

Testimony of Nicole A. Gordon
Executive Director, New York City Campaign Finance Board
before the
New York City Council
Committee on Governmental Operations
March 8, 2003

Good afternoon Chairman Perkins, and members of the committee. I am Nicole A. Gordon, Executive Director of the New York City Campaign Finance Board. With me are Deputy Executive Director Carole Campolo, General Counsel Sue Ellen Dodell, and Amy Loprest, Director of Campaign Finance Administration. Chairman Fritz Schwarz asked that I convey his regrets that he cannot be here. He is out of the country at a meeting of another Board he serves on which was scheduled over a year ago.

As required by the New York City Charter, the Board will shortly submit to the Mayor its budget estimates for Fiscal Year 2005, in a process that parallels the City Council's budget submissions. The Board's FY 2005 budget anticipates a slight increase in personnel services from FY 2004 and a substantial decrease in OTPS because there is no scheduled municipal election for the upcoming fiscal year, but we do have to be prepared for the 2005 citywide elections.

CFB staff are hard at work on the audits from the 2003 election and busily preparing for 2005, conducting candidate trainings, updating software, and making our website even more useful to the public and to candidates.

The Committee will be interested to know that a recent survey by the Campaign Disclosure Project grading state disclosure of campaign finance made special mention of the excellence of the CFB's website. Contrasting with the New York State system, which received a grade of "D," it stresses the importance of the expanded disclosure provision in the campaign finance bill currently before this body.

In response to a recent change to the Campaign Finance Act regarding Conflicts of Interest Board personal financial disclosure forms, the Board has issued rules for public comment, and is pursuing a joint agenda with the Conflicts of Interest Board on training for elected officials about the overlapping responsibilities with respect to the two agencies.

The Board is also currently working making layout and design changes in the Voter Guide to make it more readable, attractive, and comprehensive. We look forward to updating you on that process as its moves along.

Thank you, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.