

Statement by Andrew Schwartz, NYC Department of Small Business Services
New York City Council Finance Committee
December 18, 2012

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee, I am Andrew Schwartz, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I wish to express our support for the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended in 7 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

As required by law, the 7 BIDs published 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, each BID has certified that they have mailed a letter to property owners informing them about the proposed assessment increase, and the time and place of this public hearing.

The 7 BIDs requesting increases of annual expenditures desire to further expand, reinforce and strengthen existing core services currently provided in the business districts. The BIDs wish to increase the amount to be expended annually beginning on July 1, 2012, as follows: (1) Bryant Park, from \$950,000 to \$1,100,000 (2) Downtown Lower Manhattan, from \$13,000,000 to \$15,900,000; (3) 5th Avenue, from \$2,715,720 to \$2,905,000; (4) 47th Street, from \$500,000 to \$700,000; (5) Flatiron, from \$1,600,000 to \$2,200,000; (6) Kings Highway, from \$250,000 to \$290,000; and (7) North Flatbush, from \$115,000 to \$200,000.

As you know, the City's BIDs supplement city sanitation and public safety services, promote businesses through marketing initiatives and public events, enhance the city's physical environment through streetscape improvement projects, and engage local community through social service programs. In addition, BIDs in partnership with city government help create jobs, improve the quality of life for New Yorkers and visitors, enhance the city's tax base, and strengthen the local economy in tough economic times.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. BID 1 to m 972 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 12/18/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrew Schwartz (First Dep. Commissioner)

Address: 110 William Street

I represent: NYC Dept of Small Business Services

Address: Same as above

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