PEI YING YU testimony – English translation

My name is Pei Ying Yu. Before, I lived in Chinatown, at 103 Hudson Street, second floor. But I was evicted. Now, I hope that we can pass this TOPA bill. If a landlord is going to sell a building, 1) we tenants should have the first right to buy, and 2) we can work with a nonprofit organization to be able to buy. Why a nonprofit organization? Because with a nonprofit—usually we tenants don't have the economic ability to buy, but with a nonprofit, this makes it possible for the tenants to stay and not be evicted. Together with a nonprofit, Chinatown tenants can learn how and have the ability to buy their own homes and stay. So, we really need this bill; we have a really big hope for this. Because I myself was evicted, at 11 pm at night in the middle of a big snowstorm. And that's how I had to move. If a nonprofit organization could have worked with us to buy, we wouldn't have had to suffer through this. So, I really hope the government will support this bill. Let our low income tenants in Chinatown have a hope. Let us remain here for the long term.