

Teamsters Local 237 Leader Dips Toe in Mayoral Waters

By DAVID SIMS | Posted: Monday, September 26, 2011 5:00 pm

Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd took the next step towards a 2013 run for Mayor Sept. 23, starting a candidacy committee that allows him to begin fundraising for a future political campaign.

“This is about working men and women and how our voices have not been heard,” he said in a phone interview. “My focus would be the shrinking middle class.”

‘Sacrifice Not Shared’

Mr. Floyd has flirted with running for office since the beginning of the year, focusing on the wave of attacks on labor and the working class around the country. In a previous interview, he had said his candidacy would be based on redressing the country’s wealth imbalance: “It seems that the sacrifice is not being shared by the rich people.”

The move does not mean Mr. Floyd has definitively thrown his hat into the race, with the election still more than two years away. “It’s one step at a time, keeping my options open...fundraising is the next step,” he said.

“Mr. Floyd is an advocate for all working people and middle-class families. He continues to explore his political options to further those goals,” said his spokesman, Andrew Moesel. “He’s previously expressed an interest in looking at running for Mayor in 2013, but he really just wants to continue fighting for working people and families.”

If he did decide to run, he would be jumping into a crowded field of better-known candidates that would probably include 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.

Mr. Floyd succeeded the late Carl Haynes as Local 237 President in 2007 and was elected to his first full term in office in 2009.