

MINUTES
Meeting of the Community Board #9
Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 6:30 pm
at Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

Present: *Economic Development Committee:* **Chair:** Hon. LaQuita Henry **Board Members:** Hon. Jane Arrendell, Hon. Savona Bailey-McClain, Hon. Pat Jones, Hon. Brandon Brice **Absent:** None
Public Member: Maritta Dunn

Community Board Members: Hon. Christa Giesecke , Brad Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Economic Development Chair, LaQuita Henry. The Agenda (see attached) as presented was adopted. Minutes of the last meeting, February 8, joint meeting were submitted to the Executive Committee and will be available the next regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

In the first presentation, the Chair called on Kate Gilmore, Urban Planning student at Columbia University and planning fellow working with the Land Use & Zoning Committee to present her study on the Broadway streetscape, 135th – 155th Street. The study area was chosen since 145th Street will be a site up-zoned as part of the West Harlem Re-Zoning Plan proposed by the DCP. Her initial survey of the Broadway streetscape aimed to document current conditions. In her audio-visual presentation, she pointed to a number of storefront facades that currently violate zoning regulations due to the presence of: 1) flashing signage 2) awnings with too much wording where only the address and telephone number are permitted, and 3) signage that is higher than 25 ft above the curb level. She also documented the current state of repair of the storefronts lining Broadway. The presentation referred to the NYC Department of Small Business Services *Façade: Guide to Storefront Design* and DCP Zoning Handbook Edition 2011 as sources. Following this presentation, the Chair cited working with Land Use & Zoning Committee on an improvement project. As well, the Chair also reported a conversation with EDC's Alejandro Baquero who confirmed the agency could adopt a proposal from CB 9 that focused on several Broadway blocks designated for streetscape / facade improvements.

Representing street vendors city-wide, Matthew Shapiro an attorney with the Urban Justice Street Vendor Project, that represents 1,200 members made a brief presentation. Accompanying him was a food vendor. Both spoke of the bills introduced by the Street Vendor Project and pending in the City Council. The bills speak against the high and inconsistently issued fines given legal street vendors, marginalizing street vendors. The passage of these bills would increase the number of licenses made available, increase number of jobs, cut down illegal vending, and bring more revenue to the City. Mr. Shapiro stressed not supporting illegal vending. Following a discussion that ranged from being against increase of licenses to favoring a public hearing, a vote to provide a Letter of Support from Community Board 9 for a public hearing of the City Council of New York **passed 5-0-1-0** (in favor / against / abstain / present not entitled).

Under New Business, the discussion of the need to bring more action on the dire jobs and economic strife in the area from the City Councilmember (Hon. Robert Jackson) and Mayor