

## The Assembly State of New York

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Rules
Ways & Means
Governmental Operations

## Testimony by Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick Before the Committee on Finance, New York City Council Regarding Intro 0598-2011

### March 13, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today, about the proposed creation of a SoHo Business Improvement District (BID). Before I begin my testimony, I would like to give a special thanks to Chair Recchia and Councilmember Chin who have been engaged in and receptive to conversations with me and my staff about this proposal. However, I do not support the proposal for the creation of a SoHo BID in its current form. The City, which encourages tourism, should be held accountable for addressing the impact tourism has on communities, such as increased trash without the addition of another tax burden. Furthermore, the City is responsible for the enforcement of vending regulations, which, if enforced uniformly, would reduce congestion on most of these streets and thereby alleviate the conditions which are used as justification for a BID. Philosophical difference aside, I have concerns with this BID application.

Many objections have been raised by the community over the creation of the SoHo BID. It is my understanding that compromises and mitigations have been offered to address some of the major points of contention. It is my hope that this committee, Small Business Services, and the SoHo BID Steering Committee are able to hear these ideas, and take them into serious consideration. If this BID moves forward, it should not be at the objection of those who live and work in the proposed district.

My main concern is that there be guaranteed equal representation of residents on the BID Board. While BIDs are historically created in commercial zones, this one is not. As such, residents need to have an equal voice on the Board which will govern the operations of the BID going forward. Tying votes to the composition of the neighborhood would ensure the representation was appropriate even as the demographics change in the future. Weighted votes by certain Board members should be prohibited. Additionally, these residents already bear the burden that increased commercial traffic has on their neighborhood and they should be exempt from BID assessments. If the \$1 annual fee is deemed mandatory, it should be capped at \$1 in perpetuity. I believe this would address fears that the BID plans to expand or provide additional services in the future.

I also have reservations about the parameters of the BID proposal itself. The SoHo BID Steering Committee indicates that the main goals of the BID are to advocate for the district, clean the streets and address traffic. As an elected official who represents the area, I like to think that I fill part of this role as advocate. Along with my elected colleagues, as well as the

Community Board, I believe that the district has a lot of advocates and open avenues through which complaints or concerns can be lodged. While I believe there is always room for more advocates in the world, I do not believe that an entire BID or new fee structure should be created in order to support one.

Additionally, we all know these streets are very crowded on a daily basis. As such, the BID should not be allowed to use or contact out the use of the sidewalks for anything other than informational kiosks or City contracted newsstands.

I understand that the abundance of trash is a real daily concern for the area, which the BID proposes to address. If this is really the main goal of the BID, I do not see the need for the creation of administration and additional staff to facilitate this. Recently, Small Business Services (SBS) released information about the creation of a BID Express. This program was designed to allow districts to focus on providing critically needed services, without having to hire an executive director or rent office space. If this district is solely in need of street cleaning, I wonder if this is an alternative model that would be more appropriate.

As we have seen so much community discussion that got us to this point, I would also like to ensure that the community continues to have a voice that is heard going forward, should this BID be approved. While only one annual public meeting is required by BID law, I strongly encourage the BID to hold additional meetings in order to allow the greatest amount of public participation in the process. Furthermore, the concerns raised at these public meetings should be tracked and results and responses to raised concerns should be made public by the BID Board.

I understand that this has been a long review process, but I do not yet believe that the concerns of the community have been addressed in the proposal that is before you today. The fact that there is still significant community opposition is of concern. I hope that these issues can be addressed prior to approval of this district. Thank you for your time.

# ELIZABETH DE LEON BHARGAVA STATEMENT BEFORE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE March 13, 2013

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. I am Elizabeth De León Bhargava, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined by Assistant Commissioner James Mettham and Eddy Eng of my staff. SBS supports the establishment of the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) in the Borough of Manhattan.

Geographically, the proposed BID generally includes properties along both sides of Broadway from Canal Street to Houston Street.

Services to be provided in the SoHo BID include sanitation and snow removal, pedestrian and public safety, advocacy, administration and other services as may be required for the promotion and enhancement of the district. Proposed capital improvements may include street and sidewalk amenities to enhance and beautify the District, and improve pedestrian circulation and safety, as well as storefront and façade improvement projects. The SoHo District Management Association will manage the district. The budget for the first year of operation is \$550,000.

As required by law, the SoHo BID Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution to each owner of real property within the proposed district at the address shown on the latest City assessment roll, to such other persons as are registered with the City to receive tax bills concerning real property within the district, and to tenants of each building within the proposed district. In addition, SBS arranged for the publication of a copy of the summary of the resolution at least once in the City Record.

Additionally, SBS supports the City Council resolutions providing for the amendments of the HUB Third Avenue and Myrtle Avenue District Plans.

Over time, the two districts' needs related to certain services have changed. The HUB Third Avenue BID wishes to modify existing services and add a capital program in the district. The changes in services would result in the modification of the public safety, sanitation, promotion and marketing programs, and a community service program. The addition of a capital improvement program will provide for street and sidewalk amenities within the district. In order to finance the capital improvements, the HUB Third Avenue BID shall change the method of assessment for vacant properties to an amount equal to 68% of the commercial property Front Footage Rate.

The Myrtle Avenue BID wishes to discontinue a maintenance program in place of that program, add sanitation and graffiti removal services, additional security and promotional services, and additional holiday and seasonal decorations.

The HUB Third Avenue and Myrtle Avenue BIDs published the public hearing notice at least once in a local newspaper as required by law. In addition, the BIDs mailed a notice to local property owners as requested by the Finance Committee.

Thank you.

My name is Barbara J. Cohen and I am the BID consultant and have been working with the Committee since its beginnings when Henry Buhl, founder of ACE and SoHo resident, took the first step in 2008 to investigate forming a BID for SoHo's Broadway, from Houston to Canal Streets.

The development of this BID plan has followed the traditional route that all 67 NYC BIDs have taken. Its initiative and working Committee is totally home-grown representing many perspectives. Opportunity to participate was and still is offered throughout the process. Fieldwork, one on one surveys, public meetings, endless correspondence, the realities of the street, guidance from Councilmember Chin, all informed the BID program of services and improvements. The broad goals of this BID are no different than the multiple BIDs located within Community Board 2, and no different than the 67 BIDs in the rest of City.

The merits of the current BID Plan speaks for itself, as does the documented support. Issues like Sanitation, Street Vendor Enforcement, Traffic Control, & other Quality of Life Concerns that pre-occupy all constituent groups is reflected in the Plan. SoHo's Broadway needs dedicated, specific, services and improvements to supplement, and enhance, basic government services that, at times, are over-extended and under-performing where the need is so great.

This BID is the only workable alternative with its annual budget of \$550,000 combined with a democratically-elected, volunteer, Board of Directors and a hired Executive Director. The BID structure provides freedom from the time-consuming, uncertainties of fund-raising. A volunteer group with no funding is no match for what is required here. This BID Plan provides the framework for seeking solutions to manage the "success" of this major retail destination and to mitigate its negative impacts, as well as bringing to the forefront what makes historic SoHo special and apart from other NYC neighborhoods.

As we look forward to the final legislative approval steps for this BID, I want you all to take a moment and recognize what this BID Committee has shown you. This particular group of New Yorkers has maintained optimism and perseverance that is special and should not go to waste.

Its track record is strong and clear. The Committee is open, responsive, transparent, rational in its decision-making, professional, and has kept its dignity in the face of personal attacks and the negative campaigning filled with half-truths, misconceptions and false portrayals.

This Committee chose to work hard to "un-poison the well" and get the facts clear, when it could have easily disbanded. Instead, it came together on a Friday afternoon at the request of a few individuals in "opposition" who wanted a better understanding of the Committee, finally choosing to participate, rather than sit on the sidelines and throw stones.

Over the past five years, this Committee fulfilled SBS requirements of BID formation and built a consensus for this Plan. The Committee has gone above and beyond in its outreach efforts to provide accurate information and to respond to requests and concerns of the community, its representative, Councilmember Chin, and you, the Council Finance Committee.

So have no doubt, how this Committee will conduct itself going forward when it comes to the start-up and the operation of this BID. Don't cramp its style, nor its substance. These Committee members, along with so many others who are eager to participate are strongly committed to their neighborhood and to their City. Give them the opportunity to make you proud!

To: Councilmember Margaret Chin, Chair Domenic Recchia, and the other Members of the Finance Committee

From: Georgette Fleischer, Founder Friends of Petrosino Square, and resident at 19 Cleveland Place, apt. 4A, NYC 10012, two short blocks from the proposed BID

Date: March 13, 2013

Re: Opposition to the proposed SoHo Broadway BID Plan

I believe it was in January, 2011 that Councilmember Chin held her Town Hall at St. Anthony's of Padua on the proposed SoHo BID. I was there, along with about 200 concerned neighbors. Almost all spoke vehemently against the BID. My fundamental objection is the same I have today, and it was echoed by many who took the microphone that day: we protest the privatization of public services. This BID, along with the other Councilmember Chin has pushed through counter to her constituents' wishes, the Chinatown BID, pushes us further down the slippery slope that ends in gutting our public services: in this brave new world, citizens must pay for garbage collection, snow removal, police protection, and other services that should be our right as tax payers.

