

Lena Melendez

Lena Melendez is a native New Yorker who grew up in District 7. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1999. Obtained her Master's degree from Columbia University. An ardent housing activist who fought against racist rezonings, for racial impact study, for community land trusts. A board member of the Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association. President of her Tenant Association. County Committee member of her ED. She was presented with a Jane award for her activism in 2018 by Metropolitan Council on Housing. She is a member of the Housing Justice for All Coalition who fought and won the 2019 rent laws and continues to fight for the cancellation of rent, to extend the eviction moratorium and housing access vouchers as evidenced by her participation in civil disobedience in October 1st, 2020.

Melendez supports efforts to take the functions of mobile crisis, social services, school counseling services among other services off the hands of the police and to reallocate those funds to these other services. Small business survival is important to Melendez who has been involved in advocating for 10 year lease renewals, right to arbitration and in the light of the pandemic for grants or low interest loans for their survival. She now seeks a seat at the City Council where she has advocated for those very things.