

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

**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2020**

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**Members Present:**

Debbie Timothy, Chair  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales

**CB9 Members Absent:**

Pia Raymond  
Robert Mitchell

**Community Members Present:**

Greg Clarke

**Community Members Absent:**

Tiffany Yarde

**Guests:**

**Avi Leshes**, Representative, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Linda Watson Lorde  
Desma Ross, CB9

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The monthly meeting of BK-CB9 Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. on February 11, 2020 at CB9 office by Debbie Timothy, Committee Chair.

Welcome and introductions followed committee members and guests. The minutes of December 16, 2019 and the agenda of January 14, 2020 dispersed and accepted.

**New Business:**

Guest presenter, **Avi Leshes**, Representative, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, provided CB9-EDC members with substantial information about the services provided by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. They are as follows:

- **Brooklyn-Made Certification:** Certifies products' Brooklyn authenticity. (Brooklyn-Made Certification: Certifies products' Brooklyn authenticity).
- **Export Assistance:** Certificates of Origin, Certificates of Free Sale, and other export support.
- **Procurement Assistance:** Bid opportunities, contracting opportunities, and M/WBE certification.
- **Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Project:** Merchant organizing, advising on Business Improvement District (BID) formation, BID management services, and coordinating supplemental services around sanitation, beautification, and promotion.

- **Go Digital!** Powered by Google, Go Digital provides on-site, online marketing assistance to small businesses throughout the borough.

Additional information on the following topics is available on the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce website: <https://ibrooklyn.com/>.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Promotional Opportunities   | • Business Courses       | • Health Insurance              |
| • Advocacy                    | • Good Help Services     | • Neighborhood Entrepreneurship |
| • Chamber on the Go           | • Financing Assistance   | • M/WBE Certification           |
| • Online Marketing Assistance | • Procurement Assistance | • Incentives                    |
|                               | • Legal Assistance       |                                 |

The EDC will be working with Mr. Leshes to coordinate the Chamber on the Go for outreach purposes to local businesses in our community.

A brainstorming session was had by committee members following Mr. Leshes presentation to come up with ideas for future small business events. One option is a BK-CB9 shop local shopping bag; details dimensions, fabric, color, logo, cost etc. will be forthcoming.

Thus far, the committee received presentations from IMPACCT Brooklyn; The NYC Small Business Services; and The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. We will reach out to the local Merchant Association next to partner with them to find out what types of needs they have.

**Old Business:**

BETA NYC Schools, Churches, and Businesses within CB9 contact information was shared with CB9 office by Ms. Timothy.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie C. Timothy  
Chairperson