



# Greenwich Village

SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## PRESS RELEASE

*for immediate release*

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**City Councilmembers and Community Groups from across New York City  
rally for small businesses at City Hall,  
Calling for passage of the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA)  
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**New York** – The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation joined Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and local Council Members Carlina Rivera and Margaret S. Chin, as well as Antonio Reynoso, who are all some of the co-sponsors and community organizations today to rally on the steps of City Hall to call for the passage of the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA).

Numerous advocates, elected officials, and business owners have been pushing for this bill for years. The small business and retail crisis has garnered much attention recently, with empty storefronts blighting nearly every part of New York City. Those gathered pointed out that we need to use every tool in the toolkit to fight this blight, and that SBJSA could be a powerful weapon in that effort.

*"More than half of all private sector jobs are provided by small businesses. Our small businesses are the backbone of our economy and a path to achieving the American dream for immigrants regardless of their nationality. It is our duty as elected officials and as a progressive, sanctuary city to bolster and strengthen our small business owners...It is time to get this done, listen to the stakeholders most affected by rising rents, and think innovatively about how we help our small businesses thrive."* said Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

*"Friends of SBJSA is proud to stand with Council Member Rodriguez in support of the Small Business Jobs Survival Act. This historic legislation will address the problem of 'High Rent Blight' by giving small business owners rights to a 10 year lease and legally binding arbitration. Everyone with a commercial lease - retail stores, restaurants, dentists, law firms, artists - will now have rights in the lease renewal process which will restore the thriving small business environment that our city depends on."* said David Eisenbach, Friends of the SBJSA

*“The Small Business Jobs Survival Act is an absolutely essential measure to provide small businesses with a firm and fair footing in our city and neighborhoods, and to end the blight of empty storefronts being warehoused by greedy owners holding out for astronomical rents. This bill has been under consideration for more than three decades, and now is the time to finally act. New York City needs SBJSA, and the City Council needs to act swiftly to hear it, pass it, and help save our neighborhood small businesses.”* said Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

The Small Business Survival Act (SBJSA) will level the playing field for every small business that rents commercial space in NYC — retail stores, dentists, working artists, small manufacturers, accountants, restaurants, bodegas, delis, barbershops, salons etc. — by requiring:

- 1) Right to a lease renewal
- 2) Right to a 10-year renewal lease term (to tenants in good standing)
- 3) Binding arbitration to establish a rent increase that is reasonable for both landlord and tenant
- 4) Inclusion of all commercial tenants (not limited to storefront/retail)

Learn more about the SBJSA [here](#).

The rally was led by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez who reintroduced the bill in March, with eight co-sponsors: Ydanis A. Rodriguez, Rafael L. Espinal, Jr., Margaret S. Chin, Costa G. Constantinides, Helen K. Rosenthal, Antonio Reynoso, Carlos Menchaca, Carlina Rivera and Diana Ayala (the latter two of whom are both members of the Committee on Small Business). Speaker Corey Johnson has promised to hold a hearing on the bill, a welcome departure from his predecessors.

GVSHP and Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez were joined by Friends of SBJSA, Take Back NYC, SaveNYC, NYS Coalition of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Dominicanos ProDefensa, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, East Village Community Coalition, NY Women’s Chamber of Commerce, and many more.

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