

**JAMES METTHAM STATEMENT**  
**BEFORE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**April 29, 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 three local laws (Int. 0192-2014, 0193-2014, 0194-2014) 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 the method of assessment upon which the district charge for supplemental services, programs, and improvements are based. The district's current method of assessment does not assess commercial uses in mixed-use properties that are predominantly residential in nature. This bill would authorize commercial square footage in all district properties to be assessed at the same rate (approximately \$0.22/sf) regardless of building type or the presence of other non-commercial uses. We believe the change will result in a fair assessment of all properties with commercial uses in the district.

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, promotional services, and seasonal programming.

As required by law, the three BIDs published a notice of the public hearing at least once in a local newspaper having general circulation in the districts specifying the time and place where the hearing will be held and stating the proposed modifications to the district plans. In addition, the BIDs certified that they have mailed a letter to property owners informing them of the time, place, and purpose of this public hearing. The three district plan amendments will not impact the tax and debt limits prescribed in the BID law.

Thank you.



April 29, 2014

**Re: Res 0134-2014**

**Proposed Res. No. 134-A**

***Resolution concerning an amendment to the District Plan of the Church Avenue Business Improvement District that authorizes additional services and modifies existing services for the district, and setting the date, time and place for the public hearing of the local law authorizing additional services and modifying existing services for the district.***

Testimony of Lauren Elvers Collins, Executive Director,  
Church Avenue District Management Association

Thank you to Chairperson Ferreras and the Committee on Finance for considering amending the District Plan of the Church Avenue District Management Association (dba Church Avenue Business Improvement District).

The Church Avenue BID's Board of Directors requested to amend their District Plan to reflect the change to New York City law transferring responsibility for maintenance and repair of sidewalks from the City to property owners (pursuant to § 7-210 of the New York City 2003 Administrative Code). The proposed amendment to the BID's by-laws would remove the following language regarding the BID's responsibility for maintenance and repair of sidewalks:

*"...will include, but not be limited to, the maintenance and replacement of those capital improvements made by CAMBA pursuant to the City's Commercial Revitalization Program, which may include, but will not be limited to, red brick sidewalk pavers, z-brick crosswalks, trees and grates and pedestrian lighting fixtures."*

The BID is actively working to develop resources to improve the sidewalks and other components of the Church Avenue's streetscape including installation of replica antique street lights which were installed throughout the BID in 2011 and an upcoming project to replace sidewalks, move and install catch basins, build curb extensions, and other improvements in the BID. We urge the Committee to vote in favor of this amendment to our District Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 718-282-2500, x79234 or [laurenc@churchavenue.org](mailto:laurenc@churchavenue.org).

Thank you,  
Lauren Elvers Collins  
Executive Director

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0192-0193<sup>0141</sup> Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 7/29/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James Mettham

Address: 110 William St.

I represent: NYC Dept. of Small Business Services

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

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