

# CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0901  
(212) 929-9188/89

Join the CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB and work with us to elect local and national candidates who believe in the progressive principles of the reform branch of the Democratic Party.

- Equal rights, treatment and protection for all people regardless of race, creed, gender, age, financial status, physical ability, sexual orientation, etc.
- Affordable housing for all.
- A fair and quality judicial system and election of judges based on merit.
- Adequate health care for the infirm regardless of ability to pay.
- More research for the treatment and cure of AIDS.
- Sensitive and appropriate care and service for people with AIDS
- Sensitivity to the issues of the disabled and a commitment to equal access.
- A woman's right to control her own body and equality for women in the work place.
- Free quality education for our children and accountability from our elected community school boards.
- Improved quality of life in our neighborhood.

Now, more than ever, we need your help to work for honest government in New York City, State and in Washington, D.C.

Now, more than ever, we need your help to work to elect a Democratic President in 1992 who shares our ideals.

If you are interested in a better community, city and nation, if you take joy in working with a diverse group of people who honor our common humanity and celebrate our diversity, join the CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

Paul Groncki, President  
Frank Clemmons, District Leader, Male  
Doris Corrigan, District Leader, Female  
Esther Smith, State Committeewoman

## NEW YORK STATE DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club urges the passage of a **NEW YORK STATE DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT** that allows physicians to prescribe lethal medications for terminally ill patients only after they have voluntarily expressed their wish to die, made a written request for medication for the purpose of ending their life in a humane and dignified manner in accordance with the other safeguards of this act, and two physicians have certified that the patient is of sound mind and has less than six months to live.

Two fundamental principles support its passage. The principle of autonomy recognizes a person's right to hold views, to make choices, and to take actions based on personal values and beliefs as well as the need for treating agents so as to allow, or to enable, them to act autonomously. The principle of humane treatment basically evolves from a combination of compassion and the conviction that a decent society does its very best to eradicate physical and mental cruelty, including the humiliation of unnecessary suffering. We believe that there are terminally ill patients who, even with optimal end-of-life care, would prefer an earlier ending because it best fits their view of humane and dignified death.

We believe the following objections are not thoroughly convincing: that existence is always preferable to non-existence;--that terminally ill patients seeking deliverance must first wait until society provides all its citizens basic health care and protection against catastrophic costs; and finally that, without decriminalizing legislation, patients determined to end their life can easily find a sympathetic physician who will provide the necessary prescription.

As persons we have the moral right, and as citizens the constitutional right, to make the most intimate and personal choices central to personal dignity and autonomy. This includes the right to exercise some control over the time and manner in which we die. To say that we have this right is not to say that, given these circumstances, we have a moral duty to die. No such duty exists. This right need not be exercised. In fact, we know that, after obtaining lethal medication, many choose not to use it. The bottom line is that the existence of thj'ra'v"Nn, and of itself, gives many a freedom from worry and a greater sense of security. Having the necessary medication, even if it is not used, may not vanquish the fear of death but it often adds a very precious peace of mind.

Submitted by Marvin Kohl, CRDC Vice President

Approved by Executive Committee March, 2003

# Chelsea

## Reform

### • Democratic Club

PO Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station, NYC 10011 (212) 929-9188

October 29, 1993

Dear Neighbor,

We are writing to you as fellow 23rd street residents because we care about our neighborhood and the future of New York City. On November 2, New York will choose its mayor for the next four years. Polls indicate that the election will be very close and each and every vote will be important. We would like to tell you why we support DAVID DINKINS and hope you will too.

On Crime: The Mayor's Safe Streets, Safe City program has contributed to a 15 percent overall drop in crime with a 31 percent decrease in subway crime. The Mayor has fought for gun control. He introduced the City's first all Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Lesbian & Gay Rights: Mayor Dinkins has brought recognition to Domestic Partnerships. He led the boycott against Colorado, pulling NYC's investments as well as convincing other mayors not to hold conferences there.

Women & Minorities: David Dinkins has appointed more women, Latinos and African-Americans than any other mayor in history. For the first time, women control more than 50 percent of the City's budget.

We could go on about the plans and programs Mayor Dinkins has created for seniors, youth, small businesses, environmental protection, etc.

This election will have a major impact on the quality of life for all New Yorkers. We urge you to go cast your vote on November 2 for Mayor David N. Dinkins. Each and every vote will count for our future here in New York City.

Sincerely,

Lee Levine, Merle Lister, Judy Player, Martha Seymour

## Equal Marriage Rights Resolution for all in New York State

WHEREAS, the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club (CRDC) has always been in the forefront as an advocate for equal treatment and civil rights for all people; and

WHEREAS, CRDC is committed to equality not only for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals, but also for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples and families; and

WHEREAS, same sex couples in committed relationships do not presently have the same property, inheritance, immigration, and other legal protections, rights and responsibilities that heterosexual couples acquire when they marry; and

WHEREAS, states like Vermont, California and Hawaii, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and British Columbia have passed comprehensive measures giving rights and responsibilities to same sex couples and families up to and including civil marriage; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States recently affirmed that love, family and intimacy have deep constitutional protection and that gay people, like all Americans, are entitled to make life-defining choices in these vital personal spheres for themselves; and

WHEREAS, the state of New York has legally recognized the basic equality of lesbian and gay people through the recent passage of the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, long championed by CRDC; and

WHEREAS, lesbian and gay couples and families are in need of the same legal protections as other families, in areas including, but not limited to: medical decision making authority, hospital visitation rights, legal authority to decide disposition of a partner's bodily remains, access to family court, custody and adoption, employment benefits, housing, pension and death benefits, inheritance, property rights, healthcare, immigration, and provision of social services and credit; and

WHEREAS, leading legal authorities, including the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, have concluded that there is no good reason to perpetuate the discriminatory exclusion of same-sex couples from civil marriage;

WHEREAS, CRDC recognizes the distinction between civil and religious marriage, and supports religious freedom which permits and will continue to permit every church, synagogue, mosque and other religious institutions to decide for itself whether or not to celebrate or perform any religious marriage;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CRDC reasserts its firm support for equal treatment under the law of same-sex couples and families: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CRDC specifically supports the right of lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender couples to marry in New York State.

