



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for January 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

The New Year is off to a terrific start. January has been a banner month throughout the District with your ongoing support. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for all. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

Updates

- **Elementary School coming to Downtown Manhattan to be sited at 77 Greenwich Street** – announcing the site for the much needed school is a critical first step of many to opening; thank you everyone, especially NYC Councilmember Chin, NY State Senator Squadron, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Congressman Nadler, Build Schools Now, parent leaders and CB1's Director of Planning Diana Switaj for her years of population analysis and reports (01/14/16)
- **\$176 million awarded for storm protections from Montgomery Street through the Battery Park City northern tip** – announcement made by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) to guard against another storm like Hurricane Sandy. Many thanks for the strong support by NYS Senator Squadron, US Senator Schumer, NYC Councilmember Chin, Borough President Brewer and Mayor de Blasio's commitment of \$100 million to the project. The \$276 million total is a good start to addressing the predicted sea level rise of between 11 inches and 21 inches by the 2050s and 22-50 inches by 2100 (estimates from NYC Panel on Climate Change). No details yet about how much will be spent south of Brooklyn Bridge for the "Manhattan Tip" nor the engineering study winner for City's Request for Proposal so that the two year planning process can finally begin (01/18/16)
- **Battery Park City Authority granted Downtown Little League spring field permit for the dates and times requested** – many thanks to all involved for your support of the families and more than 1,100 children who will make great use of BPCA fields, but especially the BPCA team and DLL President/CB1 member Andrew Zelter for their collaboration and partnership with Senator Squadron who organized the stakeholder meeting last year (01/08/16)
- **South Street Seaport** – the purpose of the joint Seaport/Landmarks meeting on January 19th was to review the Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) Landmarks Preservation Commission application for modified plans for the Tin Building: "Overbuild" eliminated on Tin Building that was showed last year, Tin Building location is not moving quite as far as had been originally planned, and DOB-required loading dock doors have been added to the Tin Building. The Committees adopted a resolution recommending approval of this application, but the resolution included language

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reiterating our objection to segmenting of the planning process and the need for transparency. In August 2015, HHC submitted a Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment Statement and a Preliminary Draft Scope of Work for an Environmental Impact Statement for a project that is currently not moving forward at the NYC Economic Development Corporation and cc'ed the NYC City Planning Commission. Before any public process on the New Market Building begins, HHC has committed to present plans to the Seaport Working Group. HHC's Tin Building presentation has been uploaded to [CB1's website](#).

- **Renewal of Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Programs** –75 year renewal of the World Trade Center Health Program and a five year, fully funded renewal of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund passed in as part of a must-pass omnibus spending bill; many people to thank including Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, Congressman Nadler, responders, survivors, advocates and the healthcare community (12/18/15)
- **December 19, 2015 Teen Assault near BPCA ballfields** – working with NYPD and Battery Park City Authority to ensure that our community is safe for all; CB1 has requested full-time live surveillance of the Battery Park City ballfields to ensure safety for area teens
- **US Postal Service updated their website for Blue Collection Mail Boxes in CB1 and nationally** – Wanda Santos called me to follow-up on an issue that was raised at a meeting that Congressman Nadler convened last year with other elected officials that USPS.com needed to be updated with current box locations (01/20/16)
- **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced opening of World Trade Center Transportation HUB's Oculus for first week of March** – will provide greater ease of commute for PATH riders and will eventually provide access to 11 NYC subway lines (01/19/16)
- **20 Pine Street** – investigating whether current ramp is in compliance with NYC Department of Buildings code since Con Edison has a vault nearby which could hamper the ability to get to a main transformer in the event of an emergency. This ramp, which goes to a newly created door 7 feet above the sidewalk, is not for ADA compliance, but rather it is intended to be used for Industrial use in a commercial zone. If it were designed to comply with ADA then a small lift would have sufficed in place of a ramp that runs across a narrow sidewalk and limits pedestrian flow
- **New York City Public Design Commission voted down CB1's request for a bike lane as part of the Water Street Streetscape Improvement Project** – between Whitehall Street and Hanover Square and Coenties Slip (01/11/16)

