



The City of New York

# **Manhattan Community Board 1**

Julie Menin CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## **MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD #1**

**JUNE 22, 2010**

**NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL**

**185 WEST BROADWAY AT VARICK STREET**

### **Public Session**

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- **Jenu Brar** – Representative from the **Office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.**  
ILLEGAL KNIVES. The District Attorney has initiated a major investigation of illegal knives to reduce street crimes. Between 2009 and 2010 at least one third of homicides in Manhattan involved knives.
- **Tom Hall** – Representative from the **Rescue Mission**  
The Mission is applying for a street permit for their Thanksgiving banquet and seeking support from CB1.
- **Alec Schierenbeck** – Representative from the **Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer**  
Introduced himself as the new liaison for Community Boards 1 and 3 for the Manhattan Borough President's Office. He can be reached at (212) 669-8447 or via email at [Aschierenbeck@manhattanbp.org](mailto:Aschierenbeck@manhattanbp.org).
- **John Ricker** – Representative from the **Office of Comptroller John Liu**  
To report anything regarding the misuse of City funds or other related issues, please contact the Comptroller. The website for the New York City Comptroller's Office is: [www.comptroller.nyc.gov](http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov).
- **Molly Bidol** – Representative from the **Office of Assembly Member Deborah Glick**  
ILLEGAL HOTELS. The Assembly Member is working to shut down illegal hotels.  
ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL. The Assembly Member is seeking ways to fill the void created by the closing of St. Vincent's Hospital.  
OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Assembly Member has written to the Secretary of the Interior, urging the federal government to ban all offshore drilling.
- **Amie Lemire** – Representative from the New Amsterdam Branch of the New York Public Library  
Introduced herself to the Community Board. Can be contacted at [amie-lemire@nypl.org](mailto:amie-lemire@nypl.org).

- **Celine Mizrahi** – Representative from the **Office of Congressman Jerrold Nadler**  
 QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE SPECIAL FORUM ON HEALTHCARE REFORM. Helped organize a special forum regarding the new national health insurance legislation featuring the Congressman and several regional experts.

U.S. CENSUS. Congressman Nadler encourages all residents in high-rise apartment buildings to encourage their doormen to allow access to census workers. There have been particular issues with census workers unable to gain access to luxury buildings in the Financial District. Let Celine know of any management companies that are not permitting census workers to enter.
- **Jake Itzkowitz** – Representative from the **Office of Council Member Margaret Chin**  
 ALLOCATION OF LMDC FUNDS. The Council Member is meeting with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) soon to discuss allocation of unspent funds.

BUDGET CUTS. The Council Member has been working on the budget to minimize cuts to core services.
- **Rooney Westcott** – Resident  
 HOLLAND TUNNEL TRAFFIC. He'd like more signage around Canal Street to reduce Beach Street traffic and the noise that accompanies it. It was suggested that Robin Forst might be an effective liaison with whom to discuss this issue.
- **Amanda Vierheller** – Representative from **Playgarden**  
 The Playgarden is available for children ranging from 3 months to 6 years old. Music is provided. The Playgarden is looking for additional space to expand, as well as suggestions for additional services they can provide. They can be contacted at [info@playgardennyc.com](mailto:info@playgardennyc.com).
- **Shimon Zlotnikov** – Community Board 1 Public Member  
 Presented the first Albert Capsouto Scholarship to a Stuyvesant High School student. They selected the student for her superb academics and characteristics they felt make her similar to the late Community Board 1 member.
- **Allan Tannenbaum** – Community Board 1 Member  
 9/11 HEALTH BILL. Attended the 9/11 health legislation hearing in Washington, D.C. last month and encourages anyone who believes they have a 9/11-related illness to sign up with one of the World Trade Center Centers of Excellence.
- **Anthony Notaro** - Community Board 1 Member, President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct Community Council  
 Introduced as newly appointed member of the Battery Park City Authority Board.

1<sup>ST</sup> PRECINCT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT. Announced NYPD-sponsored event (organized in cooperation with the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct Community Council) on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Esplanade Plaza South.
- **Bruce Ehrmann** – Community Board 1 Member  
 Expressed admiration and support for the Board's handling of the Cordoba House issue.

