

Dear New Yorker,

The many laws and rules the city imposes on small businesses can be an obstacle to business growth. The City Council and the Mayor's Office are working together to reform the City's regulatory system to help eliminate some of the unnecessary costs and burdens that are borne by agencies, businesses, consumers, and the public.

A Regulatory Review Panel, made up of Council Members, representatives of the Mayor's Office, and the Commissioners of various city agencies, including the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Department of Small Business Services, is examining agency rules and regulations that affect the business community. In particular, they're looking for those that may be outdated or unnecessarily interfere with business operations. They will also be evaluating the rulemaking process at City agencies.

By December 31st, the panel will have developed a report on its initial findings and recommendations to be presented to the Mayor and City Council.

Your input throughout this process would be extremely helpful.

Please take a moment to review and answer the questions below. If you could forward any answers you may have to Matthew Gewolb **by October 21st**, we'd greatly appreciate it. You can reach Matthew by e-mail at MGewolb@council.nyc.gov, by fax at (212) 341-0363, or by mail at New York City Council, Governmental Affairs Division, 250 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007.

Thank you for your input!

Sincerely,
Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
New York City Council

1. What City agencies does your business work with most?

2. When you applied for a City license or permit, or underwent an inspection, were there any surprise requirements that you were not aware of?

3. Did the approval process for a City license or permit drag on with no clear understanding of why the process dragged on or with no clear path to resolution? (Please include the name of the City license, permit, or inspection in question).

4. Did an extended approval process cost your business money? (For example, did it delay or alter your plans for opening or expansion; did you incur extra expenses associated with specific licenses, permits, or inspections?)

5. Were you ever told by a City Agency that an issue was "stuck" with another City Agency? (Please include names of the Agencies and the City licenses, permits, inspections, etc. in question)

6. Do you have any suggestions for improving City processes for opening, operating, or expanding a small business?