Press Conferences

- **Citywide Ferry Plan** – joined NYC Council Transportation Chair Rodriguez, Waterfront Alliance and others to call for inclusion of Hudson River service with state-of-the-art ferries (01/06/16)
- **Rally to celebrate the extension of the Zadroga Act** – spoke and joined U.S. Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, Representatives Nadler, Maloney and King, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, NYC Councilmember Chin, Senator Squadron, Dr. Joan Reibman of the WTC Environmental Health Center, responders and survivors (12/19/15)

Events

- **FEMA Region II's Continuity of Operations Gotham Wind Exercise (01/19/16)**
- **Governor Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Summary** – Presented by Audrey Zibelman, Chair of the Public Service Commission; joined by Fern Cunningham and Patrick Kennell (01/15/16)
- **Key to the City** – Mayor de Blasio hosted a celebration in honor of the tireless efforts by first responders, survivors, advocates and lawmakers to fully fund the renewal of the Zadroga Act and awarded the Key to the City to former firefighter and long-time Zadroga advocate Ray Pfeifer; joined by Guest Host Jon Stewart, NYC Councilmember Chin, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Congressman Nadler, Mariama James and others; key will be given to 9/11 National Memorial Museum which will be updating their health exhibit in 2016 (City Hall, Saturday, 01/09/16)
- **WTC Transportation Hub Tour with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey** – with CB1 members (01/08/16)
- **Governor Cuomo announced proposed overhaul of NYC public infrastructure projects including Penn Station, airports and subway stations (01/06/16)**
- **Tribute to NYPD Detective Joseph Lemm at the 9/11 Memorial** - he was among six American service members killed in a suicide bombing on 12/21/15 in Bagram, Afghanistan (12/23/15)

Meetings

- **Battery Maritime Building with NYC Economic Development Corporation** – about transfer of redevelopment project from Dermot to Stoneleigh, joined by Susan Cole and Diana Switaj (1/26/16)
- **New York City Emergency Management Intergovernmental/External Affairs Winter Weather Information calls** – updated weather forecasts provided and agencies discussed potential impacts; joined CB1 staff with various agencies including: NYCEM, NYPD, FDNY, DSNY, DOT, MTA, DPR, DOE, CAU, City Hall, DEP and NYCHA (1/25/16, Sunday 1/24/16, Saturday 1/23/16, and 1/22/16)
- **Manhattan Borough Board meeting (1/21/16)**
- **NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board (01/20/16)**
- **World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting** – further discussion on the Children's Research Workgroup (Conference Call, 01/15/16)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee Meeting** – joined by Mariama James, Kathleen Gupta and Bob Schneck; WTC cancer treatment and case management (01/07/16)
- **School Overcrowding Task Force** – preliminary meeting with representatives from the offices of Senator Squadron, Assembly Member Glick, Council Member Chin, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, and CB1 Youth and Education leadership to discuss preparation for first meeting which will be on February 5th; similar format as with the Seaport Working Group (01/07/16)
- **NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital** – met with new SVP/COO with Diana Switaj; requested update to CB1 Seaport/Civic Center Committee meeting on their downtown expansion and opening of parking garage with entrance on Beekman Street into Gehry Building (12/22/15)
- **Two Bridges Neighborhood Council** – requested that CB1 meet with Two Bridges leadership on their “The South Street Initiative” which includes plans for the incorporation of the South Street East River Community Development Corporation (SSER-CDC) which they will pay \$150,000 for first year

to create; nothing specifically to offer CB1, concerned about transparency of process and requested prospectus; attended with CB 3 Chair and Michael Levine (12/18/15)

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 by the Manhattan Borough President Brewer’s office. In order to be considered, 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>
- **Happy New Year 2016!** Happy Chinese New Year... the Year of the Monkey!