

6th City Council District

Ken Biberaj (D)

My name is Ken Biberaj and I am a Democrat candidate for City Council. My wife, Valerie, and I live on 76th street and we had our first baby in mid-May, a healthy baby boy named Hudson. I was born in New York City — a first generation American — after my parents emigrated here from Albania in 1968. It's from my father that I developed my commitment to public service. He taught me to believe that government can, and should, be a force for good. I went to American University for undergrad and then the Harvard Kennedy School for a master's in public policy. In 2004, I joined John Kerry's presidential campaign, serving as his policy research director in Florida. After the campaign, I decided to get involved in my own community. I returned to New York City, joined a family business, and worked to reopen the Russian Tea Room while going to law school at night. I serve on the culinary council for Food Bank for NYC and mentor first generation college students at an organization called New York Needs You. Val and I love the UWS and we are excited to raise a family here. However, we have serious concerns about the future of our neighborhood and City. Our schools are over crowded, there is a lack of affordable housing and small businesses continue to close on a daily basis — often replaced by a bank or a Duane Reade. I am convinced that we can do better. This is a transformative year — we are electing a new Mayor and half of the City Council is turning over. I am running to bring new energy and a fresh perspective to these challenges. The government will not be able to solve all the problems we face, that is why I believe we need leaders who can forge solutions by capitalizing on the resources of government, the good will of non-profits and the skills of the private sector. When I entered this race in March of last year, I knew I was taking on the political establishment on the West Side. But I went out there and have been working hard every single day. I have heard first hand from neighbors across this community about the issues they care about and they recognize that the leadership on the West Side needs to keep up with the changes on the West Side. I'm Ken Biberaj and I would like your support on Sept 10th.

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