



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for August and September 2014 **Catherine McVay Hughes**

It has been another extremely busy two month for Community Board 1 since the July monthly meeting, although there were no CB1 August meetings. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you everyone.

Updates

- U.S. Senate and House lawmakers from across the country introduce critical reauthorization of James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Health and compensation programs passed into law after almost a decade-long fight are set to expire next year. Participants in 9/11 health program are living in all 50 States and 429 of 435 Congressional Districts; HR. 5503 in the House of Representatives and S. 2844 in the Senate (09/17/14)
- Installation of new NYC DOT stop sign coming to busy Financial District intersection at the corner of William and John Streets; thank you Pace students for the comprehensive traffic study that produced results, Deron Charkoudian and Ro Sheffe for recommending this traffic study for the Fidi area, elected officials and NYCDOT; passed July resolution (09/15/14)
- South Street Seaport Update: Seaport Working Group meeting (possibly 10/08/14 to be confirmed); CB1 Special Landmarks Meeting to review Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) LPC application for properties within historic district (10/22/14); HHC Landmark Preservation Commission Hearing (11/18/14)
- Opening of R Train's East River Montague Manhattan-Brooklyn Tube after getting \$250 million in repairs after it was damaged by Hurricane Sandy (09/15/14)
- Continued improvements to pedestrian and vehicular flow around WTC due to CB1 working with agencies
 - First pedestrian streets opened in WTC site are "Cortland Way" and sidewalk along east side of 4 WTC, thanks PANYNJ (early August), closed temporarily for sidewalk shed installation
 - Increased signage (Church/Cortland Way, Liberty/Route 9A, northern portion of WTC site near Route 9A (early August)
 - Opened side walk along Route 9A edge of Memorial Plaza (end of July)
- Peck Slip Plaza – Old Seaport Alliance in partnership with CB1, City agencies (NYCDOT, DPR, DDC) and with help from elected officials, continued to improve the area; east staging area has been cleaned up (August), barricades will be removed and the space will be paved by NYCDOT with funding from DPR in the next few weeks to establish a second temporary plaza; view corridor restored through/under bridge (September/October); working on next steps
- CB1 District Needs Report FY 2016 submitted to NYC City Planning and posted on CB1 website (08/04/14)

- 346 Broadway – elected officials who comprised of the original Task Force, which include both the NYC Council Member and Borough President, are working on issues that need to be resolved. We understand that the community space is getting less space than previously promised to the community. Peebles Corporation which bought the building will be coming before the Planning and Landmark Committees for an update. No news yet on where Summons Court will move. CB1 and elected officials have been asking for an update from the City for months on this issue.

Press Conferences

- Begin push to reauthorize James Zadroga Health and Compensation Act of 2010 U.S. – Senator Gillibrand, Rep. Maloney, Rep. Nadler, Rep. King gathered with Mayor de Blasio, 9/11 first responders, community survivors and union leaders (WTC, 09/08/14)
- Downtown Alliance expands innovative solar-powered trash collection to 158 new recycling bins to reduce bagged garbage and improve sidewalks – President Lappin, NYC Department of Sanitation Commissioner Garcia (09/08/14)
- Deadline for workers compensation for volunteers and employees was September 11th – NYCOSH, Congressman Nadler, labor and community leaders (City Hall, 09/05/14)
- Open new public space “Albany Street Plaza” between Greenwich and Washington Streets; outdoor games, fresh farm offerings – with Downtown Alliance President Lappin, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation President Emil, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron, Council Member Chin and GrowNYC; CB1 also thanks HUD, PANYNJ, NYPD, NYCDOT, Mayor's office (09/02/14; soft opening 08/11/14)

Testimony

- Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Public Hearing on the Metropolitan Transit Authority’s 2015-2019 Capital Program: Evaluating Transit Priorities for Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island; testified on Community Board Panel (08/07/14)

Events

- Fire Safety Forum for High-Rise Buildings Hosted by Manhattan Community Board 1 – in partnership with Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and Independence Plaza North Tenant Association (IPNTA) (09/16/14)
- 9/11 Memorial Plaza open to public for Tribute in Light (09/11/14)
- September 11th Anniversary Ceremony (09/11/14)
- 9/11 National Memorial Museum Community Night (09/10/14)
- VOICES of September 11th 13th Annual Information Forum (09/10/14)
- LaunchLM for Big Ideas for Smart Cities: Infrastructure; innovations to create a more technologically advanced public realm within LM (South Street Seaport, 08/19/14)
- National Night Out with First Police Precinct and Transit District 2 – thanked Captain Timoney and Chief Fox and their teams, respectively (Battery Park City, 08/05/14)

Meetings

- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (09/19/14)
- New York-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board (9/15/14)
- Landmark Preservation Commission Chair Srinivasan – with Michael Levine, Roger Byrom and Bruce Ehrman (9/12/14)

- Lower Manhattan Bi-Weekly Community Meeting on construction (9/4/14)
- Borough-Wide Bus Issues Meeting – organized by Borough President Brewer with Commissioners of Departments of Transportation and Consumer Affairs, NYPD (09/03/14)
- WTC Health Program Survivors Steering Committee – with Bob Schneck and Mariama James (09/02/14)
- Lower Manhattan Construction Meeting – with Senator Squadron, NYC Department of Transportation, 311; improved website, communication between NYC DOT and 311; requested that 311 have ability to receive photo of issue directly by email/text; http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/lower_manhattan_construction.shtml (08/04/14)
- Ferry Meeting – with Senator Squadron, representatives from Congressman Nadler and Councilmember Chin, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, ferry operators and George Calderaro; covered whistle and air quality issues at BPC dock (08/08/14)

Announcements

- Citizen Preparedness Training Program Tuesday, September 30, 2014 7:00 P.M. at P.S. 276, Battery Park City, 55 Battery Place. Free Go Bag. To register: www.prepare.ny.gov
- World Trade Center Construction will be resetting a portion of the North East curb of Vesey Street. The World Trade Center site perimeter fence along Vesey Street (in front of 2 WTC to Church Street) along with the pedestrian walkway will shift approximately 40 feet south to allow access through Vesey Street during construction. The duration of this project is approximately 4 weeks (beginning 09/29/14)
- September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is approaching filing deadline which applies to individuals who were diagnosed with a 9/11-related eligible cancer other than Prostate Cancer on or before October 12, 2012; <http://www.vcf.gov/>
- Kathleen Gupta will also be representing CB1 on WTC Health Program Survivors Steering Committee
- 4 Housing reports (Stabilization Guide Update, Affordable Housing Report Update, Unit Owner's Report and Green Buildings Report) presented by Urban Fellow Julien-Pierre A. Schmitz, Fund for the City of New York Community Planning Fellow working with Tom Goodkind and staff; green report completed and great progress on housing
- Welcome Jeff Sun, Community Planning Fellow, for current school year
- Michael Levine's students at Pace University will once again conduct work for CB1 during the coming year; partnering with the City University of NY, they will survey CB1 to conduct a Community Needs Assessment for us to use in next year's District Needs Statement
- Local Law 29 (2000) NYC Votes – voter registration and organ donation forms are available
- CB1 Office had many problems this July and August with the failure of the backup network system, internet access and phones
- Reminder that CB1 expects to move to 1 Centre Street from current location at 49-51 Chambers Street by the end of the year; details to follow
- Attendance and active participation are the two keys to success for Community Boards. In this spirit, the Borough President's office is tracking attendance. In addition, the BP Office has encouraged us to track tardies or early departures, since they have begun this monthly reporting requirement.