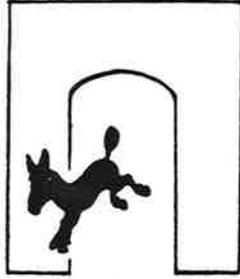


1983

INDEPENDENT

VILLAGE  DEMOCRATS

RESOLUTION ON J51 HOUSING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, New York City is reported to be facing a shortfall of 300 million dollars in this fiscal year alone, with a higher figure projected for the next fiscal year and Mayor Koch has announced a hiring freeze, layoffs, additional cuts in services, and new taxes; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Years 1979-1982, tax expenditures under the J51 program have reportedly increased 95%, with a corresponding loss of tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the loss to the City treasury due to rehabilitation projects approved under the J51 program reportedly will be 110 million dollars in Fiscal Year 1983, with 280 million dollars approved during Fiscal Year 1982 alone for future tax exemptions and abatements;

WHEREAS, the J51 program was originally intended to give tax exemptions and abatements to landlords and developers who would rehabilitate their housing for low, moderate and middle income tenants throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, the J51 program has been seriously abused, in that its tax subsidies have been given primarily to landlords in high income areas where rehabilitation would have likely occurred without J51 benefits (particularly in Manhattan south of 96th Street), and that a few extremely wealthy developers

and landlords have received a grossly disproportionate share of J51 benefits; and

WHEREAS, the J51 program has led to destruction of the character of certain neighborhoods and displacement of tenants, particularly poor ones from SRO apartments; and

WHEREAS, the J51 program has resulted in a permanent loss of jobs to the City economy due to conversion of manufacturing and commercial buildings to residential space;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS urges that the New York State legislature pass a bill incorporating the changes in the J51 program included in A.10007-B in order to reform the J51 program, with three suggested amendments to the bill:

1. no permanent displacement of tenants be allowed from apartments renovated under the J51 program and, if temporary displacement should be necessary, the displaced tenants shall have an absolute right to return when renovation is completed, and
2. it be mandated that an annual scrutiny of the J51 program be conducted by the New York City Council, Board of Estimate and Financial Control Board;
3. no conversion of occupied commercial or manufacturing tenancies be allowed in buildings renovated under the J51 program;

and further urges that the New York City Council pass corresponding legislation.

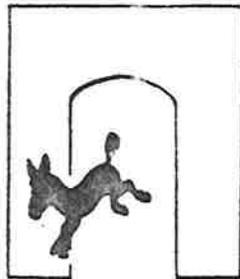
Passed by VID General Membership - January 11, 1983

Sponsored by VID Housing Committee

Rick Braun, chairperson

VILLAGE

INDEPENDENT



DEMOCRATS

VID RESOLUTION

INT. 895- Councilwoman Messinger

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of commercial space for small business to operate in New York City, and

WHEREAS, small business people are either being forced to close these businesses, move, or pay exorbitant and unwarranted rents, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the economy of the City of New York that small businesses continue to exist and thrive in the City, and remain an integral part of cohesive communities, and

WHEREAS, Local Law 895 introduced in the City Council by Councilwoman Ruth Messinger would place reasonable yearly limits on rent increases for businesses occupying small commercial space and would require landlords to continue to provide services, while assuring the owners of a reasonable return on their property, it is therefore

RESOLVED that the VID urges the passage of this bill by the City Council as soon as possible and further urges that the Mayor promptly thereafter sign the bill into law.

TO: Mayor Edward Koch  
City Council Majority Leader Thomas J. Cuife  
President of City Council Carol Bellamy  
Councilwoman Ruth Messinger  
Councilman Archie Spigner, Chairman, Economic Development Committee

1983

Letter proposed to be sent by VID to  
Rep. Michael Barnes, Chrm., Sub-Committee on Inter-American Affairs  
Sen. Charles Percy, Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee  
with copies to: Sen's Moynihan & D'Amato & Rep's Weiss & Green

Dear.....:

The Village Independent Democrats, a political club with some 1,000 members, is deeply disturbed about continuing suggestions of possible United States aid to groups of anti-Sandinist Nicaraguans based in Honduras. We are totally opposed to any agency of our government giving aid in any form to forces seeking to disrupt or destabilize a legitimate government.

We welcomed the action of Congress on December 8, 1982, and again on December 22, 1982, barring the Administration from any help "for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of Nicaragua or provoking a military exchange between Nicaragua and Honduras."

Our concern derives from the fact that the Administration, while saying it is abiding by the curb, may nonetheless give aid for what it calls small-scale operations designed to harass.

We believe conuous Congressional oversight is required to make sure that all interference of this type in the affairs of Nicaragua is discontinued.

