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RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED
75TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEES:
RULES
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
MAJORITY STEERING

CHAIR
MANHATTAN DELEGATION

SUPPORTING BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Statement by Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried New York City Council Finance Committee Public Hearing, November 13, 2008

I am Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried. I represent the Chelsea, Clinton, Midtown, and Murray Hill neighborhoods and part of the Upper West Side. My district includes or adjoins several business improvement districts, including: 14th Street-Union Square, Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership, 34th Street Partnership, Times Square Alliance, Bryant Park, 47th Street, Fashion Center, Grand Central Partnership, Fifth Avenue, Lincoln Square, and Columbus Avenue. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the proposal for the authorization to increase the amount to be expended by the business improvement districts (BIDs).

Business improvement districts have proven themselves to be valuable additions to the City, improving the quality of life in the communities in which they operate. They improve the security and sanitation of their areas. They enhance their neighborhoods with beautification programs. They carry out merchant promotions and social events that increase visibility for businesses that might otherwise not have the means to do it themselves. Some BIDs provide technical and business development services.

It is appropriate that the BIDs would want to continue and expand their work and need to get assessment increases to do so. Many BIDs have been unable to serve their districts as well as they could because of a lack of funding. Increases in assessments should be allowed for the BIDs to accomplish their goals.

These are difficult times for businesses, the workers they employ, and the City budget. BIDs help support the economy and relieve some of the burden on the City budget.

BIDs have been good for New York City and they deserve our support.

Thank you again for holding this hearing and giving me this opportunity to testify.

**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: Assembly Richard Gottfried

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Kingbridge Bid Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 6/13/08

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARK LIPTON

Address: 5600 Broadway Bronx NY 10463

I represent: Myself as business + Property owner

Address: _____

**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: Jeremy Waldrop

Address: 110 William - SRS

I represent: SRS

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 842 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 11/13/08

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Howard

Address: 201 Dekalb Avenue Brooklyn NY

I represent: Pratt Area Community Council 11208

Address: 201 Dekalb Avenue

Central Fulton Street BID

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 842 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 8/12

Name: Dale Charles (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 201 Dekalb Ave

I represent: Central Fulton Street BID

Address: 201 Dekalb Ave

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 842 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: WELLINGTON SHARPE (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1400 SCHENECTADY AVE - BK-11203

I represent: CENTRAL FULTON ST. BID

Address: 201 DEKALB AVE

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 842 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: MICHAEL WIMBERLY - FISH & (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: WAVE 901 FULTON CRUSTA-

I represent: FISH AND CRUSTACEANS CEANS

Address: 901 FULTON, Brooklyn NY

Central Fulton Street BID
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