

For Immediate Release

## **New York City Council Passes Menin’s Legislation to Streamline Business Permits and Licensing in the City Of New York**

*Creating a one-stop shop small business portal was sponsored by a supermajority of New York City Council Members. Legislation will centralize and streamline all applications, permits, and licenses needed to open and operate a small business.*

September 29th, 2022

On Thursday, September 29th, the New York City Council passed Council Member Julie Menin’s legislation to create a One-Stop Shop NYC Business Portal. Menin’s bill, which is co-sponsored by a supermajority of 40 New York City Council Members, will consolidate permits into one website portal rather than force a business to interact separately with each individual City agency.

Creating a One-Stop Shop NYC Business Portal will centralize all applications, permits, licenses, and related information needed to open and operate a business in New York City. Starting in November 2023, this information will be available in a single, easily accessible, and easy-to-navigate location where a business could submit and check on the status of applications, permits, and licenses.

The portal will also allow businesses to settle or pay outstanding balances on notices of violation. The online portal and mobile friendly design will be created in coordination with the Commissioner of Small Business Services and the Commissioner of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and will be accessible in English and the ten most spoken citywide languages: Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Bengali, Haitian, Korean, Arabic, Urdu, French, and Polish.

To ensure the effectiveness of the portal, starting in 2025 the Commissioner of Small Business Services will be responsible to submit to the Mayor and Speaker of the New York City Council a report on any updates to the portal implemented during the preceding calendar year. The report will include the number of questions or complaints the department received about the portal, and the average time taken to respond to questions or complaints. A survey of small businesses will also be conducted to review the effectiveness of the portal in facilitating assistance.

As Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Small Business, Council Member Julie Menin has a long history supporting the over 200,000 small businesses in New York City. During

her tenure as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection under the de Blasio administration, Menin created a small business relief package that reduced violations by 1/3 and cut onerous fines on businesses in half. The reforms implemented translated into millions of dollars going directly back into the pockets of small business owners allowing them to reinvest their hard-earned money.

“As a former small business owner, I understand how frustrating it is to traverse through the alphabet soup of city agencies to maintain and open a small business. Centralizing the process of obtaining vital information to operate your business will make a world of difference. Small business owners and entrepreneurs don’t have the time to take days off to figure out the logistics of being in compliance, nor should they have to. We lost so many small businesses during the pandemic and a one-stop shop small business portal provides the necessary support that our small businesses need to survive and thrive,” **said Council Member Julie Menin.**

The New York City regulatory environment consists of over 5,000 rules and regulations and over 200 business-related licenses and permits as well as many processes created to ensure compliance with the law. For instance, to [start](#) a restaurant in New York City, owners must go through eight different agencies and pay eight different fees. Menin’s One-stop shop consolidates the burdensome permitting environment into one easy to use portal.

Of the more than 200,000 businesses located in New York City, 98% are small businesses ( less than 100 employees) and 89% are very small (fewer than 20 employees). The pandemic has hit our vital small businesses hard and it is estimated that over a third of our small businesses will close before the pandemic ends. Since the beginning of the pandemic over 26,000 small businesses have closed, and most of those businesses had fewer than 10 employees.

By sending this legislation to Mayor Adams for enactment, Council Member Julie Menin is ensuring that the City of New York is streamlining the permitting process and making New York City friendly for entrepreneurs and existing small business owners.

“Running a restaurant in NYC requires small business owners to navigate a big bureaucracy, an alphabet soup of separate regulatory agencies such as DOH, DOB, DEP, FDNY and DCWP, each with their own permits, requirements, and systems. This overly complex regulatory maze creates confusion and red tape that results in delays and uncertainty costing time, money and headaches for small business owners. That’s why we commend Councilmember Julie Menin for her leadership introducing this legislation and working successfully with her colleagues to pass it, which will create a “One-Stop Shop” to coordinate, streamline and manage a restaurant’s regulatory relationship with the city in one easy to navigate online portal. We urge Mayor Adams to sign this important bill into law and we look forward to working with his administration on developing and implementing the “One-Stop Shop to support small businesses,” **said Andrew Rigie, Executive Director, NYC Hospitality Alliance**

“New York City’s economic future is dependent on its dreamers and innovators,” **said Jessica Walker, President and CEO of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.** “By easing the process to start or expand a business here, we can drive job growth. Councilmember Menin’s ‘One-Stop Shop NYC Business Portal’ is essential to making our city more friendly to such entrepreneurship and business formation.”

"Small business owners are busy people. They need to be able to access vital information about rules and regulations efficiently without the time consuming runaround of contacting a plethora of agencies separately," **said Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.** "This new portal will help centralize information for these business owners, giving them time to focus on their growth and success. I applaud Council Member Julie Menin for recognizing the importance of our city's small business owners who add greatly to the city's economic revival."

“The NYC BID Association applauds Councilmember Menin and the City Council for passing this legislation that will ease burdens on our businesses by making government easier to navigate,” says Robert Benfatto, Co-Chair of the NYC BID Association and Executive Director of the Hudson Yards/Hell’s Kitchen Alliance. “The struggles of businesses during the pandemic and rising storefront vacancy rates demand action to help spur our city’s economic recovery. We welcome this long-needed and innovative approach to regulatory relief,” **said David Estrada, Co-Chair of the NYC BID Association and Executive Director of the Sunset Park BID.**

"The NYS Restaurant Association applauds Council Member Menin and all the co-sponsors of Intro 116-A for their leadership in creating a brand new, one-stop-shop online experience for New York City businesses. The new business portal will be a critical upgrade for restaurants across the city, removing the friction and frustration of navigating a hodgepodge of online access points for city government, and streamlining the permitting, licensing, and payment experience for businesses. Looking ahead to the recovery of restaurants and New York City itself, we need a sustained focus by the city on attracting and keeping businesses in the five boroughs and creating a healthy and supportive environment for them to operate. Intro 116-A is a major step in that direction, and we are enthusiastic to see it passed and implemented,” **said Melissa Fleischut, President and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association.**

“From filing necessary applications, permits and licenses to finding resources and answers to important questions in your native language, we know that opening and operating a business in New York City is not easy,” **said Jeff Garcia, President, New York State Latino Restaurant Bar and Lounge Association.** “Small businesses, particularly our restaurants and food service industry, continue to weather the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn to serve our City in its time of need, and I applaud Council Member Julie Menin for her leadership on this common-sense, bipartisan legislation to ensure that New York City in turn serves our small businesses better.”

"The One-Stop Shop NYC Business Portal makes sense for business," **said Lisa Sorin, President of The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.** "For years we have advocated for a common sense approach for entrepreneurs and legacy businesses alike. We commend Councilmember Menin for putting this into action and look forward to working with her team and agency partners to implement the portal with the goal of centralizing all applications, permits, licenses, and related information needed to open and operate a business in New York City."

##

Anna Correa  
Director of Communications  
Council Member Julie Menin  
646-808-5269  
[ACorrea@council.nyc.gov](mailto:ACorrea@council.nyc.gov)