



NYC REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

May 3, 2018

9:30 a.m.

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

9:30 – 9:35 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Winston Fisher, NYC REDC Co-Chair
9:35 – 9:40 a.m.	Remarks Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul
9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity Winston Fisher, NYC REDC Co-Chair
9:50 – 10:05 a.m.	REDC Round VIII Overview Alison Walsh, Vice President, Regional Economic Development, Governor's Office
10:05 – 10:20 a.m.	Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round Three Sarah Crowell, Director, Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure, NYS Department of State
10:20 – 10:30 a.m.	Priority Project Presentation Elizabeth Lusskin, President, Long Island City Partnership
10:30 – 10:35 a.m.	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul Winston Fisher, NYC REDC Co-Chair



New York City Regional Economic Development Council

Meeting Summary

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: May 3rd, 2018 9:30 a.m.

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

Council Members Present:

Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor
Winston Fisher, NYC REDC Co-Chair and Partner, Fisher Brothers (with Brad Katz)
Wellington Chen, Executive Director, Chinatown Partnership
Marlene Cintron, President, Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation
Lisa Futterman, Regional Director, Workforce Development Institute
Gail Grimmett, President, Protravel International & Tzell Travel Group
Marcia Keizs, President, York College (with representative Earl Simmons)
Carlos Scissura, New York Building Congress
Douglas Steiner, Chairman, Steiner Studios
Marcel Van Ooyen, Executive Director, GrowNYC
Kathryn Wylde, President & CEO, Partnership for NYC
Kinda Younes, ITAC

Ex-Officio Council Members and Representatives:

Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President (with Melva Miller)
Josh Levin (representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams)
James Katz (representing Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen)
James Rausse (representing Bronx Borough President Rubin Diaz)
Matthew Washington & James Thomas (representing Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer)
Lashay Young (representing Staten Island Borough President James Oddo)

Council Member Substitutes:

Karen Bunting (representing Cheryl Moore, President and COO, NY Genome Center)
Sulma Arzu Brown (representing Nick Lugo, President, NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)



State Agency Staff:

ESD:

Joseph Tazewell, Executive Director of NYC REDC
Sam Baldock
Elizabeth Fine
Andrew Fletcher
Drew Gabriel
Ingrid Nathan
Alexia Nazarian
Marion Phillips
Alexander Rodriguez
Alison Walsh
Goldie Weixel

Executive Chamber:

Aries Dela Cruz
Veronica Ng
Sophia Zayas

State Agency Resource Team:

Dwight Brown, NYSEFC
Tchiyuka Cornelius, NYSDOL
Sarah Crowell, NYSDOS
Merrill Hesch, Office of Parks, Rec, HP
Kim Vallejo, Ag & Markets

Public:

Hosts:

Elizabeth Lusskin, President, Long Island City Partnership
Ted Baptiste, Long Island City Partnership
Ying Huang, Long Island City Partnership
Steven Jacobs, Long Island City Partnership
Yasmeen Ahmed Pattie, Long Island City Partnership
Rowena Sahulee, Long Island City Partnership
Charles Yu, Long Island City Partnership

General Public:

Sarah Bloch, Per Scholas
Julia Donnaruma, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
Jill Kaplan, Hot Bread Kitchen
Knox Martin, Brooklyn Music School
Christopher Mendoza, Coalition for Queens
Jeanette Nigro, Perch Advisors
Eloise Owens, Whitney Museum
Piruz Partow, Brooklyn Music School



**New York City
Regional Economic
Development Council**

Tina Quinones-Cabrera, Hostos Community College
Evans Richardson, The Studio Museum in Harlem
Michael Yohai, CUNY
Toni Lewis, Manhattan Neighborhood Network
Jessica D., Josephine Herrick Project
S. Hunle, United Way NYC

Time Adjourned: 10:35 a.m.

I. Welcome and Introduction

Winston Fisher welcomed members of the public. Fisher thanked Elizabeth Lusskin, President of the Long Island City Partnership, for hosting the meeting and the CFA workshop taking place later in the day.

Mr. Fisher introduced Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, noting her advocacy on behalf of the REDC in Albany.

II. Remarks by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul

The Lieutenant Governor thanked the REDC for being dedicated volunteers and advocates for the program, which has brought great success throughout the city.

III. Remarks by Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Mr. Fisher acknowledged Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and asked she wanted to make any remarks.

The Borough President thanked Lieutenant Governor Hochul for her work. The Borough President also thanked Winston Fisher for bringing the REDC to a new level of success. The Borough President noted that the REDC had been an amazing partner to the Jamaica, Queens community through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). She cited that the DRI has allowed for broadband in Jamaica and new business incubator space. The Borough also noted that Long Island City will be putting out a strategic tech plan, which will serve as a road map for tech and training for both the tech industry and for people in other industries.

IV. Overview of Agenda and Recap of Regional Council Activity

Winston Fisher then provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Fisher detailed Regional Council activities that had taken place since the September 13th, 2017 meeting, which included the following:

- The Council's 2017 Progress report was submitted to Commissioner Howard Zensky on October 2.
- On November 17, 2017, at Hostos Community College in the Bronx, Mr. Fisher, Cheryl Moore, Kathy Wylde, Ken Knuckles, Carol Conslato, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz presented its 2017 REDC progress report to the Strategic Implementation Assessment team led by Secretary of State Rossana Rosado.
- On December 13, 2017 the CFA awards were announced at a ceremony hosted by Governor Cuomo in Albany. The New York City region received \$64.8 million supporting 121 projects in all five boroughs.

