

Testimony of Mukesh Patel, Globiwest Hospitality
Oppose Int. 2397-2021
October 5, 2021

Mayor de Blasio,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments regarding Int. 2397-2021. My name is Mukesh Patel, I own seven hotels, support more than 340 employees, and have been in the hotel business for the past 18 years in New York City.

Me, my family, and my employees have personally felt the negative impacts of the pandemic. According to Smith Travel Research, revenues are down an estimated 70 percent on a rolling 12-month basis. At least 150 hotels in our city have already closed. Hotel occupancy for all of New York City hotels has declined to less than (65%) compared to the last five years of 85% to 89%. It is a daily struggle to keep my business's doors open and my employees on the payroll.

Hoteliers already operate on thin margins, but we proudly pay our fair share in taxes to support New York City's economy. Unfortunately, hoteliers will likely have to delay hiring new employees, reduce the size of their current workforce or close permanently to meet costs associated with this bill. Furthermore, forcing hoteliers to open their properties during a time of low occupancy would result in lower hotel occupancy numbers overall. This could also lead to hotels being put to other uses or closing entirely.

I deeply value the extraordinary work that my employees do every day, and I am proud of their efforts throughout this pandemic. My family and I are doing everything we can to keep our hotels open so that we can continue to help our employees support their families.

Overall, I oppose this bill because I am concerned about the economic impact on small business owners, their employees, and their families. Please veto this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.