

DC 37 ANNOUNCED ENDORSEMENT OF
NYC COMPTROLLER BILL THOMPSON FOR MAYOR
LILLIAN ROBERTS REMARKS

August 13, 2009

Yesterday, the District Council 37 Political Action Screening Committee and Executive Board jointly interviewed four mayoral candidates. They answered our tough questions and later we discussed the impact their policies and plans would have on the 125,000 public employees and 50,000 retirees DC 37 represents, as well as the millions of New Yorkers we serve.

After careful deliberation, the DC 37 Executive Board voted overwhelmingly to support New York City Comptroller William Thompson for Mayor.

It was clear to us from Bill Thompson's bold and thoughtful answers to our questions that he is not only an ally in our struggle to protect our members but a champion of the millions of hard-working New Yorkers we serve.

For DC 37's members are among the lowest paid city workers struggling to make ends meet, keep a roof over their heads and food on their table and raise their families while earning as little as \$17,000, with an average of \$31,000/year. We are very much like the New Yorkers we serve. And we believe our choice speaks to their needs as well.

NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson's message is clear.

He understands that it is fiscally irresponsible to squander \$9 billion of the city's \$60 billion budget on deals with private contractors exporting jobs out of state and even out of the country when New Yorkers are facing double-digit unemployment.

Bill Thompson understands that it's heartless to use the fiscal crisis as an excuse to dismantle city services designed to protect children from being abused in their homes.

Bill Thompson knows that the support staff in public schools are as important to our children's education as teachers in the classrooms.

And, he understands that it's wrong to warehouse over 7,000 units of public housing even as the number of homeless families in the city increases.

Bill Thompson knows that propping up the private sector with taxpayers dollars might serve the wealthy but it buries working families under a tide of rising costs for fuel, food, fees and taxes.

Bill Thompson knows it's criminal to have New York's finest sitting behind desks doing the work of the clerical-administrative staff when the city's budget and resident's safety is better served when they're on the streets.

Bill Thompson knows that trying to balance the budget by laying off hundreds of public employees who make on average \$31,000/year protecting the safety-net so many desperately need is fiscally unsound and highly insensitive.

And District Council 37 knows that while NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson's opponents might be better financed at the moment, he has a weapon that is worth money in the bank – District Council 37's members and this union's commitment to work for his election as the next Mayor of the City of New York.

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