

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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March 13, 2013
Start: 10:36 a.m.
Recess: 12:21 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

John Doe
Council Member Gale Brewer
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member James Oddo

Council Member Margaret Chin

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Preston Niblack
Director
Finance Division

Elizabeth De Leon
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Small Business Services

William Martin
Committee Clerk
Committee on Finance

Samelai Good
Position
Assembly Member Deborah Glick's Office

James Young
Owner and Resident
523 Broadway

Cheryl Klaus
Co-op Board President
476 Broadway

Brian Steinworth
Position
Organization

Georgette Fleischer
Founder
Friends of Petrosino Square

Fred Grand
Agent
575 Broadway

Ken Braman
Resident
Soho

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Micky McGee
Resident Tenant
Soho

Pete Davis
Resident Tenant
Soho

Tony Robbin.
Co-op member
Soho

Andrew Brown
Resident
565 Broadway

David Briggs
Resident
Soho

Henry Buehl
Founder
ACE

Val Dersetafield
Resident
541 Broadway

Susan Ford Gang
Resident
Green Street

Linda Shrank
Resident
458 Broadway

Jim Martin
Executive Director
ACE

Donna Vogel
Managing Agent
594 and 560 Broadway

Leigh Leschen
Representing his father
Warren Leschen

Renee Monroe
Resident
542 Broadway

Michael Salzhower
Family Business Representative

Jim Hatch
Retired teacher
City University of New York

Mary Roland
Resident

Jeanine Kylie
Resident

Pierre Consagrough
Resident

Laura Tennenbaum
Representative
423 Broom Street Corporation

Dr. Vicky Pappadias
Resident and Business Owner

Richard Bennenson
Resident
597 Broadway

Joseph Villaphane
Building Superintendant
594 Broadway

Martin Hasten
Resident
548 Broadway

Robert Slessinger
Works at
560 Broadway

Ava Masta
Works on Broadway

Eugene Torres
Works on Broadway

Norma Figueroa
Works at Newmark, Knight Frank
594 Broadway

Jessica Veldman Kann
Works on Soho and Broadway

Camille Billops
Resident
491 Broadway

Emily Helstrom
Resident
514 Broadway

Amy Kaplan
Resident

COUNCIL MEMBER KAREN KOSLOWITZ:

Finance meeting called to order. Good morning.

Welcome to today's Finance Committee Hearing. My

name is Karen Koslowitz. Today, my colleague and

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dominic

Recchia, Jr. is running a little late and he has

asked me to conduct this hearing until he returns.

Since Dominic is a close and personal friend it is

my pleasure to do so. I'd like to introduce my

colleagues that are here today; Council Member

Oliver Koppell, Council Member Julissa Ferreras,

Council Member Diana Reyna, and Council Member

Fernando Cabrera. Now, let's get started. We

have a long meeting. We have a few items on our

agenda today. We have a transparency resolution,

two budget modifications and three bid items.

Let's first start with the transparency

resolution. This resolution sets forth new

changes in the designation of certain

organizations receiving local aging and youth

discretionary funding as well as new changes in

the designation of certain organizations receiving

funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the

budget. Organizations appearing in the resolution

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2 that have not yet completed the prequalification
3 process conducted by the Mayor's office of
4 Contract Services, the Council or another entity
5 are identified in the attached charts with an
6 asterisks. As with all transparency resolutions
7 Council Members will have to sign a disclosure
8 form indicating whether or not a conflict exists
9 with any of the groups on the attached list. If
10 any Council Member has a potential conflict of
11 interest with any of the organizations listed he
12 or she might want to disclose the conflict at the
13 time of their vote. As a member, please remember
14 to disclose any conflicts you may have with
15 proposed subcontractors that are used by the
16 organizations they sponsor for discretionary
17 funding. This disclosure must be made before the
18 subcontractor can be approved. Members will be
19 contacted by the Council's Ethics and Employment
20 Council and Nadir Joshua to complete disclosure
21 forms as necessary. Next, we have two budget
22 modifications, the expense budget modification
23 implements actions outlined in the November and
24 January financial plans as modified by agreement
25 between the Mayor and the Council to restore

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2 certain PEG's proposed by the Mayor in the
3 November plan. In total, the expense budget
4 modifications transfer city funds between agencies
5 in units of appropriation and funds the general
6 reserve. Specifically, \$526 million will be
7 removed from agencies and units of appropriations
8 and \$190 of such amount will be transferred to
9 other agencies or other units of appropriations.
10 On the balance, \$336 million will be used to fund
11 the general reserve. The revenue modification
12 also reflects the November and January plans. On
13 the plus side, tax revenues are up about \$427
14 million but there is a major reduction in revenue.
15 Because of litigation it is now assumed that the
16 city will receive no money from the sale of taxi
17 medallions to 'til fiscal 2014. This is partially
18 offset by the revenue PEG's from the November
19 plan. Even so, miscellaneous revenues are down
20 \$509 million. Put together the increase in tax
21 revenue and the decrease in miscellaneous revenue
22 produce a reduction of total revenue and a reduce
23 in the cities total budget of \$82 million. In
24 addition, revenue modifications are also used to
25 prepare for the next fiscal year. This

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2 modification does so by appropriating \$961 million
3 to the budget stabilization account to prepay debt
4 service to decrease out year gaps. To do this and
5 to cover the \$82 million reduction in revenues,
6 the modification takes \$500 million from prior
7 year payables and \$543 million from the general
8 reserve. Part of these funds were just added to
9 the general reserve in the expense modifications
10 and the rest have been there since adoption. I
11 hope you all understand that. If not, Preston
12 will explain more thoroughly an OMB is available
13 to answer that you may have regarding both the
14 expense modification and revenue modification.
15 Our next items are big items. On February 27th,
16 2013 this Committee set today as the hearing date
17 to hear testimony for those who want to express
18 support or opposition of the establishment of the
19 Soho bid in Council Member Chin's district. An
20 amendment to the district plan to change the
21 method of assessment modify existing services and
22 fund a capital improvement program in the 3rd
23 Avenue bid in Council Member Arroyo's District and
24 an amendment to the district plan to change the
25 method of assessment of the Myrtle Avenue bid in

1 Council Members Reyna's and Crowley's districts.
2 For the Myrtle and Hub 3rd Avenue bid, pursuant to
3 the bid law, a bid may have amendments to its
4 district plan to provide for additional
5 improvements of our services, provide for a change
6 in the method of assessment upon which the
7 district charge is based or increase the amount to
8 be expended annually through improvement services
9 and maintenance. These changes would require the
10 adoption of a local law by the City Council. Such
11 a local law may be adopted by the City Council
12 after determination that it is in the public
13 interest to authorize such change. And that the
14 tax and debt limits prescribed in the bid law will
15 not be exceeded. We will hear from the Department
16 of Small Business Services shortly to hear whether
17 the bid law has been complied with. For the Soho
18 bid the Committee will hear all testimony today
19 from those who wish to testify. If you wish to
20 testify please fill out a witness slip and hand it
21 to the Sergeant at Arms. Please indicate the
22 following on the witness slip, whether you are on
23 owner of property or a tenant, whether you work or
24 reside within the bids boundaries and whether you
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2 are opposed or in favor of the creation of the
3 bid. Because today is a stated meeting day each
4 person will be allowed one minute to testify. You
5 are also welcome to provide your testimony to the
6 Sergeant at Arms who will make your testimony part
7 of the official record. After we hear from all
8 those who wish to testify this hearing will close
9 without a vote. We will consider the Soho bid
10 again no sooner than 30 days from today. This
11 time period will serve as an objection period.
12 During this time property owners can submit a
13 written objection form to the City Clerk to voice
14 their opposition. The objection forms are
15 available with the Sergeant at Arms and also
16 available on Dominic Recchia's website,
17 drecchia.com. The public will have until April
18 12th at 5:00 p.m. to file objections. Before we
19 hear from the public on the Soho bid we will hear
20 testimony from OMB on the budget modifications.
21 Then we will hear from the Department of Small
22 Business Services. After we hear from the two
23 agencies we will vote on all items except the Soho
24 bid. Now, we are going to hear from Preston
25 Niblack from our Finance Commission.

