

An ex-supporter calls out Mayor de Blasio's failures

By Post Editorial Board

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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

Like nature, politics abhors a vacuum. And the vacuum created by two years of Mayor de Blasio's bumbling and divisive leadership has spawned what may be his first 2017 challenger.

African-American developer and entrepreneur [Don Peebles](#) told [The Post](#) this week, "I'm giving serious thought to running for mayor of New York City."

Peebles admits, "I was a political supporter of Bill de Blasio." He and his family gave nearly \$10,000 in the 2013 campaign.

But the thrill is gone: "I've lost confidence in [de Blasio]. It would be irresponsible of me to do nothing."

He slams the mayor on everything from his handling of the NYPD to his general anti-business attitude: "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."

Worth an estimated \$800 million, Peebles built a real-estate empire from Miami to DC before coming to New York a few years ago.

He wants other minorities to find similar success. That's why de Blasio's hostility toward charter schools — one of the few educational innovations that has helped minority kids excel — is another sore spot.

Peebles sees this in the context of what he has called “a new generation of focus” on black achievement.

“With education, preparation and access to opportunity, we would see transformative change and that's what's missing” in politics.

Peebles seems willing to launch a self-financed campaign. Michael Bloomberg certainly proved that such political newbies can succeed.

Even if Peebles winds up off the ballot, his current candor serves the city. If nothing else, he's created space for other aggrieved de Blasio voters to start talking publicly about how things went so wrong, so fast.