

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
AT SOTHEBY'S  
3732 RIVERDALE AVENUE, (NEAR WEST 238 STREET)**

**PRESENT**

Maria Khury  
Sylvia Alexander  
Steven Balicer  
Robert Fanuzzi  
Nils Graham  
Patricia Mullen  
Robert Press  
Herbert Young  
Gegoria Feliciano  
Ari Spett  
Tony Edwards  
Andrew Sandler  
Arnie Adler  
Gino Bartti  
Lisa Cooper  
Arian Curana  
Mario Curana  
Adele Eguru  
Ellen Feld  
Clinton Flanagan  
Jose Hermeza  
Mila Kochanova  
Sonia Lemaro  
Jose Lopez  
Marina Lopez  
Linda Manning  
Brendan McHugh  
Manari Merino  
**\*Bernadette Nation**  
Robert Negrin  
Michael Nixon  
**\*Ray Norberto**  
Margos Orthanopoley  
Barney Quigley  
Christina Rodriguez  
Tracy Shelton  
Kevin Vega  
**\*Ricky Wong**

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair, CB8  
CB8  
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CB8  
Community Committee Member  
Community Committee Member  
Rep. Councilman Y. Rodriguez  
Rep. Councilman O. Koppell  
Adler Photography  
Elite Deco Eco  
Elisa Comtemporary Art  
Salvatores of Soho  
Salvatores of Soho  
U Can Enterprises  
Sothebey's  
Unlimited Future Inc.  
Popcorn Pawz  
The Whole You Spa  
Esposito Law Offices  
  
Khury Tours  
  
Riverdale Review  
Sante Fe Grill  
**Small Business Services**  
Popcorn Pawz  
BOEDC  
**SRMA**  
Greek Express  
Riverdale Art Association  
Charter School  
KRVC  
Citibank  
**NYC Department of Consumer Affairs**

**\*Guest Speaker**

**Meeting called to order at 7:35PM**

Ellen Feld opened the meeting by welcoming the Economic Development Committee and guests to Sotherby's Real Estate Office meeting room.

Chair, Maria Khury – Welcomed and gave greetings to all

- Asks if agenda and minutes were received – apologized for lateness of minutes.
- A motion was presented and carried to postpone approval of April 7th minutes to the next month's meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**General announcements:**

- Concessions list available for review if anyone interested. Does not include Park's Ice skating rink concession. Concession stand at Parks Ice Skating Rink – put off until it comes to Parks Committee
- Vendor Trucks parking situation over-ticketed
- Bronx Ball at Orchard Beach tent to benefit BOEDC May 21, 2011
- Julia Schwartz, Riverdale Senior Services Art Gallery– 1:30-2:30, May 15, 2011
- Arts Festival reminder May 15, Riverdale Avenue, W235-W238 St, 12-4PM
- Fruit Market to open in two weeks at old Blockbuster store W231 St., off B'way
- Rainbow clothing store opened at old Duane Reade, W231 St., off B'way

Chair, M.Khury Introduced

**1<sup>st</sup> guest speaker** Bernadette Nation – DTR Emergency Response Unit @ NYC Department of Small Business Services

**Major Responsibility:**

- DTR of ER.U. –
- Supervises Emergency Response Unit Outreach Team
- Unique liaison between business owner and the city
- Comes to your business to assist resolution, i.e. Department of Health. Rectify violations.
- Assist business to reduce violation fees in addressing problems.
- Helps people navigate the system to resolve different issues
- Support systems
- Lean Department of savvy staff and familiarity of NYC boroughs
- They mediate whatever problem you have with other city agencies: Example: cars owned by businesses “Commercial Parking Problem. Business vehicles owned by business owners get violations – parked car – no activity – summonses can be amended:
- Distributed brochure:  
Services to Small Business Neighborhood Development Unit  
**Business Express:** On web apply for permit
- 
- Administration by Department of Finance website
- If you call Department ERU you will speak with a live person
- Pro Bono – Business Advisors available
- If business owners have problems with landlord or city agency
- ERU is on constant communication with O.E.M.
- Help business owners to restore operation after a casualty
- Insurance issues are also resolved
- Work with fire marshal's expedite fire reports
- Replacement of licenses, certificates
- Work with enforcement to understand business needs, but business need to be in compliance.
- Can assist restaurant owners to rectify any violations
- Owner of Sante Fe Restaurant shared a situation with Health Department and B. Nation offered to assist meet one on one
- M. Khury suggested they meet and report back next meeting as to outcome.