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2 MR. PRESTON NIBLACK: Thank you,
3 Council Member Koslowitz, Preston Niblack,
4 Director of Finance Division. I'm happy to answer
5 any questions that members have. I think you
6 described the basic elements of the two budget
7 modifications but I'm happy to answer any
8 questions that members have about specific issues
9 in the budget modification.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Hi I'm,
11 good morning. On the budget modifications, the
12 \$961 million that is appropriated to the budget
13 stabilization account to prepay debt service, was
14 that contemplated in the budget that we adopted
15 last June?

16 MR. NIBLACK: No.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: So, this
18 is additional money that's available to cover,
19 presumably, it'll cover expenses that would
20 normally be covered in the next year's budget, but
21 now they're being covered in this budget?

22 MR. NIBLACK: Correct.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Right?

24 MR. NIBLACK: We're using a
25 surplus, essentially, that we've generated this

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2 year to help balance next year's budget without
3 further cuts.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Did we, I
5 gather because I've been informed before that
6 there are no, that the November modifications did
7 not represent any cuts to Council appropriated
8 items or Council restored items, correct?

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MR. NIBLACK: The Mayor proposed
10 some cuts to some Council initiatives on local
11 items in two agencies, SBS and the Department of
12 Health and Mental Hygiene which were restored
13 subsequently by agreement between the Council and
14 the administration.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: So, the--

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MR. NIBLACK: [interposing] So
17 there are no cuts now.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Did we
19 look, what concerns me is whether we looked at the
20 effect of those November cuts before we took the
21 money and put it into next year?

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MR. NIBLACK: Absolutely.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And we
24 don't think that there's anything--

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MR. NIBLACK: [interposing] We

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: --

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injurious to the public welfare in that?

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MR. NIBLACK: For the, many of the

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cuts were based on reestimate suspendings. So,

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for example, in the Department of Education there

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were, I don't know the number off the top of my

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head but a couple, tens of millions of dollars of

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savings that were essentially over budgeted for

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special education needs. There were some savings

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also recognized from the rebid of special

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education pre-K busing contracts. There were a

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number of areas where there were money, funds that

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were recognized from Federal or State sources to

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replace city funding. There were debt service

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savings and our review, we identified probably

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about a dozen actions that we thought were

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objectionable and we negotiated with the

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administration and we restored in whole or in

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part, all of those proposed PEG's. But that's

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outlined in your report.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL:

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[crosstalk] No, I'm glad to hear that because it

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concerns me that on the one hand we are approving

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cuts that the Mayor made and then on the other

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2 hand we're talking money from this year and
3 putting it into next year, which I wouldn't want
4 to do if I felt that the cuts that we were
5 improving were, in fact, injurious to the public
6 welfare. But you tell me you've reviewed that and
7 you don't believe that to be the case?

8 MR. NIBLACK: Absolutely. And the
9 ones that we did feel that way about we negotiated
10 restoration with the Mayor which is outlined in
11 the report.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I'm
13 pleased to hear that that was done. Thank you,
14 thank you Madame Chair.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Anybody
16 have any questions for OMV? Okay. We've been
17 joined by Council Member Leroy Comrie, and I had
18 seen Vincent Ignizio sitting here a minute ago. I
19 have to go inside to take a vote so I'm going to
20 ask Al Vann to please sit in the chair.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ALBERT VANN: Okay,
22 we are ready to hear from our Small Business
23 Services on the two bids before us on the agenda.
24 Would you please come forward? [off mic] Would
25 you testify only on the Hub 3rd Avenue bid and the

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2 Myrtle Avenue bid at this time? You may begin
3 whenever you are ready.

4 MS. ELIZABETH DE LEON: Good
5 morning, Mr. Acting Chair and members of the
6 Finance Committee. I am Elizabeth De Leon
7 Barcala, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of
8 Small Business Services. I am joined by my
9 Assistant Commissioner, James Mettham, and Eddy
10 Eng from my staff. SBS supports the City Council
11 resolutions providing for the amendments of the
12 Hub 3rd Avenue and Myrtle Avenue District Plans.
13 Over time the two districts needs related to - -
14 services have changed. The Hub 3rd Avenue bid
15 wishes to modify its existing services and add a
16 capital program in the district. The changes in
17 services would result in the modification of the
18 public safety, sanitation, promotion and marketing
19 programs and a community service program. The
20 addition of a capital improvement program will
21 provide for street and sidewalk amenities within
22 the district. In order to finance the capital
23 improvements the Hub 3rd Avenue bid shall change
24 the method of assessment for vacant properties to
25 an amount equal to 68 percent of the commercial

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2 property front footage rate. The Myrtle Avenue
3 bid wishes to discontinue a maintenance program.
4 In place of that program add sanitation and
5 graffiti removal services, additional security and
6 promotional services and additional holiday and
7 seasonal decorations. The Hub 3rd Avenue and
8 Myrtle Avenue bids published the public hearing
9 notice at least once in the local newspaper as
10 required by the law. In addition, the bids mailed
11 a notice to the local property owners as requested
12 by the Finance Committee. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Now, are
14 there any questions to the? Thank you very, okay,
15 we're ready to call the vote. [pause] A brief
16 delay. What is that game where they play the
17 music and you walk around and they sit in the
18 chair and if they keep moving the chair? We've
19 been moving the chairs here this morning. [pause]

20 MS. DIANA REYNA: We just want to
21 relay our apologies. We have seven hearings
22 occurring this morning and we only have one person
23 to ink down the vote and therefore we have to just
24 wait a few minutes so that the Rules Committees
25 next door will call the vote next door and then

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2 run over here where members will follow who sit in
3 this Committee to be able to continue the Finance
4 Vote this morning. So, we truly thank you for
5 your patience I'm Diana Reyna, Council Member
6 Chairing for the moment. Thank you. [pause]

7 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
8 Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee
9 on Finance. Mr. Council Member Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [no
11 response]

12 MR. MARTIN: Reyna?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission
14 to explain my vote? Yes. Oh, I just wanted to
15 congratulate my Myrtle Avenue bid directed by Ted
16 Rentz [phonetic]. This is a very premiere moment
17 for the director because he's been working on this
18 assessment for quite some time. We're very proud
19 of the Myrtle Avenue bid. There's a lot of
20 vacancy and changes that we're trying to make sure
21 we're assisting him with. Making sure that there
22 is an arts and culture, that we build capacity for
23 and the issue of seeing what is the potential of
24 bids throughout the City of New York where Myrtle
25 Avenue bid is considered one of these neighborhood

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2 bids that is protected and owns up to it's
3 character of what a community is all about. It
4 had the prestigious moment of being visited by a
5 delegation from Italy who were very impressed and
6 we are as well. So, congratulations Myrtle
7 Avenue. I vote aye.

8 MR. MARTIN: Council Member
9 Recchia?

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye. And I
11 want to thank Karen Koslowitz for filling in for
12 me. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ:
14 Actually, we had a smorgasbord of Chairs today.
15 [laughter]

16 MR. MARTIN: Koppell?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes.

18 MR. MARTIN: Vann?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

20 MR. MARTIN: Ferreras?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on
22 all.

23 MR. MARTIN: Cabrera?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [no
25 response]

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MR. MARTIN: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Can I be excused to explain my vote? I vote aye but I want to especially say thank you to Ted Rains who has done a great job on Myrtle Avenue, has transformed the neighborhood. I vote aye.

MR. MARTIN: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [pause] -
- I vote no on the budget - - two and aye on all others. Please record me voting no on MM3 as well. Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: No on MM2 and MM3.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right.

Also want to thank Diana Reyna and All Vann for also filling in. All right, now we will now begin the public portion of the Soho bid hearing. As I previously mentioned, if you wish to testify please fill out a form and hand it to the Sergeant at Arms. Please indicate the following on the witness whether you're an owner of a property or a tenant, whether you work or reside within the bid boundaries and whether you are opposed or in favor

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2 of the bid. Every person who wish to testify will
3 be allowed to do so. Since today is - - each
4 person will be allowed one minute. If your verbal
5 testimony exceeds one minute you can submit your
6 written testimony to the Sergeant at Arms who will
7 make it part of the official record. However,
8 submitting your testimony to be included on the
9 official record is not a replacement for
10 submitting your objection forms to the City Clerk.
11 I repeat, submitting your testimony to be included
12 on the official record is not a replacement for
13 submitting your objection forms to the City Clerk.
14 If you wish to object to the establishment of the
15 Soho bid and you are a property owner you must
16 file your objections with the City Clerk. The
17 forms are available with the Sergeant at Arms or
18 on my website, drecchia.com, and on the SBS
19 website. We will now hear from the Department of
20 Small Business Services, Soho.

21 MS. DE LEON: Good morning, once
22 again, Mr. Chairman and member of the Finance
23 Committee. I am Elizabeth De Leon, again, and
24 Deputy Commissioner to the Department of Small
25 Business Services and I'm here joined by James

1 Mettham, my Assistant Commissioner, and Eddy Eng.

2 The Department of Small Business Services supports
3 the establishment of the Soho Business Improvement
4 District in the borough of Manhattan.

5 Geographically, the proposed bid generally
6 includes properties along both sides of Broadway
7 from Canal Street to Howson Street. Services to
8 be provided in the Soho bid include sanitation and
9 snow removal, pedestrian and public safety,
10 advocacy, administration and other services as my
11 be required for the promotion and enhancement of
12 the district. Proposed capital improvements may
13 include street and sidewalk amenities to enhance
14 and beautify the district and improve pedestrian
15 circulation and safety, as well as storefront and
16 façade improvement projects. The Soho District
17 Management Association will manage the district.

18 The budget for the first year of operation is

19 \$550,000. As required by law, the Soho Bid

20 Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City

21 Council resolution to each owner of real property

22 within the proposed district at the address shown

23 on the latest city assessment roll. To such other

24 persons as are registered with the city to receive
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2 tax bills concerning real property within the
3 district and to tenants of each building with in
4 the proposed district. In addition, the
5 Department of Small Businesses Services arranged
6 for the publication of a copy of the summary of
7 the resolution at least once in the city record.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
10 very much. Does any Council Member have any
11 questions? Without seeing any questions I want to
12 thank SBS for coming in today. And we'll start
13 calling the public.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: We'll start
15 with, we'll do panels of three but first before we
16 hear from the public are there any representative
17 from elected officials office, please come
18 forward? Any other representatives from elected
19 official offices? Please state your name for the
20 record.

21 Hi, thank you. Samelai Good, from
22 Assembly Member Deborah Glick's office. I will be
23 very brief and the written testimony is before
24 you. I first want to just thank Chair Recchia and
25 Council Member Chin, both you and your staff has

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2 been very nice to our office and very
3 communicative with the Assembly Member. So, thank
4 you. The Assembly Member has a few concerns with
5 the current proposal for the bid. I will just
6 quickly outline them. The first concern is that
7 she would like to see equal representation of
8 residents on the board itself. Historically bids
9 are not created in commercial zones and this one
10 is not, as we know. So, guaranteeing residents
11 representation on the board is asked for.

12 Secondly, we know that the streets are very
13 crowded on Broadway and we would request that the
14 bid not be allowed to use the sidewalks for any
15 commercial activity other than informational
16 kiosks or city contracted newsstands. Finally,
17 just want to highlight that as you can see there
18 has been a lot of public input along the way in
19 this process and while only one public meeting is
20 required by the bid law we would request that at
21 least one additional meeting be held throughout
22 the year in order to allow for the most amount of
23 public input. And thank you very much. We know
24 this has been a very long process and we hope that
25 you can address the concerns that are still

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2 outstanding from the community before you vote to
3 approve. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
5 very much. Does any Council Member have any
6 questions? Okay, thank you. Okay, please call
7 the first panel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Lynn
9 Elsworth [phonetic], Sergit Flieshca [phonetic]
10 and James Young. [off mic] Barbara Cohen, Brian
11 Sturtwenzel [phonetic] and Cheryl Klaus
12 [phonetic]? [off mic]

13

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You got to
14 put the, hold on, put the microphone on. You have
15 to turn your microphone on. Okay.

16

MR. JAMES YOUNG: James Young,
17 Chair, Members of the Committee--

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]
19 Hold on. Shh. If you need to talk please take
20 your conversation outside. Thank you. Go ahead,
21 sorry.

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MR. YOUNG: Oh, I'm on owner and
23 resident of 523 Broadway and I'd like to speak
24 against the bid. And in the event the bid is
25 passed I'd like to speak in favor of proportional

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representation between 50/50 residents and commercial interests. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

Okay. Next.

MS. CHERYL KLAUS: My name is

Cheryl Klaus.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You got to

put the microphone on.

MS. KLAUS: Oh, sorry. My name is

Cheryl Klaus [off mic].

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Is it on?

[off mic]

MS. KLAUS: Now, can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes.

MS. KLAUS: My name is Cheryl

Klaus. I'm a co-op board president at 476

Broadway, represent 22 shareholders in my

building. Initially, when I found out about the

bid which was, you know, more than a year ago I

was not in favor of the bid, as were many of our

neighbors. But once we started finding out more

about what the bid meant and working with other

people on the steering committee we found out that

we had, we shared like concerns and I've had

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2 nothing but positive experiences in working with
3 other residential and commercial owners alike on
4 the bid steering committee. I only think that
5 this has nothing but positive implications for our
6 neighborhood and I'm really looking forward to
7 working with others to address these issues that
8 are, you know, problematic on, and endemic on
9 Broadway and I just think that this is a, you
10 know, a perfect vehicle to have our voice heard
11 and for addressing these concerns. I just would
12 also like to say that on the steering committee we
13 have reached out to the opposition and, you know,
14 in good faith and had meetings with these people
15 and, in turn, have really felt like they, there
16 was, there are some people on that committee that
17 aren't really interested in working with us, that
18 it ended up feeling what, you know, more like kind
19 of a backstabbing kind of situation. So, I'd just
20 like to say that, you know, we're still hoping
21 that we can work together and that--

22 CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: [interposing]
23 Yeah, you want me to, you passed your one minute.

24 MS. KLAUS: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: Thank you very

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much. Next.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYES: Barbara
Cohen, Brian Steitworth, Steinworth [phonetic]?

My name is Barbara Cohen and I'm
the bid consultant and I've been working with the
committee since it's beginnings when Henry Buehl
[phonetic] founder of Ace and a Soho resident took
the first step in 2008 to investigate forming a
bid for Soho's Broadway, from Howson to Canal.
The development of this bid has followed the
traditional route that all 67 bids have taken.
It's initiative 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 reality of the street,
guidance from Council Member Chin, all informed
the bid program services and improvements. The
broad goals of this bid are no different then the
multiple bids located in community board two and
no different than the 67 and the rest of the city.
The merits of this current bid plan speaks for
itself, as does the documented support. Issues

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2 like sanitation, street vendor enforcement,
3 traffic control and other quality of life
4 concerns that preoccupy all constituent groups is
5 reflected in this plan. Soho's Broadway needs
6 dedicated specific service and improvements, can I
7 just finish the paragraph?

8 CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: No, that's it.
9 Sum up real quick.

10 MS. COHEN: As we look forward to
11 the next steps I want all of you to take a moment
12 and recognize what this bid committee has shown
13 you. This particular group of New Yorkers has
14 maintained optimism and perseverance that is
15 special and should not go to waste.

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, thank
17 you very much. Next person.

18 MS. COHEN: Give them the
19 opportunity to make you proud.

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, we
21 heard you.

22 MS. COHEN: Okay.

23 MR. BRIAN STEINWORTH: Hi, thanks
24 everyone for being here. It's been a long time
25 and I appreciate that we've reached this moment.

1
2 I'll be brief. This area is 80 percent commercial
3 and 20 percent residential, which is why the
4 commercial owners should pay for 100 percent of
5 the cost. But if this is going to work we need to
6 have an equal division between residential and
7 commercial on the board. But we also need
8 mechanisms that will enable, or sorry, disable
9 either side, commercial or residential from co
10 opting the entire process. And if we can create
11 this bid and have equal participation by residents
12 and commercial owners this area will be able to
13 solve the trash problem, the vending problem, the
14 traffic problems and all of the other issues that
15 we have here. And that's what we need to do. We
16 need to create this bid and have an appropriate
17 structure set up to govern it. And I'm looking
18 forward to that. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right.
20 Thank you very much. Hold on, Council Member Chin
21 would like to say something. Thank you very much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you for
23 coming in today. But I have conversation with you
24 and people on the steering committee and also on
25 the other side. And I just want to reiterate my

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2 support that I would like to see 50 percent, 50
3 percent in terms of equal representation on the
4 bid board. That's the governing body. And right
5 now the whole concept of 50/50 is to recognize the
6 significant contribution of the resident property
7 owner and their contribution to building up this
8 community. And I think that right now on the
9 steering committee you do have co-op board
10 leadership on the steering committee and I was
11 told that even right now the steering committee is
12 50/50. So, I am asking you for your commitment
13 because I am asking for the board to be the 50/50,
14 50 percent commercial, 50 percent residential.

