

I'm Councilman Eric Gioia from
Woodside, Queens.

If you're watching this video, then
chances are, like me, you love this City.

I'm running for Public Advocate because
too many New Yorkers feel like they're
invisible to City Hall.

In neighborhoods across New York, I
hear the same thing: no one in government is
listening to our concerns. I hear it from
parents who feel like they have no voice in
their children's education. I hear it from
subway and bus riders who are paying more
for less service yet again. And I hear it
from hard working New Yorkers who built
their neighborhoods only to now worry about
getting priced out of them.

The fact is you can talk until you're
blue in the face, but if you're not wealthy

or well-connected in this City, sometimes government doesn't hear your voice.

And when City Hall fails to listen, working people and the middle class pay the price.

What we need in the next Public Advocate is somebody who listens, who understands what regular New Yorkers are going through, and who will fight for them to get results that make a difference in their lives.

There are lots of jobs for people who only want to talk about issues. I'm running for Public Advocate to do more than talk. I'm running to help people solve problems.

That's what I've done over the past eight years in the City Council, and it's what I will do as Public Advocate.

I was born and raised in Woodside, Queens. My family has owned a small flower shop for over a century on Roosevelt Avenue.

Growing up, we didn't have a lot of money. I attended public schools, PS 11 and Junior High School 125. I went on to St. Francis Prep for high school. I then worked as a janitor and doorman to pay for NYU before going on to Georgetown Law and serving in the White House for President Clinton.

In 2001, I ran for City Council because I wanted make sure that every kid in my neighborhood had the same opportunities to live their dreams that I have had to live mine.

What I've learned is that when you're willing to talk with people instead of talking down to people, you find that New Yorkers have a good pretty idea about what's

wrong in their neighborhoods and a pretty good idea about how to fix things.

When I heard about teachers who were spending their own money to buy school supplies for their students, well, first I said that's why teachers are extraordinary and deserve our support, and second, I helped make sure there was money in the City budget to reimburse teachers for classroom expenses.

When tenants came to my office complaining about a landlord who refused to make needed repairs, I called him up. When talking didn't solve the problem, I took him to court and we won the repairs - plus, we won back rent for the tenants.

After I lived on food stamps for a week, and people told me that Costco didn't accept them, we took our case to the company and we convinced Costco to begin accepting food stamps.

But I couldn't have done any of this alone. It all started by listening to the people I work for.

As Public Advocate, I'll work for you. We'll work together to get every child in New York access to health care by signing up the hundreds of thousands of kids who lack coverage but qualify for free or reduced insurance.

We'll crack down on predatory lenders by shining a light on how taxpayers are ripped off and we will expose the worst offenders.

We will conduct investigations into the City's budgeting and contracts to identify wasteful spending and government mismanagement.

You know, this City has given my family and me everything. It's where a

neighborhood kid without money or connections could get a job as a doorman and janitor and work his way through college.

Now that I'm a dad, it's where I'm raising my own family - and where I want my sister who's a teacher and my brother-in-law who's a corrections officer to be able to afford to raise theirs.

Growing up in Queens, I never imagined I'd be in a position to do anything about it. But now that I am, this is very personal to me.

We can do more than talk about our problems. We can do something to fix them. We can get real results for everyday New Yorkers.

So, please, join our campaign. Log on to EricGioia.com or on Facebook or Twitter.

Thank you. I hope to earn your vote.

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