



# News...

## FROM COUNCIL MEMBER **TONY AVELLA**



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December 1, 2005

Press Release

For further information please call: Tony Avella 718-747-2137

### **Avella Opposes Council Effort to Overturn Term Limits**

City Council Member Tony Avella today formally announced his opposition to any change in the term limits law for Council Members.

In a letter being distributed today to his colleagues Avella stated, "Perhaps I am naive, perhaps I have a very different view of public service, but I find the thought of ignoring the wishes of the citizens of this city by plotting to overturn term limits offensive."

Avella added, "I believe it is a betrayal of the public trust if the Council tries to legislatively overturn term limits. While I oppose any attempt to extend our terms, the only honorable way is to present the proposal in a referendum for the public to decide, with one important proviso – that the new third term apply to future Council Members not the current class.

For the record, even if the Council succeeds in this attempt and does establish a third term, I will not serve. I was elected to the City Council because of term limits. I cannot now deny that opportunity to someone else who seeks a public service career and wants to run."

(The full text of the letter is attached)

**TONY AVELLA**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
QUEENS

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December 1, 2005

Dear Colleague:

I have read and watched the various media reports about an upcoming attempt in the City Council to overturn term limits for Council Members. I have also listened very carefully to the rumors circulating around City Hall.

Perhaps I am naive, perhaps I have a very different view of public service, but I find the thought of ignoring the wishes of the citizens of this city by plotting to overturn term limits offensive.

Twice the voters have indicated their support for two- four year terms for Council Members. Their wishes could not have been clearer.

I have always felt that an elected official should set an example. The worst possible self-interested action the City Council could take is to extend our own jobs, by extending term limits.

How many current members of the Council campaigned for the position stating they had the necessary experience and knowledge of city government to hit the ground running. Yet, many of those same members now say that they need another four years (a total of three terms) because it took them the first four to learn the job.

I believe it is a betrayal of the public trust if the Council tries to legislatively overturn term limits. While I oppose any attempt to extend our terms, the only honorable way is to present the proposal in a referendum for the public to decide, with one important proviso – that the new third term apply to future Council Members not the current class.

For the record, even if the Council succeeds in this attempt and does establish a third term, I will not serve. I was elected to the City Council because of term limits. I cannot now deny that opportunity to someone else who seeks a public service career and wants to run.

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One of the campaign promises I made in 2001 was to do whatever I could to restore people's faith in their elected officials. I hope that the Council will decide not to take this course of action and take a huge step in restoring the public's faith in this body.

Sincerely,



Tony Avella  
Council Member  
District 19 - Northeast Queens