15 MR. STEINWORTH: And if I may
16 answer? So, the steering committee agrees with
17 your position that we want the board to be 50/50.

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Do you have
19 anything else to say?

20 MR. STEINWORTH: I just asked if I-

21 -

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]
23 That's it. We're done.

24 MR. STEINWORTH: --respond.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: No, there's

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not a conversation.

MR. STEINWORTH: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: She made a statement and that's it. Thank you very much. Call the next panel.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Lynn Elsworth, Sergit Fleischer, and Evelyn Motawana [phonetic]. Evelyn Motawana? Sergit Fleischer, Lynn Elsworth? [off mic]

Should I begin?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: One second.

Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Ken Braman [phonetic] and Fred Grand.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right, you can begin.

Georgette Fleischer, I'm the Founder of Friends of Petrosino Square and I live very, two short blocks away from where this bid is proposed. I have some written testimony that I'd like to give in but I'd like to pick up on Council Member Chin's immediately precedent comment about the 50/50 representation, which is absolutely crucial. And I feel concerned about the accuracy

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2 of the representations being made here on the part
3 of the bid sponsors and promoters. Is it really
4 50/50, that's happening here. The question of
5 representation versus weighted voting. I think
6 Council Member Chin knows from going back, I think
7 it was in January 2011 that you had the town hall
8 about the Soho bid. I was one of about 200 people
9 who attended. There were maybe a handful of
10 people who were in favor of the bid and the rest
11 of us were vehemently against it. I really have a
12 fundamental objection to this privatization of
13 public services and fear that we are on a very
14 slippery slope to a point where our public
15 services are going to be gutted out in favor of
16 this kind of privatization. Thank you. [applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Next.

18 MR. FRED GRAND: My name is Fred
19 Grand and I'm the agent at 575 Broadway, the
20 property located on the northwest corner of
21 Broadway and Prince. And we support the formation
22 of a Soho bid. Given the increased pedestrian
23 traffic and the arrival of Soho as a major
24 commercial and retail district we were in favor of
25 the additional services and improvements that

1
2 would result from the bid. The bid services that
3 we would find attractive include increased
4 sanitation, public and pedestrian safety,
5 enforcement of street vending as well as long term
6 capital improvements. These services will
7 increase the quality of life for building owners
8 in the area as well as protect all those involved.
9 They will also benefit all the retailers on
10 Broadway who have a huge vested interest in making
11 sure their shoppers have a pleasant shopping
12 experience, not only in the stores but also
13 getting to them without having to navigate between
14 overflowing trash cans and the huge proliferation
15 of street vendors clogging the sidewalks. We are
16 committed to this program and understand the costs
17 involved. Our tenants understand these quality of
18 life issues and the fact...

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Next.

20 My name is Ken Braman. I've been a
21 resident of Soho on and off for over 20 years. I
22 work in the neighborhood for over 12 years. I
23 represent a building at 535 Broadway. We're in
24 favor of the bid. I'm also on the steering
25 committee member and we feel that the bid will

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2 help improve the services that everybody spoke
3 about such as street vendors problems, flow of
4 pedestrian traffic, et cetera. So, I'm in favor.
5 Thank you.

6

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
7 very much. City Councilmen have any questions?
8 All right.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Krista Graur
10 [phonetic], Micky McGee, and Allison Skye.

11

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We've been
12 joined by Council Member Gale Brewer and Council
13 Member Darlene Mealy. Could the Sergeant at Arms
14 make sure there's nobody else outside? Could the
15 Sergeant at Arms make sure that there's no one
16 else outside who wants to be in here? Go ahead.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Krista
18 Graur, Micky McGee, Allison Skye? Santa Scardilla
19 [phonetic]? Pete Davies. Pete Davies. Tony
20 Robbin? [off mic]

21

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, who'd
22 like to go first? You can begin. [off mic] Yeah.
23 The Sergeant of Arms please help. Is it on?

24

MS. Micky McGee: I the red button
25 means? Okay, it's on. Thank you. Yes, good

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2 morning. My name is Micky McGee. I've been a
3 resident of Soho for 23 years. I am not a
4 property owner. I am a rent stabilized tenant, a
5 constituency which is not represented in the bid
6 as currently proposed. Simple fairness requires
7 that persons who are not property owners be
8 considered as part of the neighborhood's
9 constitutive processes. The formation of a bid
10 which Georgette Fleischer has accurately pointed
11 out, privatizes our public services, is one that
12 is greatly concerning. I am especially concerned
13 to hear about the notion that there may be
14 representation based not only on property
15 ownership but also based on assessed values. I
16 ask you Council Members to think about how would
17 you feel if your voting was based on the current
18 assessed value of property you owned? That seems
19 a very unusual constitution of citizenship, which
20 takes us back to the Greeks. Which takes us back
21 to the notion that only men should be able to vote
22 and only property owners should be able to vote.
23 I think this is deeply problematic and I urge you
24 to vote against the bid. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Next.

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2 MR. PETE DAVIES: Good afternoon.
3 Good morning, Chairman Recchia, others. My name
4 is Pete Davis. I'm a 32 year resident of Broadway
5 and Soho. I a renter. As was just pointed out,
6 the renters are not given the same consideration
7 in a bid as owners. I am in opposition to the bid
8 plan that is on the table today because I believe
9 it has a number of inherent problems. I, along
10 with a number of my neighbors, gave testimony in
11 November and I ask that that full testimony be
12 entered into the record today so that the Council
13 Members can fully consider any number of problems
14 with this plan. What's needed is a fair plan that
15 fully reflects residential. I was glad to hear
16 Mr. Steinworth's mention that. That is important.
17 One thing I need to bring up, Chairman Recchia,
18 you mentioned the objection form and that it is
19 available on the SBS website. Unfortunately, that
20 no longer appears to be true. They've recently
21 redone their website and I could not find it
22 anywhere on their website. It is on yours but it
23 should be made available to the public with the
24 SBS as well.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We checked

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this morning and it's there.

MR. DAVIES: It is there?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We checked
this morning.

MR. DAVIES: On SBS?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I'll send
you the link. I checked this morning.

MR. DAVIES: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Anything
else?

MR. DAVIES: My time's up, I think.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yeah, but you
have testimony from someone else, you said?

MR. DAVIES: Oh, handed that in.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

MR. DAVIES: Can I read that? Or I
handed it in to the Sergeant at Arms.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: That's fine,
okay.

MR. DAVIS: So, it's there.

MR. TONY ROBBIN: I'm Tony Robbin.
I've lived in the neighborhood since 1969. I'm
part of a co-op. our co-op has one commercial

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2 tenant. I'm afraid we're going to be roped into
3 the participating and the expenses of this bid. I
4 am against it. It's not necessary. Business is
5 booming. Rents are sky high. There, businesses
6 are happy to pay those rents 'cause they're making
7 money. In terms of the public services. The City
8 is making a lot of money from real estate taxes
9 and sales taxes. It seems to me, only fair, if
10 they have to put on another tour to keep the
11 streets clean. Artists made that neighborhood,
12 when I came there, you couldn't see a car, you
13 couldn't see a person on the street on the
14 weekends. We recognize the value of the
15 architectural stock and support it and built up
16 this part of the city. And I think our views
17 should be taken into account. Thank you.
18 [applause]

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Council
20 Member Chin would like to say something.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I just want
22 to be clear that part of the plan that we got the
23 steering committee to change is residents are
24 charged, resident property owners are charged a
25 dollar. The co-op building only pays a dollar a

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year. Same as the condo units. So, that was something that we had worked out. I just wanted to make sure that you know that.

MR. ROBBIN: I know that's the policy today but what about tomorrow?

CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: Okay. I, call the next panel.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Andrew Brown, Henry Bull, and David Braggs. Oh, David Brakes.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, can we keep that door closed in the back, please? All right, you can begin.

MR. ANDREW BROWN: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Close the door, please.

MR. BROWN: Good morning. My name is Andrew Brown and I live at 565 Broadway, which is the corner of Prince. My family and I have made our home in Soho for the last 25 years, first on Crosby Street and then at this address since 1995. I became a member of the bid steering committee in the last 12 to 18 months. To state the obvious, the neighborhood is changed

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2 significantly and no area in Soho has changed more
3 than the Broadway corridor. While we all have
4 different feelings about these changes and wish
5 that the Soho of the '80's and '90's would return,
6 it won't and it's time to recognize we need to
7 take action to address the problems that affect
8 the Broadway Corridor. The landmark architectural
9 beauty of Soho and the upscale commercialization
10 of the stores on Broadway compared to what was
11 there 20 years ago, have led to an influx of
12 visitors and shoppers and this has put a strain on
13 the delivery of municipal services along Broadway.
14 On any given Saturday afternoon the sidewalks are
15 overcrowded, exacerbated by the unregulated street
16 vendors. The streets are congested, the garbage
17 cans are overflowing and trash is everywhere. On
18 Sunday and Monday mornings we Broadway residents
19 are literally stepping in around and through
20 discarded shopping bags. I'm in favor of the
21 creation

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]
23 You're in favor of the bid?

24 MR. BROWN: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

1
2 MR. BROWN: And the, I emailed my
3 testimony in.

4 MR. DAVID BRIGGS: Good morning.
5 My name is David Briggs. I'm an architect that
6 rents a studio at 594 Broadway. And as with
7 everybody in this room I'm interested in creating
8 a better city. We should be respectful of the
9 residents who've committed themselves in
10 maintaining Soho's heritage. We should also be
11 respectful of the scores of small businesses that
12 have planted roots in Soho. Many people focus on
13 the change of the street level over the past 20
14 years but the Soho above the street still contains
15 people like myself who could pay less rent
16 elsewhere but are attracted to the texture and
17 energy of the historic district. There are over
18 800 firms and 12,000 employees in the bid
19 district. Many are in the design trades or get
20 their inspiration from being part of a living
21 history that dates back to the 19th century.
22 Thinking about having a bid origination to support
23 us gives me the optimism that allows me to keep
24 Soho in my future. The proposed bid is a highly
25 trafficked narrow corridor between Greenwich

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2 Village and downtown Manhattan. In and around
3 this area we have tourists, street vendors, the
4 Hollister lifeguards, construction projects,
5 residents, workers, United Housing Works, The Jean
6 DeBelt [phonetic] a Bloomingdales, a Tiffany's and
7 until recently a very strange Benetton pop up
8 store. What we don't have is a plan. Our
9 generation must create the framework in organizing
10 bodies to help our sake and neighbors respond in -
11 - to the dramatic increase in our urban
12 population. I encourage the City Council to
13 support the bid.

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. HENRY BUEHL: I'm Henry Buehl
17 and I'm the Founder of ACE and I submitted my
18 proposal and I'm for the bid. Our objective is to
19 help homeless men and women reclaim their lives.
20 And the reason we stopped sweeping on Broadway
21 some time ago was just to, because we couldn't
22 afford it anymore and we couldn't take cares of as
23 many homeless people as we wanted. And we were
24 getting only about \$35,000, \$40,000 from Broadway
25 and it cost us about \$120,000 to sweep it. And

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that's why we discontinued. And I'm certainly for the bid. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very much. Call the next panel.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Val Dersetafield [phonetic], Susan Forte [phonetic], and Linda Shirank [phonetic]. While you get settled we'll take a one minute break from the public testimony and we'll allow Council Members Brewer and Council Member Mealy to vote on the agenda items for today.

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye, thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

MR. MARTIN: By vote, 12 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, no abstentions. Items are adopted with the exceptions of the two preconsidered M's, budget modifications which are adopted by a vote of nine in the affirmative, two in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

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2 You can proceed. Who would like to testify first?

3 Someone. Go ahead. Anyone.

4

5 MS. VAL DERSETAFIELD: My name is
6 Val Dersetafield. I live at 541 Broadway between
7 Prince and Spring. It is a building lived in by
8 artists who have been there for 35, 40 years. It
9 was in very poor shape when we took it but because
10 of it's cast iron façade the buildings don't have
11 any supports so that there were large space which
12 we would use and continue to use for rehearsals,
13 performances, showings and thus, fostering the art
14 community that Soho was named for. We residents
15 have strictly observed landmarked preservation
16 rulings and safety regulations to ensure the
17 building operates as a safe entity up to code and
18 have been instrumental in the development of this
19 Soho community. I am opposed, as is my building,
20 to the bid who have not furnished us with
21 appropriate information, although they say they
22 have, and their statistics have been based on
23 that. But we have proven that they have not. And
24 I ask you to please honor our contribution.

24

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

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MS. SUSAN FORD GANG: I'm Susan

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2 Ford Gang. I'm a resident of Green Street since
3 1972, that's over 40 years. And I'm opposed to
4 the bid. I think it is a flawed application. I'm
5 concerned about the collusion of ACE. I'm
6 concerned about the cooperate takeover of our
7 neighborhood. And I mostly oppose any kind of
8 weighted voting that favors decisions by
9 corporations over residents. All residents,
10 including tenants, should be considered in this
11 bid. And I am very concerned about the use of the
12 public space and the sidewalk on Broadway. I am
13 on Broadway every day and while there are flaws it
14 still has a very special character, even though it
15 can be improved. And to see, I wish to remind the
16 board that our community board, our other elected
17 officials, Deborah Glick, Daniel Squadron,
18 numerous other Soho residents who are going to
19 fear Henry Buehl and ACE. It's the tail wagging
20 the dog. Because they are still voluntarily
21 contributing. They are going to watch what is
22 happening here and I am afraid for that. I urge
23 you to deny this application because it is flawed
24 and tainted.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

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Next, please.

MS. LINDA SHRANK: My name is Linda Shrank [phonetic]. I'm at 458 Broadway. I've been there for 25 years and I'm a working artist. And I and my building, cooperative building, are opposed to the bid.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Jim Martin, Don Ivovo [phonetic] and Leigh Leschen [phonetic].

MR. JIM MARTIN: Good morning. My name is Jim Martin. I'm the Executive Director of ACE. I have my supportive bid on record. I'm here to testify that ACE employees at any given time, 50 to 70 men and women working to improve the lives of recovering homeless men and women in New York City and as an organization we utilize the Broadway corridor every day for lunch, for business, and to get back and forth to work. We are unanimously in support of the bid. We appreciate the Council's time today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very much.

MS. DONNA VOGEL: My name is Donna Vogel and I'm here in support of a Soho bid. I've worked in Soho for approximately 20 years as the

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2 management agent for 594 and 560 Broadway and
3 today I offer one specific observation about
4 Broadway and why a Soho bid along Broadway just
5 makes sense. Broadway is arguably one of the most
6 commercial streets in Manhattan. And I looked at
7 boundary maps of existing bids in Manhattan and
8 found that save for a few quiet blocks between
9 bids and one several block area of government
10 owned property, all of Broadway from the southern
11 tip of Manhattan to 70th Street is within one bid
12 or another, except for the section that is Soho.
13 All of the most commercial districts except for
14 Soho are served by a bid. Their sidewalks are
15 cleaned, some plant flowers, some have staffs that
16 remove graffiti but they all funds services to
17 improve their section of Broadway. Soho's needs
18 may be unique in that it does not need to attract
19 more people or business but it does need to clean
20 up after all the people that do come. It's one of
21 the biggest parts of Broadway and that is why I am
22 implore you, please do not let Soho become the
23 dirty section of Broadway. Vote to approve a Soho
24 bid.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Guys, if you

1
2 don't mind I'm going to read for my father
3 [crosstalk] if that's okay. You have my testimony
4 from last

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

6 MR. LEIGH LESCHEN: So, I'm a 66
7 year old man now, not, okay. It's going to make
8 sense. To whom it may concern. I've been
9 operating my textile business on Broadway and Soho
10 since

11 COUNCIL WOMAN REYNA: Please say
12 your name for the record.

13 MR. LESCHEN: Sorry, Leigh Leschen
14 [phonetic], or my father is Warren Leschen. I've
15 been operating my textile business on Broadway and
16 Soho since 1972, that's 40 years at the same
17 address. Before that, in the early 1960's my
18 family was across the street on the same square
19 block. I have lived through and experienced the
20 metamorphosis of this neighborhood from the gritty
21 warehouses to the beautiful commercial and
22 residential lofts that exist today. My family has
23 owned 451 Broadway since 1982 and my sons Leigh
24 and Craig Leschen will continue owning this
25 property for many years to come. Our city gets

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2 better ever year but we do not have direct input
3 over how our tax dollars are spent. With a bid,
4 we will know exactly where our money is being
5 spent and how to use it to benefit our area,
6 sanitation, safety, et cetera. We need a bid to
7 maintain what exists today and to secure our
8 future in this wonderful neighborhood. Thank you,
9 Warren Leschen.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Jane Fisher,
12 Renee Monroe, and Michal Salhower [phonetic].
13 Jane Satch, [off mic]

14 MS. RENEE MONROSE: Jane Fisher had
15 to leave

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You can
17 start. You can be first.

