



New York City Council Member

COREY JOHNSON



Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

I'd like to share with you some important updates from my office as well tell you about some upcoming events that have been taking place in our district recently.

Please know that my staff is always available to answer questions and help you wherever possible. They can be reached at our District Office at 212-564-7757. You can also email me anytime at district3@council.nyc.gov.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood soon.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
Councilmember, 3rd District

224 West 30th Street • Suite 1206 • New York, NY • 10001
District3@council.nyc.gov
212-564-7757

Let's Talk: Bike Safety Panel

In the past few years, the City has seen a massive influx in the use of bicycles. As its streets were built for motorized vehicles and already struggled to accommodate 8.5 million pedestrians, it comes as no surprise that a growing usage of a new mode of transportation – bikes – has posed significant challenges to New York's transportation status quo.

I believe it is important to engage in cross-sector dialogue to do our part to ensure that bikers, pedestrians, and drivers alike are able to navigate their way through the City in the safest way possible. **My office is therefore hosting a "Let's Talk" series event focused on bike safety.** I will moderate a discussion among our panelists: Commissioner Margaret Forgiione of the Department of Transportation, Deputy Inspector Michelle Irizarry of the 10th Precinct and Thomas Devito, Manhattan Organizer at Transportation Alternatives.

The event will take place Monday, December 8th, at 6:30 pm at 1199 SEIU Headquarters (310 West 43rd Street between 8th and 9th Avenues). To RSVP, please email district3@council.nyc.gov or call my District Office at (212) 564-7757.

World AIDS Day

On World AIDS Day, December 1, I gave a speech at the Apollo Theatre. I had a simple message: HIV/AIDS is a disease of inequities. The drivers of the epidemic are not individual behaviors but rather socio-economic factors like poverty, homelessness and lack of healthcare access. In order to end the epidemic, we have to recognize the disease as an issue of social and economic justice and address these disparities. Investments in housing assistance, food, transportation and other basic subsistence benefits are essential and cost-effective components of keeping people living with HIV/AIDS healthy, and decreasing transmission rates.

Paradoxically, poor New Yorkers living with HIV – those who are most vulnerable – need to get sick in order to qualify for the public support they need to afford housing, food and transportation, all of which are necessary to achieve and maintain optimal health. Or they need to make untenable choices between housing, food and transportation because they don't meet the current requirements but cannot afford the cost of all three of these essentials.

I called for the creation for a single point of access in every locality that will assist all extremely low-income New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS to obtain the housing, nutrition, transportation and workforce

opportunities necessary to enable them to manage their health, live well and end the epidemic for their communities. Using bio-medical advances and anti-homelessness and poverty policies, we can end AIDS as an epidemic in New York, while simultaneously maintaining the health of people living with HIV.

I believe that Governor Cuomo's bold commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic in New York State is not only visionary, but also deeply rooted in science. We now know that we can end the AIDS epidemic in New York State. It is a real and achievable goal, but only if we make sure that all HIV+ New Yorkers have access to a real rental assistance program that will make the difference between homelessness and being housed.

My First Bill Passed!

On November 25, I proudly passed my first bill into law at the New York City Council. The bill was unanimously passed in City Council. Intro 361-A strives to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence in our city's shelter system.

The bill amends the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to grant a presumption of eligibility for applicants to the DHS shelter system who are exiting domestic violence shelters (for which they have already undergone extensive intake processes). The bill now goes before Mayor Bill de Blasio to be enacted. I'm proud that my first bill is one that will help some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Modernizing New York City's Birth Certificate for Transgender New Yorkers

Earlier this month, I put forward a bill that would bring New York City's birth certificates in line with modern standards by removing outdated and unnecessary surgical requirements for correcting a birth certificate. The current policy, written in 1971 and unchanged in over 40 years, is outdated. NYC has fallen behind other jurisdictions – including New York State and the federal government – that have modernized their policies.

The vast majority of transgender New Yorkers have inaccurate birth certificates. Eight out of ten transgender women and nine out of ten transgender men have not had the surgeries the 1971 policy requires. Surgery is not an option for many transgender New Yorkers due to other health conditions or discriminatory health insurance exclusions.

