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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER KEVIN C. RILEY, DCWP COMMISSIONER VILDA VERA MAYUGA, CCHR COMMISSIONER ANNABEL PALMA & BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 12 HOST BUSINESS EDUCATION DAY IN THE NORTHEAST BRONX

(THE BRONX, NY)- On Monday, August 14th, 2023 at noon, the Office of Council Member Kevin C. Riley, the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection and the New York City Commission on Human Rights conducted a *Business Education Day* in the Northeast Bronx's 12th District. This initiative aimed to provide crucial information to small business owners and employees about their rights, responsibilities, and available resources. With August also recognized as *Black Business Month*, this partnership is significant to serving and uplifting a community of majority Black and brown owned businesses, who desperately rely on the City's resources to support the success of their people and establishments.

Council Member Kevin C. Riley, DCWP Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga, and CCHR Commissioner and Chair Annabel Palma led the walkthrough to businesses along East Gun Hill Road and Boston Road to Boston Road and East 222nd Street. Riley, Mayuga and Palma, along with Bronx Community Board 12 representatives, connected with the small businesses disseminating valuable insights and resources, including knowledge to empower Bronxites with the necessary tools to navigate the ever-changing landscape of labor laws and business regulations.

Throughout the event, local merchants and workers had an opportunity to meet with DCWP staff to learn about resources, including DCWP's [Financial Empowerment Centers](#), which offer

free one-on-one professional financial counseling to support business owners and workers. They also had an opportunity to learn more about NYC's [Fair Workweek Law](#), as well as tobacco licensing and general retail information.

CCHR's staff spoke with both employers and employees about their [rights and responsibilities](#) under the city's Human Rights Law and ensured that businesses were in compliance with the city's [Stop Sexual Harassment Act in NYC](#) by handing out notice of rights posters in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to business owners. The posters—mandated by Law to be conspicuously displayed in the workplace—provide information about anti-sexual harassment protections and let workers know how to file a complaint with CCHR.

Today's Business Education Day was a crucial opportunity to enhance the District 12 community's workforce education and business development— understanding their rights, responsibilities, and the various resources available to support their needs and goals. This event fostered a collaborative environment where business owners and employees could engage in meaningful discussions, and ask questions to qualified agency professionals. [Pictures are available upon request.](#)

“Ensuring our local small businesses have the adequate tools and education to sustain a safe and supportive workplace is vital to empowering business owners and their employees. Partnering with DCWP, CCHR and Bronx Community Board 12 to bring outreach and resources directly to District 12 businesses with *Business Education Day*, is the collaborative work necessary to uplifting small businesses and enhancing the economic growth of our community,” said **Council Member Kevin C. Riley**. “Thank you DCWP Commissioner Mayuga, CCHR Commissioner Palma, Bronx Community Board 12 Manager Torres and Community Coordinator Greene for your commitment to bettering the Northeast Bronx. As we celebrate Black Business Month this August, this partnership resonates even more deeply, serving as a beacon of support for the predominantly Black and brown owned businesses in the 12th District that rely on the city's resources to navigate the path to success.”

“DCWP is committed to providing the tools and resources needed to ensure that businesses thrive, and that begins with making sure our local businesses feel confident that they have the knowledge necessary to comply with our City's laws,” said **DCWP Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga**. “Thank you to Council Member Riley and CCHR Commissioner and Chair Palma for joining us today for our violation-free education day in support of Williamsbridge's businesses.”

“The New York City Commission on Human Rights strives to foster a city where everyone can live, work and thrive free from discrimination,” said **Annabel Palma, Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights**. “Education is essential to preventing discrimination and through outreach we can ensure that businesses have the right

resources and information to cultivate respectful workplaces. Thank you, Council Member Riley, for hosting us and thank you to DCWP for their continued partnership in the advancement towards equity.”

"We extend our thanks to elected officials like Council Member Kevin C. Riley and our city agency partners at the NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) and the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) for their exceptional efforts in organizing the impactful Business Education Day on Boston Road. By equipping our small businesses and employees with the knowledge they need, we not only fix issues but prevent them from occurring. This holistic approach is key to building a thriving and resilient community. This commitment to fostering economic empowerment and education is truly commendable and greatly appreciated by all of us in Bronx Community Board 12." said **George Torres, District Manager for Bronx Community Board 12.**

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