

[excerpt on “tale of two New Yorks” from “prior life” work of CB]

Increasingly, New York City's story is **a tale of two cities**, separated by **a gulf between the more well-to-do enjoying their bonuses and stock options and the working and middle classes** who struggle to find the means to get their children a good education when college costs so much and worry about their parents' health care and their own retirements. Often we are pinched at both ends.

It is a tale of the *have-alots and have nots*. Where an average investor in N.Y. stock exchange stocks made more than a 30% return last year and 20% so far this year while a single, unemployed mother faces the prospect of losing her assistance check, her home, and her dignity due to changes in government policies; or where two employed parents wonder where they'll find the resources to pay for 2 kids in college at the same time a face retirement.

That's why we need to re-invigorate a City government which helped make a difference in our lives. It has provided us with the tools (e.g., education) and assisted us to take advantage of the opportunities around us.

Where government applies the necessary resources, it makes a (positive) difference in people's lives, especially those like us who feel the pinch (of paying more: for the cost of living, for gov't services, for our children's education, for our parents in long-term care and for our own retirements)

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