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

Draft Position Paper

(As amended and passed by the Executive Committee on June 3, 2004 by a vote of 14-0-0)

By Kathy Kinsella

Re: Medical Marijuana

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club believes that individuals deserve to have the most appropriate medical procedures in accordance with their doctors' recommendations and without government interference. The law should not inhibit a person's access to life and health-sustaining treatment under a practitioner's supervision.

Many controlled substances that are legal for medical use are otherwise illegal. CRDC believes that marijuana has legitimate medical uses and that the medically approved use of marijuana should be legal in New York State-

Medical marijuana has been shown to help patients with cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and other serious illnesses. In 1980, the New York State Dept. of Health's Antonio G. Olivieri Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Program concluded that "the use of marijuana may alleviate the nausea and ill-effects of cancer chemotherapy, may alleviate the ill-effects of glaucoma and may have other therapeutic uses," by lessening nausea, appetite loss, pain and anxiety. In 1997 a *New England Journal of Medicine* editorial stated that prohibiting "physicians from alleviating suffering by prescribing marijuana for seriously ill patients is misguided, heavy-handed, and inhumane".

THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, has been approved in pill form since 1986 for medical use by the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Agency, but is limited by dosage control and can be less effective than when it is used in its natural form.

CRDC is gravely concerned that the approximately 32,000 New York City residents each year who are diagnosed with cancer, and as of March 31, 2002, the approximately 75,000 New York City residents who are diagnosed and known to be living with HIV or AIDS (City and State D.O.H.), are denied the right to use a substance that could help their condition or relieve their suffering.

Nine states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington,) allow patients to use marijuana for medical use. New York should join these states as a leader in the humane and compassionate treatment of its residents.

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club supports the legalization of medically supervised marijuana use. We call upon the New York State Democratic Party to do the same.

In March 1997, Assembly Member Richard Gottfried introduced a comprehensive medical marijuana bill, now known as Assembly Bill A5796-A, that would legalize the possession, manufacture, sale, administration, delivery, dispensing and distribution of marijuana in connection with medical use for certified patients suffering from serious illnesses and who qualify in accordance with their physician. We urge our party to support this humane legislation.

It is the moral responsibility, and should be the legal responsibility, of our State to guarantee access to life-sustaining and relief-granting medical treatment, including medical marijuana, to patients who qualify, in accordance with their health care program. This is no less than a compassionate and caring state can do for its residents.

November 16,2004

Michael Bloomberg, Mayor  
City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10009

**Re: Arrests of Protestors at the Republic National Convention**

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As residents of the City of New York, we are appalled at the conduct of the police in regard to protestors of the RNC. Fully endorsed by you before, during and after the convention, police officers illegally repressed, bullied, abused and arrested protestors, many of them residents of New York.

Once arrested, most of the protestors were detained in a toxic, contaminated facility at Pier 57 and denied access to attorneys for an inordinate and inexcusable length of time. Court orders were required to enforce the rights of the detainees.

The record of the subsequent legal proceedings for the majority of the protestors lends credence to the unlawful police conduct: most of the cases have been summarily dismissed either by the Court or the District Attorney's Office itself.

The result of those dismissals will result in false arrest and false imprisonment claims against the City. The irony of that is that neither you, Commissioner Kelly or any of the arresting officers will be in any way accountable for the violation of the Constitutional rights of the protestors. It is taxpayer dollars that will pay such claims.

Finally, the refusal of either you or Commissioner Kelly to appear at the City Council's inquiry into the arrests is irresponsible and reflects poorly on each of you and your decisions regarding the protestors.

This is the City of New York where millions of people choose to live because it offers unending opportunity and freedom, including freedom of expression. To have the principal of the City lead an effort to completely and systematically repress that freedom of expression and subsequently laud that repression, it is contrary to the basic tenants by which we, as City residents, embrace.

Very truly yours,

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

By:

STEVEN SKYLES-MULLIGAN, PRESIDENT

• January 2002

Honorable Sheldon Silver  
Speaker of the Assembly  
250.Broadway, Suite 2300  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Silver:

It is no secret that there is a housing crisis in New York City as well as in many states across the nation. The lack of housing for low and moderate income people is pathetic. Adequate housing must be a priority. The homeless population is growing for both elderly as well as young families. Money and plans must be put into action immediately to solve this problem. Rent regulations for both rent stabilized and rent controlled apartments must be strengthened. Tenants cannot afford to pay the exorbitant yearly increases that they face. In addition, rent controlled tenants must have a voice in this process. Hearings must be held.

The cap on SCRIE must also be raised so that more struggling seniors can afford to pay their rent and have financial stability and a decent quality of life. In addition, SCRIE should also be extended to disabled persons who are under 62 and cannot work .

All of our lawmakers, city, state and federal, must work together to resolve this crisis. Tenants are in dire need of stronger rent protections. New York residents should not have to choose between purchasing food, medication, or housing.

Please let me know what your plans for housing are this year.

Thank you,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_