



NYC REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

May 5, 2017

10:00 a.m.

**Long Island City Conference Center
Brewster Building (JetBlue)
Long Island City, Queens**

10:00 – 10:05 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Cheryl Moore, REDC Co-Chair

10:05 – 10:15 a.m.

Remarks

Michael Schmidt, Deputy Secretary of Economic Development, Governor's Office
Roberta Reardon, Commissioner, NYS Department of Labor

10:15 – 10:20 a.m.

Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity

Cheryl Moore, REDC Co-Chair

10:20 – 10:35 a.m.

REDC Round VII

Winston Fisher, REDC Co-Chair

Alison Walsh, Vice President, Regional Economic Development, Governor's Office

10:35 – 10:50 a.m.

REDC Code of Conduct and Statement of Interest

Goldie Weixel, Senior Counsel, ESD

Felisa Hochheiser, Special Counsel for Ethics, Risk and Compliance, ESD

10:50 – 11:05 a.m.

Priority Project Presentation

Elizabeth Lusskin, President, Long Island City Partnership

11:05 – 11:10 a.m.

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Winston Fisher, REDC Co-Chair



**New York City Regional Economic Development Council
Meeting Summary**

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: May 5th, 2017 10:00 am

Location: Long Island City Conference Center, The Brewster Building, 41-21 27th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Executive Chamber and Staff:

Michael Schmidt, Governor's Office
Alison Walsh, Governor's Office

NYS Department of Labor Commissioner and Staff

Roberta Reardon, Commissioner, New York State Department of Labor
Tchiyuka Cornelius, New York State Department of Labor
Jeremy Hoffman, New York State Department of Labor

Council Members Present:

Stuart Appelbaum, President, Wholesale, Retail, & Department Store Union
Wellington Chen, Executive Director, Chinatown Partnership
Carol Conslato, Past President, Queens Chamber of Commerce
Winston Fisher, NYC REDC Co-Chair and Partner, Fisher Brothers
Lisa Futterman, Consultant, Workforce Development Institute
Cheryl A. Moore, NYC REDC Co-Chair and President & COO, New York Genome Center
Carlos Scissura, President & CEO, New York Building Congress
Douglas Steiner, Chairman, Steiner Studios
Kathryn Wylde, President & CEO, Partnership for NYC
Kinda Younes, Executive Director, ITAC

Ex-Officio Council Members and Representatives:

Matthew Washington (representing Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer)
Gerry Kassar (representing State Senator Martin Golden)
James Katz (representing NYC Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen)
Dirk McCall (representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz)
Melva Miller (representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz)
Diana Reyna (representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams)



Lashay Young (representing Staten Island Borough President James Oddo)

Council Member Representatives:

Sulma Arzu Brown (representing Nick Lugo, President & CEO, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)

Karen Bunting, Chief of Staff to Cheryl Moore

Louis Guida (representing Stuart Appelbaum, President, RWDS)

Suzette Hunte (representing Sheena Wright)

Bradley Katz, Chief of Staff to Winston Fisher

Camille Rivera (representing Stuart Appelbaum, President, RWDS)

Tim Roberts (representing Winston Fisher)

Earl G. Simons (representing Marcia Keizs)

State Agency Staff

ESD:

Joseph Tazewell, Regional Director

Andrew Fletcher

Felicia Hochheiser

Maria Mitchell

Alexia Nazarian

Lauren Racusin

Ester Rim

Brian Teubner

Goldie Weixel

State Agency Resource Team:

Dwight Brown, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation

Donna Drayton, New York State Homes and Community Renewal

Public:

Elizabeth Lusskin, Long Island City Partnership

Elliott Dawes, SUNY Empire

Time Adjourned: 11:30 am



Welcome and Remarks:

I. Welcome and Introduction

Cheryl Moore welcomed REDC members and the public to the Long Island City Conference Center. She thanked Elizabeth Lusskin, President of the LIC Partnership for hosting the meeting and the Consolidating Funding Application workshop.

II. Remarks by Deputy Secretary Michael Schmidt

Ms. Moore introduced the recently appointed Deputy Secretary of Economic Development in the Governor's Office, Michael Schmidt. Deputy Secretary Schmidt delivered brief remarks expressing his excitement to attend the REDC meeting.

III. Remarks by NYS Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon

Ms. Moore also welcomed Commissioner Roberta Reardon. The Commissioner delivered updates of New York State unemployment rates. Stuart Appelbaum commended the administration for the lower unemployment rates but also raised concerns about the quality of jobs.

Kathryn Wylde asked questions regarding immigration enforcement and compliance in New York State. Commissioner Reardon answered that Department of Labor does not track federal immigration enforcement. She mentioned that the Governor set aside a legal fund that provides services for immigrants and that the Office of New Americans helps all immigrants, regardless of status. Ms. Wylde also raised concerns about recent raids possibly setting precedents. She asked whether the state receives prior notices about sweeps and if there are mechanisms to increase transparency. She stressed the importance of data collection, for example, number of sweeps, in analyzing how immigrants impact the state's economy.

IV. Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity

Ms. Moore outlined the meeting's agenda, including presentations from:

- Alison Walsh, Vice President, Regional Economic Development in the Governor's Office with a full overview of what's to come with Round 7;
- Goldie Weixel, Senior Counsel, and Felisa Hochheiser, Special Counsel for Ethics, Risk and Compliance, both of Empire State Development, who discussed the Regional Councils Code of Conduct and the Statement of Interest.
- Elizabeth Lusskin, who provided a status report on the Long Island City Comprehensive Plan and the Long City Partnership's way finding and streetscape improvement project.



