

## What will you do to protect small businesses?

I know first-hand the challenges of operating a small business on the Upper West Side. I myself owned and closed a business when our rent almost doubled. We need a representative who can stand up for our local businesses, not stand with the real estate special interests squeezing them out. My campaign mapped the empty storefronts on the Upper West Side. There are over 130 vacant spaces. Many have been empty for years. One on my own street has been dead for seven.

Last week, an Upper West Sider told me that “in a city that to me feels as though it is turning into one big strip mall, it was nice to still have a place where they actually knew your name and your kids' names.” Every avenue on the Upper West Side is littered with empty storefronts. We’ve lost bodegas, butchers, grocery stores, and more. Soaring real estate prices and excessive red tape are crippling our mom-and-pop shops. Nothing is being done.

I have the most aggressive plan of any candidate to save small business:

1. Stand up to developers and rein in the skyrocketing cost of real estate.
2. Help new businesses start by cutting excessive red tape and unnecessary fees.
3. Fill the empty storefronts by fining landlords for endless vacancies.
4. Protect the businesses we love by leveling the playing field for businesses to renew leases.

