



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
COMPTROLLER

May 1, 2009

Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

At a time when the City of New York, the United States, and the entire world is facing a health crisis of pandemic proportions, yesterday's Huffington Post essay by Betsy Perry, your appointee to the New York City Commission on Women's Issues, was an unfathomable display of narrow-mindedness and disrespect for the Latino and immigrant communities.

By taking advantage of a serious public health issue to highlight her shallow views of immigration policy, Ms. Perry serves only to heighten the xenophobia that is all too prevalent in this country. It is unacceptable that a high level representative of your Administration has so carelessly discussed matters of immigration and public health without proper consultation with your office.

Further, it is disconcerting that Ms. Perry admitted that her goal in writing her essay post was to be "sharp and funny." We all agree that there is no humor in a public health crisis or intolerance.

The New York City Commission on Women's Issues exists to advise you on issues impacting the lives of New York's women and to provide women and their families with access to City services. The opinions expressed by Ms. Perry do not inspire confidence that she can serve a city that prides itself on its diversity.

Ms. Perry's public display of insensitivity suggests that she does not understand, nor seem to be concerned with the issues facing immigrants in our city. As elected officials, we are all responsible for ensuring that individuals appointed to positions of power use that power wisely and respectfully. For you to characterize this public commentary as "inappropriate" is insufficient. We do not believe that your response to this situation is appropriate and we must

question whether Ms. Perry can continue to serve as a representative of your Administration and our city. On behalf of the millions of Latino and immigrant New Yorkers that we represent, we respectfully request that you reconsider Ms. Perry's appointment to the New York City Commission on Women's Issues. Thank you and we look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William C. Thompson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "T".

William C. Thompson, Jr.

And on behalf of:

Council Member John Liu
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Assemblymember Grace Meng
Assemblymember Jose Rivera
Assemblymember Naomi Rivera
Assemblymember Peter Rivera
Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat