

**Mark Teper**

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Galst Foods was opened by my grandfather in 1927 and has been family owned and operated since that time. I began working at the store in 1976 and have worked in every capacity of the business. Presently I own and operate Galst Foods, which has been an integral part of the business community on North Avenue for nearly 80 years. I also own additional properties on and around North Avenue.

In my almost 30 years of working in the neighborhood I have seen many changes. From a once thriving and vital area of the city, I have seen North Avenue experienced a slow deterioration. As a business owner this downward spiral is of great concern to me. Recently, however, the community in and around North Avenue is working hard to reverse this pattern and once again make this area one of growth and development. I am gratified to see so many people working diligently to restore the neighborhood. As a member of this community I want to continue to work to improve the neighborhood for residents and businesses alike.

I want to serve on BID board to ensure that I am a part of the neighborhood revitalization decisions. I feel that it is important to contribute to this effort to ensure that a variety of voices be heard. I know this neighborhood very well and feel that my long-standing involvement would be an asset to the board. I want to see North Avenue and the surrounding community once again be vital and strong.