

Brooklyn Community Board 9  
Economic Development Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

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Committee Members Present: Debbie Timothy, Wayne King, Michelle Derosier-Caldwell

Community Members Excused: Rev. Sylvetta Hamilton-Gonzales

Committee Members Absent: Robert Mitchell

Community Resident Members Present: None

Community Resident Members Absent: Greg Clarke, Tiffany Yarde,

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MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. via zoom. There was an introduction by all in attendance, followed by an introduction of meeting presenter Eric Parker, Community Liaison, at NYC-Dept. of SBS.

Presentation: The status of our local community businesses, needs and available services rendered by NYC-SBS.

As many of us know, small businesses are the heart and soul of our local communities, and their resilience has shone through during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, according to a [recent poll conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), 70% of small business are still concerned about the financial impact of COVID-19 on their business, with 58% fearing they may have to close permanently.

Some have temporarily closed their doors, unsure of when (or if) they will be able to fully reopen. Some have had to lay off their staff, while other businesses have had to adapt the way they do business as they observe social distancing, comply with travel restrictions and institute new cleaning and hygiene requirements to keep their valued customers safe.

Even for those who have remained open — or have been able to reopen — they've been working hard to keep customers coming through their doors, especially any customers who have been avoiding public spaces. Many small business owners and their staff with school-aged children also have been juggling the responsibilities of their workplace with caring for and educating their children at home.

All of this has shown just how resilient, valuable and innovative small businesses are in 2020. Small business owners are used to working hard and managing lots of priorities, which has been valuable skills to operate in a pandemic.

We were excited to have Eric Parker present to the ED Committee members and guests about the services offered/available to small businesses through NYC-SBS. Having communicated with some of the local businesses in the community, the following topics are always a part of the discussion: High rents, landlord harassment, funding assistance, etc. It is for these various reasons one would look deep to find the necessary resources to reflect the needs of our local businesses. Eric mentioned pending resources for small businesses will be monitored closely based on facts that many small businesses did not receive funding from the funding allocated for businesses in April 2020. Hence, Mr. Parker did provide an awesome presentation followed by questions and answers.

In addition, he provided the committee with information to share with businesses and community partners in the area.

**Information:**

Eventbrite <http://nycsmallbizcourses.eventbrite.com>

Business Solutions <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/contact.page>

Nw York Means Business <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/index.page>

SBS Hotline 88-SBS-4NYC , (888)-727-4692

You can find a link to the slides here:[https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/sbs/downloads/pdf/businesses/covid19/reopening/reopening\\_phase4-webinar.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/sbs/downloads/pdf/businesses/covid19/reopening/reopening_phase4-webinar.pdf). Please feel free to share.

Eric Parker, Business Outreach Liaison  
Department of Small Business Services

Committee members will continue to build partnerships with a focus on rebuilding our community.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:51p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*The next Economic Development Committee Meeting -  
2020\*\*\*\*\*

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie C. Timothy, Chair  
BK-CB9 EDC Committee