



NYC REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

July 28, 2014
1:00 p.m.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Manhattan

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Welcome and Introduction Ken Knuckles, REDC Executive Committee
1:15 – 1:25 p.m.	Discussion of 2014 Progress Report Kathy Wylde, REDC Executive Committee
1:25 p.m.	Public Testimony
At completion of speakers	Adjourn Ken Knuckles, REDC Executive Committee



New York City Regional Economic Development Council Meeting

Monday, July 28, 2014

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Manhattan

Summary of Public Meeting

Attendees

Regional Council Members and Representatives:

Stuart Appelbaum, President, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
with rep Ademola Oyefeso

Wellington Chen, Executive Director, Chinatown Partnership Local
Development Corp.

Carol Conslato, President, Queens Chamber of Commerce

Kenneth J. Knuckles, President & CEO, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone
(UMEZ)

Steve Spinola, President, REBNY, with rep Mike Slattery

Steve Hindy, Brooklyn Brewery, with rep Eric Ottaway

Kathryn Wylde, President & CEO, Partnership for NYC

Elected Officials and Representatives (City)

Melva Miller, representing Hon. Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President

Kai D. Feder, representing Hon. Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President

Joseph Garba, representing Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Elected Officials and Representatives (State)

Camden Ackerman, representing Hon. Sheldon Silver, New York State Assembly –
District 65

ESDC

Joseph Tazewell, ESDC

Adem Bunkeddeko, ESDC

Elizabeth Demetriou, ESDC

Renee Kim, REDC Intern

Drew Podgorski, REDC Intern

Lauren Racusin, ESDC

Jasmine Baker, ESDC



Nicole Jordan, ESDC

State Resource

Sandra Dixon, PANYNJ
Sharon Griffith, NYSERDA
Charles O'Shea, NYS DOT
Luis Calderon, NYS DOT
Gregory Watson, NYS HCR

CUNY

Suri Duitch
Hourig Messerlian
Rene Ontal
Anthony Vargas

Meeting

Welcome, Introduction and Preceding Remarks

Kenneth Knuckles welcomed the public and thanked President Jeremy Travis of John Jay College for hosting the meeting again.

To encourage the implementation of the Council's Strategic Plan as well as to continue to motivate job creation and investment opportunities, the 10 Regional Councils will compete in 2014 for up to \$150 million in capital funds and \$70 million in excelsior tax credits for regional council priority projects. Cooperation between the regional councils and representatives of the community is key to achieving economic development success. The competition will focus on implementation of regional strategic economic development plans; performance in encouraging economic growth through job creation and investment and identification of global marketing and export strategies. The Council's priorities and success in implementing its strategic plan are discussed in the draft 2014 progress report. Knuckles reminded CFA applicants and regional council members that two of the criteria listed for the 2014 Council priority projects are job creation and retention. Before moving onto the public forum and comments on the 2014 draft progress report, Knuckles called on Kathryn Wilde to report on the status of the progress report.

Discussion of the 2014 Progress Report

Kathryn Wylde said that the progress report is intended to update the strategic plan that the Council put together three years ago and that the overall goal of that plan was really



to bring the benefits of growth and development of the city to all its neighborhoods to maximize job creation and to generally support the continued redevelopment and inclusive redevelopment of the city.

The progress report incorporates two priorities laid out by the state. One is last year's priority for continuing to implement the opportunity agenda, which means preparing more people for the workforce, for good jobs in our growing economy. Number two is the concept of Global New York, which is really increasing the export of goods and services, particularly in New York City, the export of goods, as we're seeing development of, with artisan and local manufacturing/production activities, once again turning upward for the first time in many decades.

There is also the continued investment in redevelopment of 15 targeted opportunity zones in the city where there has been significant rezoning, and a significant opportunity for redevelopment to create new jobs and support affordable housing. Under the opportunity agenda, the Council focused on a top priority project being a partnership between Per Scholas and Doran Jones, a new opportunity for bringing back formerly outsourced tech jobs, support service and software testing jobs to the city, which is very exciting.

On the Global New York side, we have focused on continued support for areas that are supporting manufacturing of goods development, notably the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Brooklyn Army Terminal and also the JFK Air Cargo area.

Finally, on opportunity zone revitalization, the Council concentrated on 125th Street in this year's progress report, where there are two important projects, the Loews Victoria Theater and the National Urban League headquarters redevelopment facility. Wylde said that there are also a number of separate categories besides the capital program that the Council prioritized. The amount of funds available are small relative to the great opportunities, so the Council should clarify that the regional council is really supportive of all these initiatives across the city but we had to pick out some strategic priorities for the special funding competition.

Kenneth Knuckles welcomed members of the public to the public forum.