

NEW YORK CORE

▶ THE COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUALITY, 239 WEST 125th STREET,

NEW YORK 27, NEW YORK ▶ MONUMENT 6-0400

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EDELSTEIN

June 5, 1963

The Honorable Robert F. Wagner
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, N.Y.

Re Directive for Increased Action by City Agencies to
Advance Equal Opportunities for Minority Groups

Dear Mayor Wagner:

We were encouraged to read of the steps taken by the Mayor. We are pleased because the tone of the directive suggests that the City is gaining a more realistic appreciation of the urgency of this problem within New York City.

Our Committee has just begun to plan direct action against discrimination on construction jobs financed in whole or in part by the City of New York. This, as you know, is a field where the exclusion of Negroes and Puerto Ricans in skilled jobs has been almost total and where the employment of Negroes and Puerto Ricans, even in the unskilled categories, is minimal.

We are fully cognizant of the arguments advanced to explain or "justify" this serious imbalance, and we are of the opinion that none of these excuses should be considered as legitimate obstacles to the very vigorous implementation of these equal-opportunity directives.

We are hopeful that, as a consequence of your directive, tangible results in the form of jobs for Negro and Puerto Rican skilled workers on construction projects will be forthcoming immediately. Our Committee has therefore decided to adopt a "wait-and-see" attitude for the next 40 days.

It is our hope that our additional restraint and demonstration of extraordinary patience will not go unrewarded.

Very truly yours,

Clarence Funnye
Clarence Funnye, Director of
Programs and Community Planning