

Statement by Asst. Comm. Calvin T. Brown, NYC Dept. of Small Business Services
New York City Council, Finance Committee
October 30, 2018

Good morning Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee, I am Calvin T. Brown, Assistant 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 5 Business Improvement Districts and 1 Special Assessment District, to which I will be referring to as BIDs.

To propose an assessment increase, BIDs must complete a multi-step review process overseen by SBS. The BID Board of Directors—which includes local property owners, merchants, and residents, as well as representatives from the City Comptroller, Borough President, City Council, and SBS—must review and approve the proposed assessment increase. Additionally, SBS requires all BIDs to submit a five-part justification outlining how the increase will be allocated, minutes from the Board meeting when the increase was approved, and letters of support by all City Councilmembers represented in the BID boundaries. SBS then reviews these proposals and determines whether they are sufficient to bring to City Council.

Additionally, as required by law, each of the 6 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 of today's hearing and stating the proposed amount to be expended annually. Each District has also 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.

It is a priority of the Agency that assessment increase proposals focus on enhancing programs and services provided to the district. The 6 Districts proposing assessment increases 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, and include funds for capital improvements, plaza activation, and added staff capacity. Additionally, portions of these increases will be used to sustain current levels of sanitation and public safety programs and services impacted by rising contract costs related to the increase in minimum wage.

The proposed increases for FY20 range from \$360,000 to \$3.207 million, varying according to budget size, district size, and proposed changes in programs and services. I am happy to restate the specific amounts if necessary.

- (1) 34th Street, from \$12,640,000 to \$13,000,000;
- (2) Fifth Avenue, from \$3,207,000 to \$6,414,000;
- (3) Fulton Mall, from \$2,100,000 to \$3,006,750;
- (4) MetroTech, from \$3,274,492 to \$4,911,738;
- (5) NoHo NY, from \$540,000 to \$800,000;
- (6) Union Square, from \$2,600,000 to \$4,200,000;

The City's 76 BIDs invest over \$158 million into local economies in the form of supplemental services and programs that serve more than 93,000 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. BIDs are also advocates for small businesses in their districts, helping them to navigate government, facilitating networking among fellow business owners, providing business retention support, and attracting shoppers to the area. 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. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: STEPHEN LEE

Address: 1 LIBERTY PLAZA NYC 10006

I represent: NYC SBS

Address: 1 LIBERTY PLAZA NYC 10006

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1750 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/30/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Calvin T. Brown

Address: _____

I represent: SBS

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