I would therefore like to express profound disappointment in our Councilmember, who stands alone against her constituents, against the unanimous denial of Community Board 2, twice, and against her counterparts in the State Senate and Assembly, Daniel Squadron and Deborah Glick, who supported us on this issue with testimony on November 20, 2012.

Since Councilmember Chin has decided to push this plan through, she must at least stand by her promise of equal representation for residents.

## NO WEIGHTED VOTING

## REPRESENTATION NEEDS TO BE BY TAX LOT ONLY

## TAKE NONE OF OUR PUBLIC STREETS AND SIDEWALKS FROM US

The engines behind this BID should be prepared for large-scale public protests if there is any attempt to Disneyfy SoHo the way Chinatown is now being Disneyfied with 8-1/2 by 4' Kiosks, Neighborhood, Area, Path, and Finger Post Signs.

## Remember:

Representation by Tax Lot Only
No Weighted Voting
Do Not Dare Take Our Public Streets and Sidewalks from Us

## L.I.N.A

## Little Italy Neighbors Association

266 Elizabeth Street # 6 New York, NY 10012 www.thing.net/~lina

March 13, 2013

To: New York City Council Committee on Finance

RE: Proposed SoHo B.I.D.

Madame Speaker, Members of the Council, good morning to you and to all community leaders and representatives who assembled here to express their views on this wretched plan.

I would like to express the unequivocal opposition of the Little Italy Neighbors Association to the SOHO BID plan. These plans have had a measurable success in, so to say, "transient neighborhoods": areas of the city with a high affluence of commuters (either from the suburbs or to other residential areas of our City), who leave at the end of the business day, and tourists, who stay for a day, a night or just an evening. Areas like Midtown and Times Square, with low density of permanent residents. In areas with a strong residents presence, buttresses by community organizations that petition the city government often having to coerce it into doing its job, the BID is an expensive duplication, considering the additional tax burden (a tax by any other name is a tax, I don't care what the plan calls it) for commercial lease holders as well as residential property owners. These entities already shoulder a considerable tax burden, in other words they pay already, dearly, for the services this new entity is supposed to provide. And they have to pay manpower and services out of their own pocket to ensure compliance with City laws and avoid stiff fines. Now the City wants to de facto privatize these already paid for services, farming them out to a new private entity. The City should then do a reverse assessment and refund the portion of taxes that go to the services this BID would provide, otherwise the contribuents are made pay tiwce for the same services.

A few words about enforcement of the law by private entities: the few businesses that are rallying against vendors on the sidewalk and are certain to expect (if it hasn't been promised behind the scene already) an iron hand against these unfortunate interlopers. Some do in fact offer cheap alternatives to goods that are being offered in high price boutiques. But customers who would spend thousands on a Chanel bag, would not even look at an imitation offered on the sidewalk. To suggest that these vendors are unfair competition is preposterous and grotesque. What is happening already, is that "vendors" who are excersing their First Amendment right to Freedom of Expression offering books, records, photographs, orginal artworks and other articles incarnating individual artistic expression, are being repressed. While, as an artist myself, I may find the esthetic or even artistic value of such artifacts, as well as the marketing strategy of offering them on the sidewalk, objectionable, it is not up to me, or the government, to decide what is permissible when it comes to freedom of expression. That is why we have the First Amendment and its broad interpretation which makes us proud to live in a society where all forms of thougth and its expression are tolerated and protected by the law. This point is non negotiable and it should be reiterated by the full council. Tourists, from other townships or other continents, who shoulder the annoyance of wading through these unlikely bearers of the standard of free expression on their way to the door of the miu miu Prada bloutique, should understadn that the same standards of 57th Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue don't apply in Soho: these vendors may just hop pn the "I'm an artist" bandwagon, but boutique owners should repsect that: artists were in SoHo when boutiques wouldn't even considering settling South of Rockefeller Center and they came because of the rescue of SoHo in large part engineered (literally) and effected by artists starting in the late 1950's.

It makes no sense in areas such as Soho, with a thriving commercial scene that emerged on the back of the artists settlers who brought back the place to life after the attempt at condemnetion with Robert Moses Downtown Expressway project was met by staunch community opposition that defeated it and eventually led to Moses' downfall.

I am exorting you to listen to the people, whose voice the Council is supposed to be. It is not enough to do business the old way: it used to be that councilpersons would advocate for their district, and if one asked the support of the council, rarely this would be lesss than unanymous. Those days are gone: nowadays, especially my councilwoman, Margaret Chin, is misguidedly advocating for big business as was the case with the NYU uberdevelopment plan, in the face of unequivocal opposition by an almost complete spectrum of her consituency, the only exception being a few small business owners, who think they are going to prosper; they will, until NYU undermines their business base and sweeps te away like it has happened with so many over the past 5 decades. For example, there are no booksotres left on Broadway below 12th Street, where Strand still holds forth; but all the others, who thought that NYU was a source of business, are long gone, supplented by NYU's own, which has taken up the location of one that disappeared and expende it to supermarket size; even Barnes and Noble around the corner had to close tat location, as well as the other, on 6th ave and 8th Street, in the NYU Area.

Back to the SoHo BID: please do not listen to Ms. Chin, her consituency is squarely against it, as it should be clear from the wide array of community groups present here today speaking against this plan. To endorse this plan would perpetuate her violation of her constituency's clear will, as in the case of NYU and would wreak additional havoc on the identity and will to exist of what was formerly known as Downtown. This area has been the engine of the cultural renaissance tat strated in the 1980's and that continues to be the prime raison d'etre of New York's primacy in the creative industries, including the world leadership in the multibilion dollars art dealing ndustry. Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs through homogeneization, a notion to keep in mind with this and other important decisions, especailly considering zoning and development.

Thank you

Sante Scardillo For LINA, Little Italy Neighbor Association



Lee Leshen President

My name is Lee Leshen, and I, along with members of my family own a small, 5-story building at 451 Broadway between Grand and Howard. My father has been in SoHo for over 50 years, starting when he was 16 years old working with his father in the fabric business. My brother, my father, and myself, all call Broadway home for our separate businesses.

We are in FULL SUPPORT of the BID for Broadway and we fully understand that our \$5,500 dollars a year, collected by the city, comes back to support the BID budget that deals directly with Broadway's problems. We fully understand that there is <u>over-whelming</u> support by those who bear the cost of this proposal, and encourage shared decision-making by all those within the BID area, regardless of level of contribution.

For years, this BID Planning Committee has worked countless hours, performed every type of outreach, followed every rule and procedure guided by BID Law, went above and beyond to respond to every concern and request, all in an effort to get the proposal understood by those on all sides who got distracted and misdirected by the negative campaign of the **vocal minority**. For those that took the time and made the effort to learn more about the BID Plan, there was quick realization of its purpose and they were fooled no more. Following their newfound comprehension of the BID plan, they were left scratching their heads, asking themselves, "So what is it about extra sanitation that will ruin everyone's life? Is Robert Moses coming back from the dead to build another highway through the neighborhood?" No. So let's not miss this unique opportunity to get the help for Broadway that we need!

Look, for three and half years I worked in the public sector as a congressional aide. During my time there a lot of important issues were swept under the rug, many due to vocal minorities from both political parties that put themselves in the middle of issues they had nothing to do with; they just "didn't like them." Don't let this vocal *minority* and their campaign of misdirection and misinformation sway your decision. This issue is too important to be swept under the rug.

I'll close with this: Mayor Koch once said, "If you agree with me 75% of the time, then vote for me. If you agree with me 100% of the time, get your head examined." So I submit that you fully investigate our BID Plan and verify for yourself and if you still feel a little unsure and hesitant because of that vocal minority, that's OK, we understand, but we will be satisfied that you agree with, at the very least, 75%, and finally allow this legislation to proceed towards approval.

Thank you.

Lee Leshen Owner

451 Broadway

The mother of 3 small children I've lived in the rejuborhood St

My name is Emily Hellstrom, I live at 514 Broadway and I am the co-chair 1996 of the steering committee. My testimony has already been entered into the record at the previous hearing. I do want to add, that as the board president of the largest coop on the BID corridor, I feel that we must work out an equitable voting plan whereby a studio apartment does not have the same voting rights as our entire building. Therefore, I am against weighting by tax lot alone. 50/50 representation must be achieved.

I am confident, however, that given the enthusiastic, democratic, and open minded process that has been in place within this committee thus far, that we will no doubt come up with a solution that is not only fair, but one that enables this BID to have the power to tackle the complex and intractable problems that face our neighborhood. The joining of forces by commercial property owners, coop and condo owners, commercial tenants, and renters will produce a powerful entity with the longevity and endurance to truly effect change. This is why I joined the committee and this is why it is so important that we are given the ability to dig in as soon as possible and do the hard work of creating the BID by-laws and governing rules. I urge you to say yes to this BID and let us get down to the business of making the Broadway corridor a better place to live, to work, to visit, to raise a family; in short, a better place to be.

Thank you for your time.

#### Testimony in support of a Soho BID for Broadway between Houston and Canal Streets

Donna Vogel, Asset Manager of 594 and 560 Broadway, two buildings within the proposed district



My name is Donna Vogel and I am here in SUPPORT of a SOHO BID.



