

**Statement by Deputy Commissioner Calvin T. Brown, NYC Dept. of Small Business  
Services  
New York City Council, Finance Committee  
November 22, 2022**

Good morning, Chair Brannan and members of the Finance Committee, I am Calvin T. Brown, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined by Emily Edwards, Senior Program Manager and Leslie Velazquez, Program Manager for the Business Improvement District (BID) program. I wish to express our support for the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended in 2 Business Improvement Districts or BIDs.

At SBS, we are working hard to open doors for New Yorkers across the five boroughs – focusing on creating stronger businesses, connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, and fostering thriving neighborhoods. We oversee and support to the City’s network of BIDs and groups who wish to form new BIDs in their communities. We believe BIDs are central to these efforts as valuable and proven partners in fostering the vitality of the City’s neighborhoods and commercial districts. Throughout the pandemic and recovery, BIDs have been called upon to deliver an increased level of services and support to the small business community. The Mayor’s Economic Blueprint also places the BIDs front and center in several initiatives to rebuild and reinvent our commercial corridors and central business districts. In order to respond to these new challenges and opportunities, every single BID has been evaluating their budgets for savings and efficiencies.

Part of our role in overseeing and supporting the City’s existing network of 76 BIDs includes guiding them through legislative processes, including increases to their assessment cap. 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 justifications and determines whether they are sufficient to bring to City Council.

As required by law, each of the 2 BIDs published a notice of this 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.

It is a priority of SBS that assessment increase proposals focus on enhancing programs and services provided to the district. The 2 BIDs proposing assessment increases are doing so to address vital needs and changing conditions on the ground. The increases will further expand, reinforce and strengthen existing core services currently provided in the business districts, and include funds for streetscape improvements, Open Streets programming, new public events, and added staff capacity. Additionally, portions of these increases will be used to sustain or increase current levels of sanitation and public safety programs and services impacted by the rising costs related to inflation.

The proposed increases vary according to budget size, district size, and proposed changes in programs and services. The proposed increases are:

- (1) 125<sup>th</sup> Street, from \$1,240,462 to \$1,687,028
- (2) DUMBO, from \$1,250,000 to \$2,500,000

The City's 76 BIDs invest over \$160 million into neighborhood economies in the form of supplemental services and programs that serve nearly 25,000 ground-floor businesses across the city. In partnership with city government, BIDs help spur job creation, 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: 11/22/22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL JAVORSKI

Address: UNION ST

I represent: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Address: UNION ST

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Magdalena Levy

Address: Main St

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

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: 2/21/22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jaki Florsheim

Address: Jay St

I represent: Dumbo BID

Address: Dumbo Bklyn NY 11201

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 0789-2022  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Calvin T. Brown, Deputy Commissioner SBS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Dept. of Small Biz Services

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Craig Anthony Miller

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: 11/22/22

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: LINDSAY STUART

Address: JAY ST, Brooklyn 11201

I represent: Dumbo BID

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

Date: 11/21/2022

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Richard MAURE

Address: Washington St Bklyn, NY

I represent: NYPD Community Partner Sector 009

Address: 84 Precinct

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eleanora Lopez

Address: 111 St 22nd Bklyn NY

I represent: The neighborhood

Address: 111 St 22nd Bklyn NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HENRY FARKSHEIM

Address: 1st St

I represent: DUMBO BID

Address: DUMBO FRONT 1st 11201

**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: 11/22/22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Suzanne Quatt

Address: main st Brooklyn NY

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Dumbo Resident

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 11/22/22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniel Meyer

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Dumbo Resident

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: 22 Nov 22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Land Grant

Address: Washington St;

I represent: Residents & Employees of Dumbo

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Cynthia McInight (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Clinton Ave

I represent: Community Education Council 13

Address: 355 Park Place Brooklyn

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: 21 NOV, 2022

Name: THEA GRANT (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: FRONT ST BK NY 11205

I represent: THEA GRANT & NICOLAS PAZZANI

Address: same

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