

Economic Development & Revitalization Team  
Chinatown Working Group  
March 17, 2009

### Meeting Minutes

Location: Chinatown Partnership LDC, 60 St. James Place

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

In Attendance: Wellington Chen, Michael Moi, Lamgen Leon, Taylor Zhou (Chinatown Partnership), Wing K. Ma (CGMA), Rob Hollander (LESRRD).

Elected Officials/Representatives in Attendance: Sandra Ung (NYC Comptroller), Karen He (State Assemblyman Silver)

Community Board: Edward Ma, Zella Jones (CB#2), Casey Laflam (CB#1)

Media: Jing Lin (China Press), Lotus Chau, Jacky Wong (Sing Tao Daily), Hon Choo (World Journal), Lixin (Epoch Times), Xiaomi Li (Ming Pao Daily)

The members need to advance, add to and/or modify the guiding principles extracted from the several studies conducted by the Asian American Federation. Following are the recommended refinements from the original Guiding Principles:

#### Revised Guiding Principles

- ◇ To provide a better environment for Chinatown to serve a diverse customer base for a superior experience.
- ◇ Improve business practice to make Chinatown more appealing to prospective customers and benefit business in other ways.
- ◇ Provide targeted business assistance to help business enhance their strategies and practices.
- ◇ Concept of 'Visibility' – explore the creation of a Chinatown gateway arch to greet residents and visitors.
- ◇ Resolve parking and transportation issues to make it easier for customers to patronize Chinatown Businesses.
- ◇ Pursue transformational development projects that could strengthen Chinatown's cultural and economic assets, spur an economic resurgence, and receive broad community support.
- ◇ Build a conversation around a transformational project as a mean of further refining our other principles.

#### Subjects discussed

1. There is a need to engage the business community with different forums and keep them informed. One concern from the business community is a possible toll for bridges which if implemented could influence people to go to either Flushing or Brooklyn instead of Manhattan even if more parking spaces are added in Chinatown.

### **Meeting Minutes cont.**

2. A review of the 197A Plan which offers alternative vehicular traffic solutions in the form of alternative transportation such as cross-town shuttle buses, broader sidewalks, bike lanes, improved streetscape enhancements that better serve the community.
3. Discuss the creation of a business training/incubation center, workforce development center and attract new schools into the area. LaGuardia Community College recently approached Wellington with this idea earlier in the month.
4. The return of the GSA garage which currently sits empty for community use.
5. The community is not pleased with the recent Grand Street bike lane configuration. However, it is a big issue because it involves three Community Boards.
6. Creation of multi-purpose bilingual signage in area.
7. A Hunts Point delivery model for Chinatown?
8. The need for more open space and transform Columbus Park into an even more attractive green space like Union Square Park, Bryant Park, etc.
9. Creation of a Transportation Hub for the several hundred buses that come to Chinatown.
10. Since David Louie is not available, the working team needs a Co-Chair.
11. We have to define the time table and prioritize all these plans in the short, mid and long term.

The next Economic Development & Revitalization team meeting will be held on Tuesdays, April 21, 4PM – 5:30PM. **(Subsequently it has been changed to Wednesday, April 22, 2009)**

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.