

SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc.
Community Roundtable – April 21, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to a written notice via email, website, and social media, members of the public attended an information session (Community Roundtable) organized by the SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc. (dba SoHo Broadway Initiative) on Thursday, April 21, 2022 remotely via Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

Executive Director Mark Dicus welcomed attendees, introduced SBI staff (himself, Brandon Zwagerman) and Board Members/Alternates (Brian Steinwurtzel, Jared Epstein, Susan Wittenberg, Sharon Ermilio, Ronnie Wolf, Jason Vacker, Ashley Natale)

Mark introduced Borough President Mark Levine. Former Council Member for CD 7 representing West Harlem/Hamilton Heights, Morningside Heights, and parts of the Upper West Side and Washington Heights. Chair of Health Committee. Took office in January to become the 28th Manhattan Borough President.

BP Levine then offered remarks and priorities for his including discussion of:

- Public Health: importance of COVID vaccination, testing, data collection, reporting
- Housing: right to counsel for tenants. Legal service providers over capacity due to 200k eviction cases pending.
- Small businesses. Loans available.
- Big picture: confidence in NYC, Manhattan, SoHo ability to come back.

Public Q&A with Borough President

- Memories from SoHo? Il Corallo, galleries, strolling, architecture. Cherish it.
- Do you compost? Yes. City needs to do more work, bring back curbside composting in big way.
- Thoughts on Community Boards? Value them, essential branch of local government, shape policy for better. Looking to invigorate not marginalize them. Want to give CBs ability to continue hybrid meetings at minimum, ensure a diversity of perspectives on all boards.
- What can be done about SoHo's bad trash problem? Very real problem not unique to SoHo. 2 years ago policy decisions started setting back Sanitation. New DSNY Commissioner is friend, focused on operations and problems that need to be fixed. Also pushing containerization of trash.
- If other neighborhoods make changes to public realm, will that affect what can

happen on Broadway? There is a borough/city-wide push to create more ped infrastructure, bus and bike lanes, containerization of waste, innovation around how to deal with deliveries, electric/human powered delivery vehicles, more trees. Support Transportation Alternatives' 25 x 25 plan.

- Attendee discussed concerns about recent rezoning bringing more interactive retail and large food/drink establishments. Need for wider sidewalks and traffic reduction. Would love suggestions. Reduce bureaucracy for containerized trees.
- Question about loose manhole covers DEP not addressing. Please contact BP office.
- Discussion about containerized waste. Some residents not in favor, others want to explore (saw better management of trash in Paris).

Mark Dicus ended with general BID update:

- Planters replanted with spring flowers, compost pilot relaunching, new banners.
- Several new businesses opened/reopened/coming such as Guess, Miniso, Uno de 50, Blick, Museum of Women.
- Assembly Member Glick introduced legislation to allow JLWQA occupants to remain in units.