



TMO NEWS

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

By: Susan Piperato

NEW YORK, NY—The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) announces the appointment of James Whelan as Senior Vice President for Public Affairs. Mr. Whelan will coordinate REBNY's relations with other business and trade associations around the city and state, represent the Board's positions to the public and elected officials, and help manage issue-oriented campaigns of vital interest to the statewide real estate and business community.

"With his background and success in advocacy and experience in managing major projects and undertakings, Jim will be a tremendous asset to our members and the real estate industry in general," said Steve Spinola, REBNY president. "Jim has played an important role in some of the most vital projects in the city. Simply put, he is the kind of guy who knows how to get things done and we are thrilled to put his energy, drive and know-how to work for REBNY."

Prior to joining REBNY, Whelan spearheaded government and community relations as the Senior Vice President for Public Affairs at Muss Development.

"Jim has been a tremendous asset to our company," said Joshua Muss, President of Muss Development LLC. "He will be greatly missed. However, given his experience in government and in the private sector, I can't imagine anyone more suited to fill this very important role to represent our industry. We wish him all the best at REBNY."

Prior to his tenure at Muss Development, from late 2005 through 2007, Jim served as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development of New York City, where he assisted the Deputy Mayor in the daily execution of the City's economic development agenda, including such initiatives as the development of the Far West Side, the resurgence of Lower Manhattan, and the implementation of PlanNYC, which has made New York a global leader for

sustainability. Before becoming chief of staff at the Deputy Mayor's office, Whelan played a major role in devising and implementing the strategy to renegotiate the World Trade Center lease and was responsible for initiating several of the City's projects in Lower Manhattan near the World Trade Center site.

Mr. Whelan has also served as executive director to the Hudson Yards Coalition, a coalition of labor, development, business and civic organizations that advocated for the expansion of the Javits Convention Center, the rezoning of Manhattan's Far West Side, and the approval of the New York Sports and Convention Center. Before that, he created and served as director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, an economic development advocacy organization of more than 30 organizations which, among other things, created the rezoning plan for Downtown Brooklyn. In 2002, Jim was named as one of Crain's New York Business "40 Under 40".

Jim's civic involvement has included serving as a mayoral representative on the Panel for Educational Policy, and as a board member on the New York City chapter of the League of Conservation Voters and the board of directors of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. Whelan graduated from Fordham University School of Law and New York University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. He resides in Bellerose, Queens with his wife and his two children.