

Alida Camp
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Small Business Committee
Monday, November 19, 2018 - 6:30PM
Marymount Manhattan College
221 East 71st Street
Regina Peruggi Room

MINUTES

Attendees: Paul Higgins, Dori Newman, Billy Freeland, Alida Camp

Public Members: Courtney Bond (UES), Jennifer Gau (Tenny and Betsy)

Public Guests: Stacey Kells (Stacey Robbins Realty), Barry Spellman (Barry's Pub), Robby (5 Milestone 85th and second), Max Bookman (liquor license lawyer), Nancy (commercial real estate, Amazon 3rd Party Deliveries), David (Burger Shop, Barber Shop), Zack (new to neighborhood)

1. Billy Announcement: Small Business Saturday
 - Yorkville Buy Local
 - Support small business in the communities
 - Small Business Saturday (11am-3pm) Saturday Nov 30
 - Business giving out coupons, speaking out about issues, 6-8 businesses stop by
 - Small Business committee co-sponsor effort
 - Confirmed as American Express neighborhood small business supporters
 - Small Business co-sponsors SBS (unanimous)
2. Max Bookman: New York City Hospitality Alliance
 - Council to NYCHA
 - Represents bars, restaurants
 - 2000+ members, involved in every piece of legislation/regulation
 - Education and outreach
 - State Liquor Authority: plays an important role in the life of a business, getting a LL is very hard, CB8 makes it easier, process is being made worse:
 - Not a lot of clear info (rumors, self-help) in the liquor authority--lost a lot of staff, based in Albany, staff loss at lower levels (examining license apps) and at higher levels (directors i.e. director of licensing)
 - Replaced by new people who don't understand the apps/licenses → slow down

- Apps for new business and old businesses changing→ certain time frames that have been thrown out the window
 - Need to plan months ahead because of the slow down
 - 6 months filing with SLA w/o lawyer certification (4 months w/lawyer)
 - Governor has gotten involved→ overtime
 - For all pre-war buildings (outdated laws w/buildings) → important for UES buildings
 - Certificate of occupancy
 - Anyone looking at a new space w/liquor license → certificate of occupancy for drinking
 - w/increased # vacant storefronts → small businesses are in the driver's seat more than ever or requesting contingencies, free rent periods (there's plenty of other spaces to go to)
 - Going to fix SLA → processing times will go back down
 - High rent?
 - What's making it very difficult to run a food/beverage SB in the city
 - High labor costs → well-meaning and intentioned legislature from Albany → higher min wages→ consequences on small businesses that are in the hospitality industry → city level (city council)
 - Paper straws (cost more), signage requirements, compost requirements, mundane regulations, adding fines → pass a law that states: for any of the non-serious health department violations for the first time: give a warning/education rather than a fine
 - Sum up to higher costs
 - Non-F/B brick and mortar → losing out to internet
 - More traditional B+M leaving
 - F and B is one of the few areas of B+M that is left (losing to delivery services)
 - The city does not have a comprehensive rescue plan for small businesses
 - Amazon gets a lot of perks
 - Small businesses put together is a much larger job producer than amazon but there's no comprehensive plan to help them
 - Penalize building owners having scaffolding up longer
 - Comprehensive strategy: removing CRT below 96th Street, tax incentives, relief from increased min wages/tip wages
 - State-by-state law jurisdiction over alcohol
 - SBC: Push for comprehensive business plan
 - Night-life establishment: guide to best practices (CB4)
 - C of O's
3. Open Discussion on Community Business Issues and Concerns
- Nancy: Amazon trucks unloading packages
 - Recruiting third parties to be there deliveries → blocking the street and the sidewalk → liability
 - Should be getting tickets
 - Transportation Committee Issue
 - SBC can encourage our use of vacant storefronts (not the sidewalk) for this unloading → solution to vacant storefront issue

- SBC setting up guidelines to give to businesses to say what we look for and act being responsible members and neighbors in our community
 - **311** → the more people complain → the more likely the response
 - Jennifer: homeless people in store
 - Going to the police, 19th precinct, hospitality alliance (all unsuccessful)
 - daytime and nighttime
 - Collective group of small businesses → invite the police department here to have an open conversation around safety (get a lot of businesses to aggregate and make the voice more successful)
 - Best practices forum for the businesses
 - Lighting up vacant storefronts and scaffolding
 - Police car stationed on 2nd avenue
4. Updates
- Free labor/3 fellows on CB8 vacant storefront issue and reaching out to local small businesses, surveys, reporting on what they're finding (themes) solve the vacant storefront issues → done with research and data gathering in March → paper
 - Small Business Mixer (bars, restaurants) bring everyone together to talk about the issues that they are all having, reach out and bring new businesses to the table
 - Bringing businesses and residents together (educating residents)
 - Early March: East 60s Neighborhood Association: Art Exhibit → taking photos of the businesses
 - Small Business Workshop 11/6/19
 - Opened: Butterfield Bakery
5. Old Business
6. New Business
- Vacant storefronts (NYC to LA, globally) negotiates w/landlords to negotiate a lease and sublet for a little bit, test drive, Airbnb
 - Filming → use local small businesses for catering since they are using the space

Mick Mellamphy and Paul Higgins, Co-Chairs