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June 17, 2005

Anthony W. Crowell
Special Counsel to the Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Anthony:

I am writing in response to your June 7th letter and to confirm the substance of our telephone conversation today. It has long been the policy of The City University of New York to prohibit discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and to afford the same benefits to domestic partners as it does to married couples. Mr. Pisano appears to have been the first person to present a marriage license for a same-sex couple from another jurisdiction, and there was apparently some uncertainty as to how to handle it. However, it follows from the University's existing policies that, like the City of New York, the University should recognize equally all civil unions and marriages, whether between same-sex or opposite-sex couples, lawfully entered into in jurisdictions other than New York State, for the purposes of administering its benefits programs, to the maximum extent allowed by law. Mr. Pisano's marriage license from Ontario therefore should have been sufficient for the purpose of qualifying for spousal benefits and he should not have been required to obtain a certificate of domestic partnership from the City of New York. The University will revise its written procedures so that they are consistent with those of the City, thereby ensuring that this does not occur again.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred", is written over a light-colored background.

Frederick P. Schaffer