I have worked in SOHO for approximately 20 years as the managing agent for 594 and 560 Broadway.



Today I offer one specific observation about Broadway and why a SOHO BID along Broadway just makes sense. Broadway is arguably one of the most commercial streets in Manhattan.



I looked at the boundary maps of existing BIDs in Manhattan and found that save for a few blocks between BIDS and one several block area of government owned property ALL of Broadway from the southernmost tip of Manhattan to 70<sup>th</sup> Street is within one BID or another — EXCEPT FOR the section that is SOHO. All of the most commercial districts except for Soho are served by a BID. Their sidewalks are cleaned. Some plant flowers. Some have staffs that remove graffiti, but they all fund services to improve their section of Broadway.

Soho's needs may be **unique** in that it does not need to attract more people or business, but it does need to clean up after all of the people that do come. It is one of the busiest parts of Broadway with some of the most **dense** pedestrian traffic. It is a **visitor destination** and it is **home** to residents and companies both new and established. That is why this body should allow the residents and commercial property owners along Broadway in SOHO to form a BID funded by the commercial properties. The proposed budget and services have been whittled down to a limited scope that encompasses little more than sidewalk cleaning and vendor regulation enforcement. The proposed governing board is almost equal parts residents and commercial property owners. It is not a huge initiative, but it is enough to make a difference in the quality of life for those whose homes and businesses are along Broadway in Soho and for those who visit Soho.



I implore you - Please don't let SOHO be the dirty section of Broadway. Vote to approve a SOHO BID.

To: Councilmember Margaret Chin, Chair Domenic Recchia, and the other Members of the Finance Committee

From: Georgette Fleischer, Founder Friends of Petrosino Square, and resident at 19 Cleveland Place, apt. 4A, NYC 10012, two short blocks from the proposed BID

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Re: Opposition to the proposed SoHo Broadway BID Plan

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I would therefore like to express profound disappointment in our Councilmember, who stands alone against her constituents, against the unanimous denial of Community Board 2, twice, and against her counterparts in the State Senate and Assembly, Daniel Squadron and Deborah Glick, who supported us on this issue with testimony on November 20, 2012.

Since Councilmember Chin has decided to push this plan through, she must at least stand by her promise of equal representation for residents.

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The engines behind this BID should be prepared for large-scale public protests if there is any attempt to Disneyfy SoHo the way Chinatown is now being Disneyfied with 8-1/2 by 4' Kiosks, Neighborhood, Area, Path, and Finger Post Signs.

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Do Not Dare Take Our Public Streets and Sidewalks from Us

#### NEWMARK KNIGHT FRANK

My name is Robert Schlesinger

I work at 560 Broadway which is a commercial building. I have been working there For 25 years. I am here in support of the SOHO Bid. The sidewalk vendors are a big problem. When people buy there food they throw the garbage on the sidewalk. These vendors are parked in front of the building 24/7.

The building where I work is on Broadway & Prince Street a very busy area. The city's garbage cans are overflowing with the amount of garbage that is thrown out. Now I have to resort to putting garbage bags in the city trash can & bagging throughout the day. This is not my responsibility and I would like a BID that will address these problems of sidewalk cleaning and sidewalk vendor enforcement.

## 473 Broadway New York, NY 10013

At long last, the day is finally here!

I have lived on Broadway for many years. Our building management and our residents - both owners and tenants - have struggled with the deteriorating conditions in our front yard for too long.

While we can't change the fact that tourists and locals alike want to visit our neighborhood and shop on Broadway, we can do something about the trash they leave - piled high in overflowing trash cans - greeting us each morning blowing across our front steps.

We can do something about the dangerous and numbing level of congestion on Broome and Broadway, where honking cars "block the box" for hours on end every summer weekend. The congestion is so bad that our first responders often have to get out of their emergency vehicles, run down to the intersection and play traffic cop for several minutes to clear the way down Broadway.

We can do something about the overwhelming number of illegally parked street vendors, many of whom are with us 24/7, pouring used cooking oil and filthy water in the subway grates and running noisy, air-polluting generators.

We can do something about "Lake Broome" -- the large body of water that forms at the North East corner of Broome and Broadway when we get as little as a quarter inch of rain, due to a completely clogged storm drain.

I could go on, but time is short.

All plans have pros and cons.

We have a plan. Don't let the Perfect get in the way of the Good.

Let's get started neighbors. We need the Broadway BID now.

Sipcerely

Katy Rice

Board Member,

473 Broadway / 46 Mercer Condo Association

#### Good Morning,

My name is Joseph Villafane and I am The Building Superintendent at 594 Broadway located between Houston and Prince St. This building is a 12 story commercial office building with retail space on the street level. I have been at this location for the last 6 years.

I feel the formation of a SOHO BID is important because it will have a significant impact on the cleanliness of the area and the overcrowding caused by the increasing numbers of sidewalk vendors.my team maintains the front of our building throughout the day, the problem we are faced with is others in the area are not as aggressive in their maintenance efforts .So rubbish has a tendency of blowing around and often ending up in locations that have been maintained. Also the waste receptacles located at each corner seem to be emptied once a day by the Department of Sanitation . So as they are filled throughout the day excess garbage also blows around the neighborhood. If those receptacles are emptied and the waste bagged it will keep the waste from blowing about and save the Dept. of Sanitation time as it will be ready for pick up. Having subway stations on both the corners of Houston and Prince St the foot traffic is extremely heavy, not counting tourist and those shopping in the area. In the I block area our building is located I count at least 5 food vendors and the same amount selling other items, The BID would be responsible for enforcing the regulations regarding these vendors and help significantly reduce the overcrowding on the sidewalks .It is my hope that you will consider these points and move in favor of a Soho BID to benefit those working in and visiting SOHO. Thank You

Anne Palmer 284 Lafayette St. Apt. 3d New York, NY 10012

March 13, 2013

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE SOHO BID AND IN SUPPORT OF A 50/50 REPRESENTATION BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ON ITS BOARD.

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Anne Palmer. I live with my husband and 4-year-old twins at 284 Lafayette St., between Prince and Houston streets in Soho. Every day, I struggle to navigate my children amidst street vendors and trash bags just to run errands in my neighborhood. I've written letters and made phone calls to a number of city offices and the NYPD over the 10 years I've lived in Soho. I've begged, pleased and urged them to help us keep our neighborhood livable, but to no avail. The problem is only getting worse.

I believe a Broadway BID to be a pragmatic solution to help combat a complicated and geographically specific problem, which the city has failed to solve. I urge the City Council to approve the BID and I support a BID board 50/50 voting split between commercial and residential members.

Sincerely,

Anne Palmer

### Testimony to NY City Council Committee on Finance March 13, 2013

My name is Jeannine Kiely. I am a member of Community Board 2 and a SoHo resident since 2003. I am here to support the SoHo Business Improvement District but want to ensure that residents are fairly represented in BID governance.

SoHo is a tremendously popular and financially successful retail shopping corridor. Unfortunately, this commercial success encourages an overwhelming number of street vendors. As a result, the sidewalks are overcrowded and difficult to navigate during peak shopping hours, the neighborhood is filled with trash and the intersections are difficult and dangerous to cross. There is no marketing problem. The tourists and shoppers know how to find SoHo.

I am hopeful that the BID can solve these problems, but want to ensure that:

- 1) SoHo residents are fairly represented. I favor governance based on Tax Lots or another formula that results in a 50/50 governance split between commercial and residential owners. I do not want BID governance based on Assessed Value.
- 2) I also want to ensure that the BID focuses on the problems faced by our community: sidewalk sweeping, sidewalk congestion and vendor control.

Thank you.

Jeannine Kiely 121 Mercer Street, #5 New York, NY 10012 jeanninekiely@gmail.om 917-297-4475

## Mary Rolland 476 Broadway/ 7F New York, New York

My name is Mary Rolland and I have lived at 476 Broadway, between Broome and Grand, for 32 years.

I am 100% in support of approving a Broadway BID for SoHo.

I am confident that this BID will provide an accountable leadership thru an elected Board of Directors that will work on behalf of all Broadway Residents, and Business and Property Owners.

Their task will be in finding solutions to traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, unmanaged sanitation, illegal food and dry good vendors and even truck vendors.

Once the Broadway BID begins to function, they will be working in conjunction with the Community Board and City Agencies, Broadway Residents and Business Owners. And I would hope that even the SoHo Alliance and the Broadway Residents Coaliton would join in with their support and participation. If everyone can work together, we can collectively resolve the negative quality of life on Broadway for those who live and work here.

I know this won't happen overnight, but a BID on Broadway is a beginning.

I look forward to my quality of life on Broadway improving so much that I can once again enjoy walking the Broadway corridor.

