



Christopher Marte
New York City Council



Brian Kavanagh
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Jerrold Nadler
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Brad Hoylman
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Carolyn B. Maloney
United States Congress

Deborah Glick
New York State Assembly

January 12, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Subject: Veto Intro 2443A Legislation Penalizing JLWQA Tenants

Dear Mayor Adams,

We write to you on behalf of thousands of residents of SoHo and NoHo urging you to veto Intro 2443A-2021, legislation recently enacted by the City Council and now requiring mayoral action by January 14, 2022.

The legislation was introduced at the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises on November 10, 2021, and voted on at the Council Stated Meeting on December 15, 2021. It is a deeply flawed bill that, if enacted, would arbitrarily penalize SoHo and NoHo residents with no pathway to conforming habitancy.

Over 1,600 households are estimated to be living as nonconforming tenants in Joint Live-Work Quarters for Artists (“JLWQA”), many of whom are families, retirees, and children. As these tenants are not artists certified by the Department of Cultural Affairs, this legislation would target them with fines up to \$25,000 until these families are certified as artists, convert their apartments to Residential Use Group 2, or leave. Conversion can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, forcing many of these long-term residents to abandon their homes.

Not only is this legislation cruel and excessive, it lacks a viable pathway for residents to legally occupy or sell their units, or any real public benefit or purpose. There has been no adequate

explanation for the intended goals of this legislation, and has only served to threaten the livelihoods of thousands of New Yorkers.

This legislation was rushed through in the final hour of the previous administration without sufficient public input, significant discussion, or consideration of the unintended consequences of such fines, which are only allowed by the City Administrative Code through special exception.

What we need is a pathway to legal occupancy for these families, not an eviction-by-citation penalty. On behalf of our constituents, we ask that you veto this legislation while you can, before January 14, 2022.

Sincerely,



Christopher Marte
City Council Member, District 1



Deborah Glick
New York State Assemblymember, District 66



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator, District 27



Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senator, District 26



Carolyn B. Maloney
United States Representative, District 12



Jerrold Nadler
United States Representative, District 10