

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
SECOND DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., Thursday, March 5, 2020

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

33 Liberty Street, New York, NY

Via Conference Call

**On Conference Call:**

Donnel Baird, Founder & CEO, BlocPower

Jaswinder Chadha, President & CEO, Axtria, Inc.

Michellene Davis, EVP, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, RWJBarnabas Health

Lynne Marie Finn, President & CEO, Broadleaf Results

Sarah LaFleur, Founder & CEO, M.M.LaFleur

Melanie Littlejohn, VP, Customer & Community Engagement, National Grid

Steve Priest, EVP & CFO, JetBlue Airways Corporation

Anthony E. Shorris, John Weinberg/Goldman Sachs Visiting Scholar & Senior Advisory,  
Princeton University, McKinsey & Company

Federico Stubbe, Jr., President, PRISA Group

**Federal Reserve Bank of New York attendees:**

John Williams, President & CEO

Michael Strine, First Vice President

Jack Gutt, EVP, Communications & Outreach

David Erickson, SVP, Outreach & Education

Matthew Higgins, VP, Research & Statistics

David Lucca, VP, Research & Statistics

Rosanne Notaro, VP, Legal

Jaison Abel, AVP, Research & Statistics

Claire Kramer Mills, AVP, Outreach & Education

Tony Davis, Officer, Outreach & Education

Edison Reyes, Associate, Outreach & Education

Rebecca Landau, Senior Analyst, Outreach & Education

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Claire Kramer Mills called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.

**1. Welcome Remarks & Committee Protocols**

Taking precautionary measures in response to Covid-19, this meeting was held via conference call. Mr. Williams welcomed council members and staff to the inaugural meeting of the Second District Advisory Council (SDAC) and explained this new council will advise

him and senior leadership concerning business and economic conditions in the Second Federal Reserve District.

Ms. Kramer Mills discussed committee protocols and noted that every council member received the council charter and antitrust guidelines in advance of the meeting. She also noted that a Bank legal representative would be available to answer any questions or concerns members may have after reviewing the memos.

## **2. National Economy Update**

Mr. Lucca presented an update on the national economy and highlighted consumer confidence trends, a strong labor market despite volatility during the prior two weeks, and an inflation rate that remains below the Federal Reserve's objective.

## **3. International Update**

Mr. Higgins presented an update on the global economy and noted that economic indicators show global growth was impacted by the recent contraction in China. As Covid-19 expands across economies, he stated global economic indicators would continue to inform monetary policy.

## **4. President Williams' Remarks on Current Economy**

On March 3, 2020, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) announced a ½ percentage point reduction in the target range for the federal funds rates, bringing that range to 1 to 1 ¼ percent. Mr. Williams noted that the New York Fed is observing preliminary indicators of the effect of Covid-19 on the U.S. economy. Mr. Williams noted recent volatility in financial markets supported the recent action by the FOMC and that the Fed would continue to monitor the evolving situation and act accordingly.

## **5. Facilitated Discussion**

Ms. Kramer Mills began the facilitated discussion by taking questions from council members for the economists. Members were interested in learning about the economic implications from the SARS outbreak and how it might differ from Covid-19. The economists noted that during the SARS outbreak, China was not as directly linked to the global economy as it is now and that while supply chain delivery times had lengthened, this in itself was not a serious problem in early March. Although the full impact of Covid-19 on the economy was yet to be determined, the economists stressed the strong state of the U.S. economy at the onset of the pandemic and that the Fed would use its monetary policy tools as appropriate.

Ms. Kramer Mills asked each council member to provide their outlook of the economy for

the year and any trends in their industry. Many members stated their outlook for 2020 was generally positive and were thinking through contingency plans for workers and their businesses in response to Covid-19. Several members said they had taken measures to restrict international business travel and were planning to take safety precautions to protect workers and investments in their businesses. Some employers noted that staffing had been slow and that it remained difficult to fill specific roles in their industry, but that they expected demand for short-term workers to increase to fill these gaps. All members noted they were staying aware of the global reaction and economic implications related to Covid-19, but were unsure of the ultimate costs to the U.S. markets.

## **6. Concluding Remarks**

Mr. Williams noted that the New York Fed will be engaging council members and alumni regularly moving forward, with another meeting on May 21, 2020. He also reiterated that the Second District Advisory Council's value to informing monetary policy is their on-the-ground perspective.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.