

**CB8 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting**

**May 17, 2018**

Board Office

5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100

Bronx, NY 10471

**Committee Members Present:**

Sylvia Alexander, Eric Bell, Eric Dinowitz, Margaret Donato, Diomarys Escaño, Daniella Fuchs, David Gellman, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter

**Committee Members Absent:**

Herb Young

**Guests:** Heidi Hamilton, Veronica Almedina, Vasthi R. Acosta, Renee Havens, Pam Loeser, Lisa Loeser, Jullia Halpern, Jesse Halpern, Mike Halpern, Lexa Halpern, Gary Weiss, Ronald Loeser, Andrew Weiss, Daniel Thompson, Emily Thompson, Greg Weiss, K. Broiheir, J. Sproull, Farrah Rubin, DI T. O'Toole, Jennifer Klein, Sherida Paulsen

Chair Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:35.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes from the April 19<sup>th</sup> Traffic and Transportation meeting were approved unanimously.

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D Fuchs, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter

**2. Request for street renaming for Loeser's Deli at the Northeast corner of West 231<sup>st</sup> St. and Godwin Terrace.**

Mr. Padernacht stated that it is first time CB8 has a request to rename a street in name of business. He researched this through city council and found out it is possible. He then read aloud the CB8 guidelines for street renaming that are on the CB8 website.

The applicant presented the application to the committee:

Pam Loeser turned over a petition she had on petition.org with over 600 names of community members and businesses. She turned over letters of support from the Amber Charter School, Montefiore Community Center, PS 7, PS 207; and 16 businesses that signed in support of the street renaming. She showed photos of other Bronx businesses that had streets named for them. Loeser's Deli has been in that location for 58 years. The May 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the Riverdale Press printed an editorial in favor of the street renaming for Loeser's.

Mr. Padernacht asked them to expand on how deli has benefited the community. The

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applicant responded that Loeser's Deli has fought for families in the schools promoting the Just Say No to Drugs program, joined the community to make sure the Dale Theater did not go XXX, hold read-a-thons for local children, donated time to the PTA board of PS 7, on 9/11 they loaded up a truck and brought as much food as possible to downtown Manhattan and gave water to people walking uptown and helps homeless people in the area.

Kathryn Brohier read a statement about street naming. She stressed a street name suggests that a person, deceased, has performed outstanding service to the community. She named several businesses that have been on 231<sup>st</sup> Street for the same number of years at Loeser's Deli. Ms. Brohier is opposed to renaming the street.

Lisa Loeser said that those businesses read by Kathryn had multiple owners over time.

T&T Committee members Myra Joyce and Eric Dinowitz made statements about having fond childhood memories of Loeser's.

The committee asked what the neighborhood businesses said when they were asked to sign the petition. The response was that they were eager to sign petition.

Some T&T Committee members felt either negatively or conflicted over the request. It was suggested that the committee review the street renaming guidelines.

Chair Padernacht explained that the resolution, if passed by the T&T Committee, goes to the full board, then to the city council. Alternatively it can go directly to the City Council member. There are therefore two paths to submit the request.

Chair Padernacht put forward the resolution to approve the street renaming of Loeser's way on the Northeast corner of West 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Godwin Terrace:

**WHEREAS**, Loeser's Deli has been nominated for the honor of this proposed street change by the Riverdale Temple, P.S. 7 Milton Fein School, Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Kingsbridge Library, Amber Charter School, which are community organizations that are active in Bronx Community Board 8 and as such, are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the new City Charter;

**WHEREAS**, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that Loeser's Deli has benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York;

Specifically, Loeser's Deli has been a small business in Bronx Community Board No. 8 for 58 years. Loeser's Deli has supported our local schools by hosting read-a-thons for students, supporting the Just Say No Program. Loeser's Deli donates resources to local public schools. During the period after 9/11, Loeser's Deli donated food and water to first responders. In addition, Loeser's Deli lobbied against the proposed XXX theater at the Dale Theater and worked with local leaders and community residents to oppose such use;

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**WHEREAS**, Loeser’s Deli has shown its creativity in its artisanal sandwiches which have gained notoriety in our citywide newspapers, such that Loeser’s Deli has been identified with the community so as to increase local pride in the creative works of the honoree;

**WHEREAS**, this street has a specific connection to Loeser’s Deli as it is across the street from the deli;

**WHEREAS**, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity;

**WHEREAS**, the applicant has submitted a petition to the committee taken on [change.org](https://www.change.org) with over 600 names in support of the street renaming;

**WHEREAS**, the applicant has submitted a petition from 16 local businesses in support of the street renaming;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the southwest corner of West 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Godwin Terrace shall be renamed to add the name Loeser’s Deli Way.

In favor: E. Dinowitz, D. Fuchs, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter  
Opposed: S. Alexander, E. Bell, D. Escano, M. Donato

Daniella Fuchs suggested we look at the CB8 guidelines and perhaps suggest amending them. Mr. Padernacht will ask Marty Wolpoff about who amends the guidelines.

