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New program helps restaurants open quicker

by Shane Miller

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Just call it fast food.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Speaker Christine Quinn announced last week that a total of 546 restaurants have opened using the services of the New Business Acceleration Team. The initiative allows restaurants to go through the city's permitting processes more quickly and speeds up the process of opening a new restaurant from six months to four.

Created in March 2010, the New Business Acceleration Team works hand-in-hand with qualifying businesses to schedule and coordinate review appointments and required inspections from city agencies, including the Fire Department, Health Department and Department of Buildings, among other relevant agencies.

The mayor and speaker made the announcement at Tacos Tulcingo restaurant in Jackson Heights, the 500th restaurant the New Business Acceleration Team has helped launch.

“Helping new restaurants open faster is good for the entire city, because the sooner they open, the sooner they can create jobs,” said Bloomberg. “By streamlining the process and making it easier to work with city government, we’re encouraging businesses to open, create jobs and generate additional economic activity in all five boroughs.”

The New Business Acceleration Team has made a difference for New York City’s restaurant industry across each of five boroughs, with more than half of the 546 restaurants assisted located outside Manhattan. Together, these 546 new restaurants have created 6,012 new jobs for New Yorkers, including immigrants and those who are just starting up the economic ladder.

“The great news is that under the new NBAT model, we have helped more than 500 restaurants open 2 months more quickly,” said Quinn. “That’s two months more of salaries being paid, revenue being generated and jobs being created per restaurant.”

By helping businesses, on average, open their doors 72 days sooner, the New Business Acceleration Team’s accelerated openings have also generated \$9 million in additional tax revenue and \$50 million in additional sales revenue.

Under the program, every application for a new restaurant is assigned a case manager who guides the restaurant owner through the entire process. The case manager is on hand to make sure every restaurant owner navigates the permitting process as efficiently as possible.

Because of the proven success of the New Business Acceleration Team in assisting restaurants cut through red tape and open their doors sooner and more efficiently, the city is expanding the program to reach even more businesses. In

addition to restaurants, the program will also begin working with businesses in other economic sectors.

To learn more about the New Business Acceleration Team program or how to participate, visit nyc.gov or call 311.

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