

**Testimony of Nicole A. Gordon**  
**Executive Director, New York City Campaign Finance Board**  
**before the**  
**New York City Council**  
**Committee on Governmental Operations**  
**May 14, 2004**

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.

As required by the New York City Charter, the Board has submitted to the Mayor, and also to the Council, its budget estimates for Fiscal Year 2005, in a process that parallels the City Council's budget submissions.<sup>1</sup> A copy of the estimate is attached to my testimony. 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 get prepared for the 2005 citywide elections.

The Board is aware that Intro. No. 124 remains under consideration. We hope that if the Council decides to amend the Campaign Finance Act, it will be done sooner rather than later, so that the required changes in the administration of the Program can be made in time for orderly implementation in the 2005 elections. Currently, 52 potential candidates are filing disclosure statements with the Board, and the number goes up nearly every day.

In addition to preparing for the 2005 elections, we are of course completing outstanding items from the 2003 elections. Audits cannot commence in earnest until after the January disclosure statements have been received. In the four months since that statement was filed, more than half of the draft audits for the 2003 campaigns have been issued. This is a substantial accomplishment, and one that I know will be appreciated by the candidates. The staff is also analyzing the data from the 2003 elections, and the Board

will be working on making further legislative recommendations, if indicated, for inclusion in the Board's mandated post-election report, to be published in September.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The Mayor's Executive Budget shows a \$35,770 increase in PS to account to some degree for collective bargaining increases and a headcount decreased by 1. We have alerted OMB to this and believe it will be resolved shortly.