

JAMES METTHAM STATEMENT
BEFORE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 10, 2014

Good morning Chairwoman Ferreras and members of the Finance Committee. My name is James Mettham, Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I wish to express our support for the City Council resolutions 0132-2014, 0133-2014, and 0134-2014 which will set the date, time and place for a public hearing to consider local laws which authorize amendments to the District Plans of the Downtown Lower Manhattan Business Improvement District, the Church Avenue Business Improvement District, and the Kings Highway Business Improvement District.

The Downtown-Lower Manhattan BID wishes to change its method of assessment to require commercial uses in all mixed-use properties to be assessed at the full commercial rate prescribed by the BID's district plan. We believe the change will result in a fair assessment of district properties with commercial uses.

The Church Avenue BID and Kings Highway BID were established in 1986 and 1989 respectively to provide supplemental services within their districts. Over time, the service needs of both districts have changed. Both BIDs are requesting to replace discontinued maintenance programs with more robust supplemental sanitation, public safety, and promotional services.

The 3 BIDs will arrange for the publication of notice of the public hearing at least once in a local newspaper with general circulation in the districts. They will specify the time and the place where the hearing will be held and will state the proposed modifications to their district plans. In addition, the 3 BIDs will mail notices to property owners providing them with information about the public hearing as well as reasons for their District Plan amendment requests.

Thank you.