

## **‘A Voice for Workers’**

### **Local 237 President Floyd Floats a Mayoral Balloon**

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By DAVID SIMS |

Teamsters Local 237 members might see their President Gregory Floyd's name on the New York City mayoral ballot come 2013, after he disclosed last week he was considering running to speak out on behalf of public employees and the working class.

“The reason I'm thinking about running is because of all of the assaults across the country against labor,” he said in a phone interview. “Over the last year, many people in business and labor have approached me about running, and I'm thinking about it.”

#### **‘Social Issues Forgotten’**

Mr. Floyd, who has headed his union since 2007, said he was dismayed at the growing disparity between the rich and the poor in New York and across America, coupled with the legislative attacks on public employees' bargaining rights in states like Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana.

“You hear statistics like, 400 people in the U.S. have more wealth than 150 million people's income combined. That's a staggering number; you have to say something is wrong,” he said.

“The thrust of my candidacy would have to be that working men and women and poor people have been forgotten, social issues have been forgotten,” he continued. “We're balancing our books on social programs and poor and middle-class people...with the millionaires tax being eliminated, it seems that the sacrifice is not being shared by the rich people.”

#### **‘I Like My Day Job’**

He also pointed to investment in small business and green jobs as cornerstones of a possible campaign. The candidacy would not be a stunt, he said. “If I ran, and I'm not there yet, but if I enter the race, I'm going to be running to win.”

Mr. Floyd said he won't be leaving his job in the near future, though. “I really enjoy being president of Local 237. It's because of my passion for working men and women that I'm considering this,” he said.

“This in no way is a statement that says I don't want to be president of Local 237,” he continued. “But we're facing some deficits, what looks like layoffs, a shift in our economic fortune that I'd like to try to avoid. My only way may be to come up with ideas to implement that would lessen the pain for working men and women.”

He will make the decision by the end of the year, he added.

Mr. Floyd in 2009 won election to his first full term at Local 237; he replaced the late Carl Haynes after his retirement in 2007. If he did run, he would be jumping into a crowded field that would probably include U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, former City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, and possibly Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and City Comptroller John C. Liu.

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