A birth certificate is a “key” that unlocks a number of important doors — it’s a living document that is used on a regular basis to participate in society. It is essential for getting other identity documents and it is often the only form of ID that low-income New Yorkers have when applying for jobs, health insurance, or enrolling in school.

When you have an identity document (in particular a birth certificate) that does not match who you are, you become a target for discrimination, accusations of fraud, denials of service, and all sorts of other administrative and logistical problems. Four out of ten of transgender people have faced harassment when presenting identity documents that did not match. Many others report being denied entry or asked to leave an establishment, and some have even experienced physical assault due to a mismatched ID.

This legislation will address and fix all that, and I’m proud to have worked with advocates and New Yorkers to make the lives of Transgender New Yorkers easier. It feels good to fight for human rights for all New Yorkers.

Proposed Legislation to Grant New Yorkers Paid Leave of Absence for Cancer Screenings

Cancer adversely affects its victims who do not have paid leave and the ability to obtain cancer screenings without a pay dock. In the face of this reality, we must do our part to improve access to preventative health services. Given that residents of New York State outside of the City have already been granted eight hours per year of paid leave from work for breast cancer and prostate cancer screenings, it is only logical that we amend the administrative code of New York City to ensure all New Yorkers have the same rights.

This is why I proposed a bill last week that will enable the Mayor to authorize paid leave for employees to receive screenings for breast, cervical, prostate, or colorectal cancer. This legislation is also a natural next step following the implementation of the Earned Sick Time Act last April, and will ultimately play a major role in ensuring New Yorkers can fairly battle cancer.

Expanding the Special West Chelsea District

Last month, I submitted testimony to the City Planning Commission supporting the expansion of

the Special West Chelsea District (SWCD) to include the south side of West 15th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

In the fall 2013, the Department of City Planning (DCP) in collaboration with Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) proposed the expansion of the SWCD as part of an ongoing process to reinforce the residential character and quality of life in West Chelsea.

I believe that expanding the SWCD to West 15th Street will help protect the low-rise character of the blocks south of the Chelsea Market, help spur mixed-use development, and preserve the integrity of West Chelsea’s commercially zoned properties. This application represents the culmination of a decade of community efforts and advocacy to apply appropriate bulk controls to this important transition block between the Meatpacking District and West Chelsea.

I look forward to the inclusion of West 15th Street in the district which I believe will help preserve the unique character of West Chelsea.

#SaveCafeEdison

My office joined the campaign to save Cafe Edison and wrote a letter urging the owners of the Edison Hotel to grant a new lease to this beloved restaurant. A copy of my letter is attached.

In my letter, I wrote that Cafe Edison is more than just a restaurant; it is part of the fabric of New York City. Cafe Edison is one of the last remaining bastions where people from all walks of life can meet and enjoy an affordable meal in Times Square. Over the last several years, the community has lost too many establishments that made the neighborhood unique, and we cannot afford to lose Cafe Edison now.

I encourage you to show your support to keep the Cafe Edison open by signing this petition and visiting the restaurant.

Preserving the Greenwich House Senior Center at Our Lady of Pompeii

The Senior Center at Our Lady of Pompeii Church has been a pillar of the Village community since 1971. The services offered are at the core of what the Catholic Church is about, providing routine, enrichment, and community – and yet Father Walter’s proposal to close this facility is the very opposite. I believe closure of this senior center will further alienate seniors from their community, force

many to go hungry or travel further for meals, and eliminate social programs to help people age healthily and stay in their homes.

This is why last month, after my office requested a meeting with Father Walter but was denied, I signed onto a letter drafted by Senator Brad Hoylman's office (and signed by other local elected officials) urging the Archdiocese to reconsider. I rallied in front of the Church with many of you to fight and preserve this neighborhood gem. Since then, the Archdiocese has intervened and is currently engaging in conversation with Father Walter to work towards a solution. The letter we sent in full can be read below.

Participatory Budgeting: Evaluating, Researching and Developing the Ideas

We held our final Participatory Budgeting (PB) Neighborhood Assembly last week. We held 7 assemblies throughout our Council District and received hundreds of great ideas from residents. We discussed local issues, and ways to address them using capital dollars from the City.

