

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 23, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Bill de Blasio Mayor of the City of New York City Hall New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Melissa Mark-Viverito Speaker of the New York City Council 250 Broadway, Suite 1856 New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito:

I am writing to express our appreciation for the decision to appropriate funds in the FY 2016 budget for the purchase of additional bullet-resistant vests for New York City Police officers. This is an issue the PBA has been pressing the City to address for some time, and the recent appropriation will be an important first step towards protecting our members against the dangers they face on routine patrol, as well as the types of targeted attacks against police officers that have occurred with alarming frequency in recent weeks.

However, given the life-and-death consequences associated with the provision of vests, we believe the funds should be appropriated in the current fiscal year to allow for the immediate purchase of these vests. In addition, while we believe the announcement supporting the purchase of vests is a positive signal of the City's willingness to protect police officers, we believe more must be done to identify a permanent funding source in order to ensure that the NYPD satisfies its legal obligation as an employer to provide this important piece of safety equipment to every New York City Police officer.

We look forward to working with you to achieve this important objective. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this issue.

Patrick J. Lynch

President