Mary Rolland

May March

Subject: Bid

From: Simon Joory <sjoory@oldtoledobrands.com>

Date: 3/12/13 1:53 PM

To: Cheryl Klauss <ckcj@ix.netcom.com>

Hi Cheryl

This email serves as my endorsement of the BID program for broadway between Houston and canal. As a resident of broadway I have serious concerns about the current state of broadway. I believe soho BID will help alleviate this

Best regards

Simon Joory Resident 476 broadway

### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 4:27 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: City Council testimony

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel Finance Division, New York City Council 212-227-2923 212-788-7061 (fax)

-----Original Message-----From: Lespinasse, Migna

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:13 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: FW: City Council testimony

Migna B Lespinasse
Senior Advisor
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
250 Broadway Room 1785
New York, NY 10007
O (212) 788-7045
F (212) 788-7769
mlespinasse@council.nyc.gov

----Original Message-----

From: Michael Salzhauer [mailto:michael@benjaminpartners.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:11 PM

To: Lespinasse, Migna Cc: Michael Salzhauer

Subject: City Council testimony

Dear Migna:

Below, is the testimony that I would like to put into the record concerning the SoHo BID. Thank you so much for your assistance in this matter.

Michael Salzhauer Benjamin Partners Office: 212-334-8710 Cell: 917-309-5389

## Ladies and Gentleman of the City Council:

I represent a family business that has been in soho since the early 1900's. We also own several buildings in the area. I'm sympathetic to the idea of bids. I am actually vice chairman of the Chinatown BID. However, I'm opposed to this bid for the following reasons:

- 1) In Chinatown, the neighborhood was struggling economically. One can hardly say that of SoHo.
- 2) In Chinatown, there are a lot of small businesses and storefronts that need help with organization and marketing. One can hardly say that of American Eagle, Prada, or Zara to name a few tenants that have come to the area.
- 3) In Chinatown, the BID Board in formation sought to serve an area that encompassed the whole district to serve it coherently. Here, SoHo is being defined by its most restricted definition, Broadway.
- 4) in Chinatown, a lot of buildings are too small to support labor to do cleaning. On Broadway in SoHo, this isn't the case. Most of the properties can support full time labor.
- 5) In SoHo, residents have, in many cases, more resources than in Chinatown. Not charging residents for BID that supposedly will largely consist of cleaning services seems unfair to me. My office is adjacent to a condominium building where units regularly sell for \$8,000,000, and have sold for as high as \$24,000,000. I don't see the equity in a system that doesn't include their participation in the costs for this BID. These are not the struggling artists that I will indeed give credit to for starting SoHo's transformation.
- 6) We contribute to our community. When the SoHo Partnership solicited voluntary donations for street cleaning, we donated on behalf of each of our properties. Henry Buhl has been a gentleman and a neighborhood champion for years. I am totally sympathetic to the difficulty that the partnership experienced of "free riders" who didn't support its good efforts. There are probably no problems in New York that an army of generous and good souls like Henry couldn't solve.
- 7) The bid has an assessment method which I believe favors owners of large properties over owners of smaller ones. I have spoken with the BID organizers about this over the years. Maybe I'm not proud of it, but we own two of the shorter buildings along Broadway. A system of assessment that doesn't take into account the fact that our neighbors' buildings may be two and three times the floor area to plot size our properties is unfair.
- 8) The bid provides for monies to be spent on capital improvements, but hasn't suggested what these may be. The notice sent by the Steering Committee called for up to \$5,000,000 of such improvements. That seems like a very large number to leave vague. It amounts to almost ten times the BID's budget.
- 9) While I can understand its reasoning, A board half composed of members who don't pay, or who pay a minimal one dollar per year, is taxation without representation.

In light of these differences, I oppose this BID at this time, as it is currently conceived. I could eagerly support this BID if it were to modify its assessment procedures, clarify the services that it intends to provide, clarify the capital improvements (if any) that it proposes, and resolve some of its governance issues. I am a believer in businesses and residents helping proactively helping themselves.

Sincerely,

Michael Salzhauer, Owner 589 Broadway and 577 Broadway, and Managing Member of Benjamin Partners LLC

#### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:35 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Lisa Bradshaw [mailto:bradshaw.a@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:22 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Cc: Pete Davies

Subject: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

March 13, 2013

Margaret S. Chin

NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan

250 Broadway, Suite 1804

New York, NY 10007

Re:

A FAIR PLAN for SoHo -

#### SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Council Member Chin.

I am in opposition to the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) plan that is before you today.

The SoHo BID Steering Committee membership has never reflected the diverse neighborhood where the BID would take hold. Narrowly focused real estate interests have been behind this scheme since the beginning and they continue to push this bad plan.

As you know, Community Board 2 overwhelmingly voted to REJECT this bad SoHo BID plan. Your office has been give BIDdocuments showing that those behind the BID are looking for a "seat at the table" in City Hall and that the BID proponents are making a concerted effort to bypass our local Community Board. This is a scheme to consolidate their power and work their way around the voices of the local community.

SoHo is unique. The proposed Broadway SoHo Business Improvement District (BID), an unnecessary plan. It is not a troubled retail district. Those behind the BID are not "small" businesses. The SoHo BID plan is not a good plan for SoHo and should be rejected.

Since you seem determined by your persistent efforts to institute this plan for Soho anyway, I urge you to make a FAIR PLAN for SoHo, one that properly represents residential stakeholders on Broadway. The,BID plan, as now presented, gives undo & unfair influence to commercial property owners.

### Three key points must be incorporated into the SoHo BID plan:

- Fair Representation for Residents on the SoHo BID Board
- Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

As you know, properties along Broadway in SoHo are broken down in this way:

Total Broadway Tax Lots:

280

Residential Tax Lots:

162 (58%)

Commercial Tax Lots:

117 (42%)

Those are the fair percentages that should be used as the basis of the BID Board. You have made a stated commitment to a minimum of 50/50 for fair representation. You must hold to that position and make that a requirement of the SoHo BID plan.

Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

Broadway SoHo AV Total:

\$470,000,000

Residential AV Total:

\$140,164,000

(30%)

Commercial AV Total:

\$329,835,000

(70%)

Start representing us fairly and oppose this BAD BID! If you get your way to have this unwanted BID, make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Alison Bradshaw

423 Broome Street

Soho

CC:

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel, Finance Division, NY City Council

Pete Davies, The SoHo NO BID Committee

#### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:35 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

\*\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Lisa Bradshaw [mailto:bradshaw.a@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:22 PM

To: Chin; Edwards, Tanisha

Cc: Pete Davies

**Peter Fabry** 

Subject: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal

to chin, tedwards, Pete, bcc: me

9:54 AM (4 hours ago)

March 13, 2013

Margaret S. Chin

NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan

250 Broadway, Suite 1804

New York, NY 10007

Re:

Α

## <u>FAIR PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal</u>

Dear Council Member Chin,

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scheme since the beginning and they continue to push this bad plan.

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- 2. Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- 3. Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

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Total Broadway Tax Lots: 280

Residential Tax Lots: 162 (58%)

Commercial Tax Lots: 117 (42%)

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Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

Broadway SoHo AV Total: \$470,000,000

Residential AV Total: \$140,164,000 (30%)

Commercial AV Total: \$329,835,000 (70%)

Start representing us fairly and oppose this BAD BID! If you get your way to have this unwanted BID, make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Alison Bradshaw 423 Broome Street Soho

CC:

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel, Finance Division, NY City Council Pete Davies, The SoHo NO BID Committee

Good morning. My name is Andrew Brown and I live at 565 Broadway, which is on the corner of Prince and in the proposed Soho BID District. My family and I have made our home I Soho for the last 25 years or so, first on Crosby Street and then at this address on Broadway since 1995. I became a member of the BID steering committee about two years ago.

To state the obvious, the neighborhood has changed significantly, and no area in Soho has changed more than the Broadway corridor. While we may all have different feelings about these changes and wish that the Soho of the 80s and early 90s would return, it won't and it is time to recognize that we need to take action to address the problems that affect the Broadway corridor.

The landmarked architectural beauty of Soho and the upscale commercialization of the stores on Broadway compared to what was there 20 years ago have led to an influx of visitors and shoppers and this has put a strain on the delivery of municipal services along Broadway. On any given Saturday afternoon the sidewalks are overcrowded, exacerbated by the unregulated street vendors; the streets are congested; the garbage cans are overflowing and trash is everywhere. On Sunday and Monday mornings we Broadway residents are literally stepping in, around, and through discarded shopping bags, half full food and beverage containers and other items discarded by those who visited our neighborhood the day before. Our quality of life has deteriorated considerably and the City evidently is not in a position to provide the appropriate level of services (even as our property taxes have tripled in the last 6 years).

It is for this reason that I urge you to vote to recommend the creation of the proposed Soho BID District. We, the residents and commercial property owners on Broadway between Houston and Canal, want to take control of the situation and improve the quality of life along Broadway for ourselves and for the people who will continue to visit our neighborhood. We are proud of our neighborhood with its unique architecture, history and aesthetic beauty. We think the BID structure is a viable and effective way those of us who live on Broadway accomplish these basic objectives, in part because it is a model that has worked well elsewhere in the city. I urge you to vote yes to move this forward to the next stage.

## Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 8:54 AM

To: Subject:

Pagan, Maria FW: SoHo BID

tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Renee Monrose [mailto:renee.monrose@me.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 8:51 AM

To: Recchia, Domenic Cc: Edwards, Tanisha Subject: SoHo BID

March 13, 2013

Honorable Dominic M. Recchia Jr. Chairman of the Finance Committee 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, New York 10007

Honorable Margaret S. Chin Councilmember 250 Broadway, 18th Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Recchia and Councilmember Chin,

My name is Renée Monrose. I am an artist and have lived at 542 Broadway since 1987. Please include this letter in the record of the

I wish to reiterate my opposition to the Broadway SoHo Business Improvement District. I believe it is a fundamentally flawed proposal that does not suit the character or composition of this historic neighborhood. Traditionally, SoHo has been a mixed-use neighborhood composed primarily of live/work coops, with small local businesses and shops on the ground floor. Today, we have large chain stores and new condo construction. The retail stores are part of international conglomerates, with offices in other parts of the country, and management with no vested interest in the history or nature of the community. Most condo owners in SoHo are absentee owners with multiple addresses, some in other countries. SoHo is not a neighborhood to them but a financial investment. Yet, under BID law, which is based on tax lots, coops have only one vote per building while condo buildings are granted one vote per unit.

Although supporters and opposition share the goal of managing the trash, congestion and vendors on Broadway, the underlying mission of the commercial real estate interests (with Thor Equities owning seven buildings on Broadway) is counter to that of the residents. They naturally wish to increase the commercialization of an already booming area while residents seek to reclaim some decency and sanity for our community. It is telling that the BID Steering Committee, in spite of false testimony at the oversight hearing where they claimed a 50-50 breakdown, is composed of 70% commercial real estate owners and only 30% residential owners.

Clearly, something is amiss with the process and the plan.

As a result, I ask that the city council ensure that the BID's powers and activities are limited to:

- Sanitation and snow removal
- Managing street vendors
- Reducing street and sidewalk congestion
- Protecting public space for public, not private, use

When considering amendments and possible approval of this plan, I also ask the city council to address the following questions:

- 1. Does the District Plan guarantee fair representation of the Broadway SoHo community, which is composed of 57% residential ownership and 43% commercial properties?
- 2. Will the District Plan guarantee a voting breakdown on the BID board of 50% residential properties and 50% commercial properties?
- 3. Does the plan ensure an equitable voting structure, i.e. *one property=one vote*, and reject any notion of voting based on Assessed Value ( aka "Weighted Voting.")
- 4. Does the plan protect public space on sidewalks and streets by limiting the "User Rights" clause in the District Plan and prohibiting the commercial use of public space on Broadway?
- 5. Why has Margaret Chin repeatedly sided with the BID steering committee and caved into pressure from the SBS?
- 1. And finally: What underlies the cozy relationship between Chairman Recchia and Joe Sitt, founder of Thor Equities, the largest stakeholder in the SoHo BID district, and the developer of Coney Island in Chairman Recchia's district? Given this inherent conflict of interest, why has Chairman Recchia not recused himself from the approval process? Doesn't this mean that, from the beginning, the deck was stacked against the residents of Broadway?

I have lived in on Broadway between Prince and Spring for over 25 years and care deeply about my neighborhood. During that time, I have witnessed the city's betrayal of this beautiful and historic area through neglect and exploitation. While SoHo now draws record numbers of retail sales and, hence, tax dollars, the city has turned its back on it. It has encouraged the rampant and rapacious "mallification" of Broadway and has failed to address the consequences. It has failed to listen to the voices of the concerned and longtime residents of the neighborhood—the ones who put SoHo on the map.

As a longstanding and active member of the SoHo community, I ask you to reject the SoHo BID District Plan, as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Renée Monrose 542 Broadway #3F New York, New York 10012

#### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 8:54 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: Notice of a Public Hearing

From: Crista Grauer [mailto:c.grauer@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 08:53 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: Notice of a Public Hearing

Crista Grauer 523 Broadway Associates 523 Broadway New York, NY 10012

Tanisha Edwards
Counsel for the Finance Committee

3/12/13

Dear Tanisha Edwards,

From the very beginning our building was never sent a ballot from the BID or any notices of steering committee meetings. Other than Notice of a Public Hearing sent to 523 Broadway Associates, none of the individual residents received anything.

Loft 2- Crista Grauer

Loft 3- James Young

Loft 4- Vas Sloutchevsky

Loft 5- Yale Coen

Thank you, Crista Grauer

#### Testimony to NY City Council Committee on Finance March 13, 2013

My name is Jeannine Kiely. I am a member of Community Board 2 and a SoHo resident since 2003. I am here to support the SoHo Business Improvement District but want to make sure that residents are fairly represented in BID governance.

SoHo is a tremendously popular and financial successful retail shopping corridor. Unfortunately, this commercial success encourages an overwhelming number of street vendors. As a result, the sidewalks are overcrowded and difficult to navigate during peak shopping hours, the neighborhood is filled with trash and the intersections are difficult and dangerous to cross. There is no marketing problem. The tourists and shoppers know how to find SoHo.

I am hopeful that the BID can solve these problems, but want to ensure that:

- 1) SoHo residents are fairly represented. I favor governance based on Tax Lots or another formula that results in a 50/50 governance split between commercial and residential owners. I do not want BID governance based on Assessed Value.
- 2) I also want to ensure that the BID focuses on the problems faced by our community: sidewalk sweeping, sidewalk congestion and vendor control.

Thank you.

Jeannine Kiely 121 Mercer Street, #5 New York, NY 10012 jeanninekiely@gmail.om 917-297-4475

#### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:55 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: My statement concerning BID

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: ELLEN LANYON [mailto:ellenlanyon@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:55 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: My statement concerning BID

Dear Chairman Recchia,

I wish to express my feeling regarding BID. I am a property owner and long time resident of SOHO and cannot imagine any more commerce or people crowding out our deserved space. I submit my letter of objection to BID.

Sincerely

Ellen Lanyon

138 Prince StreetMarch 13, 2013

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair

NY City Council, Committee on Finance

250 Broadway, Suite 1785

New York, NY 10007

Re: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Chairman Recchia,

I am in opposition to the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) plan that is before you today. I urge you to make a FAIR PLAN for SoHo, one that properly represents residential stakeholders on Broadway. The,BID plan, as now presented, gives undo i& unfair influence to commercial property owners.

#### Three key points must be incorporated into the SoHo BID plan:

- 1. Fair Representation for Residents on the SoHo BID Board
- 2. Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- 3. Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

As you know, properties along Broadway in SoHo are broken down in this way:

Total Broadway Tax Lots:

280

Residential Tax Lots:

162

(58%)

Commercial Tax Lots:

117

(42%)

Those are the fair percentages that should be used as the basis of the BID Board. Our Council Council member member, Margaret Chin, has made a stated commitment to a minimum of 50/50 for fair representation, and you spoke of a need for a guarantee for that requirement at the November SoHo BID Oversight Hearing. You must hold to that position and make proper & fair representation a requirement of the SoHo BID plan.

Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

Broadway SoHo AV Total:

\$470,000,000

Residential AV Total:

\$329,835,000

(70%)

Commercial AV Total:

\$140,164,000

(30%)

#### Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Name:

Ellen Lanyon

Address: 138 Prince Street# New York NY 10012

#### Pagan, Maria

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:36 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: The Soho BID

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Nina Yankowitz [mailto:nyankowitz@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:36 PM

**To:** Edwards, Tanisha **Subject:** Re: The Soho BID

Dear Council member Edwards,

I am an artist who has lived and worked in Soho since 1972. It will be extremely devastating to destroy the artistic

and residential life that made Soho a very unique area in New York City.

Please support the residents in the soho Community and say NO to the BID and don't allow our streets to be cluttered with noise and vendors and please done't allow developers seeking large financial gains to destroy this historic artist live/work community.

Three points to include are:

- 1. Fair Representation for Residents on the SoHo BID Board
- 2. Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- 3. Protection of Public Space, Streets & Sidewalks and **NO Commercial Uses should** be allowed to clutter our streets.

Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

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Commercial AV Total: \$140,164,000 (30%)

Sincerely,

Nina

Yankowitz

106 Spring Street

New York 10012

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:26 PM

To: Subject: Pagan, Maria FW: A fair plan

Attachments:

130313\_BID\_Chin3a.doc; ATT00001.htm; 130313\_BID\_Recchia3a.doc; ATT00002.htm

\*\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: ELLEN LANYON [mailto:ellenlanyon@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:26 PM

**To:** Edwards, Tanisha **Subject:** A fair plan

Dear Tanisha Edwards,

Please read the two attachments I have sent to you to express my feelings regarding BID. Thank you for your attention to these statements.

Sincerely

Ellen Lanyon 138 Prince Street NY NY 10012

March 13, 2013

Margaret S. Chin

NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan

250 Broadway, Suite 1804

New York, NY 10007

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\$329,835,000

(70%)

Commercial AV Total:

\$140,164,000

(30%)

>> If you choose, INSERT a short paragraph with a personal statement in regard to your life in SoHo.

#### Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Name:

Ellen Lanyon

Address:

138 Prince Street #4

New York, NY 10012

# SoHo's Broadway Corridor Needs a Business Improvement District

Though the city legislation authorizing neighborhood-based supplemental services starts with the word "Business," it might as well be called "Neighborhood Improvement District."

