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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Economic Development Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 9, 2010 – 7:00 PM Community Board 11 Office 1664 Park Avenue New York, NY 10035

Present: Laura Benitez, Diane Collier, Judith Febbraro, Cesar Ortiz, Antonio Rivera, Xavier Santiago, Edward Santos, Jose Altamirano, Hally Chu, Celia Ramirez, and Tasha Williams

Excused: Amie Kyros-Petrucci, Hilda (Candy) Vives-Vazquez, and Tatiana Orlov

Absent: Chester Asher, Frank Brija, Jonathan Carrillo, Israel Miranda, Robert Rodriguez, Roberto Ayala, Erik Mayor, Koyi Mchunu,

Guests: Tika Fotoglidi, Tom Lunke, Lin Zeng, and Julie Lozada

Meeting called to order by Chair Xavier Santiago at 7:20 PM

1. Presentations and Discussions

a. Budget Priorities

Xavier Santiago informed committee members of our current budget priorities Economic Development (see item "I" below). It was further discussed that if we would like to consider adding any other priorities that it may impact the budgets priorities of other committees.

- i. 3 – Dept. Small Business Services – Expand funding for East Harlem based employment training programs to target employment opportunities in expanding regional industries and development-based employment growth in East Harlem.

b. Committee Goals and Outreach (see attached)

Mr. Santiago presented the working draft of goals and outreach to the committee. The original draft is to create better connectivity, communication and improvement of our business networks, including many traditional small businesses (please see attached). During the discussion several ideas were presented.

Tasha Williams recommended bringing in an unpaid intern to collect and assemble the various organizations that offer employment services. Antonio Rivera furthered the point by stating that several organizations already have working plans that can be integrated into our model. Furthermore, Hally Chu offered the recommendation that we connect with Community Board 3 and their employment network to see if that model could be adapted to our community needs.

Guest, Tom Lunke recommended that we consider the zoning impact within our community. He cited that when businesses fail and are left vacant that the space returns to a residential status. The committee will consult with the Zoning and Land Use Committee to coordinate any actions with these matters

Furthermore, Diane Collier suggested that in addition to UMEZ and East Harlem Business Capital Corporation, that we consider supporting groups such as Minority Women Business Enterprises. Judith Febbraro also recommended contacting AARP.

As an addendum to the goals and outreach needs, Hally Chu asked that we include a “macro level” approach that focuses on tourism, trend observations and partnerships with those trends.

Mr. Santiago acknowledged the great recommendations and that we should continue on the path of creating better communication and becoming more of a resource by raising awareness through these channels.

Cesar Ortiz made a motion that we bring in an intern from either a business college, Hunter College or other institution to begin assembling a network of all the opportunities (see below).

c. Job Fair

Antonio Rivera will have a meeting with Jose Garza from East Harlem Business Capital Corporation and Hunter College along with other members of the Economic Development Committee to create a taskforce that will facilitate a job fair for CB11 members. The meeting will be held November 18, 2010 – 12:00pm at the Community Board 11 Office.

2. Old Business/New Business

Tasha Williams presented the 125th Bid “Night for the Lights”, whereby Holiday Lights will be brought to 125th street. Ms. Williams requested the committee to consider supporting the cause. The committee agreed to investigate how Community Boards 9 and 10 and the Borough President’s Office are approaching this issue prior to taking a position.

3. Announcements

Guest, Tika Fotoglidi announced that she and other business partners are hosting a fund raising event for the community: “The East Harlem Taste Trolley Gala Fundraiser”. The event will be held at the Poets Den Gallery & Theater, 309 East 108th Street, New York, NY 10029. For tickets, call 212-427-1445. Advanced tickets are \$45 and \$50.

SLA announced its approval and rejections of new and renewal liquor applications.

4. Action Items

- a. **Cesar Ortiz made a motion that the Board solicit the assistance of college interns to create an online resource database on the Community Board 11 website that connects interested community partners to the support infrastructure of the district. The motion was seconded by Anthony Rivera and approved unanimously.**

5. Adjournment

Anthony Rivera made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judith Febbraro and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Xavier Santiago and George Sarkissian