Flatiron Quarterly Market Snapshot 03 2020

Commercial Leasing

Flatiron and NoMad's commercial availability rate increased to 15.4%, up from 12.6% last quarter due in large part to the substantial increase (64%) in available sublet office space. Commercial office rents, however, stayed on par with the previous quarter at \$76.32/SF (\$76.71/SF in Q2).

More than three quarters of Flatiron/NoMad ground-floor businesses have reopened, and there are positive indicators with increased reported footfalls and Citi Bike trips. Tourists and office personnel have <u>yet to return</u> in large part, though citywide hotel occupancy has <u>increased</u>, and sales tax revenue year-over-year was only down 7.3% (July) and 7.1% (August) according to the <u>Office of the NYC Comptroller</u>.

Despite the lingering uncertainty, firms and ground floor businesses signed or re-signed leases in Flatiron and NoMad this quarter including Yby Computers at 387 Park Avenue South and Hill Country BBQ doubling down on their West 25th Street location.

Commercial A & B Office Space



Tenant Briefings

Office – 387 Park Avenue South Yby Computers – 14,297 SF



Image: 387 Park Avenue South Source: IFC

Food & Beverage - West 25th Street Hill Country BBQ - 10,990 SF



Image: Hill Country BBQ Source: <u>Alphabet City</u>

Outdoor Dining & Phased Reopenings

At the end of Q2 2020, more than half of Flatiron and NoMad's retail and food and beverage establishments had reopened, as did a third of all service businesses. As NY Forward continued into Q3, personal care businesses reopened on July 6th as well as the launch of the NYC's Open Streets: Restaurants program in mid-July that allocated sidewalk, curbside, and street space for al fresco dining service. Gyms and fitness studios reopened in September, and at quarter's end, over 75% of all retail, services, and F & B businesses in Flatiron/NoMad had re-opened (up from 68% in Q2).

Outdoor dining has proven popular, so much so that the program will be extended year-round including tenting and heating elements for fall and winter months. There remains much uncertainty, but six new ground floor businesses forged ahead and opened this quarter including local independents and national chains.



Foot & Bike Traffic Uptick

This quarter welcomed an increasing number of people to the Flatiron Public Plazas compared to the previous quarter. On average, there were 2,000+ additional people passing through the heart of the district each day than in Q2, and a 60% increase from the pandemic lows in April (15,639/day). Most notably September saw a large increase post-Labor Day (+30%) compared to July.

The number of Citi Bike trips beginning or ending in the neighborhood has also increased steadily with September daily average ridership increasing 50% from last quarter's end (June: 3,307/day), and a nearly four-fold increase from the 1,286/day in April. Bike and pedestrian increases may be indicative of more people returning to their Flatiron/NoMad workplaces, as citywide estimates increased to 10% office occupancy, up from 8% in Q2.





