

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2010 AT CITIBANK, 5660 BROADWAY, BRONX, NY 10463

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Maria Khury	Committee Chair	Ari A. Spett, Esq.	Resident
Sylvia Alexander	CB8	Michael Nixon	BOEDC/NYC Business Solutions
Brendan Contant	CB8	Gregoria Feliciano	Resident
Nils Graham	CB8	Andrew Sandler	Representative Councilman Koppell
Robert Press	CB8	Brendan McHugh	Riverdale Review
Irving Ladimer	CB8	Dorine Dabby	The Little Dress Shoppe
Thomas Durham	CB8	Despina Gabriela	Gabriela Party Supply
Philip Friedman	CB8	Ed Lowe	EXEC-U-VAN
Robert Fanuzzi	CB8	Marina Lopez	Resident
Sergio Marquez	CB8	Anthony Fella	New York Life
Dianne Kirksey-Floyd	CB8	Aziz Owner	Petark
Artie Keith Mitchell	Leila's Chocolate	Marie Matias	Century 21/Metro Star
Renny Raymundo	Staples	Manari Merino	Sante Fe Grill
Mike Manager	Staples	Victor Sanchez	Silhouette Restaurant
Tracy Shelton	KRVCDC, Director	Mrs. Sanchez	Silhouette Restaurant
Kevin Vega	Citibank, West 234 th	Gino Bartti	Elite Deco Eco
Ruth Yelloz	The Little Dress Shoppe	Mayrin Anton	Resident
Dorine Darby	The Little Dress Shoppe	Frank Good	Bari Pizza
Jose Lopez	Resident	Stu Kerner	Kerner Law
Christopher Esposito	Esposito Law	Dr. Anderson Torres	Schervier / Bon Secours
Elsie Soto-Ortiz	VNS/VWS of NY	Mark Manager	Garden Gourmet
Gilberto Rodriguez	FoodTown	Robert Manager	FoodTown
Suki	King Suki Nails	Guest	CITIBANK
Wendy Bolton	Riverdale Senior Service	John Evans	Brown's Jewelers
Michael Roman,CFO	Kingsbridge Charter School	Keith Edwards	John Edwards Real Estate
John Edwards	John Edwards Real Estate	Daniel Faiwizewski	Advanced Dental Care
Helen Reyes	Resident	Gloria Velez	Ambar Salon
Alex Garcia	Sports Place	Zuleika Bodega	West 233 St
Loma Hughes	Resident	No Name	Riverdale Optical
Mildred Velaszco	Resident	Santiago	BP Oil
Assistant	Leila's Chocolate		

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

I. Opening Remarks

Meeting attendees gathered, signed-in and network began.

Chairperson Khury started the meeting by thanking Citibank, Staples, FoodTown, Garden Gourmet, and Leila's Chocolate for supporting the first "Business Card Exchange". This was an event sponsored by the Economic Development Committee to help introduce local business people to one another in an effort to promote growth within the community.

II. Minutes of the October 7, 2010 meeting were unanimously accepted

III. Chairperson's report

Maria Khury introduced Ari Spett to provide an update on the Small Business Survival Act, which helps to insure fair negotiations for commercial lease renewals.

Mr. Spett reported that the Act is now with the City Council and there are approximately 17 sponsors of the Act out of 51. The concern is the Act will be viewed as government intervention into a contract between two parties.

The Act seeks to install an arbiter to help reach agreements between landlords and business owners with a goal of reducing vacant property fronts and the promotion of economic development. There is a meeting scheduled for Friday, November 12 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for a legal review of the Act on the basis of its constitutionality. The meeting will take place in the Rotunda of 851 Grand Concourse.

Ms. Khury asked Ms. Feliciano to also share her queries as to this act. Ms. Feliciano indicated she has kept communication open with Mr. Bielder, President of the Bronx Merchants Coalition. She suggested that as many people as possible go to the meeting on November 12. Mr. Spett indicated that he will attend and report to the Committee at our next meeting.

Chairperson Khury asked if anyone had ideas on how to show support for the Act if it gets held up on the basis of constitutionality. A petition and resolution amongst other ideas were suggested. Chairperson Khury indicated that the suggestions will be considered but further information needs to be gathered and studies be made before anything is officially presented by the committee to the board.

Tracy Shelton mentioned these Acts have been approved in other parts of the country.

Chairperson Khury announced the Community Board Healthcare Reform and YOU would be held at Leo Hall on the campus of Manhattan College, December 8, 2010 from 7:00-9:15 p.m. This is a free event. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to spread the word. Flyers for this event were distributed.

Chairperson Khury also discussed the Arts Festival. Ellen Feld in connection with the South Riverdale Merchants Association, is Chairing the Ad-Hoc Committee and is working closely with Co-Chair Bob Fanuzzi who indicated the date will coincide with Bronx Week and held on May 15th, 2011.

IV. Welcome and Greeting by Hosts

Kevin Vega, Branch Manager of the hosting Citibank office, thanked the Chairperson for her efforts and greeted the attendees. He wanted to increase the awareness of their newly revitalized branch, which is no longer just an ATM. He indicated they had as a donation for the raffle a basket of Yankee items.

Renny Raymundo, of Staples, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming as well. Staples donated a poster board for the raffle.

V. Other Business

Chairperson Khury announced the next Economic Development Committee meeting will feature "Opportunities for Businesses", highlighting BOEDC and their programs. Mr. Nixon of the BOEDC was present said a few words. The meeting will be held at Nonno Tony's Restaurant, 554 West 235th Street, Thursday, December 2, 2010.

Chairperson Khury announced the "Bankers Forum", which will be held in the IBIZA Lounge, 220 West 242nd Street, on Thursday, January 6, 2011. Chase, Citibank, Ponce De Leon, Capital One have committed and stated they will participate. She is reaching out to others. This event is open to all in the community. She is asking the banks to highlight their programs, fees, etc. TD Bank is scheduled to open on Broadway and West 230th. She will try and confirm this information further and Invite them as well.

VI. Business to Business Card Exchange

Chairperson Khury led the participants to an exchange of business cards and all made brief introductions of each other.

Prizes were raffled. Business cards drawn of those not present were disqualified.

Winners were; Ari Spett, Yankees Gift Basket and Manari Merino won the Poster Board.

Attendees enjoyed a table full of cheeses, mini sandwiches, chocolates, fruits, dips, vegetables, beverages, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brendan J. Contant

Approved by,
Maria Khury, Chairperson Economic Development Committee