

**NEW YORK STATE OPEN FOR BUSINESS**  
**New York City Regional Economic Development Council**  
**Public Hearing Summary**  
**Nov. 4, 2011, 2 p.m.**  
**Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, Harlem**

Regional Council Members

- Matthew Goldstein, co-chair
- Stephen Lemson, representing co-chair Kenneth Chenault
- Carole Conslato, Queens Chamber of Commerce
- Carl Hum, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- Frank Randazzo, representing Marlene Cintron, Bronx Overall EDC
- Kathryn Wylde, Partnership for New York City

Elected Officials

New York State Senator Bill Perkins

Regional Council Staff

Joseph Tazewell, ESDC

CUNY

Jay Hershenson, senior vice chancellor and board secretary

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein opened the hearing at 2 p.m. by telling the audience that the purpose was to hear their comments on the council's draft five-year economic development plan.

He introduced Willie Walker, superintendent of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem, who gave an official welcome. Walker pointed out that the exterior plaza of the building, which is also known as the African Square, had just undergone a \$1 million renovation.

Goldstein set out the guidelines for public comment: each speaker would be allotted three minutes to speak and could leave written testimony with the regional council for further study.

He then gave the audience a synopsis of the regional council's work, which started on Aug. 10. In subsequent meetings, the council identified assets, opportunities and barriers to economic development in the region as well as priority projects. The council set up work groups, drafted and approved a vision statement, and created a scoring committee and a writing committee to draft the five-year plan. The draft was posted on [nyworks.ny.gov](http://nyworks.ny.gov) on Oct. 28. The council will vote on the plan at its next meeting on Nov. 8, and the final draft will be submitted to the governor on Nov. 14.

He encouraged public feedback, pointing out that the regional council will be meeting regularly for the next two years to discuss aspects of regulation that are beyond the scope of the five-year plan, and to develop an inventory of priority projects that are not listed in the original plan.

Goldstein turned the floor over to Kathryn Wylde, president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, chair of the writing committee. Wylde summarized the highlights of the plan, saying that the plan sought to recognize opportunities to grow the economy globally as well as to bolster neighborhood economics in a new way. The plan focuses on neighborhoods that have been rezoned but that have not yet taken off. She listed the plan's four key pillars:

- Improve quality of life
- Create a pro-growth, pro-jobs environment
- Invest in the future
- Foster innovation and inter-regional co-operation

She also reminded the audience that the New York City Regional Council is competing with nine other regions in the state for funds and wants boroughs to be able to access scarce resources.

Goldstein pointed out that the five-year plan is a living document. The initial request is for a limited number of projects but will include other projects in its narrative.

Six people then commented.

Alexander Couzis, CUNY Energy Institute

Prof. Alexander Couzis, chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering at CUNY's City College, asked the council to consider the CUNY Energy Institute, a cutting-edge research center that develops innovative sustainable-energy technologies that have practical and economical applications. The institute, based at City College and led by Distinguished Prof. Sanjoy Banerjee, has received more than \$18 million in federal, state, and private funding since its founding in early 2008. The institute conducts research that addresses energy-related problems specific to New York City and State and finds new and better ways to produce, store and use the world's energy resources. The institute's entrepreneurial climate leads to the formation of start-up companies and licensing opportunities.

Valerio De Angelis, Smart Energy Facilitator (project of the CUNY Energy Institute)

Valerio De Angelis, director of the CUNY Energy Institute, asked the council to consider \$10 million in funding for the institute's smart energy facilitator project, designed to enable the commercialization of technology developed at CUNY. The first spinoff, the Urban Power Co., would commercialize energy-storage technology via very large batteries in a pilot plant then a larger manufacturing plant. The project has received more than \$10 million in private and federal grants; Con Edison is one of the funders. Initial units would be used to reduce peak loads in New York City buildings, thereby slashing energy bills. The project is in advanced discussions with venture-capital firms and is confident it can raise a first round of \$25 million in 2012. It expects to receive about \$15 million of in-kind support and demonstration facilities from Con Edison and CUNY." An additional \$20 million more would be raised in the third through fifth years; by the end of the fifth year, the Urban Power Co. would have the potential to employ more than 250 people.

