



**New York City  
Campaign Finance Board**

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August 16, 2013

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New York, NY 10023

Leslie Moonves  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
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51 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Sirs:

We write to express our frustration with the ongoing dispute between Time Warner Cable and CBS over retransmission rights. We are concerned that this dispute could block hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers across four boroughs from access to upcoming debates between candidates for mayor and comptroller.

The New York City Campaign Finance Board has presented debates between candidates for citywide office since 1997. For many New Yorkers, these televised debates are the only chance they have to see the candidates together on a single stage, discussing the issues that are most important to New Yorkers. No matter how much money is spent over the course of the campaign, the official debates create a level playing field that gives every eligible candidate the opportunity to be heard. They empower New Yorkers with the information they need to be engaged voters.

If the two sides in this dispute can be said to agree on anything, it is that these debates are a valuable resource for New Yorkers. Both Time Warner and CBS applied, and were selected, to sponsor debates as part of the CFB's Debate Program.

Before the primary elections on September 10, WCBS-TV will produce debates between the Democratic candidates for comptroller and the Republican candidates for mayor. In the event of a runoff, WCBS-TV will host a debate between the leading Democratic mayoral candidates.

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With vacancies in all three citywide offices, this election will decide the future of the city we all share and love. Help us present the issues before all the voters, the way it should be in a healthy democracy. We call upon both sides to set aside their differences, if only for a moment, and find a way to present these debates to all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Parkes  
Chair  
NYC Campaign Finance Board



Art C. Chang  
Chair  
NYCCFB Voter Assistance  
Advisory Committee

cc: Campaign Finance Board members  
Voter Assistance Advisory Committee members