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- Anti-student
- And anti-cop



By CARL CAMPANILE
 One of the nation's wealthiest black business leaders is considering mounting a self-financed campaign to topple Mayor de Blasio in 2017 — saying he has lost faith in the candidate he once supported.
 "I'm giving serious thought to running for mayor of New York City . . . I was a political supporter of Bill de Blasio," real-estate mogul Don Peebles (right) told
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Top de Blasio backer mulling run against ‘anti-business, anti-cop socialist’

By [Carl Campanile](#)

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Top de Blasio backer Don Peebles (right) says the mayor has failed the people of New York City, and that he would consider running against the candidate he once supported. Photo: Gabriella Bass; John Roca

One of the nation’s wealthiest black business leaders is considering mounting a self-financed campaign to topple Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2017 — saying he has lost faith in the candidate he once supported.

“I’m giving serious thought to running for mayor of New York City . . . I was a political supporter of Bill de Blasio,” real estate mogul Don Peebles told The Post on Tuesday. Peebles and wife Katrina contributed \$9,675 to de Blasio’s 2013 campaign and inaugural committees, records show.

But during an extensive interview, the lifelong Democrat — who is reportedly worth \$700 million — delivered a withering attack on the mayor’s handling of taxes, charter schools, stewardship of the NYPD and chilly relations with Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

“I’ve lost confidence in him. It would be irresponsible of me to do nothing,” said Peebles, 55, who owns the largest African-American-run real estate company in the United States. “He’s anti-business, he’s anti-wealth, he’s anti-accomplishment. His performance has not been up to par. He’s failed.”

Peebles’ mulling of a mayoral run comes amid reports that some disaffected Democrats are looking for an alternative to the mayor in the next election.

Among the names being mentioned are city Comptroller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Rep. Hakeem Jeffries and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.



Don Peebles at home in Bridgehampton. Photo: John Roca

Peebles said that if he runs, there's a "90 percent chance" he would challenge de Blasio in a Democratic primary.

He added that he would self-finance a campaign and spend "whatever it takes" to win. Describing himself as a "pro-business" Democrat, Peebles described de Blasio as a divisive "socialist" who wants to punish wealthy people with higher taxes.

"My approach is to expand opportunity by increasing the size of the pie, not taking away from others. The mayor is supposed to be the mayor of all the people, not be the mayor of the Socialist Party."

He slammed de Blasio on numerous fronts, from his management skills to his chat with his son, Dante, about how to act if approached by cops.

"That was disrespectful," Peebles said. "What he should have been saying is that the NYPD is the best police department in the country."

Peebles argued that the mayor hurt himself by continuing to press for an income tax hike on the rich to fund his pre-K program even after Cuomo offered state money for it.

“It’s very frightening. His basic view is that all businesses and wealthy people are not paying their fair share. That’s not true. It’s wrong,” he said.

Peebles also took issue with the mayor’s handling of education, saying he’s siding with the teachers union instead of standing up for kids and charter schools.

Peebles said he and his wife have supported faith-based and alternative schools in Florida and his native Washington, DC.

While he resides in Boca Raton, Fla., Peebles owns homes in downtown Manhattan and is buying a place on the Upper West Side. He also has company offices in Midtown and owns a home in Bridgehampton, LI.

Peebles is well-known in New York’s political and business circles. He served on President Obama’s national finance committee and has raised money for Bill Clinton and other politicians.