- **Mary Cooley** – Representative from the **Office of State Senator Daniel Squadron**  
HOMELESS SHELTER FEE PROPOSAL. The State Senator is drafting a deal to assist the homeless by offsetting the shelter fee proposal.

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY. The State Liquor Authority needs \$2.4 million to update their website to make the permitting process more efficient.

MEMORIALIZING ALBERT CAPSOUTO. Sent a letter to Parks Department Commissioner Benepe urging that CaVaLa Park be renamed Albert Capsouto Park.

LOFT LAW. The State Senator is working to get the Loft Law extended. He's also working to combat discrimination against Section 8 tenants.

- **Linda Belfer** – Community Board 1 Member  
Complained about the insufficient number of curb cuts throughout the city. Community Board 1 Quality of Life Committee Chairperson **Pat Moore** concurred and **Chairperson Julie Menin** asked that all members identify and report areas where curb cuts are needed.
- **John Fratta** – Community Board 1 Member  
Commended Chairperson Julie Menin for her courage in managing the Cordoba Cultural Center's debate the previous month.

## **Business Session**

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### **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on May 25, 2010 were adopted as presented.

### **Chairperson's Report**

**J. Menin**

ALLOCATION OF UNSPENT LMDC FUNDS. Wrote OpEd for Crain's magazine regarding the need for LMDC to spend unallocated funds to meet needs in the community. There are approximately \$275 million in unspent funds. She plans to urge the LMDC Board at the upcoming Board Meeting to allocate funds as quickly as possible. ConEd is requesting \$150 million for reimbursement for infrastructure repair work they claim they did following 9/11. Julie sent a letter to the Public Service Commission in response to Con Edison's statement at the last board meeting and vows to continue fighting for this money to be reallocated to meet the many needs in Lower Manhattan.

HEALTHCARE & ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL. She is working to form a taskforce with Community Boards 2, 3 and 4 on how to meet healthcare needs in light of the recent closing of St. Vincent's Hospital.

NY DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL BOARD. She has accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of NY Downtown Hospital. She is concerned that the hospital does not have the capacity to handle a major health crisis in the community.

LAND USE CONFERENCE. The Charter Revision Commission offers a good opportunity to reexamine ULURP, and explore possible reforms. Community Board 1 and MAS are

cosponsoring a daylong conference on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 on land use and everyone is encouraged to attend.

SEAPORT CONCERT INCIDENT. There were disturbances when General Growth Properties cancelled a recent concert after much larger than anticipated crowds showed up. This issue will be addressed at the upcoming Seaport Committee meeting. GGP sent a letter promising that they will take measures to ensure that such an incident will not be repeated.

FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (FTA) FUNDS. These funds are intended for the construction of the Fulton Transit Center, Route 9A, and other transportation related reconstruction projects. She has written to the FTA asking for independent confirmation that the dates we are hearing for completion of projects are accurate.

CRIME TASK FORCE. She is worried about several recent violent incidents that have occurred in the district. Has asked John Fratta to Chair our new Crime Task Force so that the Board can work to prevent a significant increase in criminal activity.

### **District Manager's Report**

*N. Pfefferblit*

CITY BUDGET. The City Council will soon finalize the city budget, including money allocated to Community Boards. Community Board 1 is waiting for \$8,000 to be approved by the Council for each board to defray the cost of managerial salary increases.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1 NEWS. Helaina Hovitz has agreed to work with the Community Board on a new Facebook page, blog, and twitter feed for Community Board 1.

NEW STATIONARY. Community Board 1 will begin using new letterhead with the official New York City seal. No cost will be incurred by the board.

INTERNS. Community Board 1 extended thanks to the two interns from MAS. This is the last meeting of their school year.