Even though the PB Neighborhood Assemblies are over, this is just the start of this cycle, and there are many ways you can get involved.

We need Budget Delegates who will help evaluate and develop the ideas submitted by the community. In March, we will need help putting together a Community Expo to show residents what will be on the ballot, and in April, we will need help getting the word out about the vote. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Matt Green in my office at mgreen@council.nyc.gov or 212-564-7757. I encourage you to get involved in this exciting new process to help transform how our City government works.

LGBT Caucus Hosts Transgender Day of Awareness Candlelit Vigil

November 20th was Transgender Day of Awareness, and to mark the day, I joined my colleagues on City Council's LGBT Caucus on the steps of City Hall to commemorate all the New Yorkers we have lost to hate violence. The event served to bring awareness to the recent spike in hate crimes we have seen in New York City as well as to illuminate solutions to help end targeted violence against the LGBT community. Advocate organizations including the Anti-Violence Project

(AVP), the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA), the NYC LGBT Community Center, the Translatina Network of New York, and Make the Road New York (MRNY) were also in attendance to speak out against such hate crimes and take steps towards eradicating violence in our City.

Free Monthly Legal Housing Clinic

My office helps constituents around my district with a wide range of issues. However, housing issues – particularly those that have to do with landlord harassment/disputes – account for an outstanding number of these constituent cases.

We have therefore begun to offer housing clinics at my district office (224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206) on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-8:30 pm. The next clinic will be on Tuesday, December 9. At these clinics, you can receive free legal advice from housing attorneys who will be volunteering their time. You will be seen on a first come, first serve basis.

West Side Tenants' Conference

On Saturday, November 1, I was honored to join a panel of experts to discuss the City's affordable housing plan at the West Side Tenants' Conference which was organized by Housing Conservation Coordinators.

I spoke about my role as a New York City Councilmember and my work with Community Board 4 (CB4) to help identify potential sites to create additional affordable housing units in the community.

I talked about how we can use the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), which is the public review process for proposed zoning changes and special permits, to negotiate for more affordable housing units with developers. For example, if a developer wants to build higher and exceed the size permitted under existing zoning regulations, they must go through the ULURP process which requires public participation at the Community Board level and the approval of the New York City Council. During this time period, the Community Board and my office will work together to ensure that our neighborhoods remain economically diverse by asking developers to include the maximum amount of affordable housing units possible, and that our parks, schools and other public spaces benefit from any new development that seeks a zoning change. It was a pleasure speaking at this year's West Side

Tenants' Conference and I look forward to next year's event!

Neighborhood Non-Profits: Renew with the Department of Finance!

All not-for-profit organizations that have a property tax exemption in New York City must renew with the Department of Finance (DOF) by January 5, 2015. Every Borough-Block-Lot with a partial or full Not-For-Profit Exemption is required to renew every year in order to continue receiving the exemption. We don't want anyone to miss this deadline, so renew as soon as possible! If you have any questions, please email DOF at notforprofit@finance.nyc.gov.

NYC DOT, NYC Parks Department, NYPD, and Central Park Conservancy Announce Collaborative Safety Enhancements in Central Park

In light of a surge of accidents resulting in serious injury and even death this past fall on the Central Park Loop Drive, I welcomed yesterday's announcement to reduce motor vehicles speeds from 25 mph to 20 mph and other safety enhancements in Central Park.

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYPD, and the Central Park Conservancy will work together to implement these safety improvements along the Central Park Drives. In addition to implementing a park-wide speed limit reduction from 25 mph to 20 mph, there will be substantial enhancements made to major cross walks – namely, prominent signage for pedestrian crossings.

Barricades will also be installed to combat the wide crossing distances spanning West Drive at Sheep Meadow and at Heckler Ballfields. The pedestrian and bicycle lanes near Delacorte Theater

(near W. 81st Street) will be separated by a new barricade, as well. The Central Park Precinct will also continue its public awareness campaign within the park. To best get out the word, the agencies will work together to distribute DOT's Bike Smart Brochures, as well as literature geared specifically towards cyclists and pedestrians in Central Park. You can read the full press release below.

Google Hosting Computer Science Seminar

Google is hosting a computer science seminar on December 9th at 6 pm at Google NYC to launch their newest effort, CS First, to educate students about coding.