To this end we respectfully urge that your Committee hold hearings to determine whether the Administration is indeed fully complying with the intent of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Meryl Berman, President

Keith Crandell, Chairman  
Foreign Policy & Peace Committee

1983

INDEPENDENT

VILLAGE  DEMOCRATS

WE, THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS:

DEPLORING the widespread use of handguns in crimes of violence against persons throughout the United States and particularly in urban areas including New York City;

RECOGNIZING the continuing threat to the lives and security of all Americans posed by the ready availability of handguns and ammunition moving in virtually unrestricted interstate commerce;

REJECTING the assertion of the gun lobby that unregulated access to handguns is protected by the Second Amendment, U.S. Constitution;

DEMANDING that the Congress act to ensure the safety of the citizenry;

DO CALL UPON the CONGRESS during its current session to enact stronger gun control legislation.

WE URGE the passage of legislation embodying the principles contained in the KENNEDY-RODINO bill introduced during the the last Congress, specifically to:

1. Stop the manufacture, sale and transfer of "Saturday Night Specials;"
2. Provide mandatory incarceration for persons who use handguns in the commission of a felony;
3. Require police investigations as to the criminal records of handgun purchasers;
4. Require handgun purchase records to be kept by handgun manufacturers to facilitate law enforcement tracing of weapons;
5. Limit to two per year the number of handguns one could purchase;
6. Require that all private or individual-to-individual sales of handguns be transacted in conjunction with and recorded by a licensed dealer in handguns;
7. Require handgun manufacturers, dealers and owners to report thefts and losses;
8. Raise licensing fees for dealers and manufacturers of handguns.

MERYL BERMAN  
DAN ROSKOFF, President

Resolution passed unanimously January 11, 1983

CATHERINE M. ABATE, District Leader • ANTHONY S. HOFFMAN, District Leader  
224 West Fourth Street, New York City 10014 • (212) CH3-6555

Whereas:

Over twelve million American workers are jobless.

Five million have exhausted all extended and supplemental benefits.

Millions have become so discouraged they no longer seek employment and are not counted as part of unemployment statistics.

Whereas:

There is no sign of an upturn in the economy, all indications pointing to even more severe unemployment, causing economic disaster and misery to the American people.

Whereas:

Our country is faced with an emergency situation and Congress has seen fit to ignore the needs of the American people.

Therefore:

We the membership of the Village Independent Democrats do urgently call upon the AFL-CIO to take the initiative in organizing jointly with National, State, County Committees of the Democratic Party and other community organizations for a NATIONAL JOB MARCH ON WASHINGTON. The aims of such a march - to demand of Congress legislation to provide an adequate job program, job training and extension of unemployment benefits.

We urge all bodies of the Democratic Party to work jointly with the AFL-CIO to guarantee the fullest possible mobilization of our memberships and all progressive forces.

Dear President Govern:

It has come to our attention that the support staff employees of Columbia University requested an election two years ago on the question of whether or not they would be represented in collective bargaining by District 65, U.A.W.

We understand that this election has not yet occurred.

We believe that employees have a basic democratic right to decide for themselves, through the election process, the question of unionization.

Therefore, we the membership of the Village Independent Democrats do strongly urge the University to consent to a fair and unprejudiced election among the University's support staff employees by March of 1983.

Bill Van Felix  
Labor Committee, , Chairman

1983

WHEREAS, many residential tenants in New York City already have insufficient water pressure; and

WHEREAS, installation of restricting or airating devices as mandated by Intro. 121 would further reduce water pressure although it would perform the beneficial purpose of conserving energy and water;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Independent Democrats opposes the passage of Intro. 121.

Human Rights 2-1683

P 1

Whereas the Village Independent Democrats has always been in the forefront of the battle for human rights for all people

AND whereas for too long a time lesbians and gay people have suffered discrimination as well as fear of discrimination in housing jobs, and public accommodations and whereas the human rights of lesbian and gay people have not been protected by law as are those civil/human rights of other minority groups

And whereas

there is now pending in the N.Y. City Council Intro One which would amend the present anti-discrimination laws to include discrimination based on sexual orientation ~~and affectional preference~~

Therefore be it resolved — that VID reiterates its unwavering support of the undiluted principles of Intro One & urges the members of the City Council to enact Intro One into law.

We further urge the state and

Hun... rights 2-16-83  
p. 2.

county committees and other institutions  
+ officers of the New York City +  
State Democratic Party to  
support Intro One.

We further urge all people who  
believe "these rights to be  
self-evident" to contact their  
three councilmembers and urge  
them to support Intro One.

Whereas the N.Y. State Division of Human Rights is the agency entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the anti-discrimination statutes of the State of New York which protect against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and Whereas 25% of the Division's legal staff, which is the enforcement arm of the Division, and over 10% of the employees in other sections of the Division are being laid off and Whereas these layoffs are contrary to the public interest as they will cripple the enforcement efforts of the State Division of Human Rights and hamper further progress in the achievement of the goals stated in the N.Y. anti-discrimination statutes,

Be it resolved that the U.I.C. oppose any cut in the December 1952 staffing level of the State Division of Human Rights;

Be it further resolved that the U.I.C. urge Gov. Cuomo to uphold his stated commitment to human rights in the State of N.Y. and act immediately to prevent these cut backs.