



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## Chairperson's Report for December 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

December has been another successful month throughout the District. With your ongoing support, Community Board 1 has had another positive month. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and safer. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

### *Updates*

- **Renewal of Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Programs** – An effectively permanent, 75 year renewal of the World Trade Center Health Program and a five year, fully funded renewal of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund are included in the final omnibus spending bill Congress is set to pass later this week; thank you very much Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and Congressman Nadler and other Senators and Congress Members, responders, survivors, advocates and CB1 resident Jon Stewart (12/16/15)
- **South Street Seaport**
  - **Former Fulton Fish Market at the New Market Building site** that sits underneath the FDR Drive will become a "commercial building," not a luxury condo tower said Chris Curry, speaking on behalf of developer Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) at CB1's Seaport Civic Center Committee; no information about what kind of business might be in building (12/15/15)
  - **33 Peck Slip (aka Seaport Best Western)** was purchased by HHC in Bankruptcy Court for \$38.3 million and is yet to close
- **School Overcrowding Task Force** – spoke with the offices of our elected officials Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick, NYC Councilmember Chin and Manhattan Borough President Brewer about the importance of continuing this important task force and hope that a model similar to the Seaport Working Group with representation of CB1 and elected officials will continue this process and that there will be a meeting set-up in January 2016 – especially in light of CB1's December 2015 Population Analysis which includes an update on added new residential units and subsequent projected population increase
- **Crossing Guards follow-up to make streets near schools safer**
  - **Spruce Street School** – NYC DOT worked with Con Edison to expedite repairs in order to finish paving Beekman Street and striping at William Street corners; NYC DOT installed School Zone signs on Beekman and William Streets and along the perimeter of the school – Beekman, Spruce, Gold, Nassau and William and one sign on William will be repaired

- shortly; street traffic signal on Beekman that was facing the wrong direction at William Street corner was turned the right way by a NYC DOT Signal Maintenance Contractor
  - **Peck Slip School** – School Zone sign has been installed along with school crossing pavement markings
- **Bikeway-walkway has reopened from Vesey through Liberty Streets on the west side of Route 9A and Fulton Street** walkway from World Trade Center to Brookfield Place across Route 9A; Liberty Street Bridge will open spring 2016 so that it will meet ADA compliance mandate with a ramp on the Greenwich Street side
- **NYC Department of Transportation Lower Manhattan Commissioner's Office** – learned at Senator Squadron's Worth Street Construction meeting that although NYCDOTLMC has been coordinating the 90+ construction projects downtown, it will be phased out in March 2016 and fall under the Manhattan Commissioner Margaret Forgiore; important that the same level of services be provided to keep traffic, especially emergency vehicles, moving and minimize impacts due to construction projects

### *Testimonies and Letter of Support (5)*

- **City Planning Commission Public Hearing on Zoning Text Amendments Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability** – thank you Patrick Kennell, Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (12/16/15)
- **New York City Council Committee on Recovery and Resiliency jointly with the Committee on Environmental Oversight: OneNYC – Review of the City's Resiliency and Sustainability Plans and Resolution 0909-2015 calling on the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to support New York City's application for National Disaster Resilience Competition funding** – introduced 11/24/15 by NYC Council Committee on Recovery and Resiliency; sponsors: Margaret S. Chin and Mark Treyger by request of the Manhattan Borough President (City Hall, 12/14/15)
- **New York City Council Committee on Public Safety hearing on Int. 983-2015 and Int. 992-2015 in relation to an advisory board on crossing guard deployment and reporting on crossing guard deployment** – attended with Tammy Meltzer and submitted testimony (City Hall, 12/08/15)
- **New York City Public Design Commission Water Street Streetscape Improvement Project** (between Whitehall Street and Hanover Square and Coenties Slip) – since there was no quorum, vote will be at their next meeting which will take place on January 11, 2016 (City Hall, 12/7/15)
- **Statue of Liberty National Monument New Museum Construction** – letter of support submitted (12/02/15)

### *Press Conferences*

- **NYC Comptroller Stringer released an audit of the New York City Housing Authority** – lack of emergency preparedness three years after Superstorm Sandy could leave nearly half a million people living in NYCHA developments at “extreme risk” (The Alfred E. Smith Houses, Robert F. Wagner Sr. Place and South Street, 12/15/15)

- **Senator Schumer and Governor Cuomo call on Feds to close terror gap by creating protocol that gives states ability to block gun sales to those on terror watch list** – joined for [announcement](#) (Wagner Park, Battery Park City, 12/13/15)
- **New York City Rescue Mission's 17th Annual Great Thanksgiving Feast** – served (11/27/15)
- **Re-authorization of James Zadroga Act** – advocating for a full extension of the James Zadroga 9/11 Act to get passed before Congress leaves town for Holidays
  - NYPD Commissioner Bratton with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (follow-up art exhibit to 2010 show on 9/11 in Rotunda of United States Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC, 12/10/15)
  - Mayor Bill de Blasio, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congress Members Nadler, Maloney and Velazquez, NYC NYPD Commissioner Bratton, Fire Department Commissioner Nigro, union representatives, John Feal, responders and survivors (7 World Trade Center Park, Sunday, 12/06/15)
  - Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congress Members Nadler and Maloney, and other responders and survivors (Washington, DC, 12/03/15)

## *Events*

- **City as Place: Panel Discussion moderated by Laetitia Wolff, AIGA NY** – participated in panel (South Street Seaport, 12/14/15)
- **Gateway Tenants Association honoring Congressman Nadler** – joined Senator Schumer, Comptroller Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Brewer and others (Sunday, 12/06/15)

## *Public Forums*

- **Battery Park City Authority Open Community Meeting** (6 River Terrace, 12/16/15)
- **Trinity Wall Street's Charrette #4: Lend Your Voice to a Community Conversation** – participated in the fourth community conversation about the mission of Trinity and its impact on a new parish building at 68/74 Trinity Place; joined in the process of gathering diverse ideas to generate solutions with parishioners, staff, Trinity partners, and Lower Manhattan community members including Bob Schneck. This community gathering was led by the Rev. Dr. William Lupfer and representatives from Trinity's architecture firm, Pelli Clarke Pelli (St. Paul's Church, Saturday, 11/28/15)

## *Meetings*

- **Manhattan Borough Board meeting** (12/17/15)
- **Michael Levine's Pace University Urban Planning Class** (12/17/15)
- **Downtown Alliance Board of Directors Meeting** – joined by Fern Cunningham (12/08/15)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting** – charge of meeting was: What are the most important physical, psychological and developmental health outcomes to target and in which groups of children? (12/01/15)

- **Senator Squadron's Worth Street Reconstruction meeting with NYC Department of Design and Construction and DOT** – joined by Assemblymember Glick, representatives from the offices of Congressman Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Chin, Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich and others (11/30/15)
- **Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer hosts Special Meeting of the Manhattan Borough Board** – vote on the Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA) and Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (MIH) (11/30/15)
- **Battery Park City Authority Meeting** – with President Shari Hyman and others, joined by Anthony Notaro and Ninfa Segarra (11/30/15)

### *Announcements*

- **Community Board Membership Applications are now open for 2016 – Applications and resumes must be submitted before 5:00 PM on Friday, January 29, 2016.** After submitting, you will be contacted regarding the next steps in the screening and interview process. All applicants are required to complete the entire process, from submitting an application to participating in the group interviews. Applications are available online through the Office of the Manhattan Borough President Brewer at: <http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/community-boards/community-boards.shtml>
- CB1 office will be closed 12/25/15 and 01/01/16

Wishing you all a safe and Happy 2016. See you next year!