### **Committee Reports**

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**Note: If you wish to obtain a copy of a resolution summarized in the minutes, please visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1).**

### **Nominating Committee Report**

*L. Belfer*

*Nadine Bosson is leaving the board and has withdrawn her name from consideration for assistant secretary. No elections were contested this year, so all of the current officers were reelected by the Board to serve another term:*

*Julie Menin, Chairperson*

*Catherine McVay Hughes, Vice Chairperson*

*Joel Kopel, Treasurer*

*Noel Jefferson, Secretary*

Marc Ameruso, Assistant Secretary

**WTC Redevelopment Committee**

**M. Connolly**

- 1) Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center Forum on Lower Manhattan Reconstruction Projects – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 43 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 2) LMDC Update – Report

*LMDC is contemplating the expansion of their Small Business Assistance program as CBI has urged. 130 Liberty Street is being deconstructed at a rate of 2 floors a month.*

**Quality of Life Committee**

**P. Moore**

- 1) Report on special forum on the recently enacted health insurance reform with U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler and other guests

*The Quality of Life Committee hosted a special forum with Congressman Nadler at Pace University on the recently enacted national health insurance legislation. Regional experts from the Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Health, and AARP were also present to answer questions from the public.*

**Battery Park City Committee**

**L. Belfer**

- 1) Block Party Application, Run 4 Knowledge on Friday, October 1, 2010, between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM limited to Warren Street between North End Avenue and West Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 44 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 2) 2 River Terrace, application for a new restaurant wine and beer license for Le Pain Quotidien – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 43 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 3) Report on follow-up to discussions regarding installation of automatic doors for the Battery Park City branch of the New York Public Library

*The New York Public Library is looking into installing automatic doors at the new Battery Park City branch. Currently, wheelchair-bound patrons of the library must ring a bell and wait for someone to open the door.*

- 4) Second annual 5K for the Equity Research Department at Citigroup scheduled for September 30, between 4:30-6:00pm by Bob McKenna, Citigroup – Report

*Bob McKenna from Citigroup presented the 5K to the Committee members, who supported the run. No approval was needed from CBI, as no street closures are involved.*

- 5) Route 9A and West Thames Park by New York State Department of Transportation - Report

*West Thames Park has been reopened. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned.*

- 6) Greenmarket in Battery Park City – Report

*In July, the Greenmarket will begin operating in Battery Park City at the northern circle of South End Avenue. The Battery Park City Greenmarket will be open on Thursdays.*

- 7) Discussion regarding recent closure of retail space by Goldman Sachs – Report

- 8) Discussion regarding potential removal of staircase from the Winter Garden – Report

- 9) Report on walk through the northern part of Battery Park City with New York City Department of Transportation

- 10) Discussion regarding ferry noise – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 43 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

#### **Youth & Education Committee**

*A. DeFalco*

- 1) Presentation on Just Tell by Vivian Farmery, a Tribeca resident and Executive Director of Just Tell – Report

- 2) Presentation on the Lang School by Micaela Bracamonte, the Lang School – Report

*This new private school for “twice exceptional” students is expected to open in September.*

- 3) Presentation on CUNY/BMCC program to assist learning disabled students get jobs by Christopher Rosa, Dean of Student Services – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 44 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      1 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 4) Anti-bullying policy and proactive education – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 45 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

#### **Seaport/Civic Center Committee**

*J. Fratta*

- 1) 22 Fulton Street, application for alteration of liquor license for JP Mustard – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 45 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED
- 2) 21-23 Peck Slip, application for unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Aqua Restaurant at Peck Slip – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 45 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED
- 3) 261 Water Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Mark Joseph Steak House – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 45 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED
- 4) 243 Water Street, reconsideration of application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Table Tales Fine Foods – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 42 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      2 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED
- 5) Fulton Street Phase III Reconstruction Project – Report  
  
*Phase 3 of the Fulton Street project will begin soon. This phase will involve some cross streets in the area. The project is expected to take another two years.*
- 6) Department of Parks and Recreation Update – Report  
  
*Delury Park and Titanic Park will open in August.*
- 7) Beekman Plaza, 8 Spruce Street, Design changes to urban plazas by Forest City Ratner – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 44 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED
- 8) 139 Centre Street, Request for Loading Zone in Front of Building – Resolution  
BOARD VOTE: 44 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

**Crime Task Force**

***J. Fratta***

- 1) Initial meeting to formulate how the committee will address crime-related issues in CB 1 – Report