18 MS. MONROSE: Chairman Recchia and
19 others. My name is Renee Monroe. I am an artist
20 and I've lived at 542 Broadway since 1987. I
21 would like this letter to be, I've submitted a
22 letter and would like to be included in the
23 testimony today. I'm here to reiterate my
24 opposition to the Broadway, Soho business
25 improvement district as an inappropriate

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2 application of the bid law, which was designed for
3 community use with, that were in, that were
4 depressed. This clearly does not apply to the
5 commercial activity in Soho or the property
6 values. However, as this bid seems to be going
7 forward I would as that the City Council assure
8 that the bids powers and activities are limited to
9 what it is supposed to be doing. Sanitation and
10 snow removal, managing street vendors, reducing
11 street and sidewalk congestion, protecting public
12 space for public, not private, use. I support the
13 50/50 representation on the bid board and I ask
14 that the City Council limit the user rights clause
15 in the district plan prohibiting the commercial
16 use of public space on Broadway before it goes
17 into implementation.

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, thank
19 you very much.

20 MS. MONROSE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Next.

22 MR. MICHAEL SALZHOWER: Me? Okay.
23 Good morning. My name is Michael Salzhower and I
24 represent a family business that's been in Soho
25 since the early 1900's. We own several properties

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2 in Soho. I am sympathetic to the idea of bids.
3 I'm actually vice chairman of the Chinatown bid.
4 However, I am opposed at this time to this bid fro
5 the following reasons. In Chinatown the
6 neighborhood was struggling economically. One can
7 hardly say that of Soho. In Chinatown there area
8 lot of small businesses and storefronts that need
9 help with organization and marketing. One can
10 hardly say that of American Eagle, Prada, Zara, to
11 name a few tenants. In Chinatown the bid sought
12 to serve an area that encompassed the whole
13 district to serve it coherently. Here Soho is
14 being defined by its most restrictive definition,
15 Broadway. In Chinatown a lot of buildings are too
16 small to support labor to do cleaning. On
17 Broadway and Soho this isn't the case. In Soho,
18 residents have many cases more resources than in
19 Chinatown. Not charging residents for bid
20 services seems unfair to me. When the Soho
21 partnership solicited voluntary donations for
22 street cleaning we donated on behalf of our
23 properties and I think that Henry Buehl has been a
24 gentleman and a neighborhood champion for many
25 years.

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CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: Okay. Thank you
3 very much. Next.

4

MR. SALZHOWER: Thank you.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Ann Palmer,

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[off mic].

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CHAIRMAN RECCHIA: Okay, let this

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gentleman

9

MR. JIM HATCH: My name is Jim

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Hatch. I'm a retired teacher from City University

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of New York. I have lived in Soho with my wife,

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Camille, since we bought the loft there in 1973.

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We saw the whole artist's community. We saw it

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become a vital and now we're seeing it destroyed,

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what's left of it. I have two major points I

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think make constitutional. One is, no taxation

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without representation. That was settled at the

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Boston Tea Party. And the second point is, every

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vote is equal. The commercial people do not get

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two votes and we get one. That is not democratic

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in any way you want to make it. So, if those two

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points are done I have no problem with the bid.

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Taxation without representation and equality in

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voting on and off the board. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

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2 Call the next panel, please. Hold on, hold on,
3 Council Member Gale Brewer has a question.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm sorry.
5 I just, first of all, thank you 'cause your
6 testimony is extremely thoughtful, all three of
7 you, and I appreciate that. I represent the Upper
8 West Side and we have three bids and we work, well
9 together. But I wanted to ask you, because it
10 seems to me that the major issue is, as you
11 suggest, is the cleaning. You don't need more
12 people to come, we could always use more customers
13 but that's not the main issue right now. So, my
14 questions is, I know I've listened to the previous
15 hearing on this topic and I've been, I think I
16 listened to the whole thing and my question is, do
17 you think that without the bid you could do the
18 cleaning despite the efforts in the past on,
19 number one. And number two, on the uptown bids we
20 pushed hard to get residents, tenants in
21 particular, to participate but I must admit, it's
22 always difficult. And I would hope that if it was
23 a 50/50, that you would find members of the
24 community who would want to serve. So, I have two
25 questions, one about is it possible to do the

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2 cleaning without the bid? And second, if there
3 was a bid with the 50/50, as you described, would
4 there be people who would be willing to serve and
5 really participate? That's, those are my two
6 questions.

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MR. SALHOWZER: From my
8 perspective, I think, as I, as you know from my
9 involvement with Chinatown. I'm in favor of bids.
10 I'm in favor of this bid but I think it's ill
11 conceived. This bid has a non descript \$500,000
12 for capital improvements. I don't understand what
13 it is. I think that it is, as somebody who
14 operates property, it is very helpful to have one
15 organization that's responsible for cleaning the
16 whole block if it can do so in a cost effective
17 way. And then the one place where I separate from
18 you is to the extent that property owners,
19 commercial owners, are paying for all of the, for
20 all of these services. We can differ. I think
21 that my paying for the services as opposed to the
22 residents really means that the 50/50 gives, puts
23 me in the position of taxation without
24 representation.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. I just

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want to set the record straight that the entire budget for this bid is \$550,000. [off mic] And, right, and it's cash, capital improvements as needed. So, I don't know--

MR. SALHOWZER: [interposing] It's an amount that was in the notice. It may have--

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: --no, no.
[off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Use the mic if you don't mind. If you're going to talk use the mic.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Oh, use the microphone, sorry.

FEMALE VOICE 1: Oh, use the microphone, sorry.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: No, once the bid is formed the bid the size, they vote and they decide what the community needs. If they want to make improvements, okay? They can make capital improvements. It's up to the bid to decide what the community needs. all right? They're not starting out with \$500,000 in debt. There's no

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debt.

MR. SALHOWZER: No, I didn't say--

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]

But there's no \$500,000 in capital improvements.

MR. SALHOWZER: If you look at the notice there's mention of that capital improvements.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: No. Yes, you could make capital improvements.

MR. SALHOWZER: There's an amount, up to a certain amount in the notice.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, if I can?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right. Next, you want to say something?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRWER: I was just going to say that the \$550,000 budget is there and it's very vague what it would be applied to. The cost of actually clearing the streets is \$120,000, as we've just heard.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Hold on. What did you say? Excuse me, she was talking to me. What did you say?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I was just
3 saying that the cost of actually cleaning the,
4 cleaning Broadway is far less than \$550,000.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Right, but
6 \$550,000 is to run the whole bid. It's just not
7 only learning, it's other services too.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well, those
9 services are very vague.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Thank
11 you very much. We'll let Jimmy Van Bramer vote,
12 roll call.

13 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Van
14 Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Anne Palmer,
17 Jeanine Kelly, and Mary Roland.

18 MS. MARY ROLAND: Anna Palmer had
19 to leave. I have her testimony I can read it or
20 submit it.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: If it's
22 under a minute, sure.

