



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## Chairperson's Report for May 2013

### Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another very busy month for Community Board 1. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through this month with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies.

#### Announcements:

- WTC Campus Security Plan DEIS Comment Period was extended to May 22 (from May 8) as a result of our public testimony and we are planning ways to continue our efforts to revise the security plan to minimize impact on our community while maintaining safety
- FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano has approved an illuminated plaque for the two fallen firefighters Joseph Graffagnino and Robert Beddia, who died heroically fighting the fire at 130 Liberty Street, to be installed on Fire Engine Ladder 10's Greenwich Street exterior wall near the memorial to their fellow firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001
- Con Edison Storm Hardening – in response to Sandy an \$80mm investment south of Canal Street in next several years to protect infrastructure, harden components, mitigate impacts and facilitate restoration
- WTC Healthcare Forum for Lower Manhattan on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – PSC- CUNY, 61 Broadway, sponsors include the WTC Health Program and CB1

#### Milestones:

- White security tent damaged during Sandy was removed in The Battery Park historic area – restoring iconic view of Statue of Liberty (May 2013)
- Convene Ribbon Cutting with Congressman Nadler – to launch New York City's most advanced professional Conference Center in Downtown Business District, nearly 40,000 square foot location is largest new business opening since hurricane Sandy (04/29/2013)
- The Blue School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Seaport History Museum Exhibit and Show on the 6 month anniversary of Sandy (04/30/2013)
- DCTV broke ground on its new state-of-the-art fully interactive digital Cinema at 87 Lafayette Street on White Street – Borough President Stringer and Councilmember Chin. It will be the first “All documentary/All the time” Academy Award eligible Cinema in the United States (05/07/2013)
- 408 foot spire is set into place at the top of 1 World Trade Center (05/10/2013)
- Hudson River Park Trust Pier 25 Playground Opening (Saturday, May 11, 2013)
- Washington Street Plaza Completed – NYC DOT partnered with Downtown Alliance to create a new public plaza on Washington Street between Albany and Carlisle Streets; plaza includes movable tables and chairs, decorative planters, and granite blocks (May 2013)

## Testified:

- Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Oversight Hearing on The Effect of Changing Demographics on the Lower Manhattan Neighborhood with Urban Planner Diana Switai – focused on school overcrowding and active recreation space (05/07/2013)
- City Council Sidewalk Café Legislation – Evan Lacher (05/07/2013)
- New York City Planning Commission Hearing on the Special Governors Island District with Michael Levine (05/08/2013)
- East Midtown Rezoning Hearing (05/13/2013)
- Oversight – Ferries: A Vital Part of New York City’s Public Transit System (05/29/2013)

## Forums Attended:

- Project R.E.A.C.H. (Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY’s Hallmark) – Disability Awareness Month Special Event (04/24/2013)
- Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer “Start-up City: An Entrepreneurial Economy for Middle Class New York (04/26/2013)
- Fifth Annual 26<sup>th</sup> Senate District Community Convention: State Senator Daniel Squadron (Sunday, 04/28/2013)
- Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation Planning Strategic Session with Michael Levine (Saturday, 05/04/2013)

## Meetings:

- Hudson River Park Trust Taskforce (04/24/2013)
- Department of Education Small Speaker Silver Group Task Force to address school overcrowding (04/29/2013)
- Governor Island’s Tour with CB1 members and staff (05/06/2013)
- Speaker Silver School Overcrowding Task Force (05/10/2013)
- Council Member Chin South Street Seaport Meeting – commence a conversation involving community stakeholders with an eye to identifying urban planning concerns (05/22/2013)
- Civic Center TaskForce – with Commissioner Levin, LMCC, City and Mark Costello to start discussions on choosing an operator for the community media facility to be located at 346 Broadway (05/24/2013)

## Served:

- New York City Rescue Mission 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother’s Day Banquet along with Council Member Chin (Saturday, 05/11/2013)
- Planted at Downtown Alliance’s Sprucing Up Wall Street Park which was severely impacted by Sandy (Saturday, May 18, 2013)

## Upcoming:

- Asphalt Green Tour at 5:30pm before the next full board meeting at 5:30pm
- HRPT NID – HRPT plan not submitted, so no scheduled CB1 hearing; possibly September