Learn more about CS First and how you can bring a CS First club to your school or program. Google will have an introduction and Q&A followed by an opportunity to experience some lessons hands on.

 | CS First

New York City Launch

Information Session for Educators

 **WHEN**

December 9th, 2014
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Program begins at 6:30

 **WHERE**

Google NYC - Chelsea Market
75 Ninth Ave, 2nd Fl
New York, NY 10011

Please reach out to googleny@google.com with any questions.



**TESTIMONY OF COUNCIL MEMBER COREY JOHNSON BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
THE SPECIAL WEST CHELSEA DISTRICT**

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Good morning, my name is Corey Johnson and I am the Councilmember representing the 3rd Council District, which includes the Special West Chelsea District (SWCD). I am submitting testimony today to express my support for the expansion of the SWCD to include the south side of West 15th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

On June 23, 2005, the City Council approved the three ULURP applications for the West Chelsea/High Line proposal. The adopted actions include Zoning Map and Zoning Text amendments and Site Selection and Acquisition for public open space. The SWCD was created to help facilitate the transformation of the High Line elevated rail line into a public park and to ensure the surrounding West Chelsea neighborhood into a mixed-use residential community.

In fall 2013, the Department of City Planning (DCP) in collaboration with Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) proposed the expansion of the SWCD as part of an ongoing process to reinforce the residential character and quality of life in West Chelsea.

Please accept my testimony today in support of the proposed expansion of the SWCD to include the south side of West 15th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. This segment of West 15th Street is occupied by a mix of active commercial and light manufacturing uses that reflect broader trends in the neighborhood, and it is appropriate that SWCD is expanded to include this block.

The incorporation of the south side of West 15th Street into the SWCD would not increase non-compliance among buildings in this segment as many already exceed underlying base maximum heights of the M1-5 zoning district. Currently, the maximum building heights are subject only to sky exposure plane limitations, which can produce buildings in excess of 250 feet tall. Under the new zoning, buildings will be restricted to minimum and maximum base heights of 50 and 95 feet respectively, and a maximum height of 135 feet. This is consistent with bulk regulations prescribed to the Chelsea Market to the north, where the midblock portion of the building is limited to 130 feet in height and segment fronting Ninth Avenue is limited to 135 feet.

Expanding the SWCD to West 15th Street will help protect the low-rise character of the blocks south of the Chelsea Market, help spur mixed-use development, and preserve the integrity of West Chelsea's commercially zoned properties. This application represents the culmination of a decade

of community efforts and advocacy to apply appropriate bulk controls to this important transition block between the Meatpacking District and West Chelsea.

I thank the Department of City Planning for studying the feasibility and potential of expanding the SWCD, and I look forward to the inclusion of West 15th Street in the district which I believe will help preserve the unique character of West Chelsea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corey Johnson
3rd Council District



DISTRICT OFFICE
224 WEST 30TH STREET - SUITE 1206
NEW YORK, NY 10001
(212) 564-7757
FAX: (212) 564-7347

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1804
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-6979

district3@council.nyc.gov

THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COREY JOHNSON
COUNCIL MEMBER
3RD DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

CHAIR
HEALTH

COMMITTEES
CONTRACTS
FINANCE

GENERAL WELFARE
MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY,
ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ABUSE AND DISABILITY SERVICES
WATERFRONTS

November 19, 2014

Gerard Barad
Owner
Triumph Hotels
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Richard Hotter
General Manager
Edison Hotel
228 W. 47th Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Barad & Mr. Hotter:

I am writing to express my concern about the future of the Café Edison. It has come to my attention that Mr. Conrad Strohl, Manager of the Café Edison, is not being offered a new lease to stay in the restaurant's current location in the Edison Hotel. I urge you to please grant a new lease to the Café Edison for the following reasons:

The Café Edison is more than just a restaurant; it is part of the fabric of New York City. The restaurant is one of the last remaining bastions where people from all walks of life can meet and enjoy an affordable meal in Times Square.

For over 35 years, the restaurant has been serving New York City's theater community and artists such as Neil Simon and August Wilson. As with the Café de Flore in Paris, where Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir met, the Café Edison is a haven for literature and theater lovers. Closing the Café Edison would be a huge loss for actors, writers, directors, countless neighbors, and for patrons from around the world who love this restaurant. In addition, should the Café Edison close, more than 30 employees would be out of a good job.

