

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

WHEREAS:

IT IS A PRIORITY OF MY ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE ALL 8.5 MILLION NEW YORKERS HAVE AN EQUALLY EMPOWERED VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY AND ACCESS TO THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO THRIVE. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TOWARD ACHIEVING THESE GOALS IS IMPROVING AND EXPANDING CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES SO THAT MORE OF NEW YORK'S TENANTS AND FAMILIES ARE PROTECTED FROM INJUSTICES THAT RESULT IN UNDUE HARDSHIP. AND BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNING IS MULTI-FACETED AND COLLABORATIVE, WE ARE ALSO FACILITATING CONVERSATIONS THAT AMPLIFY TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED VOICES AND SUPPORT CREATIVE AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS TO OUR CITY'S PROBLEMS. FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A DIVERSE AND DEDICATED JUDICIARY AND MANY PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY WHO ARE HELPING TO BUILD A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE.

WHEREAS:

I AM DELIGHTED TO APPLAUD THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, FINRA DISPUTE RESOLUTION, THE NYC BAR ASSOCIATION, ADR COMMITTEE AND A COALITION OF MORE THAN 100 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE, PUBLIC SERVICE AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, BAR ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS FOR ONCE AGAIN JOINING FORCES TO HOST TODAY'S KICK-OFF CELEBRATION IN ANTICIPATION OF MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY. THIS ANNUAL INITIATIVE WAS DESIGNED TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROCESS OF MEDIATION, WHICH IS NOT ONLY A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND USER-FRIENDLY MEANS OF RESOLVING DISPUTES, BUT ALSO TYPICALLY MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE, STRESSFUL AND LENGTHY THAN A TRIAL PROCEEDING. BY ELECTING A TRAINED AND IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY TO SETTLE A CONFLICT THROUGH JOINT SESSIONS AND SEPARATE CAUCUSES, ADVERSARIES CAN REACH A VOLUNTARY AND MUTUALLY-AGREEABLE RESOLUTION THAT MAKES THEM FEEL RESPECTED AND HEARD.

WHEREAS:

AS THE BENEFITS OF MEDIATION ARE VAST, SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY IS WIDE-SPREAD AND GROWING! EACH YEAR, LANDMARKS FROM BUFFALO TO MANHATTAN AND FROM ALBANY TO POUGHKEEPSIE ARE ILLUMINATED IN BLUE, AND PEOPLE FROM THE FIVE BOROUGHS AND BEYOND CONVENE IN OUR GREAT CITY TO SHARE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ABOUT MEDIATION TRAINING AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. I COMMEND EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE FOR FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND ENCOURAGING NEGOTIATION. NEW YORK IS GRATEFUL FOR THE TREMENDOUS JUDICIARY AND COMMITTED PROFESSIONALS WHO CONTINUALLY PUSH US FORWARD INTO A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

NOW THEREFORE, I, BILL DE BLASIO, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2015 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS:

"MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY"



*Bill De Blasio*

BILL DE BLASIO  
MAYOR