



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin Chairperson / Joseph Marziliano District Manager

TO: All Board Members

FROM: Jack Fried, Committee Chair

DATE: June 5, 2020

**RE: Return of Commerce
After City-wide Shutdown**

On Thursday, June 4, 2020, a meeting of the CB11 Economic Development Committee was convened. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference. Present during the meeting were Jack Fried, Committee Chair, Michael Budabin, Board Chair, Victor Dadras, 2nd Vice Chair, Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair, Board Members Eileen Miller, Bernard Haber and Jyothi Sriram. CB11 District Manager, Joseph Marziliano and staff members Christina Coutinho and Jane Bentivenga were also in attendance as was Susan Seinfeld, representing CM Grodenchik's office. Christine Silletti from the Bayside Village BID and Rebecca Gellos from the Douglaston LDC also joined the meeting. Albert Silvestri, Deputy Queens Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), Craig Chin, also from DOT, and Eric Parker from NYC Small Business Services (SBS) represented their respective agencies.

The meeting began with Mr. Silvestri reviewing the options for restaurants to use open space and maintain social distancing when they are allowed to reopen in Phase 2 in the next few weeks. The DOT and SBS testified before the City Council today and the proposals were well-received. Curbside seating would be allowed as would the conversion of parking spaces into seating areas. The details are still being worked out with the NYC Department of Health (DOH) and SBS. Future open streets could be utilized. Sidewalk seating would be allowed depending on the width of the sidewalk as it has to remain ADA compliant and clear for pedestrians. Mr. Silvestri stated this is an "opt-in" program. Not all businesses will do it.

Mr. Fried questioned the safety of using parking areas for tables. Mr. Silvestri will send photos of the areas with planters, tables and chairs. Mr. Fried also asked about valet parking. Both Mr. Silvestri and Ms. Silletti said that is not legal unless an establishment has off-street parking. Questions were raised about how many parking spaces can be used per business for seating, what the width would be for sidewalk seating and if this will be self-certifiable. The space on the

sidewalk would most likely require 12 feet (4 feet for the table and 8 feet for pedestrians). Mr. Silvestri will double check on several of these inquiries. It will be self-certifiable and businesses can work with a neighboring business to create more “parking space” seating. Mr. Budabin asked when we can expect finalization of these plans. Mr. Silvestri said they are aiming for three weeks or so. Mr. Budabin inquired as to other areas such as Northern Blvd. and Francis Lewis Blvd. noting they have wider sidewalks that can be used as could a portion of the side streets near those businesses. He also commented how advantageous it would be to utilize the open streets program so side streets could be used for seating. Mr. Silvestri said they are open to any and all ideas. The Douglaston LDC has an existing plaza and they will have tables out. Other corridors may be more of a challenge for the open streets model. Christine Silletti added that this can be quite costly for their BID. If businesses could use their own tables etc., that would be much more sustainable. There has been some discussion about having a communal area on 41 Avenue and 40 Avenue where it dead ends to Bell Blvd. Sundays seem to work best for Bell Blvd. as closures hurt some business but help others. Bayside BID encompasses Bell Blvd. from 35 Avenue to Northern Blvd. and 41 Avenue by the LIRR station and FDNY. Businesses without a BID or LDC can apply on their own. Mr. Marziliano remarked that CB11 should support the BID and LDC in whatever direction they want to go. Mr. Fried asked what agency is overseeing this whole program. Mr. Silvestri said DOT has jurisdiction over right-of-way and the roadbed but they are working hand-in-hand with SBS on this.

Eric Parker, representing SBS, introduced himself. He reviewed the services that SBS provides and stated that since the Coronavirus pandemic they have been providing the same level of service to businesses. They are providing training and guidance for businesses as they transition in to the next phase. There are daily webinars. An inter-agency webinar will begin on June 12, 2020. A hotline will be launched on June 5, 2020 to provide one-on-one support. The length of time it takes for a small business to get financial aid is difficult to pinpoint as there are 40 micro-lenders. Mr. Parker will forward his contact information as well as the hotline number. Joseph Marziliano stated the webinars are extremely helpful. He said he will include this information in the CB11 Digest. Mr. Marziliano also mentioned that the Little Neck/Douglaston section of Queens has one of the highest vacancy rates for commercial space. Mr. Budabin stated these resources need to get to individual businesses; we need to do outreach.

Joseph Marziliano spoke about programs that are still available through the State. He reviewed requirements of these programs. He will also include this information in the weekly digest.

Mr. Dadras stressed how critical it is for CB11 to show leadership and do all we can do for our small businesses so they can survive this crisis. Jack Fried made a motion to support the Bayside Village BID, the Douglaston LDC and all other business entities in their effort to engage in all available City programs to preserve commerce. Victor Dadras seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted 6/5/2020