



Media Advisory
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Landlord evicts entire block of Latino business owners

Progressives' pledge to end economic inequality, does that include small business owners?

Dateline, New York City, June 15, 2015 Residents and the small business owners in Washington Heights are protesting against a landlord who evicted an entire block of Latino small business owners. These business owners have been without a lease for 4 years since the new property owners came along. They promised to give the business owners a lease but stalled them while collecting rent, and now they have been evicted, some without even a month's notice. These abuses and injustices have been occurring across the city, with rent hikes forcing long established businesses to close, jobs lost, wages lowered, art and cultural institutions shuttered, and loss of the major pathway for low income families to achieve social mobility.

In the largest study of Latin businesses (USA Latin study), it shows 31% Hispanic owners extorted, 53% at risk of closing, 72% forced to lay off workers likely Hispanic, etc. Today, the NYC courts warrants eviction rates at an average of 488 per month (majority immigrant owned businesses), over 1,000 businesses close each month (majority immigrant), and 8-9K jobs lost each month (again, majority immigrants).

Yet even as this crisis worsens year by year, neighborhood by neighborhood, our so-called progressive legislatures remain silent.

- **Why won't our elected officials be honest with the public and tell them the SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT (402-2014), which has been bottled up in committee for six years on a false "legal roadblock", WOULD HAVE SAVED these Latino owners and all other small businesses and put an end to this economic inequality?**
- **Why won't our elected officials pass legislation giving business owners rights to negotiate fair lease terms and protect their investment?**
- **There are 5 Council Members on the Committee on Immigration. Only one, CM Dromm (D- Queens) has sponsored the SBJSA. Why do Chairman Menchaca (D-Brooklyn), CM Eugene (D-Brooklyn), CM Koo (D-Queens) and CM Espinal (D-Brooklyn) feel it is acceptable for wealthy unscrupulous landlords to extort the life's saving from hard working immigrant business owners under the threat of throwing them out of their businesses?**

Small businesses are the backbone of our city's economy and are the primary job creators. The **SMALL BUSINESS JOBS SURVIVAL ACT** will end economic inequality and give them rights to survive - it's time elected officials earn the label of being a true progressive.

***TakeBackNYC is a direct action political lobbying organization representing a coalition of small business owners, residents, and advocacy groups formed with one goal, and one goal only: Empower and protect the rights of NYC small business owners. www.takebacknyc.nyc