



Media Advisory

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Williamsburg Council Members divided over saving small businesses

Dateline: June 26th, 2015, Williamsburg, Brooklyn-A battle is brewing between two visions for the Williamsburg small business community over commercial tenant rights and the support for the [Small Business Jobs Survival Act \(SBJSA\)](#). Council Member Stephen Levin, District 33, representing North Williamsburg is a strong supporter of the SBJSA stating, “Commercial rents in our city in neighborhoods like...Greenpoint/Williamsburg are forcing out small independent businesses,” Levin added, “We hold very sacred in this city how important rent stabilization and protection is for residents. There also needs to be some way to have some rent protection for small business owners,” and the SBJSA does just that with Levin finishing, “I’m proud to support Annabel Palma’s bill [SBJSA].”

Levin is amongst the ranks of NYC’s 18 other truly progressive City Councillors, as well as Public Advocate Letitia James, who are supporters of giving commercial tenants the right to fair lease negotiation through the legal mechanisms of the SBJSA. Meanwhile, Levin’s neighboring South Williamsburg Council Member Antonio Reynoso, and self-proclaimed ‘progressive’, refuses to stand up for his small business community. When reached for a comment on the SBJSA, Reynoso’s Legislative Director and Communications staffer, Lacey Tauber, responded, “I’m doing some background research on this and other proposals right now.” Though what proposals Reynoso could be researching remain a mystery while, across South Williamsburg, businesses are being forced out and his constituents are losing their livelihoods every single day.

The small business community of Reynoso’s district are wondering why commercial tenant rights matter for North Williamsburg and not South Williamsburg?