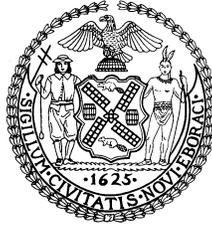


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Small Business Committee
Monday, February 11th, 6.30pm
James Lenox house
49 East 73rd Street

Minutes

Members present: Michael Mellamphy, Sarah Chu, Gayle Baron, Barry Schneider, Cece King, Dorothea Newman

Cece King and Dorothea Newman have organized a “Pop up” art exhibition at the local café *Tenny & Betsy*. It is open to students of middle school and high school and is a celebration of student talent while also showcasing the importance of our local small businesses. Cece and Dorothea have designed a flyer with all of the relevant information which will be included in the packet at the Full Board meeting.

At the time of our meeting, there hasn't been any further movement on the issue of a “Vacancy Tax”. The EDC has expressed concerns with such a proposal. The Borough President has spoken of her support for such a Tax. Keith Powers has a bill for reforming the Commercial Rent Tax, Intro 1372-2019 (<https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3844862&GUID=8752F793-34B4-4F86-B79A-DB94514581F2&Options=ID|Text|Attachments|Other|&Search=commercial+rent+tax>).

March's small business meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th. It will be at 8am at the Ronald McDonald House, 405 East 73rd Street. We are inviting small business retailers from the neighborhood to get their thoughts and opinions on the challenges they are facing, especially in regard to the ever increasing issue of vacancies. Andrea Partenio, our fellow from Colombia University and Paul Higgins of the East 60s Neighborhood Association are working on a project to understand issues facing retailers and are gathering data. We are still waiting to get approval from the City regarding LIVE XYZ's proposal.

There have been some interesting suggestions on how to engage high school students with local businesses, from a photography competition utilizing social media such as Snapchat to student documentaries and interviews with local business owners. Dori also suggested a short story contest which could be published in Patch.

We discussed the effect of minimum wage on local business. Some business owners have to downsize their staff numbers or hire part-time staff, which means they don't have to give benefits as opposed to full-time workers. It was also brought up that 10 out of the 17 people running for Public Advocate have supported the idea of a \$50 an hour minimum wage.

We are in contact with Alessia Daniele who is the manager of Government and Community affairs at Weill Cornell. We are exploring ways to improve ties between the hospital and the small business community. We will be brainstorming with her to come up with ideas.

Sarah Chu and Mick Mellamphy, Co-Chairs