SoHo's Broadway Corridor – from Houston down to Canal – needs dedicated, specific services and improvements to supplement and enhance basic government services that, at times, are overextended and underperforming where the need is so great. A Business Improvement District (BID) can provide this desperately needed help, in coordination with the Community Board and city agencies.

Sanitation, Enforcement of Street Vendor Regulations, Traffic Control, & other Quality of Life Concerns all need targeted, accountable attention under the direction and supervision of SoHo Broadway residents, businesses, and our elected and community leaders.

The BID Steering Committee – comprised evenly of our residential and business neighbors - has demonstrated overwhelming support for the BID plan. This has been a truly diverse and representative effort, with Broadway residential concerns represented by the residents themselves, who are directly impacted by the quality of life outside their front doors.

The plan is narrowly crafted and reasonable as it seeks to address long-standing issues along Soho's Broadway that affect all those who live, work, visit, walk and stroll along what is surely one of New York's most vibrant and busiest neighborhoods.

The proposed BID plan ( <a href="www.sohobid.org">www.sohobid.org</a> ) includes just Broadway from Houston down to Canal. No other areas or blocks are included, nor is there any intention to expand the BID area. The BID is not being formed to attract new tourists or to enhance marketing for the neighborhood. Rather, it is intended to supplement and enhance basic government services that simply cannot keep pace with the enormously high volume of activity along Broadway.

Commercial property owners in this Broadway corridor will fund almost 100 percent of the BID's annual budget of \$550,000. The 146 residential condo owners and the 14 co-op buildings along this very specific part of Broadway will pay a symbolic \$1 per year. It's important to note, however, that finances do not dictate the governance of the BID.

By law, property owners — residential and commercial — will have majority representation, and the built-in, careful oversight by government representatives will aggressively ensure a balance in all operations and decisions. And it should never be overlooked that an overwhelming majority of Broadway corridor residents and owners — those actually in the proposed BID area — shared their support for this effort through participation in a survey that presented a return rate much higher than is typical for BID areas citywide.

Advancing to "next steps" in this public process is fair. The mechanism for forming a BID is very specific and task-oriented, with a clear route established for those supporting it. Moving forward to the City Council for fuller consideration is proper and deserved.

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Monday, March 11, 2013 2:42 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: Your Stated Commitment to Sweeping Broadway

**Attachments:** 

SoHoBID-OnePageSummary.pdf

From: Steinwurtzel, Brian [mailto:bsteinwurtzel@ngkf.com]

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 02:23 PM

To: Steinwurtzel, Brian <bsteinwurtzel@ngkf.com>; Barbara Cohen <Barbara@robertbpauls.com>; Emily Hellstrom

<emilyhellstrom@mac.com>

Subject: RE: Your Stated Commitment to Sweeping Broadway

Good afternoon – the BID Committee for SoHo's Broadway is looking forward to the Council Finance Committee hearing this Wednesday. There are a set of important facts (especially in light of a very misleading email by the SOHO Alliance yesterday) that we wanted to communicate to you prior to the hearing:

While residential buildings make up 57% of the tax lots within the BID district, this is primarily because that math calls for a 400 square foot studio condo apartment unit being equal to a 30 unit 50,000 square foot residential cooperative building or an 80,000 square foot commercial building, each represented by its own taxlot. Why would a 30 unit residential cooperative have the same voting rights as a 400 square foot studio apartment? Clearly this is not an appropriate way to set up voting rights. Here is a compete break down of the neighborhood:

	Tax Lot	Square Footage	Assessed Value
COMMERCIAL	43%	79%	81%
CO-OPERATIVE	5%	14%	11%
RESIDENTIAL CONDO	52%	7%	8%
	100%	100%	100%

When one looks at the neighborhood by square footage or assessed value (or simply by building) it is clear that the majority of the neighborhood is commercial by a 4:1 ratio. All that being said, the commercial and residential property owners and tenants on the BID Steering Committee are committed to working together to find a fair and equitable BID Board structure. Along with government oversight, please support us in following the BID Law, and policy and procedures of BID formation. This framework establishes the elected BID Board, which is authorized to create the By-Laws that determines how voting will take place.

I have also attached a one page summary of our BID effort in case you want more information.

## Sincerely,

#### Brian Steinwurtzel

Managing Director Newmark Grubb Knight Frank T 212.372.2091 bsteinwurtzel@ngkf.com Please note new email address



(\$\tilde{S}) Save a Tree - Think Before You Print. Sustainably Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.

From: Steinwurtzel, Brian

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 3:04 PM

To: 'Pete Davies'

Cc: Margaret Chin; Matthew Viggiano; Tanisha Edwards; Sarah Malloy-Good; Mary Cooley; Emily Hellstrom; David Gruber; Robert D. Ely; Maury Schott; Pier Consagra; Peter Davis; Jamie Johnson; Renee Monrose; Brad Hoylman;

Domenic M. Recchia Jr.; Leroy J. Comrie Jr.; Peter A. Koo; James F. Gennaro; Lewis A. Fidler

Subject: RE: Your Stated Commitment to Sweeping Broadway

Hi Pete (and all of those cc'd),

The BID Committee is committed to SoHo's Broadway and that has certainly been demonstrated by the Committee's optimism and perseverance over the past four years, especially in light of the negative campaigning you have taken a lead in. I stand by the statement I made in 2011 ("If we feel confident the BID will proceed forward," he said, "we'll come up with the money to provide services in between. Otherwise, it's just us carrying the whole corridor, and it just isn't fair.").

See attached BID formation process steps. We are at Step 7 with the March 13, 2013 hearing date. Based on what the Committee has endured, it won't feel fully confident that the BID is established until Step 16 is complete.

However, if you and any other individuals who have strongly opposed this proposal can demonstrate support, earn the trust of Committee members, and won't seek to delay the formation process further, then the Committee's commercial members may consider extending themselves further to undertake BID tasks prior to the official start of the BID organization and operation.

As I said to you on the phone last week, I feel our goals are similar but our ideas on how to get there differ. We are "rooting" for you to be successful in your efforts to help the neighborhood. I wish you would "root" for us too.

#### **Brian Steinwurtzel**

Managing Director Newmark Grubb Knight Frank T 212.372.2091 bsteinwurtzel@ngkf.com Please note new email address

(\$) Save a Tree - Think Before You Print. Sustainably Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.

From: Pete Davies [mailto:pdavies1@nyc.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 11:24 AM

To: Steinwurtzel, Brian

**Cc:** Margaret Chin; Matthew Viggiano; Tanisha Edwards; Sarah Malloy-Good; Mary Cooley; Emily Hellstrom; David Gruber; Robert D. Ely; Maury Schott; Pier Consagra; Peter Davis; Jamie Johnson; Renee Monrose; Brad Hoylman;

Domenic M. Recchia Jr.; Leroy J. Comrie Jr.; Peter A. Koo; James F. Gennaro; Lewis A. Fidler

Subject: Your Stated Commitment to Sweeping Broadway

Hello Brian -

Now that the hearing date for the SoHo BID has been set, I'm following up on your previously stated commitment as the Chair of the SoHo BID Steering Committee to "come up with the money to provide services" and resume sweeping along the Broadway sidewalks. You made that commitment for cleaning Broadway to Councilmember Chin in the summer of 2011 (see below for links to those statements and commitments).

Broadway residents look forward to resumption of sidewalk sweeping. Representatives from the Mayor's agency of Small Business Services have made it clear that, should the SoHo BID be enacted, it will be at least nine months before any services made possible by the SoHo BID Tax Assessment are activated. As your statements show, the organizers of the SoHo BID plan have committed to provide the necessary funds for sidewalk sweeping during that gap in time. Please let the neighborhood know when your commitment to a cleaner Broadway will be put into effect.

We look forward to hearing back from you on this important neighborhood matter, Pete Davies Broadway Residents Coalition

\*\*\*

**Downtown Express, Guest Editorial July 27, 2011:** 

http://www.downtownexpress.com/bid-plan-for-soho's-broadway-corridor-is-now-better/

Soho's Broadway BID plan improved Margaret S. Chin

" ... I have been assured by the BID organizers that they will come up with the funds necessary to keep ACE cleaning Broadway this summer ... "

\*\*\*

The Villager; August 10, 2011:

http://www.thevillager.com/villager 432/sohobid.html

Soho BID battle rages on as B'way sweeping stops

... The steering committee, Steinwurtzel said, will commit to financing ACE's continued Broadway services once the City Council schedules a hearing for the BID.

"If we feel confident the BID will proceed forward," he said, "we'll come up with the money to provide services in between. Otherwise, it's just us carrying the whole corridor, and it just isn't fair." ...

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Margaret S. Chin NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan 250 Broadway, Suite 1804 New York, NY 10007

Re: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Council Member Chin,

I am in opposition to the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) plan that is before you today. I urge you to make a FAIR PLAN for SoHo, one that properly represents residential stakeholders on Broadway. The,BID plan, as now presented, gives undo i& unfair influence to commercial property owners.

### Three key points must be incorporated into the SoHo BID plan:

- 1. Fair Representation for Residents on the SoHo BID Board
- 2. Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- 3. Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

As you know, properties along Broadway in SoHo are broken down in this way:

Total Broadway Tax Lots:

280

Residential Tax Lots:

162 (58%)

Commercial Tax Lots:

117 (42%)

Those are the fair percentages that should be used as the basis of the BID Board. You have made a stated commitment to a minimum of 50/50 for fair representation. You must hold to that position and make that a requirement of the SoHo BID plan.

Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

Broadway SoHo AV Total:

\$470,000,000

Residential AV Total:

\$329,835,000

Commercial AV Total:

\$140,164,000

(70%) (30%)

#### Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Name: Joyce and Max Kozloff

Address: 152 Wooster St 4B, NY NY 10012

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair NY City Council, Committee on Finance 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, NY 10007

Re: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal

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Re: A FAIR PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Council Member Chin,

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Broadway SoHo AV Total: \$470,000,000

Residential AV Total: \$329,835,000 (70%) Commercial AV Total: \$140,164,000 (30%)

As you know from my prior testimony on many occasions going back a couple of years already, I deplore the privatization of public services that this BID represents. I feel that the Broadway Residents Coalition has been a fair and reasonable negotiator with you and with the other parties, and the least you can do since you have apparently decided to push through this unwelcome and uncalled for plan is to **ensure** fair representation, fair voting, and protection of public space as outlined above.

#### Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Name: Georgette Fleischer, Founder Friends of Petrosino Square

Address: 19 Cleveland Place, apt. 4A, New York, NY 10012

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair NY City Council, Committee on Finance 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, NY 10007

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Name: Georgette Fleischer

Address: 19 Cleveland Place, apt. 4A, New York, NY 10012

March 10, 2013

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair NY City Council, Committee on Finance 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, NY 10007

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#### Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

**Betty Lou Hudson** 

12 Greene Street, #5 NY,NY 10013

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair NY City Council, Committee on Finance 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, NY 10007

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>> If you choose, INSERT a short paragraph with a personal statement in regard to your life in SoHo.

## Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Name: Ann Levy

Address:

Margaret S. Chin NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan 250 Broadway, Suite 1804 New York, NY 10007

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Sincerely,

Name: Ann Levy

Address:

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541 Broadway is a building primarily owned and lived in by artists. I've lived here for 35 years with my husband.. We have both taught, rehearsed, and performed here separately and together while raising our son. We resident/owners have strictly observed landmarks preservation rulings and safety regulations to ensure the building operated as a safe legal entity up to code and we have been instrumental in the development of this SOHO community. We hope you will consider our contributions to SOHO in your decision making process.

Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo! Sincerely,

Valda Setterfield Gordon 541 Broadway NYC 10012, NY

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair NY City Council, Committee on Finance 250 Broadway, Suite 1785 New York, NY 10007

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Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo! Sincerely, Valda Setterfield Gordon 541 Broadway NYC 10012, NY

:

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Monday, March 11, 2013 8:37 AM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: Don't kill the goose!

From: I Swift [mailto:isabel\_swift@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:58 AM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: Don't kill the goose!

I have lived in SoHo for the last 20 some years. Though it has been sad to see many of the amazing stores and businesses disappear, it has also been great to see the new life that has been created.

I appreciate that it is a challenge to maintain a viable balance between keeping what makes a community viable and attractive Vs crushing its unique and special qualities through over commercialization--in the process destroying the very qualities that attracted these entrepreneurs and customers. Developers are not in it for the long haul. Their goal is money, and destruction is just collateral damage on the way to the next opportunity.

We depend on our elected representatives to find a reasonable middle ground, one which delivers fair representation for residential owners and tenants NOT weighted voting that favors commercial owners & developers. Representation that respects our ability to have a reasonable quality of life and not rent out every square inch of public space.

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs with greed that seeks to rip its stomach open in the mistaken belief that there's a big prize to be had by commercializing everything at the expense of the residents. Please.

Isabel

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:22 AM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: BID hearing wed March 13th

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: PAD543@AOL.COM [mailto:pad543@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:20 AM

**To:** Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: BID hearing wed March 13th

Tanisha Edwards Margaret Chin Chairman Recchia

## The Soho BID is NOT a good plan for Soho.

I agree with my neighbors on a fair representation between residents and owners. As is public knowledge, the greedy land owners are buying up more and more Broadway real-estate in this area and they do not want to give any control over to people who live in Soho. They may do

business here but they live outside our area, and we actually live here in Soho. So a representation of 50/50 IS A FAIR PLAN.

The BID will be able to keep the streets clean. They have done it in the past, now they need to start doing it again. It has been promised by the head of the BID Steering Committee.

The Vendor situation on Broadway will never be controlled by the BID, that is just fluff and grandstanding.

This is the start of a very ugly situation for Soho's Broadway and an equally bad situation where they will eventually takeover the rest of Soho. This is a residential and business area, they only see it through their controlling way, IT'S NOT GOOD!

As a 35 year Soho co-op resident, I've seen a lot happen on this street. *This BID is a wolf in sheep's clothing.* 

Peter A Davis 543 Broadway New York, NY 10012

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:13 PM

To: Subject: Pagan, Maria FW: SoHo Bid

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Robert Seidman [mailto:robertseidman@nyc.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:58 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha; Patti Seidman; Pete Davies

Subject: SoHo Bid

Dear Tanisha Edwards,

My wife and I have been residents at 577 Broadway (between Houston and Prince) for 34 plus years. Both of us adamantly oppose the creation of the unnecessary and absurdly costly BID. It's an imposition on us and the neighborhood. Unfortunately, our council person, Margaret Chin, has been supportive of the initiative.

Patti and I—and I gather other residents of 577 and 148 Mercer St. (Our building has two addresses)— did not receive a NOTICE OF HEARING from the BID organization. We believe that they are legally bound to give us notice in advance so that residents, who will doubtless will be asked to pay for the unnecessary service, are able to articulate their objections. This was not done.

Please make these people comply with the regulations by extending the hearing period.

Thank you,

Robert and Patti Seidman

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 4:19 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: Broadway SoHo BID Testimony

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

**From:** Jamie Johnson [mailto:jamie-johnson@mindspring.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013 4:18 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha; recchia@council.nyc.gov; Chin

Subject: Broadway SoHo BID Testimony

Honorable Dominic M. Recchia, Jr. Councilmember and Chairman of Finance Committee 250 Broadway, Suite 1785
New York, New York 10007

Honorable Margaret S. Chin Councilmember 250 Broadway, 18th Floor New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Recchia and Councilmember Chin:

I am writing to you in opposition to the Broadway SoHo BID as it is currently proposed. I ask that this letter be part of the March 13, 2013 hearing record.

First, I wish to urge your attention to what is an inherently biased BID development process. Over the past two years the City has provided little to no support for the voting—and directly impacted citizens—in the catchment area. The process used to develop the Broadway SoHo BID proposal has, at best, been sloppy and in any case has been heavily biased in favor of the BID proposers and against residents in the neighborhood who have opposed the BID. This is a process that sorely needs fixing. To be more precise:

### The BID Development Process is Biased:

The catchment area for the Boradway SoHo BID is one that needs no artificial business development. Its problem is the result of TOO MUCH business. Thus, the very use of the BID law in this instance is a perversion of the law.

- The creation of this BID did not come from the catchment area or its residents. It came from Henry Buel, a person who is neither a resident of the catchment area nor (at the time he raised the idea) did he carry on his business in the catchment area. Until late in the process, the BID Steering Committee was almost entirely made up of commercial interest in the neighborhood with few residents.
- The BID process, as defined and managed by Small Business Services (SBS) is undemocratic and unfair.
  - Only property owners are canvassed—no renters and others living in the neighborhood are considered.
  - Initial votes to prove interest in the BID are made before information about the plan is widely available or explained. This "vote", described as indicating interest in the idea becomes a defining vote—but one that requires no verification that the "voters" were legitimate property owners.
- SBS, in its zeal to implement BIDs, provides tax-funded proactive support services—research, documentation, consultation—to the BID proposers while providing none to residents unless presented with—usually multiple—FOIL requests.
- In at least this case, SBS repeatedly failed to make pubic documents available in a timely manner.
- The BID District Plan purposely provides broad, rather than specific, descriptions of BID activities—leaving specific to be defined after the BID is a matter of state law. Thus, agreeing with the District Plan amounts to buying a pig in a poke. It's impossible to really know from the Plan how the BID will perform.

Unfortunately, it appears that the biased BID development process along with political manipulation within the city's legislative and mayoral branches will result in the Broadway SoHo BID becoming reality.

If that is the case, I urge you to exercise your responsibilities as an official elected by city residents to **CHANGE THE BID PLAN SO IT IS FAIR TO ALL**:

- Insure that the mission of the Broadway SoHo BID is focused on
  - Sanitation and snow removal
  - Managing street vendors
  - Reducing street and sidewalk congestion
  - Protecting public space for public, not private, use
- Insure FAIR REPRESENTATION on the BID's Board of Directors. Residents currently comprise 58% of property owners in the catchment area. At a minimum, they should have equal representation as commercial owners on the BID Board of Directors: 50% residential/50% commercial representation—a plan you, yourself have endorsed.
- **Disallow weighted voting.** Weighted voting would significantly skew BID board representation in favor of commercial property owners and make the BID even farther from a representative form of community organization.
- Protect our public space by stopping commercial use of already crowded sidewalks and streets.

