

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET M. CONNOR
FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
NYC OFFICE OF LABOR RELATIONS
January 27, 2009

Good Morning Chairman Seabrook and members of the Civil Service and Labor Committee. I am Margaret M. Connor, and I am the First Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Labor Relations. I am here to testify in support of the Pre-Considered Intro. that is before you today.

This Pre-Considered Intro. would amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York to provide health insurance coverage to the surviving spouse, domestic partners and children of employees of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment of the Department of Environmental Protection who died on or after January 8, 2009 and before January 10, 2009 as a natural and proximate result of an accident or injury sustained while in the performance of duty.

This bill was drafted to address the type of tragic incidents that can happen to City employees, this one resulting in the untimely death of Mr. Gennaro Montello. Mr. Montello was an extremely dedicated employee at the Department of Environmental Protection who died in an accident while working at a Sewage Treatment Facility on January 9, 2009. He had worked for the Agency for more than 7 years and is survived by his wife Donna, and two children, Gennaro Jr., age 17, and Briana, age 14.

This Pre-considered Intro. recognizes the sacrifice made by this employee and helps ease the financial burden of his family by providing them with survivor health benefits. It also shows the City's appreciation for the years of dedicated service that Mr. Montello gave to DEP as a Sewage Treatment Worker, and recognizes the ultimate sacrifice that he made by giving his life in service to this City.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on this important piece of legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Testimony of Susan Chin, Assistant Director,
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District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Before the City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor
January 27, 2009

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Good morning Chairman Seabrook and other distinguished of members of the Civil Service and Labor Committee. My name is Susan Chin and I am the Assistant Director of the Political Action Department of District Council 37 (DC 37), AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

On behalf of Lillian Roberts, Executive Director of DC 37, I would like to thank the City Council, especially this Committee, for its support of the pre-considered introduction before you today. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Mayor for his leadership exhibited in advancing this legislation.

This bill would provide health insurance coverage for the surviving family members of Gennaro Montello, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) worker killed in the line of duty approximately three weeks ago. Mr. Montello was a long time member of Local 1320, which represents workers at the sewage treatment plants throughout New York City. An unfortunate accident took the life of this dedicated worker, who was just carrying out his duties on the job. Due to the tragedy, Mr. Montello's family lost a husband, father and financial provider.

DC 37 takes heart that the City Council understands the significance and importance of advancing this bill that will support the family by continuing its health insurance coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of the 125,000 members and 40,000 retirees of DC 37, as well as the Montello family, I would like to thank the City Council and the Mayor for its support of this most important bill.