Over the last several years, the theater district has lost too many establishments that made the neighborhood unique: Colony Records, JR's, Barrymore's, Charley's, McHale's, and the original Gallagher's -- just to name a few. We cannot afford to lose the Café Edison now.

I implore you to offer Mr. Strohl a new lease so he and his family can continue to operate this beloved restaurant in the Edison Hotel. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Green in Council Member Corey Johnson's office at 212-564-7757.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
3rd Council District



October 28, 2014

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Cardinal's Office
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Cardinal Dolan:

In light of reports that Father Walter Tonelotto of Our Lady of Pompeii Church, located at 25 Carmine Street, has indicated he may not renew the lease for the senior center located in the church's basement, we ask that you take immediate steps to ensure that the center can remain in its current location.

The senior center at Our Lady of Pompeii Church has been a crucial resource for some of our most vulnerable senior constituents for decades. The center has its roots in the Golden Age Club started in 1971 at the behest of the church's pastor by late parishioner Lucy Cecere (see *Catholic New York* story enclosed). It provides 1,400 lunches monthly, as well as vital social, cultural and educational activities and access to health and social services, such as flu immunizations and legal services.

Greenwich House, the not-for-profit organization that operates the senior center, has assured us it is extremely willing to address any concerns that the church may have in order to renew the lease, including an increase in rent. However, it is our understanding that Father Walter has instructed the senior center to begin looking immediately for alternative space, which suggests he doubts the senior center will be allowed to remain.

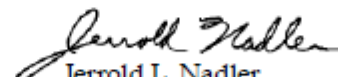
We have heard from many constituents who rely upon the center and are confused and upset that the church would suggest evicting such a treasured and longstanding community institution. We respectfully urge you to work with Father Walter to ensure that the senior center operated by Greenwich House remains at Our Lady of Pompeii Church and that the specter of eviction be removed entirely from these negotiations.


His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
October 28, 2014
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions,
please contact Senator Hoylman at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,


Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator



Jerrold L. Nadler
Member of Congress


Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President


Daniel Squadron
New York State Senator


Deborah J. Glick
New York State Assembly Member


Corey Johnson
New York City Council Member


Margaret S. Chin
New York City Council Member

Encl.



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus

Daniel Dromm, Corey Johnson, Carlos Menchaca, Rosie Mendez, Ritchie Torres, Jimmy Van Bramer

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****
November 20, 2014

LGBT Caucus Holds a Candlelit Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil

Various equal rights advocate organizations join elected officials to speak out against prejudice and violence

New York, NY – Council Members Corey Johnson (D – Manhattan), Carlos Menchaca (D – Brooklyn), Ritchie Torres (D – Bronx), Rosie Mendez (D – Manhattan), Daniel Dromm (D – Queens) and Jimmy Van Bramer (D – Queens), who together comprise the LGBT Caucus of the New York City Council, held a candlelit Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil this afternoon on the steps of City Hall. The event strove to commemorate all New Yorkers who have been lost to hate violence, as well as to honor survivors of such prejudiced attacks. It also served to bring awareness to the recent spike in hate crimes we have seen in New York City. The vigil aimed to illuminate solutions to this targeted violence that can be collaborated on.

There were multiple participating advocate organizations in attendance, speaking to the problem in various capacities. The NYC Anti Violence Project (AVP) presented data from their 2013 National Hate Violence Survey, advertised the services their hotline can provide, and stressed how crucial it is to report hate violence. The Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) spoke to the importance of passing the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) in state legislation, given the bill's hate crime provision that – if passed – would expand hate crime law to include gender identity. The NYC LGBT Center echoed this sentiment with regards to GENDA, and also highlighted the importance of educational outreach and collaborative work. The Translatina Network of New York addressed community education and empowerment as important components of battling this type of prejudice. Make the Road New York (MRNY) directly addressed solutions that have been proposed locally in Bushwick in response to the hate crimes that have taken place there this fall.

