

**CB 12, MANHATTAN
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 7, 2014**

ATTENDING: Jason Miller (Chair), Richard Allman, Maurice Owen-Michaane, Felipe Wityk Sanchez, Ellen Kackman (Asst. Chair), Christopher Smith, Martin Restituyo

EXCUSED:

ABSENT: Rud Morales,

GUEST: Heriberto Mateo, Kaaryn Nailor Simmons, Sophia Williams

1. The meeting began at 7:35 PM.
2. Kaaryn Nailor Simmons, the Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Columbia University/Harlem visited with the Business Development Committee. The SBDC is one of five in NYC and one of 26 in NY State. It is funded by Columbia Business School and Small Business Administration (SBA). They are focused primarily on small businesses above 96th Street. The SBDC offers workshops and counseling to new and existing businesses at no charge. They mainly have two initiatives. The first is a 2-year street-wise MBA for 20 participants with businesses having revenues of \$150,000 to \$5 million. In addition, they have credit counseling, small business financing, becoming loan ready, starting a small business, pitch fest, etc.
 - a. Several committee members asked questions and how this could be used as a resource for the community and CB12M
 - b. Ms. Simmons mentioned they have several programs they offer for the community to help with business development and professional development – all at no cost to the community
3. Heriberto Mateo from the NYC commission on Human Rights Manhattan Community Service Center visited and discussed his agency's effort to educate small businesses on human rights law enforcement. His agency is willing to give a PowerPoint presentation free of charge to businesses on human rights and discrimination.
4. The Committee discussed expense budget fiscal year 2015 budget rankings:
 - a. Our first priority is to create a bilingual Workforce 1 Center with services to address the unemployment rates in Washington Heights and Inwood (WAHI). WAHI has one of the City's highest unemployment rates. The City must increase funding for job training and employment opportunities in Manhattan Community District 12.
 - i. Maurice discussed the unemployment numbers within the District, extremely alarming rate of 10.3% (almost 3% higher than the current NYC rate, and 4% higher than the national average)
 - ii. The committee agreed for the need of a Workforce 1 Center, with Chairman Miller stressing that a workforce 1 center in our area will help ready residents for job opportunities at the new GWB Mall and will help ready all our residents for future job openings in the area
 - iii. Committee reiterated that a Workforce1 Center on 125th street does not meet the demographic needs of Northern Manhattan or CB12M, which is majority of Hispanic decent, and which many feel discouraged from the location on 125th due to the lack of bilingual communications

- b. MWBE certification - Committee felt this was a very important priority to fund, to ensure that business across the district represent the geographic makeup of the district for new job opportunities; Jason Miller will send out information to the Committee regarding MWBE.
 - d. Job training and apprenticeship fostering with summer and youth employment funded by state or city. Increase the “Development of Resources that can be utilized within outreach campaign of local businesses.”
 - e. Funding Small Business Administration liaison to help develop and promote local businesses in WAHI.
 - i. Specifically the committee wanted a dedicated person from the SBS to work with CB12 and have this as their full time function to help us coordinate and focus on the local business environment of CB12M; committee felt as if current resources were spread across the SBS and other city agencies, where as a dedicated person would help focus things and this Full time employee would work out of the CB12 office
5. Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2015 ranking:
 - a. The creation of a small business incubator.
 - b. The provision of technology and business literature in local libraries to help small business community. Database technologies with dedicated computers such as Bloomberg, Reuters, Lexisnexis.
 - c. Education to help immigrant-owned businesses by NYC Library.
 6. Ellen Kackman proposed inviting small business owners to our Committee meetings to discuss their problems and issues such as job creation and support.
 7. Jason and Maurice discussed the updates from the NY Public Library – flyers about their competition were passed out at the Sept. 2014 general meeting; and a rep from the NYPL will speak briefly at the Oct. 2014 general meeting; Jason discussed a unique program by the NYLP that focuses on immigrant born residents of NYC and helping them to really transform their businesses to pass on to other generations and other entrepreneurs
 8. We tabled the discussion on the small business forum.
 9. The next meeting is Monday, November 10, 2014.
 10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM.