



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0005-2024, **Version:** A

Proposed Res. No. 5-A

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.7466-A, and a companion bill, to reinstate New York City employees who were terminated due to non-compliance with the COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

By Council Members Ariola, Holden, Zhuang, Schulman, Williams, Lee, Hanks, Menin, Louis, Salaam, Banks, Paladino, Carr, Marmorato, Vernikov and Morano

Whereas, On October 20, 2021, then-Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination mandate for all New York City (City) employees, supported by an Order of the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH); and

Whereas, Failure by City employees to comply with this Order resulted in their termination; and

Whereas, On February 11, 2022, the City terminated approximately 1,780 City employees due to non-compliance with the COVID-19 vaccination order at a time when New Yorkers were deeply dependent on City services; and

Whereas, These hardworking employees, who were praised for keeping the City running during the pandemic, were unceremoniously terminated, which negatively impacted them and the families for whom they provided; and

Whereas, Mayor Eric Adams announced that beginning February 10, 2023, the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for current and prospective City workers would be optional; and

Whereas, However, these public servants were not automatically permitted to return to their jobs; and

Whereas, Former employees were forced to reapply to their positions and were only rehired by their former agencies if they agreed to waive claims to backpay and other entitlements; and

Whereas, Many employees did not return to work because they refused to sign the waiver; and

Whereas, S.7466-A, sponsored by New York State Senator Adam Lanza, would automatically reinstate City employees who were dismissed for failure to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination requirement; and

Whereas, If adopted, S.7466-A would require reinstatement of these former employees to their former positions, former titles, and at the same salary and benefits, with retention of seniority and service time accrued; and

Whereas, S.7466-A would also exempt any employee seeking reinstatement from signing a waiver that denies them backpay; and

Whereas, S.7466-A seeks to provide fairness to terminated workers, allowing them to return to their former jobs serving our City; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.7466-A, and a companion bill, to reinstate New York City employees who were terminated due to non-compliance with the COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

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3/12/24