

PETITION

I, the undersigned, a member of the County Committee of the Democratic Party of the County of New York representing the _____ Election District of the _____ Assembly District, pursuant to Article II, Section 6(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Democratic Party of the County of New York (Adopted September 26, 1985), hereby request that a meeting of the County Committee be held for the purpose of considering the following proposed amendment to the County Party's Rules and Regulations:

ARTICLE III, Section 4(b) shall be amended to read as follows (new material is underlined):

"(b) County Leader. The County Leader shall, subject to the direction of the Executive Committee, be the principal political, executive and administrative officer of the Democratic Party in New York County. The County Leader shall report to each meeting of the Executive Committee and the County Committee on the state of the Party and its activities. The County Leader may, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, employ such persons who shall perform such ministerial duties and implement such policies as are assigned, allocated or directed by the County Leader or the Executive Committee. The County Leader shall have the power to call a meeting of any District Committee or any Subcommittee of the County Committee or of the Executive Committee. The County Leader may not (1) hold any elected public office, (2) receive any compensation for seeking to influence any governmental body, or (3) accept any compensable appointment or assignment made by a public officer, other than an appointment made pursuant to law from a civil service or juror list."

This amendment shall be effective sixty (60) days after its adoption.

Dated: _____

(Signature)

(Printed name)

Representing the _____ Election
District of the _____ Assembly
District.

June 5, 1986

Dear County Committee Member:

I am writing to ask you to help make it possible for the Manhattan County Committee to take a leadership role on an issue of great and timely importance: reforming Democratic Party rules to guard against the sort of merging of party and governmental power whose potential for abuse has recently been illustrated in the Borough of Queens.

As you may know, State Attorney General Robert Abrams recently proposed that the State Democratic Committee amend the party rules to prohibit elected public officials from holding the position of County Leader or State Democratic Chair. The State Chairman has delayed action on the Abrams proposal.

We in Manhattan don't have to wait for the state party to act. The Manhattan Democratic Party can lead the way by changing its own rules.

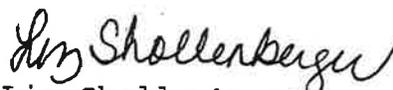
The body empowered to make party rules in Manhattan is the County Committee. Ordinarily, the County Committee meets only at the call of the County Leader and does little more than rubber-stamp decisions made by party bigwigs. Obviously, the present County Leader (who, as an Assemblyman, would be personally affected) is not likely to call a meeting to consider such a rules change.

There is, however, another way to convene the County Committee-- by submitting a petition from 750 members of the County Committee (out of nearly 3,000).

I am writing to ask you to sign the petition on the reverse side of this letter, fill in your Assembly District and Election District (see the label on the envelope), and mail it back to me at: 60 East 9th Street, #533, New York, N.Y. 10003. If 749 other County Committee members do likewise, we can call a meeting of the County Committee and initiate reform from the bottom up. The rules change we will seek to bring to a vote would prohibit elected public officials and political appointees who owe their jobs to those public officials from serving as our County Leader.

I hope you will lend your support by signing the petition for a meeting and quickly returning it to me. Let's not just talk about reform--let's do something! If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 473-2787.

Sincerely,


Liz Shollenberger

THE VILLAGE REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

July 6, 1986

Mr. Richard Braun, President
Village Independent Democrats
224 West 4th Street
New York, N.Y. 10014
By Hand To: 145 Fourth Avenue

Dear Rick:

As we discussed last week, we are requesting an opportunity to present to your members, at the next VID general membership meeting, the proposed change in the rules of the Manhattan Democratic Party that are presently the subject of a county-wide petition drive seeking to call a meeting of the County Committee. We have made the same request to numerous political and good-government groups and have already made presentations at a couple of them.

As you know, our proposal is closely patterned on the proposal made at the State level by Attorney General Bob Abrams, with some additional language borrowed from the anti-patronage clauses in both the VID and VRDC Constitutions. Although our clubs obviously have numerous differences--which are the reason we now have two clubs in the Village--I like to think that party integrity is one issue on which we are of a single mind--as was exemplified by the fact that the Village delegation to the County Committee meeting last September was unanimous in voting against the nomination of Bill Del Toro to be a party vice chair.

In order to facilitate our scheduling of a speaker, I would hope to hear from you as soon as possible. You can leave a message on the club machine at 473-2787 or try us in the evening at our headquarters, at 529-7220.

Thanks.

Sincerely,



Tim James
V.P. for Political Affairs

Suite 533, 60 East 9 Street, New York, NY 10003