

**Michael Blaise Backer Statement**  
**Before City Council Finance Committee**  
**January 4, 2017**

Good morning Chair Ferreras-Copeland and members of the Finance Committee. I am Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined by our Executive Director of Neighborhood Development, Kris Goddard, our BID Program Director, Jennifer Kitson and our BID Development Senior Program Manager LeMel Lindsey.

As required by law, the LIC BID Expansion Steering Committee mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution to the following parties:

- to each owner of real property within the existing district and proposed expansion, at the address shown on the latest City assessment roll,
- to such other persons as are registered with the City to receive tax bills concerning real property within the existing district and proposed expansion, and
- to tenants of each building within the existing district and the proposed expansion area.

Additionally, the LIC BID published a notice of the public hearing at least once in a local newspaper having general circulation in the districts specifying the time when, and the place where, the hearing will be held and stating the increase proposed in the maximum amount to be expended annually.

Furthermore, SBS arranged for the publication of a copy of the summary of the Resolution at least once in the City Record.

We would like to report on the result of the objections filed with the City Clerk against the proposed expansion of the LIC BID. At the conclusion of the objection period at 5:00 PM on December 15, 2016 and taking into consideration any objections postmarked by that date, one invalid objection, representing less than 0.1% of the total assessed value, was filed with the City Clerk for a property within the expansion area, but was submitted without the documentation required for verification.

This level of objection is within our acceptable threshold needed to advance the bill for a favorable consideration by the full City Council.

The Department of Small Business Services supports the expansion of the LIC BID. In our judgment, the BID will improve quality of life and business conditions in the Long Island City district.

At this time, we are happy to take any questions.

Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1314 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 1/4/17

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: BLAISE BACKER

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

I represent: SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES

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

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