

**BLAISE BACKER STATEMENT**  
**BEFORE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**September 10, 2014**

Good morning Chair Ferreras and members of the Finance Committee. I am Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined today by my Assistant Commissioner, James Mettham, and Director for BID Development, Patrick Cammack.

SBS supports the establishment of the West Shore Business Improvement District (BID) in the Borough of Staten Island. The West Shore BID Steering Committee has successfully completed the planning and outreach work consistent with SBS program rules. In addition, SBS has reviewed the boundaries of the proposed BID and found them to be acceptable.

Geographically, the proposed BID includes properties generally bounded on the north by Gulf Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue, on the south by Meredith Avenue, on the east by the West Shore Expressway and on the west by the Arthur Kill. The entire area of the proposed BID is within City Council District 50, which is represented by Councilmember Steve Matteo.

Services to be provided in the West Shore BID shall include, but not be limited to, private sanitation and maintenance, private security, signage and wayfinding improvements, advocacy, administration, and additional services as may be required for the promotion and enhancement of the District. The District will be managed by a newly formed District Management Association. The annual budget for the District's first year of operation is \$110,420.

As required by law, the West Shore BID Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution, no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days before today's hearing, to the following parties:

- 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.

I would also like to acknowledge that members of the BID Steering Committee are present today to speak to and answer any questions about the specifics of the BID plan.

At this time, we are happy to take any questions.

Thank you.

**West Shore BID Testimony by Steve Grillo, SIEDC**  
**City Council Hearing**  
**Wednesday September 10, 2014**

My name is Steve Grillo, and I am First Vice President of Projects and Programs for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC) and project manager for the steering committee of the proposed West Shore Business Improvement District (BID).

In 2011, through a grant provided by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the SIEDC approached property owners in the Bloomfield and Chelsea sections of Staten Island about the prospect of creating a BID. My organization's long-standing work and relationships with property owners and commercial tenants made it clear that a BID would significantly improve the economic development future of the area.

In the time since, SIEDC assembled a steering committee of property owners and elected officials that completed a robust and comprehensive planning and outreach program. The 27 property owners and over 40 individual businesses are eager to complete the process and become the first industrial BID under Mayor de Blasio's administration.

The proposed West Shore BID is in Staten Island Community Board 2 – which voted 26-0 to support the proposal. The area is generally bounded on the north by Gulf Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue, on the south by Meredith Avenue, on the east by the West Shore Expressway and on the west by the Arthur Kill.

The BID contains primarily industrial zoning (M3-1 and M2-1) and is comprised of 72 lots – approximately 230 acres – of which 52 lots and 131 acres are privately owned while 20 lots and 98 acres are publicly owned. Due to its relative isolation, the BID area has not received the services and infrastructure improvements that are required in a modern industrial setting.

Specific budgeted services include private sanitation and maintenance, private security, signage and wayfinding improvements and an advocate to specifically work on behalf of the property owners.

The steering committee has documented significant support that represents 73% of tax lots and 62% of assessed value, which shows the intent to establish the BID and promote a program of dedicated businesses who want to strategically address obstacles to existing operations and well as future expansion.

The steering committee understands the proposed BID is in an environmentally sensitive area, and the BID will only help preserve the environmental assets, beautify the district, and advocate for local land owners, business owners, and other constituents, while in no way threatening the environmental assets of the area

In addition to the proposed BID, the area is a focal point for the borough's growing industrial sector. Programs such as the West Shore Brownfield Opportunity Area, the proposed West Shore Green Zone, the West Shore Industrial Business Zone, and the borough president's declaration that the West Shore is Staten Island's "Job's Coast" all reinforce the need for and the benefit of creating the West Shore BID.

**West Shore BID Testimony by Erwin Moskowitz, Treasurer of Steering Committee  
City Council Hearing  
Wednesday September 10, 2014**

My name is Erwin Moskowitz and I am Chief Financial Officer at ADCO Electrical Corporation. I also serve as treasurer of the West Shore BID steering committee.

ADCO is a full-service electrical and telecommunications services firm which has been serving the local community since 1977. We own a large office building within the proposed BID that houses numerous tenants and hundreds of employees. ADCO has long been a staunch supporter of the proposed BID and we urge the City Council to approve the project for the benefit of the numerous companies operating in the area.

In addition to typical BID services such as private security, private maintenance and signage improvements, the BID will also help to advance vital projects in this underserved area.

Working together, SIEDC, businesses and property owners of the proposed BID have a history of working together to secure high speed business class cable and internet for over 15 businesses who were until recently using dial-up modems, produce a stormwater management baseline study to address the area's flooding issues, and help attract new businesses to the area. In fact, the Staten Island Advance recently published an article highlighting seven new companies which moved to the West Shore BID area in the past year.

Property owners and tenants in the West Shore also look forward to future improvements such as the installation of signage to promote businesses in the district, lighting improvements, general roadway work, and traffic changes and improvements on Gulf Avenue.

I cannot stress more strongly how important direct advocacy through the unified voice of the BID is for property owners and business. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to a successful West Shore BID to enhance the economic development future of the West Shore of Staten Island.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James Mettpham (119)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC SBS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Appearance Card

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 in favor     in opposition

Date: 9/10/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Grillo

Address: 900 South Ave SI NY 10814

I represent: SIEDC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Michael Blaise Backer

Address: 110 William

I represent: NYC Small Business Sucs (SBS)

Address: 110 William

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in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Patrick Cammack

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC SBS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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