



LINDA B. ROSENTHAL
Assemblymember 67th District

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ALBANY

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Task Force on Women's Issues
Legislative Women's Caucus

December 28, 2020

Daniel Brodsky
Chief Executive Officer
Brodsky Organization
400 West 59th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Brodsky:

I am writing to follow up on the meeting I held with the Brodsky Organization (Brodsky) regarding the fate of its commercial tenant, Western Beef, located at 75 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023, within my Manhattan Assembly district.

At the meeting, Alexander Brodsky told me that Brodsky had signed a lease in October 2020 with Brooklyn Fare, part of Key Food Stores, with its opening slated for the summer of 2021.

As I explained, nearby residents heavily rely on Western Beef's affordability, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the store became an even greater lifeline for those struggling to make ends meet. I appreciate that Brooklyn Fare told Brodsky it would match WesternBeef's prices in order to remain an affordable source for groceries. However, I have a few outstanding concerns regarding Brooklyn Fare's products and eventual opening.

When comparing Brooklyn Fare and Western Beef's prices online, I noticed that while many items were similarly priced, there were a few notable exceptions, especially with higher prices at Brooklyn Fare in the produce, meat and dairy departments. While a \$2 or \$5 difference may be nominal to some, such an increase on essential items will have a profound financial impact on my constituents.

My other concern relates to the length of time my constituents will go without an affordable supermarket at this location. According to Brodsky, Brooklyn Fare will be renovating the space for at least six months before opening for business, leaving residents without a reasonably priced grocery store in the interim.

As we discussed, it is critical that Brooklyn Fare begin to engage with Western Beef customers and offer a delivery program to nearby buildings when Western Beef closes. Many West Siders, including those living in Amsterdam Houses and Amsterdam Houses Addition do not have access to Wi-Fi and will be unable to order groceries online from Brooklyn Fare. The supermarket must address this situation by expanding its capacity to take orders over the phone. I look forward to my meeting with Brooklyn Fare to discuss an outreach plan and its implementation.

Ensuring that West Siders have easy access to affordable food is critical, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to widespread unemployment. While residents will be relieved to know that another supermarket is taking Western Beef's place, Brodsky will hold Brooklyn Fare to its commitment of providing affordable and varied options across all departments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Rosenthal". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly - 67th District