

SBS IN THE NEWS

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

New Bed-Stuy BID Launched With \$675,000 for Its First Year of Operation

By Linda Collins

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT - The Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District has been launched, according to the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), and marks the 20th BID formed under the Bloomberg Administration.

Said SBS Commissioner Robert Walsh, "We have seen remarkable growth over the past few years in Bedford-Stuyvesant and the formation of the BID will add to this momentum."

The new BID is providing maintenance, sanitation, marketing, holiday lighting, economic development, beautification and landscaping services in an area that spans Fulton Street, from Classon to Troy avenues, and Nostrand Avenue, from Halsey Street to Atlantic Avenue. It will serve approximately 322 businesses on 28 blocks, according to Walsh.

"Many of the businesses in this commercial corridor include mom-and-pop retailers, such as clothing and shoe stores, restaurants, coffee shops, hair salons, banks and grocery stores," he said. The budget for the first year of operation is \$675,000.

The Bed-Stuy Gateway BID is being managed by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., which has attracted over \$375 million in investments to Central Brooklyn, constructed or renovated 2,200 units of rental or ownership housing, and provided thousands of artistic and cultural events to the community.

"During these hard economic times, I am confident that this new BID will help to energize our commercial corridor," said Mike Rafferty, executive director of the Bed-Stuy BID and economic development officer for the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. "This BID builds on the great tradition of economic development in Bedford-Stuyvesant."

Said Marcia Melendez, owner of Flowerworks Florist and Landscape Construction Company on Nostrand within the BID, and a BID board member, "I am very excited about the formation of this BID. I know the BID will improve the shopping climate for our customers and improve business."

The BIDs established under Mayor Bloomberg have collectively invested more than \$17.5 million dollars towards the improvement of their districts since their inception. They provide supplementary services to more than 700 block faces in the city and serve more than 5,000 businesses.

In addition, in FY 2008, these BIDs have employed close to 70 sanitation workers and removed over 170,000 tons of garbage and 10,500 graffiti incidents; distributed close to 290,000 district guides; held over 70 events with an estimated 130,000 attendees; and beautified their districts by adding over 150 plantings and 700 pieces of street furniture. Under Mayor Bloomberg, the number of BIDs in Brooklyn grew over 50 percent.