



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
**Transportation and Historic Preservation and Landmarks Committee**  
**September 11<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Present**

Lisa Downing  
Troy Gethers  
Stephen Johnson  
Karen Horry  
Ebony Mason  
Shatic Mitchell  
Barbara Nelson  
Dr. Keith Taylor  
Raquel Vazquez, Committee Chair

**Absent/Excused**

Maurice Sessoms, Daniel Clark, Lashanda Myers  
The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm.

**Transportation**

• **DOT**

Lyle Blackwood, DOT representative, reported on the re-facing on the Macombs Dam Bridge project that is ensuring that the Bridge is up to code. There is dual construction going on in the area with the Boys and Girls club being built underneath by the viaduct. The timetable on the construction on the West 155<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct was pushed back due to the delay with the Boys and Girls project.

There will be closures to the Harlem River Drive service road to Bradhurst from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. They will be working on the North side of the bridge thru 2019.

The physical bridge and the viaduct are scheduled to close 3 hours after each Yankee game. DOT is working with Yankee Stadium and local businesses to coordinate this work effort after the home games regarding the street and bridge closures. To date, there have not been any complaints. According to DOT, there are signs posted when the street is closed. Communications to date has been timely and signs are hung.

Boys and Girls club must request a letter for community support from CB 10 regarding their construction needs. However to date, there has been no contests to their work. CB 10 to follow up with Boys and Girls Club concerning the construction schedule and their request for speed bumps, and consecutive weekend closures.

- **MTA**

There have been several complaints from constituents directed at the MTA. To date, there has been no response from MTA with regards to issues/concerns raised. Transportation Chair to follow-up with Marcus Book, EVP of Government and Community Affairs who has been notified of all the issues.

**Below are the concerns:**

- 1) As a result of the construction underway a new bus stop has been created at 147th and Seventh Avenue. Seniors are complaining that the buses are not stopping. Seniors need to have direct access to the bus stop. They do not want to walk the extra two blocks to the next stop. Bus drivers are not stopping.
- 2) iHope Academy located at 103 West 116<sup>th</sup> is requesting that the M7 bus stop be moved. It currently stands in front of the School blocking the school's entrance. This school serves a special need population. Many of these students are physically challenged with various handicaps and are transported to and from school via yellow school buses. Getting students in and out of the school building is difficult as the M7 bus and its passengers block the entrance.
- 3) The issue of back angle parking along Frederick Douglass Boulevard across and near the police precinct at 2770 Frederick Douglas Boulevard (PSA 6) has resurfaced. This matter continues to be a concern of constituents in the area. According to constituents, it is mostly NYPD cars that are causing the violation. The Board is led to believe that it is narcotics division that has been authorized by their precinct to park in this manner despite the public inconvenience caused. These cars can be found in the M10 bus stop, at fire hydrants and in cross walks violating public access and pedestrian movement in each instance creating a public safety hazard. The police precinct is supposed to handle this matter directly with their officers.

It is unclear why this is happening. The police precinct has a designated parking lot on the 148<sup>th</sup> street.

According to DOT representative, the precinct is in need of additional parking and has been requesting more. However DOT has issued all the parking that can be allotted; NYPD is above the parking space limited allowed.

- 4) There has been a request from constituents for a bus shelter at the M2 bus stop at West 151<sup>st</sup> and Seventh Avenue.  
DOT is meeting with both the politicians and the commander next month.

The CB 10 Committee Chair decided to write a letter to MTA to address all the concerns in the district.

## **Historic Preservation and Landmarks**

October 16<sup>th</sup> at One Centre Street there will be an LPC hearing concerning revised rules and amendments. CB 10 opposed these amendments in the spring. The proposed rules under the current amendments want to get rid of community input in the process on property rehabilitation work.

LPC wants to waive letters of support and decrease face time with the community via public hearings.  
LPC wants staff approvals on rehabilitation work and modifications only.

The committee is going to resend its letter so board members and the community at large know what its position is.

An announcement will be sent out via the public hearing and the document will be sent via eblast.

### **Dorrance Brooks Historic District**

A Dorrance Brooks Historic District is being proposed. The proposed district runs along Edgecombe Avenue from 136<sup>th</sup> to 141<sup>st</sup> Street it encompasses the north side of West 136<sup>th</sup> street on the South; East side of St Nicholas Avenue on the West; Southside of west 140<sup>th</sup> on the North; and approximately 100 feet west of Frederick Douglas Boulevard on the East.