**Task Force to Commemorate Albert Capsouto**

***B. Ehrmann***

- 1) Report

*Julie has spoken with Manhattan Parks Commissioner Castro, and Senator Squadron wrote a compelling letter asking that CaVaLa Park be renamed Albert Capsouto Park. Julie has asked all of our elected officials to write similar letters to the Parks Department. A walkthrough is being planned for July so that Manhattan Commissioner Castro, Bruce and Julie can visit sites in the area and discuss how to proceed with commemorating Albert.*

**Landmarks Committee**

R. Byrom

- 1) City Hall, application for introduction of fire protection in Rotunda and installation of rooftop mechanical equipment – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 39 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 2) 71 Broadway, replacement of wood windows – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 39 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

**Tribeca Committee**

*P. Braus*

- 1) Department of Transportation Curb Management Study has begun – Report

- 2) Tribeca North Rezoning – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 3) 275 Greenwich Street, application for wine and beer license for Kaffe 1668 – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 4) 59 Warren Street, application for liquor license for MKLM, Inc. d/b/aRaccoon Lodge – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 5) 159 Duane Street, application for liquor license for Weatherup Tribeca – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 6) 13-17 Laight Street, application for alteration of liquor license for Tribeca Cinemas – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 7) 377 Greenwich Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Greenwich Street Hotel – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 32 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 5 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 8) 139 Duane Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk for Café Blue Gans – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 0 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 9) 179 West Broadway, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Landmarc – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 0 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 10) 353 Greenwich Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Maryann’s – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: TABLED UNTIL JULY 27, 2010

- 11) Proposed partial street and sidewalk closure on Monday, November 22, 2010, Lafayette Street between White Street and Walker Street by The New York City Rescue Mission – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 0 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 12) 44 Lispenard Street, request for Board of Standards and appeals special permit to allow a one-story rooftop addition to an existing five-story building – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 37 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 0 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

**Tribeca Transportation and Parking Regulations Sub-Committee**

*P. Braus*

- 1) Canal Street and Greenwich Street, request to install ‘Do Not Block the Box’ sign on the south, east corner; Hudson Street and Ericsson Place, request to install ‘Do Not Block the Box’ sign on the north, east corner; Greenwich Street and Watts Street, request to install a ‘One Way’ sign pointing south at the north, east corner; Washington and Watts Street, request to replace Stop sign at south, west corner and request to paint stop line markings on the street - Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 0 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 2) Beach Street, north side between Hudson Street and Collister Street, request to change to ‘alternate side parking – street cleaning regulations as a ‘no permit zone’ – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 35 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED 1 ABSTAINED 0 RECUSED

- 3) Request by residents that letter be sent via Community Board One to the Port Authority and other related agencies that trucks exiting the Holland Tunnel not use Beach as a “short cut” when traveling to the WTC site – Report

*The cobblestone street is in very bad disrepair. The subcommittee plans to write a letter to*

*the Port Authority asking that trucks be redirected.*

## **Financial District Committee**

**R. Sheffe**

- 1) Street permit application by the NYC Coalition Against Hunger (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Thursday, November 11, 2010, Whitehall Street between Stone Street and Water Street, Broadway between Morris Street and Stone Street, Broadway between Battery Place and Cedar Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 34 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 2) Street permit application by the NYC Coalition Against Hunger (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Thursday, November 11, 2010, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Whitehall Street between Stone Street and Beaver Street - Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 34 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- 3) Community Amenities and Facilities, Presentation by Matt Viggiano, 2010 Community Board 1 Manhattan Borough President Planning Fellow - Report.

## **Old Business**

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## **New Business**

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- 1) Major events on Pier 17 – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 43 IN FAVOR      0 OPPOSED      0 ABSTAINED      0 RECUSED

- **Allan Tannenbaum** – Community Board 1 Member  
Allan Tannenbaum was in Washington, D.C. during the last meeting, and did not have the opportunity to participate in discussions or the vote regarding the Cordoba Initiative. He believes that the Board should rescind its resolution on the subject. He proposed a new resolution and it was determined that the resolution should be discussed at the July Financial District Committee meeting since the original resolution went through that committee.

## **Adjournment**

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Minutes respectfully submitted by: Noel Jefferson, Secretary