

**Business Development Committee Meeting Minutes – CB 12 Manhattan
January 5th 2016 – 7pm**

Committee Attendance: Maurice Owen-Michaane, Chair; Jonathan Reyes, Assistant Chair; Felipe Wityk Sanchez; Pamela Palanque North; Glennis Aquino; Agenla Ramierz;

CB12M Members: Shahabuddeen Ally, Liz Ritter

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Maurice Owen-Michaane

- Chair Owen-Michaane welcomes everyone
- Chair Welcomes the attendance of the Manhattan Borough President’s Office, including Deputy Borough President Aldrin Bonilla, and Lucian Reynolds
- **Associated/ Walgreens Issue**
 - Associated lease expired as of December 31st, 2015
 - Food desert an unintended consequence of Walgreens lease signing
 - Discussion ensued about measures to help preserve local mom/pop businesses, including through zoning ordinances similar to what Borough President Brewer did on the UWS during her time on the City Council
 - Ozzie Rodriguez, owner of the Associated at 592 Ft. Washington Ave came to speak to the committee and give his side of the situation;
 1. landlord (managed by Benson Capital Partners) signed Walgreen’s as a new tenant 3yrs;
 2. notice of eviction delivered to Ozzie Tuesday, court hearing on Monday, Jan. 11th
 3. Landlord did not negotiate in good faith per Ozzie
 4. 27 jobs at risk at this store
 5. Unless the situation changes, he plans to stop sticking shelves within 2-3 weeks
 - Business Development Public Hearing to be held at PS 187: **Intended outcomes**
 1. Extend Associated lease
 2. Walgreens sublease to Associated
 3. Find nearby vacant replacement venues

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- **Tasks to be accomplished prior to forum**
 1. Petition signing
 2. Notify stakeholders
 3. Create advertisement/awareness for the forum and issue at hand
 4. Letter to Walgreen's and 592 Ft. Washington Landlord
- **Spring 2016 Jobs Fair discussion**
 - Co-sponsoring with Washington Heights Chamber of Commerce
 - Target date(s): April 21st
 - Location: Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center
 - **Task(s):** potential keynote speaker/speakers panel
 - Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, Maria Torres Springer, Ken Knuckles, Greg Bishop, Alicia Glenn, Thomas Perez – US Labor Sec.
- **Presentation by local small business owners, “Choc NYC”.**
 - Invites CB12M to grand opening celebration January 31st, 2016
- **Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm**