

Hi, I'm Tom Ognibene and I'm a candidate for Council in the 30th District, Queens County, which includes the communities of Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village, Ridgewood, Richmond Hill and Woodhaven.

I had the privilege, with your support, to serve in that same capacity as your City Councilman from 1991 to 2001 leaving as a result of term limits. For seven of those years, I served as the Minority Leader of the City Council under the leadership of our great Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

It was a great time for all New Yorkers as we made this City the safest large city by reducing crime by as much as 70 percent in most of our communities. We reduced welfare dependency by 50 percent, improved our parks, and expanded and improved our schools to eliminate overcrowding.

We also made sure that a City government, which had often ignored the needs of our hard working middle class citizens, became more responsive and attentive to the quality of life demands of our community residents. We accomplished this with an expanded City Council of new and invigorated "citizen legislators" whose concerns were deeply rooted in the local needs of the communities they served. Our commitment was to provide a strong voice for the often forgotten hard working New Yorkers in our City's outer boroughs.

When I left office in 2001, I believed that we had put in place a system that would insure that community based responsive government would continue. Sadly, that was not the case.

More and more, we have returned to a Manhattan-centric dominant government and our local elective officials seem content to accept that condition and provide only lip

service in opposing increased taxation,  
overdevelopment, unending nightmarish  
traffic conditions and the general  
deterioration of our quality of life.

That is why I am running again, to  
insure that that strong voice for our  
community is heard loud and clear at City  
Hall.

Thank you.

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