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Contact: Anna Deknatel, BerlinRosen Public Affairs, (646) 452-5637

Eric Weltman, Alliance for Quality Education, (718) 222-1089 x. 237 or (617) 304-5330 (cell)

ONE NY COALITION: CITY COUNCIL SHOWS COURAGE PROTECTING VITAL SERVICES BY RAISING REVENUES

Advocates and Service Providers for Seniors, Children, Homeless, People with Mental Illness, People with AIDS: Broad Based Progressive Revenues Are Fairest and Most Effective Way to Close Budget Gaps

New York – The One NY Coalition applauded the City Council for making the tough choice to approve revenues in order to protect vital services as the City faces across the board cuts to close its estimated \$4 billion shortfall over the next year and a half.

“Nobody likes property tax hikes— seniors living on fixed incomes will certainly feel this the hardest. But faced with a lose-lose situation, the Council has struck the right balance. They have stepped up to the plate and found revenues so we can protect essential services for our school children, the elderly, the ill, and the disabled,” said **Jennifer March-Joly, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.**

The Council approved Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to rescind a 7% property tax rebate, already set to expire in June, to bring in an additional \$600 million. They also voted to increase a tax on hotel room by less than one percent increase to bring in \$100 million by June 2010.

“In this economy, the City and State will continue to face no-win choices. The City Council has shown they will put our City's safety and protects for vulnerable New Yorkers first. With this vote, we can reinstating a small police cadet class and support vital social services like TK and TK. We hope legislators in Albany will also step up and find revenue sources that are fair. We can close the state's multi billion dollar budget gap and still maintain services that meet the needs of New Yorkers feeling the recession the hardest. Shared sacrifice means exactly that,” added **Susan Stamler, United Neighborhood Houses.**

The Coalition— representing more than 200 non-profit organizations, service providers, advocates, and unions that supply front line services to many of New York's most vulnerable citizens— supports an increase in the Personal Income Tax for New York's high income earners as the most effective and equitable solution to the City and State's budget crises.

“The Council has taken an important step towards balancing both sides of the budget ledger. Raising property taxes is a hard call, but increasing the personal income tax for high earners shouldn't be so tough. We did it in 2003 and the sky didn't fall. Scores of economists from across the state, including Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, have urged the Governor to follow the economically sound course by seeking modest increases in the top individual income tax rates,” added **James Parrott, Deputy Director & Chief Economist, Fiscal Policy Institute.**

New statewide polling from two One New York member organizations shows New Yorkers support increased taxes on high income earners to protect from cuts in vital government services as the most equitable and least painful way to solve these economic crises. The Working Families Party released a poll showing that 75% of New Yorkers support raising the income tax on those earning over \$200,000 a year. A poll released by the Citizen's Committee for Children showed that 73% of New Yorkers prefer income tax hikes on those earning over \$250,000 to cuts in services. According to the Fiscal Policy Institute, a slight increase in income tax rates for those earning over \$250,000 would raise between \$5 and \$6 billion.

The One New York: Fighting for Fairness Coalition includes over 200 organizations and counting who advocate for and serve New Yorkers needing services such as: AIDS services, child care, child welfare, education, health care, homeless housing, housing, immigrant services, income support, legal services, people with disabilities, senior services, youth services and other vital areas services.

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