

303A E. 91st St., Apt. 5E  
New York, NY 10128

September 8, 2004

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

Some months before the Republican National Convention, you and Police Commissioner Kelly announced in the *New York Times* that there would be 1000 arrests daily during the convention. Apparently, the Police Department became so dedicated to this apparent goal that they arrested hundreds of innocent people, but the City lacked the foresight to organize the resources to actually process the arrested folks within the time limits set by law. The behavior of the police and corrections departments during these protests was absolutely reprehensible.

It is utterly indefensible that citizens of a democracy should be locked up for 24, 38, or 66 hours waiting to be arraigned on minor charges like disorderly conduct. (As Judge Cataldo put it during one of the hearings on the writ of *Habeas Corpus*, "These people have already been the victims of the process.") It is further indefensible that many of the arrestees were not given any chance to disperse before being arrested, and that many of the arrested were thus bystanders uninvolved in any protest, or media reporting on the protests.

The actions of the NYPD, the Corrections Department, and the Corporation Counsel to initiate, facilitate, and defend these abuses of power are horrible. Perhaps worse is the Mayor's insistence that no wrong was done and that everything proceeded smoothly.

While I appreciate some of the past actions of your administration, your behavior and statements over the past weeks has convinced me that you have absolutely no regard for the people of New York City, and I—along with thousands of others—will not even consider voting for you in 2005.

I await reading your response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman

cc: Raymond W. Kelly, Commissioner, NYPD  
Martin F. Horn, Commissioner, Corrections Department  
Michael A. Cardozo, City Corporation Counsel