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Mayor de Blasio Continues Bloomberg's Anti-Small Business Policy Deputy Mayor Glen Turns her Back on Women Entrepreneurs in Crisis

Dateline, New York City, December 1, 2015 Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development Alicia Glen recently announced a \$2 million effort which will offer money-management courses, mentorship, networking events and a website of resources available to women who own businesses. This initiative is the result of a city survey showing women entrepreneurs are struggling and are less profitable than their male counterparts. What this program really is though, is an insult to hardworking women business owners because it purposely ignores the real problems they face to survive in NYC: skyrocketing rents, illegal extortion, short-term leases and paying their landlords' escalating bills.

Since Mayor de Blasio was sworn into office, the courts have issued warrants to evict commercial tenants on the average of 488 per month and it's estimated over 1,000 small businesses are forced to close each month*. Desperate business owners have waited patiently for self-proclaimed progressive Mayor de Blasio to keep his campaign pledge to take the city in another direction from former Mayor Bloomberg and end economic inequality. Their wait is over, DM Glen confirmed Mayor de Blasio's position: **the survival of small businesses does not matter under the de Blasio administration.** DM Glen's initiative makes apparent the de Blasio administration has not made a priority of saving small businesses and will continue the same anti-small business policies of Mayor Bloomberg.

In October at the [Municipal Arts Society Summit 2015](#), MAS Director Carol Colleta, revealed to DM Glen that 100 percent of the people polled in the audience supported commercial rent control for NYC, to which she quipped "*anybody in the audience who actually [has] done any real estate finance? It is a very complicated issue, like most issues, and I'm not sure that necessarily adopting commercial rent control would lead to solve the problem that people think the problem is.*" DM Glen's answer implies that her background in real estate finance at Goldman Sachs gave her knowledge about the regulation of commercial leases and rents that the audience would not have. The reality is, what would someone who worked at Goldman Sachs before joining the de Blasio administration, know about owning a small business?

For every small business owner and the vast majority of NYers it isn't "complicated" at all. Decades of unchecked and unregulated real estate speculation combined with big banks and franchises' insane bidding wars and profiteers manipulating the market by warehousing storefronts (sometimes for years), has all contributed to wreaking havoc on the commercial real estate market making it impossible for an established business owner to receive a reasonable rent. Only for Mayor de Blasio's economic team is the issue of rent gouging complicated. DM Glen's reaction to NYer's wanting to save their neighborhood businesses and the public's call for legislation to regulate landlords shows the disconnect that exists between Mayor de Blasio's economic policy makers and our city's small business community.

It is clear the de Blasio administration does not want an honest debate on the only real solution to solve the crisis faced by our small businesses, the [Small Business Jobs Survival Act](#), which gives

business owners rights to renew their leases and rights to negotiate fair lease terms. DM Glen's study and initiative was replicated from the Bloomberg/Quinn era to stop any regulation of landlords and to stop real solutions to the real problems business owners face. Bloomberg/Quinn purposely excluded former small businesses owners in any meaningful role of small business policy making at City Hall. They used government agencies or government funded organizations to produce studies that redefined problems facing small businesses which resulted in disingenuous business initiatives that sound like they care about the future of our small businesses, but in actuality they don't.

At a public hearing on finding solutions to save small businesses in 2009, former Council Member John Liu summed up the disconnect between the real problems of small businesses and the Bloomberg administration's weak attempt to solve them: *"Every time we have a hearing with EDC or with Small Business Services, there is always talk about all these great programs that are out there to help small businesses. So as much as your two departments and agencies can say that you have all these great programs to assist small businesses, the small businesses aren't buying it. They're not buying it because they're not being asked what they need help with."*

DM Glen said the new program will provide "direct tools" to women business owners, but what good are money-management courses and networking events if you can't stay in business because of the exorbitant rent increases? The future of NYC small businesses are in Deputy Mayor Glen's hands, she needs to abandon these phony solutions, stop the closings, and end this crisis.

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

* Sung Soo Kim, founded the Korean American Small Business Service Center, the oldest small business service center in NYC; co-founding the New York City Small Business Congress and Coalition to Save New York City Small Businesses; and was chairman of the Mayor's First Small Business Advisory Board, appointed by Mayors Dinkins and Giuliani