



SPONY

THE SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS OF NEW YORK

The Small Property Owners of New York (SPONY) will testify before the City Council Housing Committee in support of a bill proposed by Council member Chris Banks that they say would help them comply with housing code and the myriad of city housing regulations.

“The housing code and regulations are filled with outdated and arcane rules and processes that impede, and even entrap, small owners, making it harder for us to provide quality, compliant housing,” said SPONY board member Ilan Rabinovitch.

“SPONY welcomes the opportunity to partner with lawmakers on updating the housing code and other city regulations, which would greatly benefit the New Yorkers we house,” he added.

A glaring issue that needs to change, said Rabinovitch, is the annual apartment registration process with HPD. The current process requires building owners to register their apartment online, but they then have to print, sign, and send hard copies by conventional mail to HPD, which delays the registration process for months, and even longer because the agency often loses the paperwork, according to Rabinovitch.

“The world operates on electronic filing and digital signatures. This bill would fully digitize apartment registration and bring the process into the 21st century. The registration delays that we face through no fault of our own result in small owners being fined, and become obstacles to our ability to complete other compliance requirements, obtain permits for repairs, or submit court filings. This proposed bill would streamline the process and make it more efficient - and that’s a benefit for tenants and owners,” Rabinovitch said. #