



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3
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Andrea Gordillo, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

March 26, 2026

Jeanny Pak
Interim President & CEO
New York City Economic Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza
New York, NY 10006

Dear Interim President & CEO Pak,

At the March 2026 Full Board Meeting, Community Board 3 passed the following resolution:

TITLE: Community Board 3 recommendations for Essex Street Market

WHEREAS, Community Board 3 has consistently requested responsive and community-focused operations of Essex Market since and throughout the planning process for Essex Crossing and the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area (SPURA) sites in general;

WHEREAS, Community Board 3 has strongly objected to NYC EDC's determination that Delancey Street Associates should be permitted to lease the former Market Line space to a big box use against the intent of the SPURA land use approval framework;

WHEREAS, prior resolutions proposing creative alternatives to the closure of the Market Line before and after EDC permitted a lease arrangement to proceed toward finalization between Delancey Street Associates and Burlington Coat Factory did not receive a response;

WHEREAS, NYC EDC has generously provided direct support funding for community benefit services since 2015, and the combined amount for the current fiscal year supporting Essex Market equates to approximately \$495,000;

WHEREAS, NYC EDC has not previously required or issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) or any other procurement for support services at Essex Market as they relate to the provision of community benefit services not otherwise easily provided or explicitly authorized by local law;

WHEREAS, Community Board 3 has maintained that Essex Market should serve the Lower East Side/Chinatown community and not be utilized by NYC EDC or the City for purposes that do not support the community or unnecessarily support other markets managed by NYC EDC at the expense of and with impact on Essex Market;

WHEREAS, Essex Market provides a crucial service to low-to-moderate income Lower East Side/Chinatown residents and supports a diverse vendor community, many of whom are immigrant entrepreneurs who provide access to quality and fresh produce and grocery goods and are locally based employers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 3 believes that NYC EDC should commit to maintaining no less than the level of funding in the current fiscal year for the Lower East Side Partnership to provide community benefit services and replace services focused on private events with those focused on vendor supports and community benefits through renewed funding in FY27;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the ongoing mission and strategic direction of the Market be determined following broad engagement of Lower East Side/Chinatown stakeholders through a community-based visioning process utilizing an experienced third-party consultant retained by the Lower East Side Partnership and jointly selected with NYC EDC, Community Board 3, local elected officials, and representative(s) of Market vendors.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that NYC EDC permits funds that would have been otherwise targeted toward private events to support such a community-based visioning process;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the third-party consultant will conduct a robust and inclusive community engagement process to produce a five-year strategic plan with a defined vision, mission, goals and actions.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that NYC EDC pause modification to the Market's physical layout and receive input from community until strategic plan is adopted;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that NYC EDC commits to the meaningful involvement of Community Board 3 and elected officials, via the Essex Crossing Task Force, in oversight of the operations of Essex Market;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that NYC EDC ensures the Market, its public spaces and offices, and its overall operations create a clean, safe, and welcoming environment free of fear, intimidation, or retaliatory behavior.

Please contact the community board office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Andrea Gordillo, Chair
Community Board 3



Damaris Reyes, Interim Chair
Land Use, Zoning, Public & Private Housing
Committee

CC: Tim Laughlin, Lower East Side
Partnership President