

ON MAY 12

ISSUE: HUMAN SERVICES

The Mayor's recently proposed budget calls for devastating cuts to services that are essential to the lives of many New Yorkers. That's why, today, you are all going to be DEPUTIZED. How many people here have seen the Dirty Dozen?

(Look for raised hands)

Well, the dirty dozen we're hunting are worse than cattle rustlers or claim jumpers. I've got twelve dirty secrets in the Mayor's budget that you need to saddle up and fight. Are you ready to hear about these low-down swindles?

(Hype the answers: "That's no good! I asked, ARE YOU READY...", etc.)

- Adult Literacy – A \$10 million reduction to programs that give New Yorkers a second chance and immigrants a way to join our city's culture and commerce.
- Alternatives to Incarceration - \$3.5 million gone from a program that diverts low-risk offenders away from expensive and unnecessary jail and prison stays.
- Domestic Violence Services - \$2.5 million taken from support services for those living with domestic violence.
- Child Welfare – Cuts totaling \$11.5 million to city services that work to protect at-risk children.
- Child care – An estimated - are you ready - \$91 million DOLLARS taken from current child care funding, and millions more in the form of increased co-payments and cuts to classrooms and centers.
- Community Based Health Care – \$8.7 million yanked away from health services that detect disabilities in children, combat NYC's asthma epidemic, reduce infant mortality and provide support for those living with AIDS.

That's half. Are you ready to hear about the rest of these detestable vermin?

- Homeless Services – Over \$22 million cut from services that combat homelessness.
- Mental Health – Over \$10 million taken from programs that offer support for those with mental health issues.
- Senior Centers – Nearly \$40 million slashed from funding for senior centers across New York City.
- Senior Services - \$18.3 million gone from other services that provide vital help to seniors in our city.
- Youth Services - \$60 million robbed from programs that serve the youth of New York City, including community centers, after-school programs and educational programs.
- Welfare to Work - \$20 Million wasted on the misnamed "Work Experience Program" that could be used to fund a sustainable transitional jobs program.

That's a pretty unsavory cast of characters, wouldn't you say? Who here is good at math? Great! What was the total of all those numbers that I just gave?

\$297 million dollars.

So who's got that money? Do you have that money? Do you? I've got about \$48 in my wallet that needs to last me through the weekend. So I'll put in \$48. Joking aside, the bottom line is this:

- The need for the public services is there.
- Regular New Yorkers who need these services can't afford to carry the pain of this budget.
- Mayor Bloomberg thinks this is a spending problem – it's not. It's an earning problem.

So saddle up posse, we need to stampede out this dirty dozen!

Call Mayor Bloomberg at 212-772-1081 and tell him:

Your budget isn't wanted dead OR alive. Big banks need to be lassoed up and forced to pay their fare share to ensure New Yorkers get the services they need.