Ms. Moore then provided details of Regional Council activities that have taken place since the last meeting on February 16, 2017, which included the following:

- On March 21, REDC staff, including Brad Katz, and Joe Tazewell and Lauren Racusin of ESD, attended the REDC Leadership Summit, which included all of the REDCs. The summit was held at the Rivers Casino & Resort in Schenectady. There were remarks from Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, ESD Commissioner Howard Zemsky and Secretary of State Rossana Rosado. Staff from Governor's Office provided a brief overview of REDC Round VII. The agenda and program from the REDC Leadership Summit are included in your materials.
- On April 20, Winston, Lisa Futterman, Kinda Younes and Cheryl Moore attended a REDC and CFA information session event hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams at the Brooklyn Borough Hall. Joe Tazewell of ESD provided overview of the REDC and CFA process, and there were presentations from past CFA award recipients.
- On April 25, Wellington Chen attended a REDC and CFA information session event hosted by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer at the Manhattan Borough Hall. Joe provided an overview of the REDC and CFA process there as well.
- Lisa Futterman and Joe also presented at the SIEDC Business Conference on April 27.

Ms. Moore then turned over the meeting to Winston Fisher, who introduced Alison Walsh.

V. Presentation by Alison Walsh on REDC Round VI Overview

Ms. Walsh highlighted facts and achievements of Round VI of the CFA process and the successes in New York City. She also provided a full overview of the upcoming round.

Matthew Washington commented that although New York City received a large award, the region is on the lower end. Ms. Walsh encouraged the REDC to continue its outreach efforts and workshops to increase the number and improve the quality of applications.

Kenneth Knuckles asked if there are industry sectors with more development potential. Ms. Walsh replied that job potential is not concentrated in one industry; she emphasized that the scoring process looks for good jobs in general.

Diana Reyna commended the council and administration's efforts in lowering unemployment rates but expressed concern with disconnected youth, ages 16-24 that are chronically unemployed. She asked whether the administration would prioritize projects that focus on this issue. Ms. Walsh stated that the council can consider this factor in its scoring process and that Ms. Reyna can officially ask to prioritize projects that help alleviate youth unemployment.

Wellington Chen asked Commissioner Reardon about the most common problem across the regions. The Commissioner replied that poverty is a common denominator that

often arises from a lack of access to transportation and childcare. She also commented that many people living in urban areas do not consider crafts trades such as welding or mechanics as career options. She emphasized the need to increase conversation in the education system and also with parents to change the discourse surrounding crafts jobs in cities.

Mr. Appelbaum added that more jobs should increase on-call scheduling.

Mr. Washington added that the state should invest in more CTE programs; in order to do that, he stated the need to equip students on the local level in those skills. Ms. Reyna asked what State body holds the ability to bridge the gap in CTE programs; she relayed that she heard that “funding issues” prevent students from graduating with certificates. Ms. Wylde responded that the DOE and UFT were working on changing regulations and laws for certification for both students and teachers. She stated that common core issues are currently taking away the focus from this issue.

Mr. Fisher closed the discussion by reminding the council that the region needs more applications in order to bring quality jobs and training.

Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Walsh and introduced Goldie Weixel, Senior Counsel, and Felisa Hochheiser, Special Counsel for Ethics, Risk and Compliance, both of Empire State Development.

VI. Presentation by Goldie Weixel and Felisa Hochheiser

Ms. Weixel and Ms. Hochheiser reviewed procedures and rules regarding Regional Council Code of Conduct and Statement of Interest.

Mr. Fisher thanked Ms. Weixel and Ms. Hochheiser; he then introduced Elizabeth Lusskin, Executive Director of the Long Island City Partnership.

VII. Presentation by Elizabeth Lusskin

Ms. Lusskin reported on the Long Island City Comprehensive Plan and a wayfinding and streetscape improvement project. The LIC partnership received two separate \$200,000 awards for these two projects.

After her presentation, Carlos Scissura asked Ms. Lusskin to expand on plans for increased schools in the area.

Ms. Lusskin stated that there is a crunch on elementary and middle schools and the neighborhood implements “forward thinking” to create a “full service neighborhood.”



Mr. Knuckles remarked on the 64 hotels that were being planned for the neighborhood and asked about their relevancy to the neighborhood.

Ms. Lusskin replied that there are a number of business and leisure travelers who stay in LIC because of its proximity to Manhattan; she noted that there are 30 global cultural institutions in the area. She also stated that many hotel developers are rushing to get grandfathered into current land use policies before the Mayor changes them.

Mr. Fisher thanked Ms. Lusskin and proceeded with announcements.

VIII. Wrap-up & Closing Remarks

Mr. Fisher made the following announcements prior to adjourning:

- At 2:00 p.m. later this afternoon, the NYC REDC, together with the office of the Regional Economic Development Councils, will hold a Consolidated Funding Application workshop in this conference center. The workshop will include an overview of the Consolidated Funding Application process, including breakout sessions with state agency staff.
- The Council will be holding another CFA workshop on June 8 at the New York Genome Center beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- Additional CFA Information Sessions are scheduled for May 22 at the Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street, and May 24 in the Bronx at Hostos Community College.
- There will be workgroup meetings regarding some priority agenda items for this and past rounds including – workforce development, Veterans and our Regional Cluster – Life Sciences.
- The Council plans to hold a public forum later this summer to hear short presentations from sponsors of potential priority projects. This is the one opportunity priority project sponsors will have a chance to present to the full Council before the progress report is drafted. Joe Tazewell will notify all council members when this meeting is scheduled.

Mr. Fisher thanked all of the members for attending, and for their dedication and commitment of time to this initiative.

Mr. Fisher then adjourned the meeting.