We are losing our history to development. The committee needs a strategy to have the area designated as a landmarked area. There is history in this district that must be preserved. For example, Harlem Hell Fighter Dorrance Brooks was a HHF who died in WW1. His Father was in the Civil war and helped to free slaves. People of color always lived in this area; it was significant because this is where all the workers were housed as well as other historic figures in the African American community. For example, Charles Hamilton Houston mentor for Thurgood Marshall lived in the area. Mamie and Kenneth Clark, noted psychologists lived at 28 Edgecombe and opened up their psychology practice. African American doctors were not allowed to practice at Harlem hospital so they opened up offices at this location. Back then residents who lived in the district organized at St Marks United Methodist church. The church was a gathering place for African American civil rights advocacy.

The architecture reflects the Queen Anne style of both row houses and apartment buildings. The cornices on these buildings are worth saving. A house was torn down a few weeks ago and other buildings in the district are slated for demolition. Mount Calvary church is pending demolition. The developer has applied for a complete demolition. How can the committee avoid not to destroying all the existing architecture?

Dr Taylor president of the Dorrance Brooks Property Owners and Residents Association and a member of the CB 10 Historic Preservation committee, along with the West Harlem Preservation Organization filed a State and National application for landmark status. He is requesting the support of the community to support their application. Both St Nicholas Historic District and Save Harlem Now have been notified of the application and are helping us to get it done.

### **Next Steps**

- Historic Buildings need signage – Call DOT and LPC
- There needs to be a joint meeting with the community board and the block association ASAP

There will be a street co-naming Thurgood Marshall on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at 155<sup>th</sup> Street and Edgecombe where he lived

### **Street Co- Naming and Allah, Justice & the Five Percenters Street Co-Naming**

The Southwest corner of 125<sup>th</sup> was named African Square. In spring 2017 Dr Ben-Jochannan's family requested his name be honored at that location.

City Council Guidelines prohibits parallel signage and double parallel signs. This application has been pulled and the family has been notified. The District Manager is recertifying his application working with Bill Perkins Office, City Council and LPC as to the next appropriate street co-naming location.

The 5 percenters returned from the summer hiatus to represent their request for the street co-naming for Allah. After careful research and consideration, they would like the street to be named Allah, Justice and the Five Percenters Square to be located at the intersection of 127<sup>th</sup> Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard.

### **Community Comments**

- The malls along 7<sup>th</sup> avenue are not being maintained. We need an to the adopt a highway campaign. ; It is a way to engage small businesses.
- Speak with DOT to update the malls and squares that exist in our district.

### **West 130 – 132<sup>nd</sup> Historic Designation**

The President Rachel La Cogue attended the meeting to provide an update.

The designation was passed through Landmarks Preservation Commission. We are now waiting for the City Council to make a decision. Critical things need to happen in the community to better get through the process moving forward.

The concern is while LPC gave a compelling case, Bentley Meeker the owner of the parking lot hired two lobbying firms and an attorney to obtain a carve out for his building located at 161 West 132<sup>nd</sup>. Street. The parking lot owner is trying to see if he can get the zoning changed and assemble adjacent lots to build higher. That would require either BSA approval or ULURP. The parking lot on 130<sup>th</sup> street behind the church did get the carve out.

City Council was supposed to vote this week; the vote was subsequently delayed. It is the Block Associations concern that the parking lot owner will still get the carve out due to the political pressure he is putting on the local politicians.

### **Next Steps:**

The subcommittee on Landmarks for the City Council is supposed to vote on 17<sup>th</sup> of September. There will be no more pubic testimonies accepted.

- We can write letters
- We can call our Council person

Overall the Block Association president was concerned that we did not have the full support of our Councilman based upon his comments where he stated that they should not restrict what other people can build. Our Councilman needs to be more involved in the preservation movement in our district. We need to get him at one of our meetings to secure his buy in. CB 10 votes move forward with the district as it is.

### **New Business**

The Harlem Writers guild would like to name the southwest side of MMPW after Maya Angelou and will submit a street co-naming application for consideration. Ms Angelou an artist and world renowned author and poet lived at 58 West 120<sup>th</sup> street just west of the proposed signage.

**Voting Items**

- 1) Dorrence Brooks Historic District 8 -0 modify the 3 whereas clauses discussed**
- 2) Letter of support Central Harlem Historic District 130<sup>th</sup> – 132<sup>nd</sup> Street 8-0**
- 3) Letter to MTA outlining the 5 items discussed in the meeting 8-0**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 pm**