

February 26, 2004

**Resolution in Support of Intro. No. 271
New York City Equal Benefits Bill**

Submitted by: Jay Appleman, QCC Chapter

Whereas legislation before the City Council (Intro. 271) requires that companies which have contracts with the City of New York for \$100,000 or more provide the same benefits to employees with domestic partners as they provide to employees with spouses, including health insurance, bereavement and family medical leave; and

Whereas lead sponsor Councilmember Christine Quinn has testified that "The Equal benefits Bill would insure that all New Yorkers are getting equal benefits for equal work. The City of New York has an obligation to demand that businesses that receive public money treat their employees with the same dignity and respect that the City treats its own employees;" and

Whereas Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum has stated "This bill takes New York City the extra mile in its support of domestic partnership benefits. If we are serious about equality for New York City employees, then we must extend that same standard of non-discrimination to those with whom this city does business. All employees deserve the same benefits regardless of their sexual orientation or marital status;" and

Whereas the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Minneapolis, among others, and the State of California have all recognized that discrimination should not be financed by public dollars and have enacted legislation similar to Intro. 271; and

Whereas domestic partner benefits are important not only to LGBT people, but to a variety of individuals who can live together and form families without being married; and it would be wrong for taxpayers' money to support one set of employees and their families, while leaving another set of employees and their families unprotected; and

Whereas the PSC has a long-established history of opposing discrimination and supporting issues of social justice,

Now Be It Resolved, that the PSC Delegate Assembly affirm its support for the passage of New York City Council Intro. 271; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the PSC's support be transmitted to the City Council, and included in any testimony before the City Council or its Committees regarding Intro. 271.

