

**Mount Sinai-Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Joint Manhattan-Queens-Hudson Valley
ADVISORY BOARD(S)**

Mount Sinai Center Advisory Board(s) Members
Lawrence D'Addona, Chair
Lee Clarke, Vice Chair
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January 17, 2008

*American Federation of Musicians
American Lung Association
Asbestos Workers, Local 91
Brecher, Fishman, Pasternack, Popish,
Fait, Heller, Rubin & Reiff, P.C.
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Bridges & Tunnel Officers Benev. Assoc.
Center to Protect Worker's Rights
City Employees Union, Local 237
Civil Service Employees Association
Communication Workers America
Consolidated Edison
Cornell University School of Industrial
& Labor Relations
D.C. 9 International Union of Painters
& Allied Trades
DC 37, American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees
Ferrand & Associates
Fine, Olin & Anderman
Fireman & Oilers, Local 311
Grey & Grey, LLP
Hunter College, Brookdale Center
IATSE, Local 1
International Business Machines
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Intl. Masonry Institute Bricklayers &
Allied Craftworkers
Intl. Union of Operating Engineers
Intl. Union of Painters & Allied Trades
Int'l Association of Machinists &
Aerospace Workers
Ironworkers Union
LHV Employee Assist. Program
Magna Care
Mail Handlers, NYC
Mason Tenders, Local 78
McLaughlin & Associates
Meisl Lathers, Local 46
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.
Mount Vernon Federation of Teachers
National Assoc. of Broadcast Employees
& Technicians
NYC District Council of Carpenters
NYCOSH
NYC Central Labor Rehabilitation Council
NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
NYS AFL-CIO
NYS Department of Health
NYS Laborers International Union
NYS Public Employees Federation
NYS Nurses Association
New York State United Teachers
NYU Medical Center
Office & Professional Employees Intl.
Orange & Rockland County Utilities
PACE NE Area Resource Center
Pace University Law Clinic (cont.)
Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, & Energy Intl.
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 21
Queens College Labor Resource Center
Queens Legal Services Corporation
Regional Lead Safe Housing Program*

The Hon. Peter Vallone, Jr.
Public Safety Committee Chair
New York City Council
City Hall, NY, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Vallone:

On behalf of the Joint Boards of the Mount Sinai Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine (see list of members represented), I am writing today to express the Boards' opposition to Intro 650 (Permits for Atmospheric, Biological, Chemical, and Radiological Detectors).

This bill would restrict and can entirely prevent environmental monitoring by unions, community and academic entities, among others, impacting the public's access and right to any independently obtained environmental data, as well as benefits to health and safety such information may lead to. It was exactly through such independent sources following 9/11 that all of us were enabled to understand the potential health risks posed by exposure to environmental contamination in lower Manhattan.

By requiring police permits for the possession or use of environmental sampling instruments, the bill would render to a non-scientific body - in this case the New York City Police Department - unrestricted authority to deny or delay environmental testing by any entity or group. Such a bill appears to criminalize environmental sampling activities currently widely and routinely conducted without permits.

Despite a stated purpose of reducing excessive false alarms and unwarranted anxiety, there is no evidence that such events or public reactions have occurred in the past as a consequence of the use of monitoring instruments by non-governmental entities.

While intended as an anti-terrorism measure, the bill goes far beyond that and would provide the NYPD with wide latitude in the implementation of any legislation. Despite a claimed interest in detecting chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents, Intro 650 is not a CBRN bill. As written, it covers emergency response, industrial, environmental, and academic activities unrelated to CBRN warfare or terrorism.

Retail Wholesale & Depart. Store Union/UFCW
Sarah Lawrence College
The Segal Company
Service Employees International Union
Theatrical Protective Union, IATSE
Transport Workers Union
U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA
UNITE! Union of Needletrades, Industrial
& Textile Employees
United Federation of Teachers
United Food & Commercial Workers
United Steelworkers - USW AFL-CIO
United Way of Westchester/Putnam, Inc.
Utility Workers Union of America
Westchester Community College
Westchester County Department of Health
Westchester Hispanic Coalition, Inc.
Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Council
White Plains Labor Coalition
Yonkers Firefighters Local 628

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We therefore join with a number of accomplished and concerned entities in requesting a stop action on this bill. We thank you for your consideration of our concerns, which also represent those of our broad membership.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE D'ADDONA
Chair, Mount Sinai COEM Joint Advisory Boards



cc: Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn
NYC Council Membership

Mount Sinai-I.J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine Advisory Boards
Att: Lawrence D'Addona, c/o Mount Sinai COEM, 1212 Madison Avenue, NY 10029