Matt Woods, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex, Space Shuttle Enterprise

Matt Woods, senior vice president, engineering, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex, asked the council to consider funding a new center for the Space Shuttle Enterprise, which, after a

national competition, was awarded to the museum by NASA in April 2011. The new 75,000-square-foot science and education center for the Enterprise, to be built opposite the Intrepid Museum adjacent to the West Side Highway, will feature interpretive exhibits, interactive media displays, classrooms and labs, retail spaces, a rooftop café and an outdoor public plaza and gallery space. The project would increase tourism in the region by several hundred thousand visitors per year and reinforce the state's position as a science and space destination. Because the shuttle is to be delivered in spring 2012, new jobs will be created as early as March 2012. He estimated that there would be 665 direct and indirect jobs during ramp-up and construction, and 1,186 permanent direct and indirect jobs once the center opens. The center would generate \$157 million in direct and indirect economic output in New York State and \$6 million in taxes during ramp-up and construction. He added that \$134 million in sustained economic output and \$8.5 million in taxes would be generated every year once the center opens.

Thomas Lunke, Harlem Community Development Corp., La Marqueta Mile: A Sustainable Market

Thomas Lunke, director of planning and development for the Harlem Community Development Corp., asked the council to consider including La Marqueta Mile: A Sustainable Market, as a priority project in the five-year plan. The 22-block-long, 230,000-square-foot, open-air market would be built on the 55-foot-wide promenade, the site of vacant parking lots, under the Metro North Park Avenue elevated railroad viaduct in East Harlem. The small-scale, retail, wholesale and production market could house up to 900 new local businesses and create about 4,000 new jobs. A workforce training program would empower entrepreneurs and workers, and green technologies, including solar, wind and biofuel, would make the project energy-efficient. All food, arts and crafts would be produced on site, creating an international tourist attraction. The project would provide a diverse food market in a supermarket-starved community whose residents suffer the highest levels of diet-related diseases in the city because they don't have access to healthy foods.

Jacob Morris, Society for Equitable Excellence, Science Center

Society for Equitable Excellence Founder Jacob Morris told the council about a proposed science center for the South Bronx. He noted that the region's only other science center of note is the Hayden Planetarium in Manhattan and proposed that the council fund a state-of-the-art center with reasonably priced admission as a learning tool for students. He said he would give the council more details at a later date.

Carlisle Towery, Greater Jamaica Development Corp., Airport Village at the LIRR/AirTrain Station

Carlisle Towery, president of the Greater Jamaica Development Corp., said he had just read the council's five-year plan and hoped to study it more. He said that it paid little attention to the aviation industry, which is especially important in Queens, where two airports are located. Under the transportation category, he said that reverse-flow activity is not addressed and that sometimes trains make return trips empty. He suggested that one objective should be shortening commutes, adding that many in Queens have to make long commutes to Manhattan. He said this could be remedied by bringing more jobs to Jamaica. He also noted what he called the maldistribution of government, saying that 82 percent is in Manhattan and only 6 percent is in Queens. He also emphasized that industrial retention is important, saying that the Excelsior Jobs Program doesn't work because it requires the creation of too many jobs to qualify. He also urged the council to consider funding of an Airport Village at the LIRR/AirTrain Station in Jamaica.

Goldstein reminded Towery that the council's work was a work in progress. He then called on New York State Sen. Bill Perkins, who represents Harlem. Perkins voiced support for La Marqueta Mile: A Sustainable Market, saying it had the potential to become as much as tourist attraction as Manhattan's fabled Museum Mile. He also said he supported the development of Harlem's 116<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor and wanted it to be part of the vision of the regional council. He told the council that he would discuss the idea with partners in the community.

Goldstein reminded Perkins that CUNY's oldest campus, The City College of New York, which was established in 1847, is in Harlem and that he's a proud graduate of the college.

The meeting concluded at 2:45 p.m. with Goldstein reminding everyone that the next regional council meeting is Nov. 8 and that the final draft of the five-year plan will be submitted Nov. 14.