



Media Advisory
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Mayor de Blasio honors campaign pledge, but is it a pledge made to small business owners or to their Landlords?

Dateline NYC September 11, 2015: “Make no mistake,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio after winning his election, “the people of this city have chosen a progressive path.” This was Mayor de Blasio’s promise to take the city in a different direction from former Mayor Bloomberg by passing progressive legislation to address economic inequality. No group in our city welcomed his commitment more than our city’s struggling small business owners who were victims for twelve years of Bloomberg’s pro-real estate policy which created an anti-small business environment in NYC (*see attached Largest Study of Small Businesses under Bloomberg). And yet, for all this bluster, Mayor de Blasio maintains the status quo.

To the dismay of our struggling small business owners, Mayor de Blasio failed to keep his campaign promises to help our city’s small businesses and instead kept in place all of Bloomberg’s anti-small business policies. He has even continued to forward more useless small business programs and services, which purposely avoid real solutions to any major problems facing our small businesses. His administration is behaving the same as his predecessor with countless small business programs which look great in a press release but aren’t fostering sustainable local business communities. The reality is Mayor de Blasio is turning his back on the main issues responsible for the destruction of our city’s small businesses: ridiculous rent increases and absence of commercial tenant rights.

Mayor de Blasio recently announced that he would reduce fines for small businesses which is yet another plan which does not address the real issue. He states, “Reducing these fines is a bedrock of our effort to make it easier to open and operate a small business in New York City.” Mayor de Blasio, how about the goal of making it easier to stay in business in NYC?

Sung Soo Kim, called the ‘Godfather of Small Businesses’ for his decades of service to the NYC small business community, recently said, “In my 30 years advocating for small business, no elected official has exhibited as dramatic a change in small business policy as our Mayor Bill de Blasio. He has changed his assessment of the crisis from ‘rent gouging and extortion’ to ‘fines and lack of access to loans,’ a complete reversal from the last election. He was once the strongest voice for passing the Small Business Jobs Survival Act giving rights to business owners to negotiate fair lease terms, today he does not even mention the bill. ”

Mayor de Blasio’s failure to change direction from Bloomberg is worsening the crisis facing our small businesses. Mayor de Blasio’s claim, “We are called to put an end to economic and social inequalities that threaten to unravel the city we love” remains campaign rhetoric. Until he abandons Bloomberg’s economic policy favoring big real estate he cannot seriously begin to address the real problems forcing our small businesses to close, lay off employees, stop all hiring and growth, pay lower wages, raise

prices sky high, close a major pathway for social mobility for lower income families, and stop extortion of immigrant owners. Until he once again supports the SBJSA, which he did as a Council Member, he cannot be taken seriously as a progressive leader taking us in another direction from Bloomberg.

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