

Why are we here?

- Because we have a **crisis of inequality** in this country;
- And we're here to learn **why** that is the case and **what** we can do about it.

What do we mean by a crisis of inequality?

- The top **1%** in this country earns more than the bottom **50%**.
- In NYC, while bankers are taking home millions in bonuses, **one in five of the city's** residents live at or below the official poverty line.

Why at Wall Street?

- Because the **banks** and other **Wall Street** financial firms have been the biggest **culprits** in this crisis.
- Because they **crashed the economy** and now, rather than helping in the recovery, continue to demand more and more, while leaving less and less for us.

Why now?

- Because Mayor **Bloomberg** is proposing a **budget** with draconian cuts to senior centers, housing, education, health clinics, and more.
- They're leaving **untouched** the hundreds of millions in subsidies, contracts and other **benefits** that the **big banks** receive.
- That is **welfare for the banks** and millionaires and austerity for the rest of us.

Is this necessary? NO

We could easily prevent ALL these cuts with simple solutions.

By keeping the state millionaire's tax and closing bank loopholes and unearned subsidies, we would have plenty of money to pay for the programs that support New York's most vulnerable.