



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION, COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Retail Diversity and Neighborhood Health

PURPOSE: To identify and disseminate best practices for supporting and facilitating the preservation and revitalization of retail in urban neighborhoods.

New York City

Friday
September 18, 2009
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Senate Hearing Room
250 Broadway, 19th Floor

As the economy suffers, a change that has long been in process becomes ever more obvious: upstate and downstate, in large and small cities, across wealthy and struggling neighborhoods, there is less and less retail diversity. While it is impossible to identify any single reason for the broad loss of local and diverse retail, it is important to understand common features and potential statewide solutions.

The devastating common features of many of our mid size and smaller cities is that both the neighborhood commercial strips and downtown business districts have been hollowed out because of “big box” retailing and strip plaza development on the outskirts of urban centers.

New York City neighborhoods tend to suffer from either a drought of retail or such high rental prices that locally owned small businesses are driven out and replaced by nationally owned chain stores. The lack of retail options in struggling neighborhoods leads to inadequate supplies of retail goods—and often to higher prices in less prosperous neighborhoods.

Recreating urban density is essential for the survivability of walk-in spaces in urban neighborhoods, and for the long-term health of the neighborhoods.

Please see the reverse side for a list of subjects to which witnesses may direct their testimony.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to ten (10) minutes’ duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Twenty copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee’s interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities,

accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Senator Daniel Squadron
Chair
Committee on Cities

James F. Brennan
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Cities

Robin Schimminger
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Economic
Development, Job
Creation, Commerce and
Industry

Committee on Small
Business

SELECTED ISSUES TO WHICH WITNESSES MAY DIRECT THEIR TESTIMONY:

- How can New York promote and facilitate appropriate retail development? What “best practices” should be employed?
 - What policies should New York be developing to support small business in this economic downturn?
 - How can New York promote retail diversity in both affluent neighborhoods and low income neighborhoods?
 - What new and innovative policies should the Empire State Development Corporation be advancing to promote, develop and grow diverse retail environments in cities across our state?
 - The statute authorizing Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) saw its last major revision in 1989. Are BIDs functioning as intended?
 - Should New York develop Community Improvement Districts and take a more holistic approach to neighborhood retail development?
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PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on "Retail Diversity and Neighborhood Health" are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Kim Drofitz
Senate Committee on Cities
Room 946, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
Email: drofitz@senate.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-2625
Fax: (518) 426-6956

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on "Retail Diversity and Neighborhood Health" to be conducted by the Senate Committee on Cities and the Assembly Committees on Cities, Economic Development and Small Business on Friday, September 18, 2009.
- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide twenty (20) copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committees' mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, YOU MUST BRING A FORM OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____