23 MS. MARY ROLAND: I'll read it for
24 her. We're ready? Sir, my name is Mary Roland
25 and I have lived at 476 Broadway between Broom and

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2 Grand for 32 years. I am 100 percent in support
3 of approving a Broadway bid for Soho. I am
4 confident that this bid will provide an
5 accountable leaderships to an elected board of
6 directors that will work on behalf of all Broadway
7 residents and business and property owners. There
8 task will be in finding solutions to traffic
9 congestion, pedestrian safety and managed
10 sanitation, illegal food and dry good vendors and
11 even truck vendors. Once the Broadway begins to
12 function they will be working in conjunction with
13 the community board and city agencies, Broadway
14 residents and business owners and I would
15 certainly hope that even the Soho Alliance and the
16 Broadway residents Coalition would join in with
17 their support and participation. If everyone can
18 work together we can collectively resolve the
19 negative quality of life on Broadway for those who
20 live and work here. I know this won't happen
21 overnight but a bid on Broadway is a beginning. I
22 support the bid.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
24 very much. Next.

25 MS. JEANINE KYLIE: My name is

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2 Jeanine Kylie. I am a Soho resident since 2003
3 and I'm here to support the Soho bid, provided
4 residents are fairly represented in bid
5 governance. I'm also here to remind the City
6 Council that Soho is first and foremost a
7 residential neighborhood. It's also a
8 tremendously popular retail shopping corridor.
9 Unfortunately, the commercial success has resulted
10 in street vendor problems, trash problems and
11 dangerous intersections. There is not a marketing
12 problem. We don't need kiosks. The tourists and
13 shoppers know how to find Soho. I am hopeful that
14 the bid can solve the trash, street vendor and
15 sidewalk congestion problems but I want to ensure
16 that Soho residents are fairly represented. I
17 favor governance based on tax lots or another
18 formula that results in a 50/50 governance split
19 between commercial and residential owners. I do
20 not want the bid governance based on assessed
21 value. I also want to ensure that the bid focuses
22 on the problems faced by our community, sidewalk
23 sweeping, sidewalk congestion and vendor control.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

1

2 Next.

3 MS. ROLAND: Hi, I'm just reading
4 this for Anna Palmer. She was here earlier. My
5 name is Anna Palmer. I live with my husband and
6 four year old twins at 284 Lafayette Street
7 between Prince and Howston Streets in Soho. Every
8 day I struggle to navigate my children amid street
9 vendors and trash bags just to run errands in my
10 neighborhood. I've written letters and made phone
11 calls to a number of city offices and the NYPD
12 over the 10 years I've lived in Soho. I've
13 begged, pleaded and urged them to help keep our
14 neighborhood livable but to no avail. The problem
15 is only getting worse. I believe a Broadway bid
16 to be pragmatic solution to help combat a
17 complicated and geographically specific problem
18 which the City has failed to solve. I urge the
19 City Council to approve the bid and I support a
20 bid board, 50/50 voting split between commercial
21 and residential members.

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.
23 Thank you very much. If you want to submit your
24 written testimony give it to the Sergeant at Arms.
25 Thank you very much. Call the next panel, please.

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2 If anybody else wants to testify you have to fill
3 out a form and hand it in. All right? If you
4 want to testify. Call the next panel.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Santa

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Scardillo, Khan Segraw [phonetic] Laura

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Tennanbaum, Vicky Papadous [phonetic]. [off mic]

8

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

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MR. PIERRE CONSAGROUGH: [phonetic]

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Hi, my name is Pierre Consagrough. I'm an artist.

11

I've been living in Soho since 1979, when you had

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to submit slides to Henry Genzeller [phonetic] to

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be able to buy your space. So, anyway, be that as

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it may, Soho is, was essentially a residential

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area for artists and I'd love that spirit to be

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maintained in a venue that respects the national

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registered historic landmark district. So, I am

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for fair representation for residents on the Soho

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bid board, for fair voting procedures, not

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weighted voting, for protection of public space,

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street and sidewalks and no commercial uses. So,

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I am against the bid. Thank you.

23

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

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MS. LAURA TENNENBAUM: My name is

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Laura Tennanbaum. I am representing 423 Broom

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2 Street Corporation, which is a multi million
3 dollar business a block off of Broadway, and an
4 artists building. Bids are an extremely powerful
5 force in the city. In fact, many of you sit on
6 bid boards. Even active community groups don't
7 have those advantages. I hope you agree that
8 businesses and non residents should not have a
9 weighted voice in shaping the future of Soho.
10 That residents have a strong and meaningful voice
11 at the table. Currently, the proposed bid
12 structure marginalizes residents, particularly the
13 long term resident owners whose ownership is
14 structured through cooperatives rather than
15 condos. Those people are the most marginalized in
16 this plan. At the very least, we need a plan that
17 better represents residential stakeholders on
18 Broadway. Should you approve this bid please
19 include the three things the residents ask for,
20 oh, I'll just, I won't--

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]
22 You can mention the three things. Go ahead.

23 MS. TENNANBAUM: Fair
24 representation for residents on the bid board,
25 that voting be by tax lot and not weighted

1
2 unfairly by assessed value and that our streets
3 and sidewalks be protected from commercial uses.
4 With that, we can cross our fingers and hope that
5 imposing a bid structure on one of the most
6 successful neighborhood stories in the city does
7 not mess it up.

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

9 DR. VICKY PAPPADIAS: Hi, my name
10 is Dr. Vicky Pappadias [phonetic]. I am both a
11 resident of Soho for, since the '80's and I'm a
12 local pediatrician. I've served, took care of
13 hundreds of children in the neighborhood,
14 including a very large number that live on
15 Broadway. So, I'm kind of like the local peds. I
16 have two major concerns. I'm not sure why we need
17 a bid. This neighborhood, through the years, has
18 done a very good job of taking care of itself and
19 I know everybody talks about the trash but I
20 haven't an expert in trash and that is my dog,
21 that I walk several times a day and since ACE has
22 stopped, I hate to say it, that the streets are
23 clean. Broadway is now often a preferred route
24 because there is less food on the street for him
25 to find. I, granted, weekends are tough. I think

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2 weekends are different but during the week there
3 is not trash piling up on Broadway. The supers
4 and the people are doing an excellent job of
5 taking care of the street. My other concern is,
6 so I don't know why we need it. The other is
7 representation. A number of my patients have been
8 here and their renters and not being supported.
9 They don't pay, their not owners and they've lost
10 their representation. Some of them don't even
11 know about this. They're not, and they're going
12 to get taxed.

13 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right,
14 thank you very much. If you have testimony and
15 like to submit it, give it to the Sergeant at
16 Arms, please. Call the next panel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Richard
18 Biddelson [phonetic], Joseph Villaphane
19 [phonetic], Warren Leschen, oh, Katz Rice.

20 MR. RICHARD BENNENSON: My name is
21 Richard Bennenson [phonetic]. I'm an artist. I
22 own property at 597 Broadway, which I've owned for
23 20 years. I am in favor of the BID. Let's look
24 at the statistics. We have five blocks and we
25 have 280 tax lots. Of those 280, 120 are

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2 commercial tax lots. They comprise 79 percent of
3 the total square footage and 81 percent of the
4 total assessed value of that area. They generate,
5 these 120 tax lots, 12,000 jobs, 12,000 workers
6 come every day to that area and they produce for
7 the city millions of dollars in taxes, real estate
8 taxes, sales taxes and payroll taxes. I
9 vehemently disagree with Council Person Chin's
10 suggestion of 50/50, which is an innovation, if
11 you want to call it that, that has never been used
12 in any of the 62 existing BID's.

13 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you,
14 next.

15 MR. JOSEPH VILLAPHANE: My name is
16 Joseph Villaphane [phonetic]. I am a building
17 superintendent at 594 Broadway. I am in favor of
18 the Soho bid. We do have excessive trash problems
19 and the overcrowding on the sidewalks due to
20 vendors and with the Soho bid in place it would be
21 a more consistent way of taking care of, of aiding
22 and taking care of these problems. So, I am in
23 favor of this Soho bid.

24 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.
25 Thanks.

