

Michael Blaise Backer Statement
Before City Council Finance Committee
February 24, 2016

Good morning Chair Ferreras-Copeland and members of the Finance Committee. I am Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined by our Executive Director of Neighborhood Development, Kris Goddard and Business Improvement District (BID) Program Director, Jennifer Kitson.

I am here today to provide testimony on two (2) distinct items:

- 1) The Fulton Street BID Expansion proposal (also known as the FAB Alliance BID), and
- 2) Support for an assessment increase for the Fulton Mall Special Assessment District

For the first item – today’s vote on the FAB Alliance BID expansion – I’d like to report on a few items.

As required by law, the FAB Alliance BID Expansion Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution, no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days before today’s hearing, to the following parties:

- to each owner of real property within the existing district and proposed expansion, at the address shown on the latest City assessment roll,
- to such other persons as are registered with the City to receive tax bills concerning real property within the existing district and proposed expansion, and
- to tenants of each building within the existing district and the proposed expansion area.

In addition, SBS arranged for the publication of a copy of the summary of the Resolution at least once in the City Record.

We would like to report on the result of the objections filed with the City Clerk against the expansion of the FAB BID. At the conclusion of the objection period at 5:00 PM on February 18, 2016 and taking into

consideration any objections filed the next two business days, through February 22, 2016, no valid objections were filed with the City Clerk.

Due to zero objections being filed, this is within the acceptable threshold needed to advance the bill for favorable consideration by the full City Council. SBS requests the City Council approve the FAB Alliance BID expansion.

At this time, we are happy to take any questions. If there are none, I'll move on to the next item.

(pause for questions)

Moving to the second item – today's hearing and vote on an assessment increase for the Fulton Mall Special Assessment District – I would like to express our support for the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended annually from \$1,537,500 to \$2,100,000.

As required by law, Fulton Mall published a notice of the public hearing at least once in a local newspaper having general circulation in the districts specifying the time when, and the place where, the hearing will be held and stating the proposed amount to be expended annually. In addition, Fulton Mall certified that they have mailed a letter to property owners informing them about the proposed assessment increase, and the time and place of this public hearing. Finally, Councilmember Levin has submitted a letter of support for the assessment increase.

These increases will further expand, reinforce and strengthen existing core services currently provided in the district.

Representatives from Fulton Mall are present to answer any questions specific to their request. However, I am also happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Fulton Street
+ Fulton
Mall

Appearance Card



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

in favor in opposition

Date: 3-2/24/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Blaise Backer

Address: _____

I represent: Department of Small Business Services

Address: _____

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