

Statement by Elizabeth De Leon Bhargava
NYC Department of Small Business Services
New York City Council, Finance Committee
November 26, 2013

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee, I am Elizabeth De Leon Bhargava, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I am joined today by my Assistant Commissioner, James Mettham. SBS supports the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended in 9 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

As required by law, the 9 BIDs 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 proposed amount to be expended annually. In addition, the BIDs certified that they have mailed a letter to property owners informing them about the proposed assessment increase, and the time and place of this public hearing.

The 9 BIDs requesting increases of annual expenditures desire to further expand, reinforce and strengthen existing core services currently provided in the business districts. The BIDs wish to increase the amount to be expended annually beginning on July 1, 2013, as follows: (1) Times Square, from \$11,685,440 to \$12,638,972; (2) Fashion Center, from \$5,750,000 to \$7,800,000; (3) Lincoln Square, from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000; (4) Fulton Mall, from \$1,501,500 to \$1,537,500; (5) Lower East Side, from \$335,600 to \$974,600; (6) DUMBO, from \$500,000 to \$650,000; (7) Sutphin Boulevard, from \$177,000 to \$252,000; (8) Grand Street, from \$181,168 to \$226,460; and (9) 165th Street Mall, from \$168,724 to \$200,000.

The City's BIDs supplement city sanitation and public safety services, promote businesses through marketing initiatives and public events, enhance the city's physical environment through streetscape improvement projects, and engage local communities through social service and outreach programs. In addition, BIDs in partnership with city government help create jobs, improve the quality of life for New Yorkers and visitors, enhance the city's tax base, and strengthen the local economy in tough economic times.

The next City Council resolution that SBS supports provides for the amendment of the Hudson Square BID District Plan, which falls entirely within City Council District 3, represented by Speaker Christine Quinn.

The purpose of the District Plan amendment is to provide a funding source to address the impact of new development and provide additional open space and recreation improvements in and immediately around the district. The amendment creates a sixth assessment class, Class F, for Development Properties under the Special Hudson Square District Zoning, enacted on March 20th, 2013. Under this new class, all properties within the BID constructed as, converted to, or enlarged to include new residential use will pay a

one-time assessment of five dollars (\$5.00) per square foot of residential use at the time that a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy is granted by the NYC Department of Buildings.

Funds collected from the One Time Assessment on Class F will be deposited by the BID into a not-for-profit, Area Open Space Special Improvements Fund, designated by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation or to an account maintained by the Parks Department, for the purpose of active recreation space or open space improvements. The Parks Department will determine appropriation of these funds, in consultation with Community Board 2. The active recreation space and open space improvements will be in the Hudson Square neighborhood and will benefit the properties in the BID.

The Hudson Square BID published the public hearing notice at least once in a local newspaper as required by law. In addition, the BID mailed a notice to local property owners as requested by the Finance Committee.

Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1185 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Bhargava

Address: 110 William St.

I represent: DSBS

Address: 110 William

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1071 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 11-26-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ELLEN BAER

Address: 180 Varick St. NYC 10014

I represent: Hudson Square BID

Address: _____

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