

**Statement by Deputy Commissioner Blaise Backer, NYC Dept. of Small Business Services**  
**New York City Council, Finance Committee**  
**October 13, 2016**

Good morning Chair Ferreras-Copeland and members of the Finance Committee, I am Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I wish to express our support for the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended in 8 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and 2 Special Assessment Districts (SADs). For all intents and purposes, SBS considers special assessment districts to be part of the BID program.

As required by law, the 10 Districts 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 increase proposed in the maximum amount to be expended annually. In addition, each District has 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, the councilmember or councilmembers for each District has submitted a letter of support for each District assessment increase.

The 10 Districts requesting increases of annual expenditures are doing so to address vital needs and changing conditions. These increases will further expand, reinforce and strengthen existing core services currently provided in the business districts. Additionally, portions of these increases will be used to sustain current levels of important programs and services impacted by rising contract costs related to the increase in minimum wage.

The Districts that wish to increase the maximum amount to be expended annually beginning on July 1, 2016, are as follows: (1) 165th Street, from \$200,000 to \$250,000; (2) Atlantic Avenue, from \$240,000 to \$390,000; (3) Bayside Village from \$155,000 to \$230,000; (4) Court-Livingston-Schermerhorn from \$700,000 to \$907,000; (5) Fashion Center from \$7,800,000 to \$8,800,000; (6) Fifth Avenue from \$2,905,000 to \$3,207,000; (7) Jamaica Center from \$737,500 to \$1,017,500; (8) Madison Avenue from \$1,757,000 to \$2,100,000; (9) Metrotech from \$3,624,492 to \$4,274,492; and (10) Woodhaven from \$218,000 to \$275,000.

The City's 72 BIDs invest over \$127 million into local economies in the form of supplemental services and programs that serve over 85,000 businesses across the city. BIDs have been valuable and proven partners in ongoing initiatives of neighborhood revitalization and economic development across the five boroughs, making New York City neighborhoods cleaner, safer, and more vibrant. In partnership with city government, BIDs help create jobs, improve the quality of life for New Yorkers and visitors, enhance the city's tax base, and strengthen local economies.

Representatives from each BID requesting an assessment increase are present to answer any questions pertaining to their specific requests. However, I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1282 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/13/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Blaise Backer

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

I represent: Department of Small Business Services

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

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERT SMALL

Address: 79-15 JAMAICA AVE. WOODHAVEN

I represent: PROPERTY OWNER. APT. 11W21

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

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