

**Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Meeting of the Restaurant, Retailers and Small Business
Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
February 27, 2002
Downtown Alliance
5:30-7:30 PM
LMDC Board Members: Roland Betts and Bob Harding**

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Members Roland Betts and Bob Harding opened the meeting and gave welcoming remarks. Mr. Betts and Mr. Harding then asked each member and ex-officio member of the Restaurant, Retailers and Small Business Advisory Council to introduce themselves. Tara Snow, Vice-President for Government and Community Relations of the LMDC gave a brief overview of the LMDC and the role of the Advisory Council. Ms. Snow emphasized the importance of small business in Lower Manhattan and the need to retain and attract them. Ms. Snow stressed how important public participation will be throughout the redevelopment process and that the Restaurant, Retailers and Small Business Advisory Council will provide valuable input to the LMDC.

Mr. Betts then invited Christine Serrano-Glassner from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) to provide the Advisory Council Members with a brief overview of the World Trade Center Disaster Action Plan for the Business Recovery and Economic Revitalization currently being administered by ESD. Ms. Glassner briefly described the plan which provides funds to businesses and not-for-profits for job retention and attraction, business information, infrastructure rebuilding and administration. Ms. Glassner responded to questions from the Advisory Council members regarding the Plan.

Ms. Snow provided an overview of the Draft Assistance Plan for Individuals that was recently approved by the LMDC Board and provided copies of the Plan to those interested. Finally, Ms. Snow apprised the group that there will be funding available for travel and tourism programs in Lower Manhattan and asked for proposals to be submitted to LMDC by March 15, 2002.

Mr. Betts and Mr. Harding then invited Advisory Council members to discuss their concerns. The Advisory Council's discussion focused on both short and long-term concerns. Members of the Advisory Council raised issues including air quality, and overall quality of life issues including the need to repair and reopen roads in Lower Manhattan as quickly as possible, general clean-up of the area, and the need for better signage. Members also emphasized the need to coordinate utility street digs to avoid duplication and wanted more communication with the New York City Department of Transportation on road openings/closings.

A suggestion was made to use uptown and midtown tourist destinations to advertise and promote Lower Manhattan and the need to encourage visits from high profile political leaders and celebrities to generate positive media coverage and restore confidence that "Lower Manhattan is open for business". A suggestion was also made to provide taxi stands and permit tour busses to stop/ discharge passengers in areas

throughout Lower Manhattan. Lastly, members expressed concerns regarding insurance issues and the ability to obtain adequate, affordable insurance after September 11th.

Several of the Advisory Council Members suggested that a major transportation hub should be created in Lower Manhattan and supported a mixed-use development approach. The mixed-use development would include a suitable memorial, commercial, residential, recreational and open space, large and small retail space and a cultural component. Members also emphasized the need to attract new industries to Lower Manhattan and also suggested depressing West Street, which would allow communities better access to the waterfront and also integrate Battery Park City to the rest of Lower Manhattan. Lastly, Members encourage the LMDC to restore the street grid to encourage more pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Betts and Mr. Harding thanked the members for participating. The meeting adjourned.