**Q/A session after presentation:**

- A.Sadler, Koppells office-Do Traffic Agents use Enforcement practice “Selective Enforcement” around particular members area – any assistance with agents
- B. Nation – selective enforcement does not occur
- She works directly with borough commissioner to address complaints
- B. Fanuzzi – NYC Business Solutions Office dedicated to Riverdale?
- B. Nation – the one in CB12, @ West 182<sup>nd</sup> Street location serves CB8.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker** – Ricky Wong: Department of Consumer Affairs Unit

- A regulatory agency
- Outreach coordinator – to all boroughs
- Consumer Protection
- Business licenses (70,000 business)
- Agency does not operate on a quota basis and is not revenue generating
- No selective enforcement
- All license appointments are online – at website enforcement –\_respond to 311 calls to mediate complaints
- Advocates for business, but strive for win/win between business and consumers.
- Hold presentations at community board and BID’s.
- Pursue high impact litigation cases –
- Example:
  - Fake gun campaigns
  - Party City – Offender was given a violation of \$30,000 went into litigation and refused to resolve amicably and lost.
- Agency protects consumer in the 5 boroughs
- Example :
  - Refund Policy – All has to be posted visibly – disclosure
  - Receipts – Transactions between \$1-5 not necessarily \$5-20. If the consumer asks for it and all purchases above \$20 requires a receipt.
  - Credit Card Use – Policy has to be posted. Check – Scales
  - Agency allows for settlement on the violation without administrative review– lower rate if guilty

**Bodega Enforcement**

- License to sell cigarettes
- Sell cigarettes to minor violation; 1-2 year license suspension

**Nail Salon – Hair Salon**

- Gender pricing – not allowed

**Laundromats**

- Blouse/Shirt – different price not allowed
- Refund policy needs to be posted

**Q/A session after presentation:**

- Sidewalk Café’s – Enclosed/open – Different stipulations, length of time differs
- NYLS Edu – Center for NY City Law – City Regs/Admins

**Majority of Complaints with:**

- Supermarkets:violations
- Items not priced properly
- Rain check
- Issues with receipts

**Education Day every October – No violations are issued instead agency educates business owners on mitigating possible violations in their business. CBds are informed of those dates/and can request. The Chair requested our district be considered this year.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker –SRMA, PRESIDENT –RAY NORBERTO**

Distributed info on Spring Arts Festival – South Riverdale Merchants Association –flyer distributed– all information

- Outreach campaign expanded to maximize **promotional effort:**
  - Website
  - Community Calendar
  - Wave Hill
  - Metro North
  - Business
  - Apartment buildings
- B. Fanuzzi – gave historical perspective of Arts Festival and gave kudo's to Tracy, Linda and Lisa. Volunteers are still needed and it should be a Community effort
- M Khury hopes this will become an annual event –with simultaneous street fairs and festival throughout the district.

Michael Nixon– of BOEDC

Project priorities – 2012 approved – A satellite office of business solution center –stated the Satellite Office is located at the KRVC and BID office. It is manned on Tuesdays.

**Capital/Expense Priority for FY 2013**

**Proposals**

- Funding for Annual Arts Festival
- Community Sponsored thematic events
- Public events to raise profile of business
- Job Fair at Kennedy High School or non-profit agency.
- Community Center include non profits and technical businesses
- Bringing business of organize, healthy, fresh food stores
- Strongly work with other agencies to find a formidable tenant or owner for the old Stella D'oro Building
- Create a marketing video project to promote the communities of CB8
  - M. Khury to Assist Chair and others to work towards finalizing those for submission by end of month.

**Small Business Survival Act Forum** – informational session June 9, 2011

- Preliminary planning session with few panelist
- Informational manner
- Plan for the Fall

M. Khury –final meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> will also reflect on the committee's work this year.

**Adjournment – 9:45PM**

Minutes submitted by,

**Gregoria Feliciano**  
Committee Member

Approved by,

**Maria Khury, Chairperson**  
Economic Development Committee