



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. Matthew Martinez, Committee Chairperson

The Economic Development Committee Meeting met on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members were present: Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Kristine Rivera, Gil Simmons and Noorjahan Wells.

The following item was discussed:

- Department of Small Business Services

The Department of Small Business Services informed us about the services they provide to businesses in New York City. The Department of Small Business Services has a business assistance hotline that assist business owners with their questions and provides them with guidance on reopening rules and access to resources along with educational services and virtual resources. They also have mentorship and legal assistance services where they have provided over 935 mentorship services to business owners with negotiations with landlords, combating tenant harassment, and other legal issues. The Department of Small Business Services also provides financial assistance such as the Employee Retention Grant and Small Business, Continuity Loan Fund, Interest Rate Reduction Grant, Strategic Impact Grant and LMI Storefront Loan. They also offer no-cost training for businesses and employees and many other services that assist with building stronger businesses and neighborhoods.

- Metro Consulting

Metro Consulting informed us that they assist Bronx-based small business owners grow, streamline, and enhance their companies. They assist with website organization and development, financial and accounting practices, and brand development. Metro Consulting make this possible by enlisting smart and motivated students from Fordham University from a variety of disciplines to volunteer as consultants. Their goal is to make a positive impact on their local community while simultaneously giving the students hands-on experience in the real world. They have engaged with businesses like Concreate Jungle and Evita Clothing. Small businesses that are interested in these services, can contact Metro Consulting by email at bronxmetroconsulting@gmail.com.