

David Owens on: Small businesses protections.

Our “Mom & Pop Businesses” have to be protected and supported. The Upper West Side can't be allowed to devolve into a giant strip center of big box stores and too-tall shiny buildings. We're more... We're better than that. Our smaller merchants add diversity and a flavor to our community and always will be a significant contributor to our quality of life.

I support City Council's Int. No. 851-B, “A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to curtailing harassment of small businesses and other non-residential tenants.”

I support limited commercial tax freezes for qualifying small businesses.

I would support and would explore “Legacy Business Status” for small business that qualify. Recognizing small “Mom & Pop Business” (the entity) as “Historical Assets” and not the real estate box they sit, could afford them greater protection from extinction. I like the model passed by the San Francisco's Board of supervisors in 2015. Please reference; *Proposition J: Legacy Business Historic Preservation Fund*

We need to consider Small Business owners as a “Protected Class.” Many of the small business owners in our neighborhood are immigrants, low income residents and minorities. As a collective group, it's high-time we started protecting them through legislation, tax credits and city sponsored support programs among other supportive initiatives. We have to better appreciate the critical role these businesses play in the economy and culture of our Upper West Side neighborhoods.