

My name is Michael Cohen. I'm running to be your next City Councilman because City government has stopped making sense.

When I say City government has stopped making sense I mean this: term limits should not have been disposed of without voters having their say in a referendum. The fiscal crisis should not have been used as an excuse to ignore two public referendums.

And this: while our property taxes, sales taxes and water bills increase, while we are being hit with ticket blitzes, fees and fines, while we're being nickel and dimed to death, Wall Street speculators get rebates on billions of dollars in taxes that the City used to collect from them. While we are left in the economic mess that these speculators created, they are admonished not to spend their bonuses conspicuously.

From 1999 to 2005, I was the Assemblyman representing large parts of the Council District that I'm hoping to have the honor of now serving. I am a former City Commissioner and served on our Community Board for 16 years. I've lived in our neighborhood for 42 years, the same neighborhood where my children and grandchildren still live. I am not the preferred choice of the Queens political machine nor the choice of entrenched special interests.

With all of the very serious problems we are now facing, now is not the time for petty politics and business as usual, it's time for independence and experience. I offer you a record of performance not promises, solutions not platitudes, and my promise that I will always respect the voters' judgment, especially as expressed in a referendum.

Thank you again.

My name is Michael Cohen. I hope to be  
your next City Councilman.

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