

**Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Economic Development Committee
WebEx Virtual Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2020**

Attendance

Debbie Timothy, Committee Chair	Robert Mitchell - CB9 Committee Member (Absent)
Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales- CB9 Comm. Member	Michelle Derosier-Caldwell - CB9 Comm. Member (Absent)
Wayne King – CB9 Comm. Member	Greg Clarke – Comm. Resident Member
Diane Jean Marie – Comm. Resident Member	Tiffany Yarde - Comm. Resident Member
Maurice Cummings – Liaison, NYC Council Member	Alicka Ampy-Samuel

CB9 Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on December 7, 2020. Reverend Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales provided us with a word of encouragement, introductions followed.

Through was an open discussion on the status of small businesses across our communities and how we support their needs. As many of us already know, based on recent surveys; nearly 80 percent of businesses closed temporarily as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Results regarding potential permanent closures also reflect profound economic distress: Nearly two-thirds of businesses indicated that they would be at risk of closing permanently if business disruption continued at the current rate for up to five months, and over 30 percent indicated they would be at risk of closing permanently if business disruption continued at the current rate for up to two months. This could mean that nearly 7.5 million small businesses will be at risk of closing permanently over the coming five months, and 3.5 million are at risk of closure in the next two months.

During these uncertain times of diminished revenues at the state and city level the natural inclination is to pull back from funding on programs that are not mandated in some form. This is exactly the wrong time to decrease or cancel support for programs, like Main Street, that serve as critical connectors and supporters of small businesses. As we look ahead to a recovery, this data demonstrates that Main Street programs with a 40-year history of managing through crisis and recovery from large economic transitions are needed now more than ever.

As a committee, we will continue to dialogue on how we can best assist local businesses in our communities address their needs during the current pandemic and beyond the pandemic. We have proposed designing “Support Shop Local” signs for windows of businesses that are open. Committee resident Greg Clarke was designated to work on the details of this project, he will keep us updated via the board office. In addition, the committee will continue to work on our list compilation for small businesses and our reusable bag project. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Community Board 9 office recently received a request from Mr. Eric Krebs, Research Assistant at the Center for Urban Future requesting input from CB9 on a report that they will be publishing early next year focused on how to help New York’s small businesses bounce back from the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The study is funded by JPMorgan Chase, aims to put forth a number of highly specific ideas for how New York City and State government officials can help the city’s small businesses to survive until a vaccine is widely available and to bounce back strong. The information has been sent to committee members for their feedback to be

submitted to the board by December 11, 2020. Contact has been made with Mr. Krebs by the chair of the Economic Development Committee. Recommendations on Mr. Krebs inquiry will be for-warded to him and on behalf of the EDC and copied to the board office once the information is compiled. we will be in contact with him on the progress of the report and the outcome.

Happy and safe Holiday Season to everyone

Submitted

December 14, 2020