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Economic Development Committee
January 12, 2010
Community Board 11 Office
1664 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10035

Present: Chester Asher, Laura Benitez, Frank Brija, Diane Collier, Judith Febbraro, Jim Greene (public member), Amie Kiros-Petrucci, Cesar Ortiz, Marina Ortiz, Xavier Santiago, Edward Santos, Hilda Vives-Vazquez, Matthew Washington, Martha Wiggins

Absent: Nadine Verna

Excused: Daniel Perez

Guest(s): Michael Kim, Louis Cangiano, Lauren Cangiano, Elsie Encarnacion, Jose Remache, Frances Mastrota

Presentations

NYC Business Solutions

Michael Kim, Account Manager at NYC Business Solutions came before the committee to introduce himself and the programs that his organization offers. NYC Business Solutions works with Entrepreneurs to assist in starting, operating and expanding business opportunities. They also work closely with the Workforce 1 center. They are trying to increase their presence in East Harlem and Mr. Kim can be reached at 917.493.7243. For more information go to www.nyc.gov/nycbusiness.

Liquor Licenses

Jose Remache from Kahlua's Café came before the committee to seek support for the renewal of their liquor license. The restaurant is located at 3rd Avenue and 116th. They have been in business for 7 years. They have no problems and try to be responsible business owners. A motion to support the applications was made by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and seconded by Frank Brija and passed unanimously.

Louis and Lauren Cangiano from Tre Otto Restaurant came before the committee to seek support for a new Wine & Beer License. The restaurant is located on Madison Avenue, between 97th and 98th Streets. The restaurant will be used as a sandwich shop during the day and as a sit down restaurant and pizzeria at night. They will have about 12 employees in total and are currently working with NYC Business Solutions to hire locally and receive wage subsidies. Judith Febbraro made a motion to approve the application and the motion was seconded by Frank Brija and approved unanimously.

East River Plaza – Community Space Solicitation

As part of the East River Plaza Memorandum of Understanding, CB11 was tasked with finding a community-based organization interested in leasing space at East River Plaza. The space is being made available in Building B (on

116th Street). Building B consists of approximately 18,000 SF. 9,000 SF of space located on the third and fourth floors will be provided for community use at a subsidized rent of \$25-30 SF, adjusted for inflation every 5 years.

A draft of the solicitation was reviewed by the committee. Some members still had concerns that the rent was not low enough to attract local community based organizations. A motion to conditionally approve the solicitation pending some final edits was made by Marina Ortiz and seconded by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and approved unanimously.

Paid Sick Leave Legislation

The committee reviewed Int 1059-2009, a local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the provision of sick time earned by employees. This change would require employees to pay 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked. The employer is to provide a maximum of 72 hours per calendar year. For small business (fewer than 10 persons working per week), the maximum hours that the employer must provide is 42.

Some committee members were concerned with the impact that this legislation would have on small businesses. Other members felt that this was a right that workers should have and saw the impacts on small businesses as being minimal. Members felt that this was also a Public Health problem that needed to be corrected and were surprised to find out that there was currently no paid sick leave legislation. Marina Ortiz made a motion to support Int 1059 (Paid Sick Leave Legislation). The motion was seconded by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and approved (Against – Jim Greene, Diane Collier, Judith Febbraro, Xavier Santiago).

Liquor License Process

Committee member Edward Santos has been reviewing the Liquor License Application Process for a few months in order to correct some inefficiencies in the current process. He stated that we were getting a lot of non-appearances and incomplete applications.

In order to rectify this he suggested that the board send out a letter to all restaurants and bars detailing the process. Committee members agreed but also felt that perhaps a separate taskforce needed to be created to review the applications. Some members felt that the Economic Development committee should focus on other matters and was spending too much time on the review of Liquor License Applications.

East Harlem Business Capital Corporation

Matthew Washington informed the committee that Nelson Garcia was terminated from his position of Executive Director at East Harlem Business Capital Corporation. Some community members and elected officials felt that this was done without proper justification and have begun circulating a petition to have him re-instated.

Action Item

1. A motion to support the renewal application (wine & beer) for Kahlua Café (2117 Third Avenue) was made by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and seconded by Frank Brija and passed unanimously.
2. A motion to support the new application (wine & beer) for Tre Otto Restaurant (1408 Madison Avenue) was made by Judith Febbraro and seconded by Frank Brija and approved unanimously.
3. A motion to conditionally approve the East River Plaza Community Space solicitation, pending some final edits, was made by Marina Ortiz and seconded by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and approved unanimously.
4. Marina Ortiz made a motion to support Int 1059 (Paid Sick Leave Legislation). The motion was seconded by Hilda Vives-Vazquez and approved (Against – Jim Greene, Diane Collier, Judith Febbraro, Xavier Santiago).

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by H. Vives-Vazquez and seconded by C. Ortiz. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.