



Hot in New York City

January 2, 2026

Zohran Mamdani was not yet the new mayor of New York City when the city council [signaled](#) that it would serve as willing accomplice in his assault on fundamental property rights.

In December, the city council passed legislation that had been hanging fire for several years, the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA), to further limit New Yorkers' right to use and dispose of their own stuff.

COPA would give "give certain nonprofits ... an early shot to bid on certain residential properties that go up for sale, before they hit the wider market." The law pertains to buildings "with poor conditions or where an

affordability provision is expiring."

COPA's advocates contend, as if this were a response to the objection about how the new law violates property rights, that it gives nonprofits an advantage in the housing market.

What happens if quite wealthy nonprofits with enough political pull make an offer that a property owner declines? Will the property owner have the right to say "I pass" and then make the property available for anybody to bid on?

If COPA is not dead on arrival, it will depress market prices as the city strongarms owners into making deals at lower-than-market prices. And I doubt that a Mamdani administration will simply playact at eroding and destroying property rights.

Mayor Mamdani took office yesterday, on January 1, 2026, dedicated to the idea of replacing "the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism." It doesn't portend to be a very good year for New Yorkers opposed to the heat of the looters' madness.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.