

Bronx Community Board 8

Economic Development Committee

October 28th Meeting held on Zoom

(pending committee approval)

- I. Introduction of Committee Members (including new Committee Members) and Guests-attendance
 - A. 7:05pm Call meeting to order
 - B. Attendees:
 1. **Committee Members:** *Nick Fazio, Moses Esema, Julia Gomez, Constance Barnes, Camelia Tepelus, Osvaly Jimenez, Joy Campbell Priveterre*
 2. **CB8 Members:** *Tania Ochoteco*
 3. **Guests:** *Sylvia Rivera (SBA), Randi Norfleet (Entrepreneur Assistant Center), Nivardo Lopez (DOT), Juton Hortsman (DCP), Eduvigis Marmolejos, Andreas Pazmino (NYCHospitalAlliance), Darisa Cruz (NYCDOT), Dahlia, Jerrols, Kingsbridge BID, Marie (Kingsbridge Resident)*
- II. Call to order: 7:05pm
- III. Approval of Minutes from 9/23/2021
 - A. Approved unanimously
- IV. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Awardees of Betty Campbell award recognized on November 9
 - B. Mayor announced no propane heating for outdoor dining
 - C. NYC pandemic relief program is still open
 1. Requirements are less restrictive
 2. Apply even if in doubt
 - D. NY State Department of Financial Services (Ms. Franklin) hoping to hear back on Ridgewood Bank BDD program application
 - E. From Chair Fanuzzi -E and S meeting on November 17 will focus on the impact of Hurricane Ida
 - F. Randi Norfleet discusses program at Entrepreneur Assistant Center (EAS) to support local businesses
 1. Will return to discuss their cohort of programs for participants
 2. Program in Harlem & the Bronx
 3. Funded by Empire State Development
 4. <https://esd.ny.gov/entrepreneurship-assistance-centers>
- V. Presentation: Small Business Owner Report - Eduvigis Marmolejos (One Yoga for All)
 - A. Founder of Yoga and Wellness Studio started in 2016
 - B. Sole Proprietorship

- C. Accessible offerings for the community
- D. Also leverage space for pop-up business to utilize their space
- E. Managing since Covid has been a challenge but support from the community (including landlord) has been critical
- F. Was able to utilize PPP and support through South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. (SOBRO)
- G. Optimistic for the future if we can get through this moment

H. Questions:

- 1. Camelia: Thank you for your presentation. Have you considered certifying as a MWBE with the State?
 - a. Answer: I have heard of the certification but had not pursued before. Ever since connecting with SOBRO I am now putting more energy towards that certification.
 - b. Nick pointed out that the Committee has a strong partnership with SOBRO to help with the MWBE Certification process
 - c. Sylvia: You can get certified with City and/or State and it will make your business that much more attractive

VI. Presentation: Commissioner Nivardo Lopez (NYC DOT) – Discussion on Permanent Open Restaurant program (POR)

- A. Most pre-covid outdoor dining was run by Department of Consumer and Worker Protection Agency (DCWP)
- B. During Covid, DOT was directed to create the Open Restaurant Program (11,000 restaurants participated)
 - 1. No geography was off-limit
 - 2. Program free and easy to access
 - 3. Roadway option added more versatility
- C. Proposing for Permanent Program
 - 1. Option for both sidewalk seating and roadway seating
 - 2. Sidewalk
 - a. 8–12-foot clear path (or half of the sidewalk)
 - 3. Roadway will need to be more open and not the enclosed versions we have seen
 - 4. After this season, contemplating not allowing operation during winter
- D. Legal Actions needed
 - 1. Removal of zoning locational prohibitions
 - 2. Change rules for sidewalk cafes
 - 3. Create new rules for roadway cafes
 - 4. **Current emergency program is expected to remain in place for 1.5 years**
- E. Welcome feedback
- F. **Questions:**
 - 1. Moses: Will structures be allowed to stay through a second winter?
 - a. Answer: There is still time before that decision is made but contemplate final plan by 2023
 - 2. Nick: There is concern about the program being run by DOT without input from other agencies

