

**ELIZABETH DE LEON STATEMENT**  
**BEFORE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**January 3, 2012**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. I am Elizabeth De Leon, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). SBS supports the establishment of the Westchester Square Business Improvement District (BID) in the Borough of the Bronx.

Geographically, the proposed BID generally includes properties along both sides of Williamsbridge Road and East Tremont Avenue from Eastchester Road and Silver Street to Westchester Avenue, and the properties in the triangular blocks in the middle of the district along East Tremont Avenue and Williamsbridge Road.

Services to be provided in the Westchester Square BID include: supplemental sanitation and security, marketing and promotion of local businesses, holiday lights, economic development and new initiatives, administration, and other services as may be required for the promotion and enhancement of the district. Proposed capital improvements include street and sidewalk amenities to beautify the district and improve pedestrian circulation and safety. The Westchester Square District Management Association will manage the district. The budget for the first year of operation is \$320,000.

As required by law, the Westchester Square 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 resolution setting the date, time and place for a public hearing concerning an increase in the amount to be expended in 6 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

The 6 BIDs will arrange for the publication of a notice of the public hearing at least once in a local newspaper having general circulation in the districts specifying the time when and the place where the hearing will be held and stating the proposed amount to be expended annually. In addition, the BIDs will mail notices to property owners providing them with information about the public hearing as well as reasons for their requests for the increased assessments.

The 6 BIDs requesting increases of annual expenditures desire to further expand and reinforce existing supplemental services currently provided in the business districts. The BIDs wish to increase the amount to be expended annually beginning on July 1, 2011 as follows: Bayside Village, \$155,000; Fordham Road, \$625,000; Grand Central Partnership,

\$12,709,372; Mosholu-Jerome-East Gun Hill Road, \$259,000; 125<sup>th</sup> Street, \$947,820; and 34<sup>th</sup> Street Partnership, \$9,940,000.

Thank you.



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THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**JAMES VACCA**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BRONX

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**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
ZONING AND FRANCHISES

January 3, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

As I have said throughout this process, the creation of a business improvement district in Westchester Square has my support without question. Westchester Square represents a significant opportunity for community revitalization in the Bronx, and a BID will go a long way toward improving the quality of life in this neighborhood. It will help improve the streetscape, and it will make Westchester Square an even more attractive place for retailers to open a business and for consumers to go shopping. This BID has tremendous community support, and I want to thank the local Merchant's Association for all of their persistence and dedication in seeing the BID through to fruition.

I thank Chairman Recchia and the Finance Committee Staff for all of their attention and hard work as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Vacca".

James Vacca  
Council Member  
13<sup>th</sup> District, Bronx

**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: 1-3-12

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Elizabeth DeLeon - Dep. Comm.

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

I represent: Small Bus. Services (SBS)

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

▶ *Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms* ◀

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