

ELIZABETH DE LEON STATEMENT
BEFORE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
November 29, 2011

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Finance Committee, I am Elizabeth De Leon, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Small Business Services (SBS).

We are pleased to provide information to assist the Finance Committee in its determination regarding the legal sufficiency of a mailing of a summary notice for the establishment of the Westchester Square Business Improvement District (BID) in the Borough of the Bronx. On October 5, 2011, the City Council adopted a resolution setting October 17 as the date, 10 a.m. as the time and the City Council Hearing Room, 16th Floor, 250 Broadway, New York City as the place for a public hearing to hear all persons interested in the proposed legislation which would establish the Westchester Square BID. In addition, the City Council authorized the Westchester Square BID Steering Committee to mail on its behalf a notice of the public hearing containing the information required by Section 25-406c of the New York City Administrative Code and summarizing the resolution adopted.

On October 6, 2011, the Westchester Square BID Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution to 77 owners of real property within the proposed district at the address shown on the latest City assessment roll, and to such other persons as are registered with the City to receive tax bills concerning real property within the district. In addition, the BID Steering Committee hand-delivered the summary notice to 150 commercial tenants and 47 residential tenants within the proposed district.

Further, we wish to report on the result of the objections filed with the City Clerk against the establishment of the proposed Westchester Square BID. On October 17, 2011, the City Council Finance Committee held a public hearing on the establishment of the proposed Westchester Square BID. As required under the law, the public hearing was closed without a vote. The Committee must wait at least 30 days before it can again consider the legislation on the establishment of the Westchester Square BID. The 30-day period immediately after the public hearing serves as an objection period. At the conclusion of the objection period at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 and taking into consideration any objections postmarked by that date, two valid objections were filed with the City Clerk. Owners of 1.1% of assessed valuations of all benefitted real property situated within the District filed objections to the District's establishment. Also, 2.6% of the owners of benefitted real property filed objections.

In addition, one invalid objection was filed with no proof of property ownership.

The total assessed valuation of real property within the District is \$32,289,212 and the total number of properties is 87, which are held by 77 property owners.

Our review concludes that neither the assessed valuation nor owner/property percentage provided for in the Law has been reached.

SBS supports the City Council determination to hold a further hearing on the establishment of the proposed Westchester Square BID. Thank you.

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

*Wastebins to
Square
BID*

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 11/29

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth De Leon

Address: Deputy Commissioner

I represent: SBS

Address: 110 William Street

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: 11/29/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EDDY ENG

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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: 11/29/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrew Schwartz

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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