



Press RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Benny Boscio Jr.
President

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Statement from COBA President Benny Boscio Jr. On Mayor de Blasio's Vaccine Mandate for All City Employees

"Throughout the pandemic, COBA fought vigorously to provide our members with PPE, free COVID-19 testing and access to the vaccines if our members wished to be vaccinated. That being said, we have also maintained that our members deserve the right to free choice with respect to the vaccine. Given the severity of the ongoing staffing crisis that continues to force our members to work triple and quadruple shifts without meals and rest, it makes no sense to impose a mandate that could result in officers losing their jobs. Less staff will only further exacerbate this crisis. In fact, we have already lost well over 500 officers since January due to resignations and retirements with resignations far out-pacing retirements. Instead, the City should deliver on the public pledge it made months ago to hire at least 600 new Correction Officers by the end of October. To date, only sixty-four officers have been hired. This only reaffirms why the City needs to double its efforts and follow through on hiring a minimum of 600 officers immediately in order to mitigate this crisis, which will still be insufficient. Additionally, we find it extremely hypocritical to impose a vaccine mandate on our officers, yet there is no mandate for the inmates in our custody to be vaccinated nor the visitors who come in and out of our jails every single day."

Benny Boscio Jr.
COBA President

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