

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON APRIL 27, 2005
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

Board Members of the Committee present:

Bradford Trebach, Committee Chairman
Paul Dillon
Laura Spalter
Dorothy Brooks

Other Board Members present:

None

Community Members of the Committee present:

Robert Spalter (from Riverdale Community Association)

Also in attendance:

Kasandra Echevarria

The Committee met at 7:35 p.m. – B. Trebach in the Chair.

1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the Committee's meeting of Feb. 23, 2005 be adopted.
2. Update on the Facility Monitoring Committee for the Croton Water Filter Plant project.

The Committee was given a copy of the April 18, 2005 letter from the Community Board No. 8 to Acting Commissioner David Tweedy of the City Department of Environmental Protection asking that meeting of the Facility Monitoring Committee be open to the public. At the April 12, 2005 meeting of the Community Board, the Board had voted unanimously in support of such a position. The letter also expresses support for the idea of allowing the public an opportunity to address the Monitoring Committee for some limited time during the meeting.

The Chairman noted that at the April 18th Board meeting, Board Member D. Katz asked about effect of the construction project on asthma rates and how any effect would be monitored. The Chairman referred to an April 1, 2005 letter from Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. to City Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden calling for a study of any asthma effects from enhanced truck traffic and the actual construction at the site. Specifically, the letter asks that the Health Department, in conjunction with local hospitals, take the lead in undertaking a study monitoring emergency rooms and other indicators of asthma in the area during the period of construction.

The Chairman mentioned that Local Law 77 of 2003 extends the pollution controls from the World Trade Center site to all city-funded construction projects. It mandates ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel and "best available technology" (BAT) to reduce harmful emissions from diesel-powered construction equipment. With regard to the Croton Water Filter Plant site, the Chairman expressed concern that the DEP would be self-policing an activity where more rigorous standards mean higher construction costs for that agency.

3. Budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2007.

The Committee agreed that any uncompleted items from last year's list will be resubmitted as follows:

Sanitation

Capital Budget:
None

Expense Budget:

- (i) Two Sanitation workers assigned for Sunday basket pick-ups to service all commercial areas – 1089505E.
- (ii) Two Sanitation (MLP) workers for drop-outs – 1089101E.
- (iii) Increase Canine Enforcement Unit. Need two agents for Bronx County – 1080205E.

Department of Environmental Protection

Capital Budget:

None

Expense Budget:

- (i) Personnel for water and sewer maintenance catch-basin repairs – 1089202E.
- (ii) Personnel for weekly cleaning, maintenance and rodent control along the perimeter of Jerome Park Reservoir between the fence and curb.

4. Step-street cleaning.

D. Brooks pointed out that the step street between 2865 and 2801 Kingsbridge Terrace (connecting Heath Ave. and Sedgwick Ave.) is in need of cleaning. The Chairman said that he would bring the problem to the attention of the Sanitation Department.

5. Problems with overflowing litter baskets.

In response to a request from D. Brooks, the Chairman said that he would ask the Sanitation Department to install a “high-end” litter basket in front of the church at the corner of West 228th Street and Marble Hill Ave. The special litter basket has a narrow opening designed to prevent overstuffing and overflowing. The Chairman said that local residents should report any overflowing baskets to the Board Office so that the Board can track the problem and ask the Sanitation Department to address each instance.

6. Update on canine-waste trouble spots.

The Committee discussed several locations where the Sanitation Department should deploy enforcement officers to deal with violations of the canine-waste law. D. Brooks identified the area in front of P.S. 360 on Kingsbridge Terrace as a location of particular concern due to the presence of small children. The Chairman said he would ask the Sanitation Department and the Police Department for enhanced enforcement in front of the school.

7. Any other business -- No other matters were raised.

At 8:40 p.m., the Committee was adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford Trebach
*Chairman,
Environment and Sanitation Committee*