"Recent events in the City have reminded us that unfortunately, our history is riddled with hate crimes targeting New York's transgender population," the Council's LGBT Caucus said in a statement. "We are gathered here to remember and to do our part in preventing this violent prejudice from continuing. Only once we have honored those we have lost and given thanks for those who have survived, will we be able to look forward - armed with history's difficult lessons - and create tangible change together."

##



NYC Parks



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE # 14-092

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Contact: Scott Gastel/Bonny Tsang (DOT), 212-839-4850

Phil Abramson (Parks), 212-360-1311

Stephen P. Davis, (NYPD/DCPD), 646-610-6700

**NYC DOT, NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT, NYPD, AND CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCE SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS ON CENTRAL PARK
LOOP DRIVE**

New items include park-wide speed limit reduction from 25mph to 20mph, barricades further separating pedestrians from cyclists and enhancements to key crosswalks

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYPD, and the Central Park Conservancy today announced immediate safety enhancements along the Central Park Drives. In addition to a reduction of the speed limit inside Central Park from 25 to 20 MPH for all modes of transportation, four key crossings across the park will receive substantial enhancements, including highly prominent "Pedestrian Crossing" warning signs at the intersections, advisory 10 MPH speed signs, and advance pedestrian crossing signs before each intersection. The advance signs will be reinforced with roadway markings near the sign locations, refurbished crosswalks and clearer lane use markings.

Barricades will also be installed to shorten pedestrian crossing distance on the West Drive at two crossings (at Sheep Meadow, near W. 68th Street, and at Heckscher Ballfields, near E. 63rd Street) where the drive is significantly wider than typical. The barricades will be placed in the west-most motor vehicle lane during car-free hours. At Delacorte Theater (near W. 81st Street), a barricade will be installed between the pedestrian and bicycle lanes to better guide pedestrians to the crosswalk and to improve their sightlines to cyclists.

The Central Park Precinct will continue its public awareness campaign in the park to inform every one of the rules and regulations as it relates to traffic and pedestrian safety. Individuals found in violation of the rules will be cited accordingly.

"Central Park is for all to enjoy in a safe and enjoyable manner, no matter how you choose to experience it," said DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. "These immediate safety enhancements, worked out in partnership with our sister agencies, augments that experience by calming traffic, improving crosswalks and further reinforcing the appropriate lane assignments for all users."

"Public safety is our highest priority and the new safety enhancement measures being implemented in Central Park will surely provide its millions of visitors with a safer experience," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver. "I commend the NYC Department of



NYC Parks



Transportation, the NYPD, and the Central Park Conservancy for partnering with us to ensure enhanced safety conditions for all of the park's pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.”

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, “The New York City Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of all those who use Central Park as a means of transportation and recreation. We will continue to collaborate with our partners from the Central Park Conservancy, NYC Department of Transportation and the Parks Department to make our streets safer for all New Yorkers and visitors alike.”

“There’s no question; slower traffic will mean a safer park” said **Doug Blonsky, President and CEO of Central Park Conservancy**. “We applaud the DOT’s leadership role in lowering speed limits and adding signs and barricades, and we urge all park users to know the new rules of the road.”

The four locations to receive these treatments include:

- West Drive at Delacorte Theater (near W. 81st Street)
- West Drive at Sheep Meadow (near W. 68th Street)
- West Drive at Heckscher Ballfields Crossing (near E. 63rd Street)
- East Drive at Terrace Drive (near E. 72nd Street)

The agencies will follow up the enhancements with stakeholder outreach and will be distributing DOT’s Bike Smart Brochures and Central Park-specific brochure geared toward cyclists and pedestrians.



NYC Parks



Park-Wide Improvements

- Reduce the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph



Legend

- Existing 25 mph signs to be replaced with 20 mph signs
- New 20 mph signs

Pilot Crossing Enhancements

“Pedestrian Crossing”
warning signs on mobile
sign bases on both sides of
roadway at the crossing





Pilot Crossing Enhancements

Install advance pedestrian crossing and 10 mph advisory speed signs approximately 200' ahead of the crossing



Proposed Improvements

A barricade across the west-most travel lane during car-free hours will shorten the pedestrian crossing distance.

The barricade will be in place at all times except weekdays from 8am-10am when cars are using the West Drive.

