

**Statement by M. Blaise Backer, NYC Department of Small Business Services**  
**New York City Council, Finance Committee**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Good morning Ms. Chairwoman and members of the Finance Committee, I am Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services (SBS). I wish to express our support for the law providing an increase in the amount to be expended in 10 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

As required by law, the 10 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, each BID has 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. Finally, the councilmember for each district has submitted a letter of support for each BID's assessment increase.

The 10 BIDs requesting increases of annual expenditures are doing so to address vital needs and changing conditions. These increases will 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, 2014, as follows: (1) 34th Street, from \$9,940,000 to \$10,885,000; (2) 47th Street, from \$700,000 to \$900,000; (3) 86th Street – Bay Ridge, from \$210,000 to \$290,000; (4) 161st Street, from \$190,000 to \$240,000; (5) 125th Street, from \$947,820 to \$1,005,793; (6) Columbus/Amsterdam, from \$260,000 to \$350,000; (7) Forest Avenue, from \$150,000 to \$175,000; (8) Myrtle Avenue (Brooklyn), from \$425,000 to \$575,000; (9) Steinway Street, from \$325,000 to \$400,000; and (10) Sunnyside, from \$300,000 to \$360,000.

The City's 70 BIDs invest over \$120 million into local economies in the form of supplemental services and programs that serve over 85,000 businesses across the city. BIDs have been valuable and proven partners in ongoing initiatives of neighborhood revitalization and economic development across the five boroughs, making NYC neighborhoods cleaner, safer, and more vibrant. In partnership with city government, BIDs help create jobs, improve the quality of life for New Yorkers and visitors, enhance the city's tax base, and strengthen the local economies in tough economic times.

I will be 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Michael Blaize Backer

Address: 110 William Street, 5th Flr

I represent: NYC Dept of Small Business Services

Address: 110 William Street, 5th Flr

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