- a. Answer: Right now, they are working to collaborate with multiple agencies as the rules are being crafted.
 - b. However, in order to simplify implementation, the intention is to keep enforcement in a single agency
 - c. Learning from issues in previous program. Multiple agency approach was problematic
- 3. Nick: Why DOT?
 - a. Answer: In order to combine roadway and street, it makes sense for DOT since they already have some authority on the road and sidewalk and the expertise to manage this
- 4. Nick: What legal action is still needed?
 - a. Answer: City Counsel will likely need to pass more legislation before rulemaking begins.
 - b. In addition to LL114, potential other actions will need to be comprehensive and simple to use. Addressing issues like geographic discrimination
 - c. We heard loud and clear that people are supportive of sidewalk program (but more debate on the roadway)
- 5. Camelia: Likely there will be a cost to obtaining a permit for use of public space. Is fee structure already known? Will it be more affordable than current program?
 - a. Answer: Looking for program to be simpler and more affordable
- 6. Nick: Are both Sidewalk and roadway cafes be seasonal
 - a. Sidewalk will be not necessarily be seasonal. Roadway will be seasonal with some possible expectations
 - b. Roadway structures will need to be able to put up and taken down easily
- 7. Nick: Do you have any additional information on the Mayor's grant program about converting to gas heaters vs. propane (especially since propane tanks were on back order)? Merchants need to know whether investment in conversion will be allowed once the final proposal is approved
 - a. Answer: Do not have details on that at this time
 - i. We will plan to return ideally by next year with details on what will be allowed
 - ii. Purpose of 1.5-year transition period is to give people time to adjust
- 8. Eduvigis: For roadway café, will noise level need to be managed similar to Sidewalk?
 - a. Answer: Rules will be the same for sidewalk and roadway cafes
 - b. Noise will likely be enforced by NYPD. Amplified noise will be allowed.
- 9. Marie: What is the case if the street structure if it encompasses neighboring business?
 - a. Answer: In the future, when you apply or permit, occupying the sidewalk of an adjacent storefront will be not be permitted
- 10. Marie: Who is responsible for trash that accumulates around roadway structures?
 - a. Answer: This will need to be addressed in permanent program. There will be guidance of what will be required for keeping a clean location

11. Marie: Do you consider width of sidewalk, bus lanes, drainage use, street tree etc. in the application?
 - a. Answer: We will have clear guidelines over how much sidewalk width will be allowed (minimum – 8 ft clearance or 12ft or half the sidewalk distance)
 - b. Any roadway café will need to be the width of the parking lane and will not be allowed in front of bus stops/hydrants/etc.
 - c. Fully enclosed structures will not be allowed, limiting the impact on drainage/water flow
12. Nick: Tree pits are Parks Department. Businesses often adopt a tree pit and we send detailed information on what they can do to maintain the tree-pit. Folks should email the board office for specific Tree Pit issues or recommendations

VII. Presentation: Andreas – NYC Hospitality Alliance

A. Open Restaurant program was a lifeline for restaurants and bars in the NYC

B. Questions:

1. Camelia: Issue of homelessness and safety concerns on commercial corridors. How does the NYC Hospitality Alliance position itself? Manhattan vs Bronx BIDs.
 - a. Answer: Clear Quality of Life that impacts everyone
2. Marie: Good to be mindful that restaurants are part of community and thus be good neighbors.
 - a. Answer: Agreed
3. <https://www.thenycalliance.org/>

VIII. Presentation: Sylvia Rivera (SBS)

A. Businesses are still suffering from Pandemic

B. Ida has impacted owners and renters– Physical Damage Loan

1. Deadline extended from Nov.4 to December 6th
2. Maximum loan for small business is \$2MM
3. Homeowners can borrow up to \$200K
 - a. \$40K for personal property
 - b. Interest as low as 1.5%
 - c. Up to 30 years
4. Steps:
 - a. **FIRST STEP:** Register with FEMA at [Home | disasterassistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance)
 - b. or download the FEMA mobile App., or call (800) 621-3362
 - c. **SECOND STEP:** Apply with SBA:
 - i. visit any local disaster center to apply in person and receive one-on-one assistance from an SBA representative
 - ii. Go to <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>
 - iii. Call **(800) 659-2955** for more information and to request a paper application, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m./7 days a week

- iv. Email questions
to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov
- v. Or: Sylvia.Rivera@sba.gov

C. Questions:

- 1. Camelia: Keep the dynamism and updated presence
- 2. Marie: DO Churches qualify for disaster loan
 - a. Answer: Yes. Non-profits included as well

IX. Outstanding Business

- A. Business corridors walkthroughs with Bronx Chamber of Commerce
 - 1. Open invitation. Email times of availability. Osvaly expressed interest and will coordinate timing.
- B. Fines (FAIRER) allows unpaid Environmental Control Board fines to be reduced up to 75%
 - 1. Open until December 20
 - 2. Camelia will send the link to share across
 - 3. We receive a flier from Councilman Dinowitz and was sent out today
 - 4. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/taxes/fines-and-interest-reduction-enabling-recovery.page>

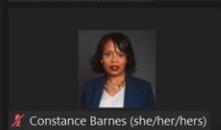
X. New Business

- A. Homelessness issue is sensitive and political charged and deserves careful assessment
- B. Vape Store in Knolls Crescent should be on our radar
 - 1. They sell convenience including Vape products
- C. Thanksgiving Meeting
 - 1. Move to 30th or cancel
 - 2. Suggestion to cancel the November meeting and target December meeting (on 23rd or sooner)

XI. Future topics:

- A. Camelia: We should invite Riverdale Main Street Alliance (RMA)
- B. Osvaly: Presentation on 504 SBA Loan Program
- C. Nick: Open invitation to Manhattan College on Financial Literacy Event and website presentation

XII. Adjourn at 9:29pm



Unmute

Start Video

Security

Participants 16

Share Screen

Pause/Stop Recording

Reactions

Apps

Leave