

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

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2024

Attendance (Board Members): Vanessa Raptopoulos, Committee Chair; Cat Buccello; Jolee Cobb; Lisa Etienne; Joseph Volney

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Louisa Higgins; Wendy Thompson

Absent (Board Members): Jean Rene Mbeng Nguema

Absent (Community Resident Members) Zalman Chayo; Anthony Gay; Shalisha Johnson;

Guests: Kenya Cummings, Little Caribbean; John Marable, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

CB9 Staff: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate

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1. Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm
 2. Introduction and Overview of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce by Jonathan Marable
 - Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Initiatives:
 - i. Jonathan provided an overview of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, highlighting its promotion of small businesses, support services, advocacy, and networking opportunities.
 - ii. He introduced the NYC Small Business Resource Network and the "Open and Online" program, offering small businesses free website development and branding support.
 - iii. The structure and benefits of Chamber membership were clarified, including fees, networking opportunities, and newsletter promotion.
 - iv. Discussion about the need for more networking events and happy hours for local businesses done by the chamber in CB9.
 3. Discussed corridors within our district and the leaders.
 - Identified
 - i. Flatbush: The Parkside Empire Flatbush Ave Merchants Association.
 1. Desmond is the president but they recently received an SBA grant and will be reorganizing.
 2. Nostrand: Eastern Parkway to Atlantic Ave - Lindiwe Kamau is the president but Little Caribbean does most of the actual merchant organizing.
 3. Utica: Beginning stages of organizing
 4. Rogers: No merchant association that we know of.

4. Discussed initiatives for the year. Agreed that two large initiatives could be accomplished.
 - Shop Small List
 - i. Create a business directory by the holiday season, starting with the Flatbush, Rogers, and Nostrand corridors.
 - ii. Discussed plan for creating a business directory for the community of CB9
 - iii. Need to combine all the lists we have created.
 - iv. Vanessa will do that and send it to the group.
 - v. Everyone is to review by the next meeting so we can discuss what information to include in our shop small list.
 - vi. The directory should be categorized by type (e.g., restaurants, retail, services).
 - vii. Possibly a passport layout. QR code and print version.
 - viii. See if CB9 will print 200 copies for us and if someone is savvy with Excel to pull the info we need into a different format.
 - ix. Consider using interns to help maintain and update the directory over time.
 - Scavenger hunt - for the spring
 - i. to increase local engagement and attract customers.
 - ii. to empower consumers and facilitate community interactions.
5. Action Items for Next Meeting
 - Combine existing business lists for Flatbush, Rogers, and Nostrand.
 - Finalize the directory format and plan for printing.
 - Discuss the scavenger hunt in more detail and allocate tasks for its development.
6. Adjournment
 - Meeting