



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
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Daniel D. Brownell
Commissioner and Chair

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Hunts Point Markets Advisory Board**

Date and Time: December 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Hunts Point Produce Market Board Room
101 Food Center Dr., Bronx, NY 10474

Attendees:

Business Integrity Commission

Daniel D. Brownell, Commissioner and Chair
Noah D. Genel, Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs and General Counsel
John Curry, Assistant Commissioner of Legal Affairs
William Courtney, Director of Investigations
Salvador Arrona, Director of Policy
Patrick Z. Scotti, Executive Agency Counsel

Industry

Joseph Palumbo, Top Banana
Joel Fierman, Fierman Produce Exchange
Matthew D'Arrigo, D'Arrigo Brothers Co. of New York
Joseph Gurrera, Lockwood & Winant Seafood
Richard Klein, Third Generation Seafood
Mark Solasz, Master Purveyors
Sid Davidoff, Senior Partner at Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron, LLP
Charles Capetanakis, Partner at Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron, LLP
Andrew Celli, Partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady, LLP

Not present:

Andrew Sussman, Plymouth Beef

Discussion:

1. Group introductions and opening remarks by Dan Brownell and Noah Genel
 - a. Mission of the Hunts Point Markets Advisory Board (HPMAB): Exchange ideas; strengthen relationship between BIC and Markets; address concerns in the Markets.

- b. Recognizing that each Market experiences different issues, BIC is willing to meet with Market representatives separately to address any matter particular to a specific Market.
- 2. Make Markets more friendly to visitors and businesses (comments from industry)
 - a. Manner in which the gates are currently controlled (including requiring ID to enter) is intimidating to customers and drives away business.
 - b. The businesses that operate in the Hunts Point Markets are largely family businesses that work hard and care about positive changes that will bring in more customers.
- 3. Issues that have plagued the Markets in the past (comments from industry)
 - a. Criminals and individuals with organized crime ties
 - b. Public health recalls on a variety of products
 - c. Bad press
- 4. External challenges to/for the Markets (comments from industry)
 - a. Businesses operating outside the Markets without U.S.D.A. licenses
 - b. Unscrupulous companies that purchase products from the Markets and then re-sell elsewhere
 - c. Big-box stores which are able to offer steep discounts
 - d. Drug sales/use
- 5. Current and future safety measures in the Markets (group discussion)
 - a. Markets have partnered with DSNY to offer safety-related trainings.
 - b. BIC can bring in speakers to the Markets to discuss safety issues such as terrorism.
 - i. Potential to apply for related federally-funded grants.
 - c. Market businesses spend a lot of time on food safety issues. For example, trucks and containers going to the Hunts Point Meat Market have seals to protect cargo.
- 6. Need for better understanding of existing BIC rules and update BIC rules to reflect progress made in the Markets (comments from industry)
 - a. Unclear how much notice must be given to BIC when companies hire new employees or hire subcontractors and how long it will take BIC to respond to these requests.
 - b. Any Commission Directive BIC issues should also be sent to management at the various cooperatives.
 - c. Renewal application is too long and duplicates information submitted in the original application.
 - d. BIC identification card requirements are too onerous and drive away potential employees.

Note: The next Hunts Point Markets Advisory Board meeting will be held either in February or March – exact date and location to be determined.