

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8; Tuesday, October 3, 2023; In-person meeting held at Yukka Bistro, 5684 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY 10471.

Committee Members in attendance: Nicholas Fazio (Chair); Joy Campbell Priveterre (Vice-Chair); Constance Barnes-Watson; Julie Reyes (Board Chair); Miguel Matos (Community Committee Member); Rhashida Hilliard.

Absent Members: Julia Gomez and Aboubacar Barry.

Guests: Nick and Joelle Lynch (The Tree Army Co.), Brandon Adams (Lloyd's Carrot Cake), Simon Yevdayev (Broadway Wine & Liquor), Caesar Tobar-Acosta (NWBCCC), Liz Thompson (NWBCCC), Michael Nixon (BOEDC) and Juan Nunez (NWBCCC).

Community Board 8 Members: Farrah Kule Rubin (District Manager).

Community Members: Brett Castello

- I. Chair called the meeting to order @ 7:30**

- II. Recipients of the Betty Campbell-Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award (BCA MVM): Nicholas and Joelle Lynch, The Tree Army (<https://thetreearmyco.com/>).
 - A. The chair described the award and noted that CB 8's Economic Development Committee seeks to identify merchants within our community that have worked to enhance economic growth, improve community relations, and increase civic participation. He stated that Betty Campbell Adams was an iconic entrepreneur devoted to our community's betterment. By honoring outstanding local businesses, CB 8's Economic Development Committee (the Committee) aims to celebrate Betty and elevate her example for other entrepreneurs to follow.
 - B. The Committee congratulated Nick and Joelle Lynch: The Tree Army Co.

- III. Business Owner's Report: Brandon Adam, Lloyd's Carrot Cake ; Nick and Joelle Lynch, The Tree Army Co. (<https://thetreearmyco.com/>); Simon Yevdayev, Broadway Wine & Liquor Warehouse (<https://winenliquor.com/>).
 - A. Simon Yevdayev expressed hope for community advocacy to sell a better variety of spirits. He stated that he would like to expand his operation. He also expressed his desire to get more involved with other community-based organizations.

- B. Joelle and Nick Lynch discussed how their business started and their current community-based initiatives. They announced upcoming Veteran's Day events.
- C. Brandon Adams thanked the Committee for naming the Most Valuable Merchant Award after his mother, Betty Campbell-Adams. He discussed his business's current challenges and willingness to work with the Committee and other Bronx-based business resource providers, such as BOEDC.

IV. Report by Michael Nixon on BOEDC's current initiatives:

- A. Mr. Nixon reported on the Advantage Loan Fund is seeding money for startups and ongoing concerns, including payroll and capital improvements.
- B. He also mentioned the Bronx Tourism Council and their initiative to "Rebrand" the Bronx and to facilitate better business relationships within the borough.

V. Report from the Bronx Chamber of Commerce: Miquel Matos reported on the following items:

- A. **NYC Funds Finder:** <https://nycfundsfinder.nextstreet.com/> is a resource for researching loan and grant opportunities.
- B. **Asylum Seeker Workforce Hiring Inquiry:** https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=6rhs9AB5EE2M64Dowcge56JqHsmEVoZNvbHl_maWHkNUNkQ1WFdJSjFPTUVQV1VXQk1KWjAwT09HVS4u&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. Businesses looking to staff their businesses with newly work authorized immigration submit the form.
- C. **Grant for Vets,** <https://foundersfirstcdc.org/stephen-tadlock>, is a \$1,000 Grant for up to 25 military veterans. The deadline to complete the grant application is October 16, 2023.

VI. Kingsbridge Armory Presentation: Juan Nuñez, Kingsbridge Armory Organizer, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition. The presenters briefed attendees on their vision document (<https://online.fliphtml5.com/mewzo/jmai/#p=1>) and reviewed EDC's timeline for interested developers to submit an RFP (<https://edc.nyc/kingsbridge-armory-redevelopment-rfp>).

- A. Discussion: The need to create generational wealth and the importance of shared revenue and collective ownership.

VII. Chair's Report: N. Fazio

- A. The chair introduced the new committee members: Aboubacar Barry and Joy Campbell Priveterre. He also welcomed back returning members and community committee member Miguel Matos.
- B. The chair announced that Joy Campbell Priveterre accepted the position of Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Committee.
- C. The chair discussed the Kingsbridge BID's vacancy report. According to their data, there are only 15 vacancies out of 197 storefront establishments with the BID.

- D. The chair stated that the board will begin accepting nominations for the 2024 Betty Campbell Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award in January 2024.
- E. N. Fazio stated the he attended (on July 11, 2023) a meeting of the community stakeholders and the Department of City Planning regarding the City of Yes proposed text amendments. He indicated that the board has invited DCP to attend an Economic Development Committee meeting.
- F. He asked committee members to review the updated guidelines for permanent outdoor dining. The Board Office invited DOT to present on the topic to the Committee. (<https://www.diningoutnyc.info/>)
- G. He announced that DSNY had implemented new commercial containerization regulations to help combat the growing rodent population. The Board Office invited DSNY to attend a meeting of the Committee:
 1. As of **August 1, 2023**, ALL food-related businesses in NYC must use rigid containers with secure lids when setting out trash for collection.
 2. (<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/resources/recycling-and-garbage-laws/use-bins#:~:text=As%20of%20August%201%2C%202023,setting%20out%20trash%20for%20collection>).
- H. N. Fazio reported that he, Ed Green, Laura Spalter, and DM Farrah Rubin met with the Office of Cannabis Management to discuss CB 8's role is licensing legal dispensaries and reporting illegal vendors of marijuana and tobacco products.
 1. To report illegal sales: <https://cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident>
- I. He asked committee members to consider possible budget item requests for FY 2026. He stated last year's submissions included Argus Camera in commercial corridors, funding for the Commercial Lease Assistance Program and SBS's Emergency Response Unit, and Capital Funding for the "Bronx Bucks" digital currency app proposal developed by the 2022-2023 Economic Development Committee. The chair will recreate the spreadsheet for committee members to submit suggestions.
 1. For Reference: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eogzg4cvaRdUyIYiHF_dZXilWvCUbmfH/edit#gid=685388108

VIII. Outstanding Business/ New Business

- A. Outstanding Business: None
- B. New Business:

1. The Committee discussed possible initiatives for the following year's Economic Development Committee.
2. N. Fazio suggested Friday, November 3, for the first commercial corridor walkthrough. Proposed invitees: SBS BEST (Business Express Service Team) and DSNY community outreach team to share information on commercial containerization regulations. He raised the possibility of asking the Environment and Sanitation Committee to join the Economic Development Committee and conduct a joint clean-up/walkthrough in the spring.
3. N. Fazio asked committee members to invite at least one small business to subsequent meetings. He stated the Committee's primary goal is communication with local companies, and each committee member should work to facilitate that communication.

IX. Approval of Minutes

A. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from June 22, 2023.

X. The Committee adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Nick Fazio, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, submitted the minutes on October 16, 2023