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Endorsement of Randy Mastro  
for appointment as New York City Corporation Counsel  
by Neil V. Getnick

New York City Council  
August 27, 2024

I am the managing partner of Getnick Law, a Manhattan-based boutique law firm focusing on business integrity counseling and anti-fraud and corruption investigation and litigation. Our practice includes independent monitoring, and it is in that capacity I came to know Mr. Mastro who I endorse for appointment as New York City Corporation Counsel.

In the 1990's I was a co-founder, along with a group of lawyers, investigators, and forensic accountants, of an organization that developed an independent monitoring methodology known as IPSIG (Independent Private Sector Inspector General). I served as the Chairman and President of the International Association of IPSIGs. In the early and mid-1990's I worked with then Public Advocate Mark Green to develop proposed legislation to break organized crime's grip on the city's commercial carting industry. Building on that initial legislative proposal, Mr. Mastro took on that fight as the Deputy Mayor of New York City in conjunction with Public Advocate Green. He did so collaboratively and in a nonpartisan fashion. Indeed, he welcomed my participation in that effort, as well as Mark Green's, both easily identifiable Democrats, as I had served as the President of the Lexington Democratic Club. (I later learned that Mr. Mastro is also a life-long Democrat.)

The commercial waste legislative initiative was part of a larger effort led by Mr. Mastro seeking to structurally reform similarly corrupted industries and markets, including the Fulton Fish Market and the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center. Between 1995 – 1997, I testified before the City Council five times supporting the associated legislation and later attended upon invitation the signing ceremonies of the laws that followed. Mastro was then tasked with personal

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responsibility within City government to implement those challenging legislative initiatives, and he did so with extraordinary success.

With the passage of time, memories may have faded about the challenges posed by this undertaking. Mr. Mastro performed masterfully and bravely. He created an alignment between the City Administration and the Office of the Public Advocate emphasizing that this was a bi-partisan good government effort. He literally risked his life taking on organized crime, which responding by putting out a contract on his life requiring 24/7 police protection for him *and* his family for an extended period until he left City government.

He effectively initiated and managed the licensing and monitoring program fulfilling the goals of the reform legislation. The elimination of what we used to call the “mob tax” on the commercial carting industry reduced City businesses’ carting costs by 40%, i.e. \$600 million. Equally important, it established a rule of law over mob control that had eroded confidence in City government. That was institutionalized in the creation of the New York City Business Integrity Commission, which created a monitorship model to structurally reform corrupted industries that succeeded not only in New York City but was emulated nationally.

I should add that Mr. Mastro’s skill set makes him eminently qualified to oversee civil prosecutions under the New York City and New York State False Claims Acts aimed at recovering stolen tax dollars and under the New York State racketeering law.

Mr. Mastro’s integrity, skill, and non-partisan dedication to this City commend him as an ideal Corporation Counsel.