

*NYC Service* was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet a State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama's national call to service. The program has three core goals: channel the power of volunteers to address the impacts of the current economic downturn, make New York City the easiest city in America in which to serve, and ensure every young person in New York City is taught about civic engagement and has an opportunity to serve. *NYC Service* aims to drive volunteer resources to six impact areas where New York City's needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, education, health, emergency preparedness and the environment. New Yorkers can find opportunities to serve their communities by visiting [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or by calling 311.

***About the Center for New York City Neighborhoods***

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods is a nonprofit organization charged with providing access to free housing counseling and legal services to New York City residents at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure. The Center grew out of efforts by the Mayor, the New York City Council, foundations and financial institutions to create a response to rising mortgage defaults and foreclosure filings, particularly in communities hardest hit by high cost mortgages and job loss due to the economic crisis. Established in 2008, the Center works with 27 nonprofit, community-based organizations, located throughout the city. In order to access free, reliable, nonprofit help, homeowners should call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov).

**March 25, 2010**

**STATEMENT OF MAYOR BLOOMBERG AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER  
MINTZ ON PROGRESS TOWARD LIFTING STATE-WIDE BAN ON MUNICIPAL DEPOSITS  
IN CREDIT UNIONS**

***City Council Passes Resolution 17 Encouraging the State Legislative to Enact  
Municipal Depository Choice, Giving Cities Across the State the Opportunity to Make  
Deposits in Local Credit Unions***

***Mayor Committed to Push for Albany Reforms during 2009 Campaign and 2010 State  
of the City***

***Statement of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg***

"Strengthening neighborhood friendly credit unions is a priority for our Administration, and one way we can do that is by lifting the statewide ban on our ability to deposit City funds in them. Credit unions are safe, insured, and competitive financial institutions, and that's why municipal leaders across the entire state have been calling on Albany to lift the ban. Today's City Council resolution strengthens our message, and I applaud the members of the Council for joining with us in this effort. If Albany lifts the ban, our Administration will fulfill the commitment I made in my recent State of the City speech by depositing \$25 million in City funds in federally insured and regulated credit unions that pay the same interest rate as commercial banks. This will allow credit unions to increase the number of loans they issue to low-income families and small neighborhood businesses across the City."

***Statement of Commissioner Jonathan Mintz***

"Municipal deposit reform will allow the City to deposit its tax dollars in credit unions and savings banks, which will significantly increase loan options and other safe financial services for individuals and small businesses across the New York. Credit unions and savings banks play a vital role in stimulating economic activity and deserve not to be arbitrarily excluded from where municipalities choose to deposit their public funds."

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Elizabeth Miller/Abigail Lootens (DCA), (212) 487-4283

**NEW YORK CITY CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER JONATHAN MINTZ AND  
ATTORNEY GENERAL CUOMO ANNOUNCE LEGAL ACTION TO RECOUP RESTITUTION  
FOR NEW YORKERS SCAMMED BY BUS TOUR COMPANY**

***Brooklyn-Based Crosby Tours Inc. Failed to Provide Tours or Refunds to More Than  
130 Consumers Who Prepaid for Bus Tours***

New York City Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and New York State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that both offices notified Brooklyn-based Crosby Tours, Inc. and its principals of pending legal action for charging more than 130 consumers for tour bus services that were never provided and then failing to provide refunds after the company closed.

The Department of Consumer Affairs and the Attorney General's Office notified Crosby and its principals, Reed Elson, Frank P. Scarpinito and Monika Bialokur, of its intention to sue, seeking full restitution to victimized consumers as well as penalties and costs to the state and New York City.

Elson, Scarpinito and Bialokur previously worked for Biss Tours, a company that was the subject of legal action by the Attorney General's Office and Department of Consumer Affairs in 2008 for refusing to refund consumers for trips that never took place.