

ANTHONY NY MIRANDA

FOR QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT 2020



WORKER AND SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY

Support for Small Businesses

- There are [more than 230,000 small businesses](#) in New York City. Almost half of those small businesses are owned by immigrant New Yorkers.
- While they are the backbone of New York City's economy, it's becoming increasingly difficult for small businesses to rise and thrive due to the rising costs of commercial rents and fines, and the difficulty of getting proper licensing.
- At the same time, twenty percent of New Yorkers are black, yet the [only own 2 percent of New York City businesses](#) and hire only 1.9 percent of employees.
- There are also significant barriers for women trying to start businesses: [70 percent reported that obtaining capital is a major challenge when launching and growing their businesses.](#)
- ***We must address these inequities and promote small business ownership for disadvantaged minority groups in Queens, including women, people of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community.***
- We support the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and their efforts to close these gaps and diversify small business ownership. We will bring awareness of SBS entrepreneurial programs (such as WE Fund and BE NYC) to Queens residents

- We will advocate for the [expansion of WE Fund Credit eligibility](#) to ensure more Queens residents have access to credit lines to open and build new and current businesses.
- We will propose city-run programs and forums for training people on the processes of opening and running small businesses to make the process less intimidating and encourage small business ownership.
- ***We believe every Queens resident has a right to self-determination, and we will support the efforts of Queens residents for financial independence***

Support for Worker-Owned Businesses (Worker Cooperatives)

- In 2017, there were [60 worker cooperatives in New York](#), triple what it was three years before, and is likely larger today.
- Worker cooperatives give people their first chance at being owners of an asset (the coop) which has the potential to grow in value. This can give Queens residents a way of growing wealth, along with helping Queens become more equitable.
- [99% of worker-owners in New York City are women and 99% of worker-owners are people of color.](#)
- We support the [SBS Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative](#) (WCBDI) and hope to bring awareness of the initiative to Queens residents.
- ***With our support, we hope to help bring and create more worker-owned businesses to employ our residents and create a more equitable Queens.***

NYC Workers and Public Projects

- ***We must work to encourage all the City's employees and contractors and those of their associates to be either unionized or worker owned.***
- We understand that this may be a big goal, but the City needs to understand that what workers do is essential for maintaining our way of life; we must give those doing the work the respect and pay they deserve.

Expanding Worker Protections

- We support any efforts to unionize workers from every sector (including all service workers, gig workers, and contractors) to ensure all NYC workers have the power to fight for favorable working conditions and other benefits through collective bargaining; ***we believe this will also ensure that established union jobs will not be replaced by non-union alternatives.***
- ***We must work to promote and expand protections for undocumented workers*** and [educate them on the rights they already have](#) to help them combat exploitation and abuse in the workplace.