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Eric Yu, Member of Community Board 1, Announces Candidacy for City Council Representing Chinatown

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Eric Yu, a member of Manhattan Community Board 1, announced on January 12 that he is running in the Democratic primary for New York City Council in District 1, which includes Chinatown. As a native New Yorker born and raised in Chinatown, Yu aims to address issues that matter most to the community, saying, "Our most basic needs have been ignored for far too long."

Personal Background

Yu grew up on Monroe Street in Chinatown in a working-class family. A U.S. Marine veteran, he holds a bachelor's degree in economics from SUNY Stony Brook and a master's in urban affairs from Queens College. Currently, Yu serves as Director of Service Delivery Expense Analysis for the MTA's subway division. After living in Queens and Brooklyn, Yu and his wife returned to Lower Manhattan in 2018. He has been a member of Community Board 1 since 2021.

Key Campaign Issues

Opposition to Congestion Pricing:

Yu strongly opposes congestion pricing, describing it as a regressive tax that disproportionately impacts low-income individuals. He believes the policy is harmful to Chinatown and District 1 as a whole, and he is committed to advocating for its repeal.

Homeless Shelters and Public Safety:

Yu criticized the government for neglecting public safety and allowing numerous homeless shelters to proliferate in and around the district, contributing to rising crime rates. He advocates for:

- Increased support for law enforcement.
- Expanded mental health outreach services to address underlying issues in the community.

Economic Vitality and Infrastructure:

Yu argued that over the past four years, the government has failed to enact policies that sustain the district's economic vitality. He stressed the importance of improving traffic flow and road usage, emphasizing the need to reopen Park Row.

Yu also proposed measures to boost economic development, including maintaining high-quality education in local schools and expanding apprenticeship programs for college students and veterans.

Competitive Race

Yu is the third member of Manhattan Community Board 1 to announce a candidacy for the District 1 City Council seat, following attorneys Jess Coleman and Elizabeth Lewinsohn. All three aim to challenge incumbent Council Member Christopher Marte.

Yu's campaign promises a fresh perspective and a commitment to revitalizing Chinatown and Lower Manhattan while ensuring public safety and economic growth.