- On March 13th, Kathy Wylde and REDC staff, including Karen Bunting and Joe Tazewell, attended the REDC Leadership Summit in Albany, which included the leadership from all of the regional councils. The Summit included remarks from Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and ESD Commissioner Howard Zensky. Staff from the Governor's Office and ESD provided a brief overview of: REDC Round VIII; the new Federal Opportunity Zones program; DRI Round III; and a review of REDC Ethics requirements.

Mr. Fisher then asked for Council members to disclose any possible conflicts of interest with items on the agenda.

V. REDC Round VIII Overview

Allison Walsh gave an overview presentation of REDC Round VIII. Follow up questions from REDC members included the following:

- REDC member Marlene Cintron commented with her concern regarding retail jobs, which are being cut around the city, and asked to hear ideas regarding redirecting education for workers whose retail jobs were lost.
- Ms. Walsh noted that the Governor's Office is creating an Office of Workforce Development in line with the Governor's State of the State proposal for funding; but noted that the CFA timeline was not suitable for organizations seeking this type of funding. Ms. Walsh assured that REDCs would be involved with this priority.
- Manhattan Deputy Borough President Matthew Washington expressed remarks on the map of New York State that indicated the amount of funding allocated to each region, and expressed concern that New York City is the lowest performer. Washington asked how it could be a top performer.
Ms. Walsh responded by noting that CFA funding is a "drop in the bucket" for many New York City projects, and that upstate projects are often in more desperate need for public capital.
Mr. Washington responded to that comment saying he could show her desperate need in the City.
Ms. Walsh responded, in turn, that the New York City region is the most successful at leveraging private investment. Mr. Washington responded saying the City would gladly take more direct investment.
Winston Fischer interjected, expressing that we should abandon the thought that all of New York City is midtown Manhattan and that CFA funding is a "drop in the bucket." Mr. Fischer noted that small amounts matter, and that the good

leveraging of private investment makes the grants a good return on investment, benefiting the entire state.

- REDC member Kathryn Wylde commented that the map of identified Opportunity Zones is available on the website, and explained that the Opportunity Zones offer incentives for equity similar to the New Markets Tax Credits. Ms. Wylde also noted that slow payments by the State to non-profit organizations is problematic, as many of these organizations are turning away State grants because they cannot afford to wait for reimbursement.
- Mr. Fischer noted that REDC members are “cheerleaders” for the REDC as a whole, and that Council members should praise the NYC REDC to any connection they have in Albany, in order to stress the importance of the region. Carlo Scissura agreed, and added that this should be a critical responsibility of the Council, noting that some State Senators are unaware of what the NYC REDC does.

VI. Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round III

Sarah Crowell, Director of the Office of Planning, Development, and Community Infrastructure in the Department of State, presented an overview on the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round III, as well as providing updates on Rounds I and II. Ms. Crowell expressed the importance of “real” and ready projects with identified sponsors and site control for round III.

VII. Priority Project Presentation

Mr. Fischer introduced the last presenter, Elizabeth Lusskin, President of the Long Island City Partnership (LICP). Mr. Fischer also noted that LICP had received a \$100,000 ESD planning and feasibility grant in Round VII for developing a Life Sciences and Innovation Industries Cluster in Long Island City, and was designated a priority by the Council last fall.

Ms. Lusskin presented an update on the three ESD grants that LICP had received through the REDC, including grants for LICP’s Comprehensive Plan, a Wayfinding Project, and the Life Sciences strategic plan. Comments following the presentation included the following:

- Dr. Keizs commented that the Long Island City Partnership should work to foster a relationship with public universities in the area to ensure that their workforce development programs are included in the LICP plan.
- Ms. Lusskin responded stating that there was not enough time in her plan to comment on the breadth of LICP relationships, but that LICP was actively engaged with LaGuardia Community College, who is present on every

committee. LICP also cooperated with CTE schools in the LIC area to host career open houses.

VIII. Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Mr. Fischer made several announcements, which included the following:

- The NYCREDC was holding a CFA workshop in the conference center following the event, including breakout sessions with state agency staff.
- The NYC REDC was holding another CFA workshop on June 19 at the New York Genome Center at 10:00am. The office was also planning to schedule CFA information sessions in conjunction with the offices of borough presidents.
- The NYC REDC will schedule workgroup meetings regarding priority agenda items for this round and past rounds, on issues such as workforce development and veterans. Mr. Fischer encouraged Council members to attend and be active in these workgroups, and to send a representative if unable to attend.
- The NYC REDC plans on holding a public forum in the summer to hear short presentations from sponsors of potential priority projects, which Fischer also encouraged Council members to attend. Joe Tazewell will notify all council members when the meeting is scheduled.

Lieutenant Governor Hochul thanked the Council in here closing remarks.

Fischer then thanked members for attending, and adjourned the meeting.