

**NYC REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

May 17, 2016

9:00 a.m.

**Long Island City Conference Center
Queens**

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Winston Fisher, REDC Co-Chair
9:05 – 9:10 a.m.	Remarks by ESD President, CEO and Commissioner Howard Zemsky ESD President, CEO and Commissioner Howard Zemsky
9:10 – 9:20 a.m.	Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity Winston Fisher, REDC Co-Chair
9:20 – 9:35 a.m.	REDC Round 6 Overview Ashley McCloskey, Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Councils
9:35 – 9:50 a.m.	Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Lilian Pascone, Empire State Fellow, NYS Department of State
9:50 – 10:05 a.m.	DRI Committee – Process and Timeline Kenneth Knuckles, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Kinda Younes, ITAC
10:05 – 10:20 a.m.	REDC Code of Conduct and Statement of Interest Elizabeth Fine, Executive Vice President, Legal and General Counsel, ESD
10:20– 10:35 a.m.	New York State Mentoring Program Dr. Stephanie Royal, Director of the NYS Mentoring – Downstate
10:35 – 10:45 a.m.	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks Winston Fisher, REDC Co- Chair

**New York City Regional Economic Development Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2017
Long Island City Conference Center, Queens**

Summary of Public Meeting

Regional Council Members and Representatives:

Stuart Appelbaum, President, RWDS, was represented by Zayne Abdessalam

Cesar Claro, Staten Island Economic Development Corporation
 Carol Conslato, Queens Chamber of Commerce
 Winston Fisher, NYC REDDC Co-Chair; Partner, Fisher Brothers
 Marcia Keizs, President, York College, CUNY
 Kenneth J. Knuckles, President & CEO, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone
 Carlo Scissura, President & CEO, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce with Varun Samyal
 Douglas C. Steiner, Chairman, Steiner Studios
 Kathryn Wyld, President & CEO, Partnership for NYC
 Kinda Younes, Executive Director, ITAC

Elected Officials and Representatives (City):

Joshua Levin, representing Hon. Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
 Matthew Washington, representing Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
 Dylan Cepeda, Representing City Councilmember Elizabeth Crowley
 Raymond Sanchez, Representing Bronx Borough President Rubin Diaz
 James Katz, Representing Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen
 Melinda Katz, Queen Borough President

REDC Staff

Brad Katz, Fisher Brothers
 Tim Roberts, Global Strategy Group
 Joseph Ferris, Global Strategy Group

ESD:

Howard Zemsky
 Lindsey Boylan
 Ashley McCloskey
 Samantha Baldock
 Joseph Tazewell
 Andrew Fletcher
 Lauren Racusin
 Brian Teubner
 Alexia Nazarian
 Jennifer Riveria
 Ashley McCloskey **(Presenter)**
 Elizabeth Fine **(Presenter)**
 Dr. Stephanie Royal, HESC **(Presenter)**

State Resources:

Sandra Dickson, PANYNJ
 Sharon Griffith, NYSED
 Fred Landa, DOS

Lilian Pascone, DOS (**Presenter**)
 Charles O'Shea, NYSDOT
 Luis Calderon, NYSDOT
 Dwight Brown, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

Public:

Elizabeth Lusskin, LIC Partnership
 Brittnee Crawford, LMCC
 Shurn Anderson, Office of Queens Borough President
 Justin Kramer, NYCEC
 Andrew Hoan, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
 Kara Meyer
 Sarah McCue, NYC and Company

Meeting

I. Welcome and Introduction

Winston Fisher welcomed the public to the Long Island City Conference Center. Mr. Fisher thanked ESD Commissioner Howard Zemsky and Elizabeth Lusskin, Executive Director of the Long Island City ("LIC") Partnership, for hosting the meeting as well as the Consolidated Funding Application workshop. He mentioned that the LIC Partnership was one of the council's priority projects in 2014, and has received \$100,000 in ESD funding (Round IV).

Mr. Fisher also acknowledged Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz. Borough President Katz welcomed everyone to Queens and lauded the importance of hosting the REDC meeting in her borough.

II. Remarks by ED President, CEO and Commissioner Howard Zemsky

Mr. Fisher introduces ESD President, CEO and Commissioner Howard Zemsky. Mr. Zemsky provided opening remarks, commending the Council on its dedication and hard work. Mr. Zemsky also commented on the energy and spirit of innovation that he had seen at a recent meeting of the NY Tech Meetup.

III. Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity

Mr. Fisher provided a recap of the council activity since the February 23 meeting:

- on March 9, Kathy Wylde, Carlo Scissura, Lisa Futterman, Kinda Younes and Mr. Fisher attended a REDC and CFA information session event hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams at Brooklyn Borough;
- on April 7, Carol Conslato and Mr. Fisher attended the REDC Leadership Summit, which was held at the Marriott Syracuse in downtown Syracuse; and

- on April 21, Kathy Wylde, Carol Conslato and Mr. Fisher attended a Business Roundtable discussion here at the Long Island City Conference Center with the Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan.

Mr. Fisher provided an overview of the meeting agenda and announced forthcoming presentations from: Ashley McCloskey, Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Councils in the Governor's Office; Lilian Pascone, ESD Fellow, Department of State, on information regarding the new Downtown Revitalization Program; Ken Knuckles and Kinda Younes, co-chairs of a subcommittee on the Downtown Revitalization Initiative; and Dr. Stephanie Royal, Director of Mentoring—Downstate.

IV. REDC Round 6 Overview

Ashley McCloskey, Deputy Director, Regional Economic Development Councils in the Governor's Office, provided background on the REDCs and highlighted its accomplishments, including \$3.9 Billion which has been awarded or committed to support over 4,100 projects statewide, which will lead to the creation and retention of 200,000 jobs. Regional Councils should review the regional industry cluster plans that were developed last year and continue to identify projects that will support and advance the cluster. This year Councils will again seek priority project request forms from applicants. Request forms must be submitted prior to the CFA deadline of July 29.

CFA Timeline:

- Opened on May 2 at 8am
- Closes July 29 at 4:00 PM
- Progress reports due October 3 at 5pm

New aspect of this year's REDC is the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. ESD will catalyze and incentivize downtown revitalization through a statewide competition. Each REDC will nominate one downtown to be the focus of \$10M in funding (more on the DRI below). This year the goal has been to limit the number of new initiatives for the Councils to address in order to allow time to focus on strategic plan implementation. Regional Councils are asked to return to their plans and consider additional actions they can take to implement them and to identify projects that support each region's vision of its economic future. Each REDC will also provide an update on prior round priorities and ongoing state initiatives.

V. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Lilian Pascone, Empire State Fellow, Department of State, provided an overview of the DRI and the application process. ESD will catalyze and incentivize downtown revitalization through a statewide competition. The state will invest \$100 million in the DRI; 10 communities will win \$10M plus priority CFA funding. Funding will help create a strong sense of place, diverse new businesses, high-paying jobs, arts and cultural attractions, a diverse population, enhanced local property tax base, and amenities to support and enhance downtown living and quality of life.

The State will bring urban planning experts to build a strategic investment plan and identify projects that implement the plan. Eligible applicants will come from NYC, Borough Presidents and other entities will partner with the City to submit applications. Submissions must describe the downtown, define the boundaries, explain why the neighborhood should be chosen, and identify how the downtown neighborhood meets criteria.

The selected downtown should have compact, well-defined boundaries, sufficient population, potential to build on and increase public and private investment, recent or impending job growth, characteristics that increase livability, local policies that advance revitalization, community support.

Private sector planning experts will be paid out of the \$10M award (up to \$300K). They will help develop strategic investment plans led by local committees, provide technical support from state and private sector experts. Plans will be approved by REDC and local planning committees. Local planning committees may include REDC members, local & regional officials, neighborhood residents, property owners and local developers, business owners, local housing corporations and financial institutions, non-profit and advocacy organizations, cultural institutions, educational institutions, community and faith-based organizations.

