

**Alida Camp**  
Chair



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Small Business Committee**

Marymount Manhattan College, Regina Peruggi Room  
221 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY  
January 7, 2019

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Alida Camp, Cece King, Dori Newman, Cos Spagnoletti, Sarah Chu.

**Agenda:**

**1. Pop-Up Stores and Small Businesses**

- Cece King and Dori Newman are working together on placing a student art exhibit at a local small business. DTUT expressed interest and could host a one or two events in the spring. King and Newman are working with DTUT on its capacity, where art can be hung, etc. They are also members of the CB8 Youth & Education Committee and this work brings the interests of our two committees together.
- A suggestion was made to inquire with Metropolitan Bank, which often has student art on display as well as other rotating art displays.
- Tenny & Betsy Café owner was at the meeting. Part of her café's concept is to serve as an art pop-up. She connected with King and Newman about the possibility of hosting a student art fair that compliments the DTUT event.

**2. Vacancy Tax**

- Mayor de Blasio previously announced support for a vacancy tax on empty storefronts, but not proposal has been introduced to date.
- It is not clear if this is an issue that only the state can act upon or if there is City/State jurisdiction.
- When a policymaker introduces a proposal, the committee will bring the topic to a panel or forum.

**3. Retailer Outreach**

- Mick Mellamphy and Alida Camp are working with Manhattan Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a breakfast event for CD8 small business retailers.
- The event will likely be scheduled in February/March and will focus on soliciting feedback on the challenges and needs of small business retailers.

**4. Small Business Contact List**

- To improve our ability to reach out to small businesses, the Small Business Committee is embarking on an effort to collect contact information for CD8 small businesses.

- Paul Higgins from ESNA offered his assistance to canvass retailers and also offered that ESNA can help push information out through its list.
- Potential businesses to reach out to include the swath of new high end home goods stores in the 70s and 80s on Lexington Avenue.
- Sarah Chu will reach out to Will Brightbill or Sophia James about LinkNYC and how it could help advertise for small businesses.

## **New Business**

- ESNA Small Business Survey
  - Paul Higgins from ESNA is conducting outreach for ESNA and developing a small business survey to help ascertain opportunities to support them.
  - He asked for input/feedback on developing survey questions. Suggestions were made to connect him with Urban Fellow Andrea Partenio who is developing a similar survey.
- Minimum Wage Increase
  - The owner of Tenny and Betsy asked if the committee would consider the topic of the recent minimum wage increase. This is a topic that small business owners have been struggling with and there is a fear that it could lead to increases in prices or deterioration in service due to less hiring.
- 80/20 Law
  - 80/20 law has given buildings, especially co-ops, the incentive to lease ground floor space to big box stores or chains where they once hosted mom and pop stores. Alida Camp gave the example of Baltimore, where the harbor is highly developed with national chains and presents like a shopping mall. Where there is not major development, you're able to find small mom and pops.
  - Sarah Chu will reach out to borough president and state representatives to inquire about potential 80/20 activity.
- UES Hospital Construction
  - Hospitals are developing above the traditional 72<sup>nd</sup> Street northern boundary of "bedpan alley." At 76<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Northwell Health / Lenox Hill are tearing down the building that houses the Atlantic Grill. Demolition is scheduled for late spring, early summer, and construction to start by the end of the year.
  - The group discussed whether hospitals bring business to local small businesses with more foot traffic or if small businesses are challenged by the lack of foot traffic during the construction process. Northwell Health/Lenox Hill will start demolition and building at the end of the year.
  - A community member stated that "a lot of people move to the UES for the hospitals and schools."
  - One idea was to inquire with hospitals to ask if they would partner with small businesses (food service, flowers, gift shop) or share pamphlets for those services as a way to support local businesses.
- UWS Commercial Zoning
  - The Small Business Committee is interested in joining with the Zoning and Development Committee to learn more about the impact of the UWS rezoning on small businesses. Sarah will reach out to James Lloyd, MBP Land Use, and Lo van der Valk, Carnegie Hill Neighbors.

**Sarah Chu and Mick Mellamphy, Co-Chairs**