I urge you to recognize the voice of the individuals who live in, and indeed helped to develop SoHo on Broadway. Hear the voice of the voting public and revise the current Broadway SoHo BID to a plan that is fair to both residents and commercial interests.

Sincerely,

# Jamie Johnson

491 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, New York 10012

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:01 AM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: Recchia Opposition Letter - A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

From: Peter Fabry [mailto:fabrad@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 09:54 AM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Cc: Pete Davies <pdavies1@nyc.rr.com>

Subject: Recchia Opposition Letter - A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

March 13, 2013

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair

NY City Council, Committee on Finance

250 Broadway, Suite 1785

New York, NY 10007

Re:

A FAIR PLAN for SoHo -

#### SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Chairman Recchia,

I am in opposition to the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) plan that is before you today. I urge you to make a FAIR PLAN for SoHo, one that properly represents residential stakeholders on Broadway. The,BID plan, as now presented, gives undo & unfair influence to commercial property owners.

## Three key points must be incorporated into the SoHo BID plan:

- 1. Fair Representation for Residents on the SoHo BID Board
- 2. Fair Voting Procedures: NO Weighted Voting
- 3. Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

As you know, properties along Broadway in SoHo are broken down in this way:

Total Broadway Tax Lots:

280

Residential Tax Lots:

162

(58%)

Commercial Tax Lots:

117

(42%)

Those are the fair percentages that should be used as the basis of the BID Board. Our Councilmember, Margaret Chin, has made a stated commitment to a minimum of 50/50 for fair representation, and you spoke of a need for a guarantee for that requirement at the November SoHo BID Oversight Hearing. You must hold to that position and make proper & fair representation a requirement of the SoHo BID plan.

Weighted Voting by Assessed Value (AV) of property should NOT be allowed. This gives unfair control to commercial interests along Broadway. If this AV scheme is allowed, then the voting breakdown gives this result (numbers approximate, based on 2012 AV), and totally skews the balance of representation.

Broadway SoHo AV Total:

\$470,000,000

Residential AV Total:

\$140,164,000

(30%)

Commercial AV Total:

\$329,835,000

(70%)

The proposed Broadway SoHo Business Improvement District (BID), an unnecessary plan.

The SoHo BID Steering Committee membership has never reflected the diverse neighborhood where the BID would take hold. Narrowly focused real estate interests have been behind this scheme since the beginning and they continue to push this bad plan.

As you know, Community Board 2 overwhelmingly voted to REJECT this bad SoHo BID plan. Your office has been give BID documents showing that those behind the BID are looking for a "seat at the table" in City Hall and that the BID proponents are making a concerted effort to bypass our local Community Board. This is a scheme to consolidate their power and work their way around the voices of the local community.

SoHo is unique. It is not a troubled retail district. Those behind the BID are not "small" businesses. The SoHo BID plan is not a good plan for SoHo and should be rejected.

Please represent us fairly and oppose this BAD BID! Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Peter Fabry, (Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Design)
President, 423 Broome St. Corp.

cc: Tanisha Edwards, Counsel, Finance Division, NY City Council Pete Davies, The SoHo NO BID Committee

Peter Fabry 423 Broome Street # 7 New York, NY 10013

T: 212-431-8677, F: 212-431-0027

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:01 AM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: CHIN OPPOSITION Letter - A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

From: Peter Fabry [mailto:fabrad@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 09:54 AM

To: Chin; Edwards, Tanisha

Cc: Pete Davies <pddoing</pre>

Subject: CHIN OPPOSITION Letter - A FAIR PLAN for SoHo - SoHo BID Proposal

March 13, 2013

Margaret S. Chin

NYC Council Member, District 1 Manhattan

250 Broadway, Suite 1804

New York, NY 10007

Re:

A FAIR

# PLAN for SoHo – SoHo BID Proposal

Dear Council Member Chin,

I am in opposition to the SoHo Business Improvement District (BID) plan that is before you today. I urge you to make a FAIR PLAN for SoHo, one that properly represents residential stakeholders on Broadway. The,BID plan, as now presented, gives undo & unfair influence to commercial property owners.

# Three key points must be incorporated into the SoHo BID plan:

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- 3. Protection of Public Space Streets and Sidewalks NO Commercial Uses

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SoHo is unique. It is not a troubled retail district. Those behind the BID are not "small" businesses. The SoHo BID plan is not a good plan for SoHo and should be rejected.

# Start representing us fairly and oppose this BAD BID! Make a FAIR Plan for SoHo!

Sincerely,

Peter Fabry, (Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Design)
President, 423 Broome St. Corp.

CC:

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel, Finance Division, NY City Council Pete Davies, The SoHo NO BID Committee

Peter Fabry 423 Broome Street # 7

New York, NY 10013 T: <u>212-431-8677</u>, F: <u>212-431-0027</u>

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:48 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

Fw: Oppose the Soho BID

From: Phyllis Rosenblatt [mailto:prosett5@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 01:41 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: Oppose the Soho BID

to: Chairman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Tanishia Edwards

New York City Council

Subject: Oppose the Soho BID

NB: I did not receive notice of the Soho BID hearing in my mailbox.

I am opposed to the Soho BID for the following reasons:

- 1) the BID should have FAIR REPRESENTATION FOR RESIDENTS, and be in line with the actual make-up of Broadway:
- a. Residential Ownership = 57% by tax lot
- b. Commercial Ownership = 43% of tax lots
- c. 50/50 minimum breakdown for Board voting
- 2) there should be a FAIR & EQUITABLE VOTING STRUCTURE for the BID BOARD of DIRECTORS:
- a. One Property = One Vote
- b. NO Voting based on Assessed Value aka "Weighted Voting"
- 3) there should be PROTECTION of OUR PUBLIC SPACES on STREETS & SIDEWALKS:
- a. Limit "User Rights" provision of the BID Plan
- b. NO Commercial Use of Public Space on Broadway
- 4) Personally opposed as a renting resident since February 1975 (37 plus years) because:
- a. the BID privatizes public services of sanitation
- b. it puts in place a tax upon non represented parties
- c. it artificially raises rents that cannot be rescinded
- d. it undermines democratic process further jeopardizing middle class say in its local government
- e. it gives a nod of OK to persons like Margaret Chin, who do not represent her constituency in Soho a very undemocratic stance.

Phyllis Rosenblatt 486 Broadway

From:

Edwards, Tanisha

Sent:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:51 PM

To:

Pagan, Maria

Subject:

FW: Oppose the Soho BID

\*\*\*\*\* tedwards@council.nyc.gov \*\*\*\*\*

Tanisha Edwards, Counsel

Finance Division, New York City Council

212-227-2923

212-788-7061 (fax)

From: Phyllis Rosenblatt [mailto:prosett5@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:42 PM

To: Edwards, Tanisha

Subject: Oppose the Soho BID

to: Chairman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Tanishia Edwards

New York City Council

Subject: Oppose the Soho BID

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- e. it gives a nod of OK to persons like Margaret Chin, who do not represent her constituency in Soho a very undemocratic stance.

Phyllis Rosenblatt 486 Broadway

# City Council Members:

As a longtime Broadway COOP loft owner attempting to raise a family in Soho over the past few years, and as a longtime supporter of the Soho Alliance, I write IN FAVOR of the proposed Broadway BID in Soho.

In my view, the face of Broadway in Soho has already changed in a way that has outpaced the support that the city can provide. The resulting deficiency of support in and of itself threatens the neighborhood, making it harder and harder to raise kids here due to trash, traffic, and crowds; this threat to the residential community continues unaddressed.

I believe now that the Broadway BID, properly run and governed with balanced representation including local residents without commercial interests, is perhaps the only effective tool to systematically address the negative issues affecting Broadway today. My support for the BID remains premised on the belief that this BID is limited to Broadway and cannot be expanded without a completely new BID application process, that the governing body of this BID will consist of a mixed group of representatives chosen by those constituents within the BID and elected regularly, and that the budget for the BID cannot be changed without the aforementioned governing body voting on such change.

Sincerely,

Scott Weber

476 Broadway

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Name: Len Brandman Address: 25 Howard Street, NYM 10013
I represent: SACK SAGANA  Address: S35 BROADWAY, NY, NY, NY, NY, NY, NY, NY, NY, NY, N
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Address: 423 Broome St 100/3
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Name: Vick tapados MD
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Address: 413 Bradway 66
I represent: Katy Rice
Address: 473 19 way
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Address: 110 William Street
I represent: Dant of Small Business Services
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Name: MARY ROLLAND
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Date: 3/13/2013
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Name: DARBARA J. COHEN
Address: PO BOX \$ 1285 NY 10/56
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  Appearance Card  I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. SOHORBIND.  A in favor in opposition  Date: 2.13.2013  (PLEASE PRINT)  Name: DONNA VOLEZ  Address: 594 BIZOADWAY, NY NY (1012)
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  Appearance Card  I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. SOHORES. No. in favor in opposition  Date: 3.13.2013  (PLEASE PRINT)  Name: DONNA VOLEZ  Address: 594 BROADWAY, MY MY (10012)  I represent 7594 BROADWAY = 560 BIZCADWAY