



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



State of New York
Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes the value of initiatives that seek to mitigate the conflicts and disputes which are a part of daily life and, in recent years, there has been growing recognition that many disputes can be resolved effectively through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes; and

Whereas, beyond the solutions offered by the judicial system, mediation is a powerful problem-solving tool for all kinds of conflicts, from family disputes, to community disputes, to multimillion dollar business-related disputes; and

Whereas, an effective tool for resolving disputes, mediation can be a cost-saving and efficient approach in which a trained, impartial mediator helps parties negotiate and reach a settlement by finding a mutually acceptable agreement; and

Whereas, New York State is at the forefront of nationwide efforts to assist in the resolution of conflicts through such alternative methods as mediation and there currently exist a number of programs that train individuals providing conflict resolution services, and others that provide information, education, and resources for parties; and

Whereas, New York State has a noteworthy relationship with the United Nations, which is headquartered in Manhattan, and since the U.N. Charter went into effect seventy years ago, in 1945, it has played a preeminent role in the peaceful resolution of global conflicts and tensions, providing a basis for union and cooperation among nations of the world; in recent years, the United Nation's peacemaking capacity has been increased by strengthening its ability to practice preventive diplomacy and to employ and support mediation so as to head off potential crises at an early stage; in 2006, the U.N. Department of Political Affairs' Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was established and works with the Department's regional divisions to plan, support, and strengthen mediation efforts, serving as a source of mediation knowledge, policy and guidance, lessons learned, and best practices; and

Whereas, on October 15, 2015, the New York State Unified Court System, in conjunction with a coalition of over 100 alternative dispute resolution organizations, will observe Mediation Settlement Day as a means by which to raise awareness of the many benefits of mediation, and to educate potential parties and attorneys about the process and wealth of resources available to them; and

Whereas, by encouraging parties to try mediation first and by reinforcing its value and effectiveness, this observance further promotes the practical, prudent, and constructive purposes that the mediation process serves and it is fitting that New York State joins to recognize the positive impact that mediation programs can have as a viable alternative method of dispute resolution;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2015 as

MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY

in the Empire State.



Given

under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this ninth day of
October in the year two thousand fifteen.