DRI Process:

- REDCs conduct public outreach to potential participants, gather information, review based on criteria, and nominate one downtown by June 3.
- The State certifies downtowns, launch Fast Track Planning Initiative with Planning Experts
- REDCs submit Strategic Investment Plan
- Planning experts work with local planning committees – Summer 2016

I. DRI Committee – Process and Timeline

Mr. Fisher introduced Ken Knuckles and Kinda Younes, co-chairs of our DRI subcommittee. They will oversee the process to evaluate the DRI proposals. Mr. Knuckles stressed that we have a short time to conduct public outreach for the numerous downtown communities in New York City that might be eligible for the DRI, so he is proposing a streamlined outreach effort to make them as efficient as possible. The DRI Committee will engage the representatives from each of the Borough Presidents offices to help drive, and perhaps in some cases consolidate, applications from their respective boroughs. Borough Presidents will be able to use their vast networks to generate interest in the DRI and result in several competitive applications each.

Department of State (“DOS”) planning staff have been providing the DRI committee with key data for neighborhoods under consideration and participated in several calls with REDC staff.

Process: Applicants should work with NYCEDC on submitting an application. ESD staff has also reached out to New York City Department of Small Business Services, local development corporations, chambers of commerce and numerous colleges and universities. Once applications are received no later than June

3 at 5PM, the DRI Co-Chairs will review applications to ensure all seven points of state mandated evaluation criteria have been met. They will then select the strongest applications that meet the criteria and share with the REDC Executive Committee for review and nomination to Albany for final approval and certification by June 30.

There was a long discussion following Mr. Knuckles' and Ms. Younes' presentation concerning the tight timeline, nomination, and application processes. It was recognized that the proposed process whereby a municipality selects a downtown is better suited towards upstate regions and does not work as well in NYC.

Mr. Fisher suggested that each Borough President's office recommend some set number of projects. He said he would discuss the deadline with the DRI Co-Chairs and ESD staff in the next couple of days clarifying the process and addressing a possible internal deadline extension for the current June 3 date.

VI. REDC Code of Conduct and Statement of Interest

Mr. Fisher then introduced Elizabeth Fine, ESD Executive Vice President and Legal and General Counsel to discuss the Regional Council's Code of Conduct and the Statement of Interest forms. Ms. Fine summarized the REDC Code of Conduct, which states that members shall avoid actual and potential conflicts of interest and shall not allow their interests or those of a relative to interfere with their advice as a member of the Council. They must also not disclose information obtained as a member of the Council and they shall not attempt to use their position on the council to secure any unwarranted privileges. Within 30 days of appointment to the Council, and every year, each member must submit to the Regional Council Chair a written statement identifying any entity, enterprise or real property in which he or she has an interest. Council members must also recuse themselves from influencing a discussion or vote where they have an interest in a matter.

VII. New York State Mentoring Program

Mr. Fisher introduced Dr. Stephanie Royal, Director of the NYS Mentoring Program Downstate. Dr. Royal introduced the program, which is chaired by the Honorable Matilda Raffa Cuomo. The program provides one-to-one, school-based mentoring statewide to help children reach their full potential. The program is focused on supporting the needs of elementary and middle school students and plans to implement a high school program. It will last the entire academic year from late September until mid-June. The program combines public and private sector volunteers and works with private sector and nonprofit leaders to identify mentoring partners and match students with mentors based on common interests. Mentoring sessions are scheduled at the end of the school day and at the school site. The site coordinator, designated by school principals, serves an important function in the mentoring program. Sessions have different emphases based on the grade levels.

VIII. Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Mr. Fisher announced that a CFA workshop would be taking place at 2:00pm in the same conference center. He thanked Elizabeth Lusskin and the Long Island City Partnership for hosting the workshop. He

announced that another CFA workshop would be taking place on June 8 at the New York Genome Center, located at 101 Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan, beginning at 10:30am. Committee and workshop meetings addressing the Governor's and the REDC's priority agenda items for this and past rounds will be forthcoming. He invited council member to contact Joe Tazewell if interested and to not hesitate to send a representative if they were unable to attend.

Mr. Fisher also announced that the REDC Council plans to hold a public forum in June (location and time TBD) to hear short presentations from sponsors of potential priority projects. All council members were encouraged to attend so they can become familiar with the projects when it's time to score the CFAs, and later when they are asked to approve the progress report and priority projects being recommended for funding.

Mr. Fisher thanked the Council and public for attending and asked Commissioner Zemsky if he had any closing remarks.

Commissioner Zemsky thanked council members for their commitment. He also encouraged everyone not to lose sight that the DRI awards \$10M to a single neighborhood and that the selection process would be clarified soon.