by doing more work in-house.

We will use the Public Advocate's powers to listen to the community, investigate waste, propose solutions, and work with legislators to enact them. Many of the solutions proposed in our policy paper, *Government 2.0: New Technology for a New Democracy*, (available at <http://markgreen.com/gov2>) will leverage the Public Advocate's position as Chair of the Commission on Public Information and Communication (COPIC) to help residents and decision makers better understand government and our budget through innovations like putting our City's various budgets online for anyone to "Google" search by keyword, agency, service, borough, community board, zip code, address and even geocode for an iPhone or Blackberry user.

d) ENVIRONMENT:

Even beyond the coincidence of my last name, I have a long history on “green” issues, especially over the 11 years I was the Commission of Consumer Affairs and the Public Advocate. We:

- brought pioneering cases against businesses (like Proctor & Gamble) committing “green collar fraud” by falsely claiming products were biodegradable;
- successfully led the opposition to the proposed Brooklyn Navy Yard incinerator;
- was one of the first to expose health risks at the Fresh Kills landfill;
- against Mayor Giuliani’s strong opposition, advocated for recycling by demonstrating jobs creation, cost savings, and reduced burden on land fills;
- proposed financing and rebates for installation of energy efficient appliances in rent regulated, NYCHA and other City-owned buildings;
- advocated for alternative energy and energy conservation to lower fuel costs following the first Gulf War;
- forced dry cleaners to stop using dangerous chemicals;
- led the effort to reduce lead paint poisoning of children; and
- proposed the use of natural gas buses in order to reduce high asthma rates in low-income communities that result from the diesel fuel used by our fleet of vehicles.

Over time, New York City has become one of the most environmentally efficient cities in America. But, like the Yankees, our City has never been satisfied with being the best in our league. Facing these new crises, we have an opportunity to once again lead our nation as we invest in green innovation and development. In my “A Plan for a Greener City,” (available at http://markgreen.com/greener_city), we proposed several ideas for making our City more environmentally friendly including ideas to:

- create *Green Jobs* by expanding our City’s current training programs and incubators for green jobs (e.g. environmental engineers, weatherization and insulation professionals, manufacturing, installation and maintenance; green roof design, environmental clean up), as well as providing a bidding preference for such New York City jobs;
- create incentives for (a) *Green Roofs* in order to save in rain water runoff sewage treatment costs, (b) a *Green Government* that uses energy efficient long life lighting, set-back climate controls and other initiatives to lead the way for residential and business communities, along with (c) a *Green Homes* initiative to assist New Yorkers in taking full advantage of Federal and State financing and incentives;
- create *Green Neighborhoods* through improving the State’s Brownfield Cleanup Program, pushing for more *Green Spaces* in low-income neighborhoods, supporting Councilmember Gennaro’s call to protect our City’s drinking water upstate, and promoting more recycling by placing bins in mass transportation stations; and
- support Mayor Bloomberg’s proposal for requiring periodic energy audits for large commercial buildings.

HEALTH:

Health care is a top priority. As your first Public Advocate we:

- issued sixteen major investigations;
- released two detailed exposes on how HMO’s overrode doctor’s drug prescriptions;

- brought to light the number New Yorkers without Health Insurance;
- published a comprehensive consumer guide to New York City's public and private hospitals;
- exposed nursing homes' poor compliance with public disclosure requirements regarding their health and safety records; and
- sued to require the State Department of Health to turn over statistical data on adverse incidents in public and private hospitals.

Since then, health insurance costs have outpaced inflation greatly, with family plans now exceeding the cost to rent a two bedroom apartment in New York's Financial District. In my policy paper "Our Next Economy: THE Creative City," (available at http://www.markgreen.com/the_creative_city) I proposed investigating allowing small businesses to buy into our City Government's health plans, so that the businesses can benefit from increased bargaining power and so that the City benefits from lower rates coming from a larger and healthier risk pool. We can also improve the health of thousands of children across the City who suffer from chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, and poor dental or vision care, by funding a Health Coordinator in low-income school districts to oversee a team of case managers to work in schools, linking uninsured children and children with chronic illnesses to doctors and other appropriate pediatric resources.

e) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New York City is in the midst of an economic meltdown that is far worse than the 1990s recession and probably even worse than the declines of the mid-1970s. When the mortgage and credit crises hit in September of 2008, we suffered especially because of our over-reliance on the financial sector for jobs and revenue. Those who question whether we need a more diversified economy need look no farther than 480 miles west to Detroit to see the perils of a one-industry town.

Whether you're a breadwinner in Queens, young professional in Brooklyn, journalist in the Bronx, doorman in Manhattan or former financier on Wall Street, this deteriorating economy is threatening you, your family, your neighbors, your community and our City as a whole.

We know how we got into this mess...but how do we get out? Where will the next generation of jobs come from? How can we enhance real income to reduce poverty and enlarge the middle class?

The answers lay in our human capital. For New York is a "State of Minds." There is no place on earth that better combines our innovative skills, educational institutions, media community, tech sector, niche manufacturing, and creative arts – not to mention our excellent financial and legal services.

