

Peebles: Duane Reade manager could run city budget better than de Blasio

By [Michael Gartland](#)

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A manager at Duane Reade is better prepared to run a big city budget than Mayor de Blasio — a “spin doctor” who divided the city to get elected, says the millionaire real-estate mogul [who once backed Hizzoner](#) but is now [considering a run against him](#) in the next election.

Hizzoner’s previous job as public advocate has “a \$1.6 million budget with less than a dozen employees,” [Don Peebles](#) said Sunday on ABC’s “Up Close.”

“The average Duane Reade in New York City has an annual revenue budget of \$6.7 million,” Peebles added. “So the general manger of a Duane Reade is managing four times the size of a budget that de Blasio managed before he walked into office.”

Meanwhile, de Blasio said he welcomed the challenge to his re-election.

“To anyone who wants to run — the more the merrier,” he said through his spokeswoman, Ishanee Parikh. “I feel very good about what I have to say to the people of this city over the next two years.”