



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

## State Senator Gustavo Rivera on Yesterday's Devastating Fire on Jerome Avenue

GUSTAVO RIVERA March 14, 2025

| ISSUE: **FIRE, THE BRONX, MORRIS HEIGHTS, AND SMALL BUSINESS**

"I am deeply shocked by the devastating fire that destroyed six businesses on Jerome Avenue yesterday morning. The impact of this tragedy is severe, not only due to the physical damage to these small businesses but also the emotional toll it has taken on their owners and the entire Morris Heights community.

I understand that the Department of Buildings (DOB) has confirmed that full demolition will be required for the six impacted businesses. Due to the risk of collapse, the FDNY has been unable to safely enter the site to complete its investigation. The cause of the fire will likely be determined during the demolition process. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has confirmed the presence of asbestos in the area and will be conducting air quality testing to monitor for contamination.

"While the road to recovery will undoubtedly be challenging, I have full confidence that together in partnership with city agencies and the Burnside/Jerome/Tremont Commercial District, we will be able to come back stronger. The Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has been on the ground working with business owners to provide support and financial aid to help them recover and rebuild.

“My office will continue to monitor the situation closely and be on standby ready to assist in any way possible.”