

Neighborhood Retail Alliance

50 Broadway, 24th Floor | New York, NY 10004
www.momandpopnyc.com

Press Release

Contact: Matt Lipsky
917-859-3903

Hearing on Intro 621 Bill That Would Allow Proliferation of Street Vendors

When: Monday April 18th, 2005

Where: City Hall

Time: 1 p.m.

On Monday April 18th, representatives of the small business community will be testifying on the impact of Intro 621, a bill designed to create a new regulatory environment for street vendors. The Neighborhood Retail Alliance, an umbrella group that defends the interests of local shop owners, will be joining with leaders of the Bodega Association, the National Supermarket Association, the New York City Retail Florist Association and the Korean-American Small Business Service Center to ask the City Council to lay Intro 621 aside since it is felt that the measure would unnecessarily impair local shopping strips and hurt small store owners.

Intro 621 will remove all zoning restrictions on vendors and increase by 30% the number of licensed street vendors. Vendors, by their very nature, do not have the kind of investment in their businesses that small store owners do and allowing them to proliferate relatively unchecked will unfairly put the livelihoods of store owners at risk.

In addition, local shop keepers have been forced to undergo a draconian enforcement environment for the past few years. Store foreclosures and bankruptcies,

aided and abetted by city tax and regulatory policies, are already at an all time high and will only increase as street vending mushrooms uncontrollably. It makes no sense to increase levels of street vending while continuing to worsen the already bleak business climate generated by record tax increases and the city's harsh regulatory actions.

The Neighborhood Retail Alliance is calling on the City Council to lay Intro 621 aside and convene a small business task force, one that includes the various Business Improvement Districts, and vendor leaders, to redraft legislation that doesn't unfairly put local businesses at risk.