

John Strongilis, Roxy Coffee Shop (in business 66+ years)

On the current state of affairs:

“There have been a lot of businesses that came and went ... lot of people abandoned the neighborhood after 9/11 out of fear ... and now a lot of people are scared to spend money in the economic crisis ... “

Hopes for the future:

“I would like to see people spend a little more money ... ”

Lenny Bowser, VIP Men’s Suits (in business 11 years)

On the current state of affairs:

“It was better after 9/11 here than now ... “

Hopes for the future:

“Once they finish building the transit center it will help a lot ... we need more tourists in the area and more offices ...”

Samuel Castro, Samuel’s Hats (in business 22+ years)

On the current state of affairs:

“Right after September 11 we didn't feel it, but now we're starting to feel because things didn't improve as much ... also this area becoming residential doesn't help for business.”

Hopes for the future:

“The best thing will be for the traffic to increase ... I don't know really ... I hope the economy improves ... more jobs for people and they can shop a little.”

John Koyas, Tower Art Gallery

On the current state of affairs:

“Business climate is very very tough right now ... everyone's really suffering ... franchises are ok but individual shop owners are in big trouble. Business has picked up but not enough ... everyone's in a hole so you need dramatic improvement to get yourself out ...

Hopes for the future:

“I don't know what to do ... we're stuck in the cycle and everyone's hoping to hold on till it passes ... the government seems to work for large corporations and banks but everyone else they couldn't care less.”

Max Esses, Golden Nugget Jewelers (in business 26 years)

On the current state of affairs:

“The streets used to be impossible to pass from one side to the other during lunch, now it is so sparse that it looks like off hour in the old days ... this is due to a lot of buildings becoming residential and companies moving out from here.”

Hopes for the future:

“I don't know if its ever gonna recover but we gotta keep our hopes up ... we like to see more businesses coming to the area ... “

Wilson Silva, Nu-Way Shoe Repair (in business 20 years)

On the current state of affairs:

“... .. These are more challenging times now ... with increases in rent and taxes and business being slow it’s a real challenge”

Hopes for the future:

“We hope the construction finishes soon ... we like to see more companies moving downtown ... we need more people down here”

Frank Tuminello, Weinstein & Holtzman Hardware (in business 90+ years)

On the current state of affairs:

“The neighborhood means a lot to us ... (we have) lot more challenges right now”

Hopes for the future:

“... Thank god the world trade center site is being rebuilt which will bring more people to the area ... “

Len Yi, La Mode Cleaners (In business 5+ years)

On the current state of affairs:

“Everybody says its gonna be improving ... but i don't think so ... people keep coming and going ... every few months or more, new faces, new places”

Hopes for the future:

“My thumb's down ... lower and lower ... “