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2 MR. MARTIN HASTEN: My name is
3 Martin Hasten [phonetic]. I live at 548 Broadway.
4 I've lived there for 35 years. My understanding
5 is, I love a democracy. My understanding is that
6 I do not have a vote. I am a resident tenant. I
7 am not an owner. I have seen the neighborhood
8 change dramatically from residential to
9 commercial. But there is a residential community
10 there and I think that that residential community
11 should be seen and respected. It's good for the
12 area. It's good for the city and it's right for
13 the people. I am opposed to this bid because I
14 think that it disrespects the residents in the
15 area.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, call
18 the next panel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Katie Grace,
20 Robert Shelsriga [phonetic], Ava Master.

21 MS. ROLAND: Okay, my name is Mary
22 Roland and I am reading on behalf of Katie Rice
23 who could not be here today. At long last the day
24 is finally here. I have lived on Broadway for
25 many years. Our building management and our

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2 residents, both owners and tenants have struggled
3 with the deteriorating conditions in our front
4 yard for too long. While we can't change the fact
5 that tourists and locals alike want to visit our
6 neighborhood and shop on Broadway we can do
7 something about the trash they leave, piled high
8 and overflowing trash cans greeting us each
9 morning and blowing across our front yards. We
10 can do something about the dangerous and numbing
11 level of congestion on Broom and Broadway where
12 honking cars block the blocks for hours on end
13 every summer weekend. We can do something about
14 the overwhelming number of illegally parked
15 vendors, many of whom are with us 24/7 pouring
16 used cooking oil and filthy water into the subway
17 grates and running noisy, air polluting
18 generators. We can do something about Lake Broom,
19 the large body of water that forms at the
20 northeast corner of Broom and Broadway. I could
21 be on but time is short. We have a plan. Let's
22 get started neighbors. We need a Broadway bid
23 now. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
25 very much. Next.

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2 My name is Robert Slessinger
3 [phonetic]. I work at 560 Broadway, which is a
4 commercial building. I've been working there for
5 25 years. I am in support of the Soho bid. The
6 sidewalk vendors are a big problem. When people
7 buy their food they throw the garbage on the
8 sidewalk. These vendors are parked in front of
9 the building 24/7. The building where I work is
10 located on Broadway and Prince Street, which is a
11 very busy area. The city trash cans are
12 overflowing with the amount of garbage that people
13 throw out. Now I have to resort to putting
14 plastic garbage bags in the city trash cans and
15 rebagging them throughout the day. This is not my
16 responsibility. I would like the bid to address
17 these issues of sidewalk cleaning and vendor
18 enforcement. Thank you.

19 MS. AVA MASTA: My name is Ava
20 Masta [phonetic]. I work on Broadway and I
21 support the bid. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.
23 Okay. If you'd like to give your testimony give
24 it to the Sergeant at Arms and submit it to us.
25 Call the next panel, please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYES: Eugene

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Torres, Norma Figueroa [phonetic], and Jessica

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Feldman Kann [phonetic].

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

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MR. EUGENE TORRES: My name is

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Eugene Torres and I'm in favor of the bid. I work

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right on Broadway. I think people are afraid of

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change and they want to be heard. I think change

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on Broadway is inevitable and necessary,

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especially sanitation wise. And instead of

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fighting change residents can use the bid as an

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opportunity to be heard and help cause the changes

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they'd like to see happen. Thank you.

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MS. NORMA FIGUEROA: Hello, my name

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is Norma Figueroa and I work for Newmart, Knight,

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Frank, Newmark, Rum, Knight Frank at 594 Broadway.

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And I am in support of the Soho bid. I show space

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in the neighborhood, particularly 560 and 594

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Broadway. And I feel that it's important to keep

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our streets and sidewalks as clean and up kept as

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possible and I believe that the Soho bid can

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assist in achieving this. Thank you.

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MS. JESSICA: FELDMAN KANN: Hi, may

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name is Jessica Veldman Kann [phonetic] and I work

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in Soho on Broadway and I support the bid.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

MS. FELDMAN KANN: Thank you. [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Camille Billops [phonetic], Evelyn Matawana [phonetic], Katie Rice. [off mic]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. This is the last panel. Is there anyone else how didn't testify who would like to testify? The, did you fill out a form? Okay. [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Emily Begin, okay.

MS. CAMILLE BILLOPS: My name is Camille Billops. I am a resident of 491 Broadway and I have been a resident since 2000, what is that date? No, for, we moved in there in 1973. At that time Soho was an artists resident and we built that area. We built it. No one else did. As we say, we built it through our boney and long dreams. And now we find we have the bid, who are going to come and try to teach us how to sweep, how to manage the streets. We already know how to do that. I support the plan for fair

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2 representation for residential owners and tenants
3 and no weighted voting unfairly favored commercial
4 owners. I also would like to know when does it
5 stop for the vendors from selling the food? That
6 is our main problem. The garbage that comes from
7 those things, those stands that are out there.
8 And I wonder who has the commercial right to do
9 that? Who is offering the license to load our
10 streets with garbage. Without them, we would be
11 very, very clean. And we know how to sweep.

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you,
13 next.

14 MS. BILLOPS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Next.

16 MS. EMILY HELSTROM: My name is
17 Emily Helstrom. I live at 514 Broadway. I'm the
18 mother of three small children and I've lived in
19 the neighborhood since 1996. I am the President
20 of the largest co-op on the bid board and I feel
21 that we must work out an equitable voting plan
22 whereby a studio apartment does not have the same
23 voting rights as our entire building. Therefore,
24 I am against weighting by tax lot alone. 50/50
25 representation must be achieved. I am confident,

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2 however, that given the enthusiastic, democratic
3 and open minded process that has been in place
4 within this committee thus far that we will no
5 doubt come up with a solution that is not only
6 fair but that one that enables this bid to have
7 the power to tackle the complex and intractable
8 problems that face our neighborhood. The joining
9 of forces by commercial property owners, co-op and
10 condo owners, commercial tenants and renters will
11 produce a powerful entity with the longevity and
12 endurance to truly affect change. This is why I
13 joined the committee and this is why this is so
14 important that we are given the ability to dig in
15 as soon as possible and do the hard work of
16 creating the bid bylaws and governing rules. I
17 urge you to say yes to this bid and let us get
18 down to the business of making this Broadway
19 corridor a better place to live, to work, to
20 visit, to raise a family, in short, a better place
21 to be. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you.

23 Go ahead.

24 MS. AMY KAPLAN: Hi, my name is Amy
25 Kaplan and I've been a longtime resident of the

1
2 area and I oppose the bid. And I do agree with
3 this woman next to me right here, if there is
4 going to - - I would like it that there is
5 representation that's equal for both the tenants
6 and for the commercial people. I also want to
7 know that we're being represented so there are not
8 - - going down the street all along that we have
9 nothing to do with that none of the money goes
10 into the neighborhood. This dollar thing, I do
11 thank you for the dollar idea but I'd like to know
12 how long that's going to last 'cause there was a
13 gentleman who'd said, it's only for now. So, is
14 it forever? [off mic] So, if we do support, if it
15 is supported, 'cause it does sound like that's the
16 way it's going, I would appreciate if we, the
17 tenants, and we the people who have brought the
18 whole area together, have an equal representative
19 vote. Thank you. [off mic]

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Is there
21 anyone else that wants to testify, say a few
22 words? Without seeing that I recognize Council
23 Member Margaret Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,
25 Chair Recchia, I really want to thank you and the

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2 - - here for all your support and work on this.
3 And I want to thank everyone for taking the time
4 to come today. And I just want to reiterate that
5 I think it's really important that people are here
6 and I hope that both sides, whether in the
7 interests of the community in Soho, that people
8 continue to work together and I wanted to, you
9 know, reiterate my commitment that I do want to
10 see equal representation on the board with
11 resident and commercial. And I think Emily, what
12 you said in your testimony, I mean, you just
13 represent, you know, someone who's on the
14 residential side who has been working, you know,
15 with the commercial property owner. And I just
16 want to reiterate that tenants do have
17 representation on the board just like any bid
18 board throughout the district, throughout the
19 city. There's 67 bid, there are resident, you
20 know, participations on those bid board. And we
21 will continue to make sure there is a 50/50
22 representation and that everyone will get a chance
23 to work together. So, I just hope that these
24 conversations continue and we look forward to
25 working with everyone. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you

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very much. This concludes today's hearing. [off

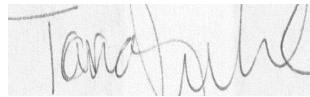
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 3/28/13