As a City we need to make sure that we develop new ideas and new policies that capitalize on these natural advantages so we never again lose a new industry like biotechnology and once again become a magnet for new small innovative firms. In an increasingly global information economy, New York City is unusually well positioned to lead again. We can become "THE Creative City," if we craft smart policies that play to our strengths.

Some highlights include:

- *Seeking Simplification* in job and business centers through one stop services with multi-lingual accessibility, extended hours, providing child care, and using technology to make materials available over the internet;
- *Achieving Affordability* through tax incentives and funding for residents and businesses who can no longer afford to stay;
- *Thinking Green* through our continued commitment to supporting *Green Jobs* and *Green Business*;
- *Rethinking Transportation* by phasing in *Congestion Pricing* and implementing *Transportation 2.0* to notify riders about up-to-the-minute service issues;
- *Providing Real-Time Information Online* with a commitment to improving government and 311 system that I advocated for with the next step in *Open Data*, which would share only non-private information, so that everyone can learn what's going wrong in real time, and develop iPhone apps to make the information more useful. And expanding the *Universal Internet* launched last month in New York City to provide all of us with some form of internet access;
- *Encouraging Expert Retired Volunteers* to help rebuild our economy by creating the *Senior Service Corps* to assist start-ups and serve as economic ambassadors attracting or keeping talent and companies in the New York City marketplace;

You can read more about my economic policies in my paper, "Our Next Economy: THE Creative City," (available at http://markgreen.com/the_creative_city) and "Change for New York: 100 Ideas for a Better City," (available at http://markgreen.com/100_ideas_for_a_better_city) available for you to read, comment and suggestion your own ideas at MarkGreen.com.

12. What is your position on the role of the Public Advocate in addressing complaints on broad citywide issues versus limiting the Public Advocate's oversight to specific issues?

Given the recent exposure of corruption throughout all levels of government, including the resignation of the State Comptroller for misusing State funds and a Council Member over member items to recent reports relating to no-bid contracts at the Department of Education, the City government needs more oversight, not less.

As described previously, the Public Advocate resolves thousands of individual complaints about city services. But because it's more efficient to drain a swamp than rescue struggling swimmers one by one, I tried as Public Advocate to investigate systematic problems. Again, as noted above, my investigations into hospitals and the Police Department exposed city-wide problems and provoked city-wide solutions.

13. How would you publicize the Public Advocate's office and its role?

Publicity is a part of the Public Advocate's office as mandated by the Charter as Chair of the Commission on Public Information and Communication (COPIC). COPIC in turn is tasked with reviewing information policies and compliance, facilitating public access, holding public hearings,

making recommendations about new technology, publishing a data directory and broadcasting public proceedings.

In answering that “Citizen Access” was one of the “most important oversight functions of the Public Advocate” above, I described how we distributed information to citizens, from my 70 town meetings to the creation of NYC.gov to the couple hundred investigations and reports we produced.

Also, it’s time to make sure that New York City is I.T. in the sense that we use information technology as aggressively as our private sector is doing. The current Web 3.0 revolution has tied the Internet to our physical location -- through our iPhones and Blackberrys -- and our social relationships -- through Facebook and Twitter -- providing an opportunity to use Government 2.0 as a new solution to old problems. Instead of today’s top-down, CEO-board model of government, new technology can create an open-source model based on the collaborative principle that all of us are smarter than any one of us. Some highlights from the 30 ideas we proposed in our policy paper “Government 2.0: New Technology for a New Democracy,” (available at <http://www.markgreen.com/gov2>) include:

- ***My.NYC.GOV*** – a portal to New York City government, similar to My Yahoo, providing personalized information like alternate side of the street parking, school closures, or mass transit service advisories, with the ability to voice your opinions, create online communities, and interact online with City government.
- ***New York City Wiki*** – a “wiki” for NYC.GOV to empower New Yorkers to share their knowledge and understanding of government services to help one another cut through our City’s bureaucratic red tape.
- ***Fully Searchable User Friendly New York City Budget*** – an itemized list of figures from the various budgets showing, say, the number of residents affected and the specific programs to be cut, offered in Excel as well as searchable by keyword, agency, service, borough, community board, zip code, address and even geocode for an iPhone or Blackberry, so that any New Yorker or elected officials can easily understand the budget and how it is affecting them.
- ***Twitter Hashtag #311NYC*** – use the true power of Twitter to collect every tweet using a hashtag like #NYCWatch or #311NYC to build a community around tracking local issues through the Public Advocate's office to deputize every Twitter user in New York City as we follow, re-tweet, respond, direct message and track new problem trends so that we can solve them.
- ***Open Data*** – provide increased access to complete data collected by the government in real-time and online so that Internet users can make the data into usable information.
- ***Open 311*** – the next logical step for the 311, which would allow for the open collection and dissemination of information for government services over the Internet in real time, tapping the vast network of Internet users like the City of Washington, D.C., which created a culture of “do-gooder one-upsmanship” through applications produced for competitions, like “SeeClickFix” and “Easy311,” which provided online, location-aware and social-media based

311 tools that allow people to submit a complaint in seconds and share it online for the world to see.

