

*a year's overview*

# HANYC- KASIRER SUMMARY

**Legislative Successes**

We successfully pushed back on the certificate of no harassment pilot program that was originally included in **Intro 1410**, by meeting with the Council Speaker's office, the prime sponsor of the bill Council Member Gibson, and the Chair of the Small Business Committee Council Member Gjonaj. Hotels' concerns were acknowledged, and the program was omitted from the final version of the legislation.

We successfully pushed back with a coalition of other parties to amend the **Commercial Waste legislation (Intro 1574)** to ensure hotels may continue to use their containerized system of waste collection.

We voiced hotels' concerns to Council Member Powers when he was considering introducing a bill to ban resort fees in NYC, successfully keeping this bill from being introduced to the Council.

**Property Taxes**

**Elected Official Outreach:** continued to brief elected officials on hotels' disproportionate property tax burden and the need to address this issue in the short- and long-term, including Council Members and Citywide elected officials, as well as senior officials within the Dept. of Finance (DOF).

**Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform:** Have voiced hotels' concerns over the disproportionate property tax burden by meeting with and submitting testimony to the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform, ensuring that members of the Commission are aware of hotels' unique position within their tax class and hotels' urgent need for property tax relief.

**Economic Impact Analysis:** Completed an economic impact analysis with BJH Advisors, demonstrating hotels' important role in the City's economy as well as hotels' disproportionate property tax burden.

**Urban Fees:** Brought HANYC's concerns on the taxation of urban fees to DOF's attention and are pushing DOF to keep the fees outside of the room rate amount for hotel occupancy tax.

**PLAN Act**

Gained support for the PLAN Act from local City elected officials and began a campaign to release a sign-on letter in support of the PLAN Act as well as a Resolution from the City Council to help encourage the NY Congressional delegation to sign on to support the bill as a co-sponsor.

**Convention Center**

Have reached out to elected officials and third-party stakeholders in order to begin forming a coalition of support for building a second convention center in NYC.

**Relationship-building**

- Continued to meet with elected officials to brief them on all issues related to HANYC, including property taxes, urban fees, and short-term rental regulations.
- Attended the annual SOMOS conference in Puerto Rico and connected with elected officials at all levels of government who were in attendance.
- Met with third party stakeholders in the industry to introduce them to HANYC and gain their support for addressing hotels' challenges, including property tax burden:
  - o Brooklyn Chamber
  - o Manhattan Chamber
  - o Citizens Budget Commission (CBC)
- Submitted testimony at City Council Committee hearings on the tourism economy (Committee on Economic Development) and on the hotel occupancy tax (Committee on Finance).

**APPENDIX**  
**Additional Information on Outreach**

**Detailed List of Outreach Efforts**

- Hosted a reception for Council Speaker Corey Johnson, candidate for 2021 mayoral race
- Hosted CM Brannan, likely Speaker candidate, at the end-of-summer celebration in September
  - CM Levine, candidate for Manhattan BP – Met and briefed on HANYC and hotels' challenges
  - CM Vallone, Queens BP candidates and chair of the Committee on Economic Development; also leading the Council's discussion of tourism and the tourism industry in NYC: Brought Vijay to meet with Vallone to discuss HANYC's priorities, including a potential new convention center in Queens, and submitted testimony from HANYC at the Committee meetings on the tourism industry.
  - Council Members Gjonaj, Gibson, Holden, Chin, Richards (BP candidate), Powers – Met to discuss legislation concerns and brief them on HANYC's work and importance to the industry
  - Met with State Senator Liz Krueger, Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, to brief her on the property tax burden, additional hotel taxes, and to discuss the PLAN Act
  - CM Richards and CM Powers attended HANYC's annual meeting reception

**Relationship-building at SOMOS**

- Attended the Leadership reception with Gov. Cuomo, Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, and AG James.
- Attended the Dominican Reception with introductions to:
  - o Congressman Adriano Espaillat
  - o Senator Zellnor Myrie
  - o Dirk McCall, Bronx Borough President's Office
  - o Assembly Member Michael Blake
  - o Assembly Member Walter Mosley
  - o AG Tish James' Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Kim Ramos
  - o Other: Uri Clinton, MGM Empire City Casino; Annie Minguez, Good Shepard Services