



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

MARCH 31, 2015

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COUNCIL MEMBERS CHIN & CORNEGY INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CREATE NYC SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE

*Legislation Creates a New Office within NYC Dept. of Small Business Services to
Protect Small Businesses and Make Policy Recommendations*

*“Office of the Small Business Advocate” Would Publish Annual Report Detailing
Policy Recommendations and Complaints by Small Business Owners*

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Today, New York City Council Members Margaret Chin and Robert Cornegy introduced legislation to create a new “Office of the Small Business Advocate” that would operate within the city’s Department of Small Business Services (SBS).

This landmark proposal ([Int. 724](#)) would provide New York City’s small businesses with a strong and independent champion of their interests within city government, focusing solely on responding to small business owners’ complaints and concerns, serving their needs and recommending robust and sensible policies that will help them survive and grow even as the city continues to change.

Specifically, the duties of the Small Business Advocate would include:

- Receiving comments and complaints from small businesses regarding their dealings with the city, including agency inspections, regulations, violations, technical assistance programs, language access and customer service
- Referring such comments and complaints to the appropriate city, state and federal agencies
- Making recommendations regarding the development of policies and programs to grow the small business sector and improve interactions between small businesses and city agencies

This legislation would also require the Office of the Small Business Advocate to publish an annual report detailing the total number of complaints by small business owners, all actions taken in response to those complaints, and policy recommendations regarding the city’s support of small businesses.

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“Small businesses are a foundation of New York City’s vibrancy and diversity, and this legislation will allow us to take powerful strides forward in protecting and supporting those businesses for generations to come,” **said Council Member Margaret Chin.** “By moving to create a new office that will advocate for strong and sensible policies, along with requiring an annual report, we’re laying the groundwork for historic advances to help make sure small businesses can survive and thrive amid a constantly changing business environment.”

“The relationships New Yorkers have with the small businesses we frequent are part of what defines life in our city,” **said Council Member Robert Cornegy, chair of the Council’s Committee on Small Businesses.** “Our interactions with business owners and their workers — who are also our neighbors — are positive touchstones that give us a sense of place and community. Small business owners’ interactions with city government should be just as positive. Creating a small business advocate is a meaningful way to demonstrate that the city’s interest in small business isn’t primarily about taxes or fines. We’re here to listen and to help. I’m extremely pleased to be part of this change.”

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