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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Economic Development Committee Minutes Tuesday, June 14th, 2010 – 7:00 PM Community Board 11 Office 1664 Park Avenue New York, NY 10035

Present: Jose Altamirano, Roberto Ayala, Laura Benitez, Jonathan Carrillo, Hally Chu, Judith Febbraro, Amie Kiros-Pretucci, Erik Mayor, Tatiana Orlov, Antonio Rivera, Yma B. Rodriguez, Xavier Santiago, Ed Santos, Hilda (Candy) Vives-Vazquez, Tasha Williams and Jennifer Yu

Excused: Diane Collier and Cesar Ortiz

Absent: Israel Miranda, Celia Ramirez and Koyi Mchunu

Guests: Talib Hudson, Mouniv, Sandra DeLeon, Kevin Walters, Nina Saxon, Carolee Fink, Jose D.Garza, Rafeal Merino and Rodney Mendez

Meeting called to order by Chair Xavier Santiago at 7:35PM

1. Presentations and Discussions

a. NYC Economic Development Corporation – Corn Exchange RFEI

Ms. Carolee Fink presented the RFEI finalist results regarding the Corn Exchange building. There are three finalists. NYCEDC hopes to make a final decision by the end of June or early July. Only one of the finalists had planned a potential hotel. Decisions will be made in conjunction with settlement of the liens and pending review of other governmental bodies such as Landmarks and others. NYCEDC conservatively estimates that development of the property could occur by fall of next year and will continue to engage Community Board 11 during this process. Additionally the contract to be executed by the potential developer contains a Community Board Engagement provision. Ms. Fink will return and present the finalist to the board.

b. East Harlem Bar and Restaurant Association

Ms. Sandra De Leon from East Harlem Business Capital Corporation and Mr. Kevin Walters of East Harlem Bar and Restaurant Association presented a study from

Columbia University that determined that East Harlem is losing approximately \$484 million dollars of retail purchases per year. The study also determined that there are approximately 700 potential store fronts available and that most residents desire better options for entertainment and restaurants. Mr. Walters, as president of EHRBA, requested if there could be some initiative led by CB11 to fight on behalf of the local businesses. Several issues cited by both presenters were: Sanitation, Traffic Enforcement, Lighting and Disproportionately High Commercial Rents. Mr. Walters was informed of CB11's undertakings and other manners which could assist the business community, including but not limited to the Economic Development Business Survey, the Retail Analysis and other Marketing Initiatives, and that it would look forward to working with EHRBA in the future. To that end, engagement with the appropriate entities affecting our business will be pursued.

c. Hope Community – Business Surveys

Ms. Yma Rodriguez presented Hope Community's Survey of the 116th Street Corridor regarding the local businesses and how they are affected by the various challenges they face. After brief discussion over the focuses and goals of the survey, it was concluded that Hope Community's Survey supports the goals of Community Board 11 and not just the businesses of 116th street but the entire district as well.

2. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Hally Chu presented an update to the Job Fair. Partnerships have been established and the workforce is searching for sponsors to participate in the event. Ms. Yma Rodriguez has volunteered to be the primary liaison for coordinating this effort. Please see attached documents for the budget and timeline from the subsequent meeting. Any volunteers are recommended to contact the chair to be placed in contact with Ms. Chu.

3. Announcements

The CB11 Business Survey and Letter will begin distribution this summer. Thank you to the volunteers so far. Those that wish to assist during the summer recess are encouraged to contact the chair or the office for unfinished sectors.

4. Action Items

5. Adjournment

Antonio Rivera made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judith Febraro and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Xavier Santiago and George Sarkissian