**3. Amber Charter School (3120 Corlear Ave.) request for restricting parking in front to the school during drop-off and pick-up times.**

Heidi Hamilton presented to the committee. Currently they have 6 buses that have to be double parked because of parked cars. They have someone who makes sure kids get safely to sidewalk. They are requesting restricting parking for the length of 3 buses and they are requesting a resolution go to the DOE to allow parking for buses during arrival and dismissal. Each bus takes approximately 3 parking spots. Laura Spalter asked if the restricted parking can start later since school starts at 8:30am. They can make it 7:30 am rather than from 7:00 am.

Sylvia Alexander stated that a school in Marble Hill has restricted 2 bus lengths. They also have staggered dismissal and arrival. Children are already by the door and get onto bus quickly.

Committee members asked Amber Charter School to coordinate a staggered pick up and drop off of children. Deputy Inspector O’Toole asked that parents come northbound to pick up their children, the same direction as buses. David Gellman added that they must monitor to ensure buses don’t double park.

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that DOT restrict parking in front of the Amber Charter School, located at 3120 Corlear Avenue, between the hours of 7:30am to 8:30am and 2:00pm to 3:30pm on school days; That such restricted parking be limited to accommodate two school buses; that Amber Charter School implement a staggered pick-up and drop-off for its students; that all school buses proceed northbound on Corlear Avenue from West 231st street through the location; and that Amber Charter School monitor its buses to ensure that there is no double parking by its buses.

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D Fuchs, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, G. Santiago, L. Spalter  
Abstain: D. Padernacht

**4. DOT response regarding research on a possible sidewalk on West 254th St.**

Problem is that homeowners may have to pay for the sidewalks. There was a determination by the DOT that it must be implemented as capital project and must include sewers and catch basins. DOT suggests that CB8 submit this as a new capital project. At this point we don't know if the homeowners will be charged and the DOT won't tell us if homeowners will be charged until a proposal is submitted.

Mr. Padernacht put forth a resolution that the Traffic and Transportation Committee put the request on capital budget.

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D Fuchs, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter  
Abstained: D. Gellman

**5. DOT response regarding the NE corner West 235th Street and Independence Avenue**

The DOT has looked into the area and determined that it must be presented as a capital project.

Chair Padernacht put forth a resolution that the Traffic and Transportation Committee put the request on capital budget.

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D Fuchs, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter  
Abstained: D. Gellman

**6. Intersection at West 238th Street and Kingsbridge Ave.**

Eric Bell presented pictures of the intersection of West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Kingsbridge Avenue. Mr. Bell stated that a crosswalk should be painted on the southern side of the intersection.

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Deputy Inspector O'Toole stated that people don't see the stop sign. Suggested having the intersection squared off at the corner opposite from the diner. The bus turnaround at that intersection is adequate since there is a dedicated lane.

Mr. Bell put forth a resolution:

**WHEREAS**, testimony has been presented to the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 regarding safety concerns on West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Kingsbridge Avenue;

**WHEREAS**, testimony has been presented that pedestrians frequently cross the intersection without a crosswalk;

**WHEREAS**, the intersection is a heavily traversed way within proximity to the No. 1 train line and Manhattan College, and a shopping corridor;

**WHEREAS**, testimony has been presented asking if the intersection can be squared off to make it safer to cross;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Traffic & Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation study the intersection at West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Kingsbridge Avenue to determine if the intersection can be squared off or an enhanced crosswalk can be installed at this location and report its findings back to the Community Board.

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman,  
M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter

Opposed:

Abstentions:

**Old business:**

Sylvia Alexander: 235th and Oxford are already marked off. The thought that this will slow traffic on Cambridge Avenue is absurd. Cars are speeding up 235th from the ramp at Riverdale Ave. Mr. Padernacht doesn't think we can do anything except document what happens there after it's done.

Daniella Fuchs: Re work on Broadway from 260<sup>th</sup> St going south. There is a marked off bike lane and parking lane. Bike lane looks as wide as parking lane. The bike lane is wide because it will be 2-way. A significant concern is the parking lane is within inches of the driving lane. We continue to photograph and video the area.

Kathryn Brohier of the Kingsbridge BID requested that the bus stop at Land and Sea Restaurant be moved. She has requested this before. Mr. Padernacht said he is still working on it. He believes the DOT is going to tell us to make the request to the MTA.

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Laura Spalter expressed concerns about the proposed Hebrew Home expansion and the effects on Palisade Ave. They anticipate 4 years of heavy construction vehicles going down those streets. Infrastructure concerns. How is Negative Declaration going to be enforced. Mr. Padernacht will ask board office to send EAS.

Sherida Paulsen informed the committee that the EAS is open for comments only 30 days after it was issued. It was issued May 2. She suggested we look at the construction chapter for impact on traffic. Chair suggested that the committee read through the traffic part and generate questions before the June 2nd date.

DI O'Toole informed the committee of a retaining wall collapse on Heath Ave. & Bailey Ave. He stated that it is going to be a long project so the area will be a mess for a while.

Renee Havens informed the committee of potholes and gullies on Independence Avenue from West 252nd Street to West 247th Street. There is a huge hole on 254<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Padernacht stated that if it is a private street the DOT will fill potholes, but will not repave. We will put on the agenda for the June meeting.

Meeting was adjourned 9:44pm

Dan Padernacht  
Chair  
Traffic & Transportation Committee

Minutes submitted by Myra Joyce, Vice-Chair