Information is the oxygen of democracy. For only if constituents have adequate, accessible and accurate information can they make informed and good decisions when it comes to election and policies generally. It's essential that the next Public Advocate, given his or her portfolio under the City Charter, take the lead on distributing more information to citizens and being a socket folks can plug into.

14. What would you propose the Department of Education do to increase the ability for parents and teachers to become more meaningfully involved in the education system? What other positives changes can be made to the New York City public school system?

Empowering the stakeholders in the system, while keeping strong executive powers invested in the Mayor, will only improve our education system and give it greater legitimacy. Indeed, a decision that leaves parents or teachers feeling that their voice has been neglected is never the right one. We must empower parents, teachers and students to give them greater say in our City's education process. I will be releasing a policy paper with proposals for how we can improve the ability of teacher, parents and student to effect change in the system, such as empowering and reforming Community Education Councils and School Leadership Teams, allowing teachers greater say in their curriculum, lessening the pressure on schools by grading them over longer periods of time and reducing class size in early grades with innovative public-private partnerships.

15. Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the debates surrounding congestion pricing and the Ravitch Commission's recommendations to provide the MTA with long-term funding, what do you think should be done to address the MTA's fiscal solvency issues and ensure that the burden for funding the MTA are equitably distributed amongst all stakeholders?

The life blood of the local economy is the transportation system that moves human and capital assets around on a non-stop basis. The more efficient our transportation system, the more capacity we can support, the faster people and assets can get around, and the larger our "opportunity circle," or the length of time individuals are willing to travel to engage in business. Unfortunately, our City has failed to use tax revenues from our recent growth to improve our transportation system infrastructure to meet new demand, and New York City's opportunity circle continues to shrink.

Phasing in Congestion Pricing would vastly improve transportation in New York City and provide funds to improve and maintain our mass transit system. Since drivers benefit from a working mass transit system with reduced congestion, it is only fair that they carry some of the burden of new funding the MTA. We must learn from our mistakes, and involve legislators early in the process, giving them ownership over the process as we work again to bring Congestion Pricing to New York City.

16. What would you propose to ensure that charter mandated elected offices receive equitable budget allocations?

It's absurd that the budget for a 178 year old, charter-mandated City office intended to be a watchdog *over* City Hall is decided *by* City Hall. For the Office of the Public Advocate to be able to fulfill its charter obligations, the budget for the office must be removed from the political process. Let's create an independent budget for the Public Advocate's office, tying it to the budget of a Mayoral agency or the City Council, similar to how the budgets of Independent Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget are tied together.

17. How would you propose the city deal with the affordable housing?

Our City's lack of affordable housing means that families have to work harder just to maintain shelter and then have less for everything else. It also makes it is hard for young people to come here to start a career. This means that we will be behind other cities when it comes to the latest innovation and technological change in the future. We must make our City an affordable place where families who work here can afford to live here, and young people can bring their new ideas which will help to grow our economy. I will work with legislators to expand and strengthen current affordable housing programs, such as making the 421-a tax abatement apply to the entire City, ending vacancy decontrol, raising the threshold for luxury decontrol and repealing the Urstadt law, which took away our City's power to regulate our own housing stock. I will be releasing a policy paper with proposals for expanding affordable housing in the City later in the campaign, which you will be able to view on my website, MarkGreen.com.

18. What would you propose to further enhance transparency regarding the relationships between elected officials, their families, and nonprofits that receive funding from New York City?

First, the new rules of limiting contributions from those "doing business" with the City are a positive step forward. Still, more needs to be done. As recently documented by the *Daily News*, donations from people affiliated with non-profits that receive money from Council Members in member items is still a problem. We should expand the number of people who are limited in the amount they can donate to members of the board or trustees of the groups that receive funds. In addition to being limited in the amount they can donate, Council Members should also have to highlight the relationship in their disclosure forms.

CANDIDATE ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of candidates running for office. As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing your top five campaign promises you are making to the voters during this campaign for this position.

If elected, Citizens Union will use these promises to evaluate your performance while in office, as well as, to evaluate your candidacy in the future.

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

TOP FIVE 2009 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. Restoring the budget decimated by the Mayor and Speaker so the office can function.
2. Advancing our campaign of “new ideas” how to grow jobs and the economy by making this *THE Creative City*.
3. Being an ombudsman for seniors, tenants and parents of children in the public school system.
4. Restoring the voice of New Yorkers and advocating for them in government by going to all 59 community boards for town halls, deputizing Public Advocate Locals (PALs), and harnessing technology for a more efficient and responsive bureaucracy through *Government 2.0*.
5. Improving quality of life for all New Yorkers through affordable spaces and healthcare; a *Greener City* by phasing in congestion pricing with more green jobs; and parent, teacher and student empowerment in our public schools.