

Dan Jacoby
47-48 43 St., Woodside, NY 11377
917-667-2756
www.danjacoby.com

Oral testimony on Intro 651a-2007
City Council Governmental Operations Committee
Simcha Felder, Chair
December 18, 2007

FOR THE RECORD

Last week I suggested that the City Council not pass this bill as quickly as the previous campaign finance bill was passed in June. I expressed concern that there could be elements of the bill that were not as they seemed. Since then, I have discovered that there is at least one glaring problem with the current bill.

The section dealing with eminent domain was written with the idea that people whose "business" with the city consists of having their property seized through the city's use of eminent domain should not have insult added to injury by having their names placed in the "doing business" database. Unfortunately, because this bill is being rushed through, the language could just as easily be interpreted to grant a waiver from the database for those who receive the seized land.

Chances are that won't happen, but if this bill is passed the law will make it possible. The real question is, what other potential time bombs are hidden in the recesses of this complex legislation? We don't know, but if the bill passes as it is currently written, we will certainly find out the hard way.

One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, and expecting different results. Six months ago, this Council passed a campaign finance bill far too quickly, and it turned out to be full of problems. Now the Council is poised to do the same thing over again. What will we be dealing with six months from now?

I urge this committee to stop the insanity. Do not vote on this bill until we have a full opportunity to figure out exactly what's in it. If you must vote on this bill now, I urge you to vote "no."