



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY
 BOARD No. 4**
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Meeting Date	Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Meeting Time	6:30 p.m.
Meeting Location	Mount Sinai West 1000 10th Avenue (58/59 St)
Meeting Audio Recording	LINK

DELORES RUBIN
 Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
 District Manager

May 2016 Full Board Meeting Minutes

Public Session	
Tatiana Strickland	<p>Commuter Benefits Law: Ms. Strickland from the Department of Consumer Affairs' Community Benefits Division, spoke about passage of the new "commuter benefits law" in NYC. Effective as of January 1, 2016, the new law requires all for-profit and nonprofit employers with 20 or more full-time non-union employees (works an average of 30 hours or more per week in the most recent 4 weeks, any portion of which in NYC) provide commuter benefits (up to \$255 per week) to all eligible full-time employees. For more info, please go to www.nyc.gov/commuterbenefits</p> <p>Paid Sick Leave Law: Ms. Strickland also reminded everyone of NYC's new Paid Sick Leave law, which states that if you work in NYC for more than 80 hours a year at a business or a nonprofit, you can earn up to 40 hours of sick leave each year to care for yourself, your child, or other family members. For more info, please call 311 or go to www.nyc.gov/paidsickleave</p> <p>Flyers available in the back.</p>
Romana Ryals	<p>YMCA programs: Ms. Ryals is a Program Director for Teen Programs from the McBurney YMCA at 125 West 14th Street @ 6th Avenue. She told the audience about three upcoming programs, some are free, others are not but the YMCA accepts everyone regardless of ability to pay. (1) Teen Center: free program for teens between ages 12 to 19 during the school year in NYC at 14th Street Y on Fridays from 6 to 9pm to swim, play basketball, handball, participate in activities. Every Y runs the same program. (2) YMBP: a free personalized fitness training for any teen. Teens can sign up without being a member. (3) Summer camp: a large variety of programs for age 4 to 16. This summer's theme is "Carry Your Own Torch." The program is not free; though there is financial aid available. There are also sports specialty camp; basketball camps; video editing workshops; and science and circus camps (for ages 6 to 7). Program brochure available. Her contact info is rryals@ymcanyc.org; direct dial is 212.674.5000.</p>
Tom Caylor	<p>Port Authority issues: Mr. Caylor, a tenant advocate in CB4, started by thanking CB4 Chair Ms. Rubin for the "amazing job" she did at the Port Authority Town Hall on April 18th. Mr. Caylor announced that The Westside Neighborhood Alliance is committed to take on the fight to improve traffic conditions between NY and NJ and expose the failures of the Port Authority ("Pathetic Authority"), as it did against the proposed stadium 10 years ago.</p> <p>Update re 417-425 West 45th Street: Mr. Caylor lives at said address. He said that in December, the owners submitted a plan to add 4th, 5th, and 6th floors to the building to DOB, which is contrary to zoning regulation that guides the preservation of the Special Clinton District. In response to a letter written by CB4 to DOB, the plans for the proposed 6th floor disappeared. Later in March, CB4 wrote another letter to DOB to raise questions surrounding minimum window distance requirements. As a result, Mr. Caylor is thankful to announce that the newest proposed plans that were filed on May 3rd</p>

	do not include any floor additions to the building.
Paol Aruiz (sp?)	Mayor's Office Representative: Ms. Aruiz is the Mayor's Office's new Manhattan Borough Director in its Community Affairs Unit. She came to introduce herself to the CB. The CAU work with community boards to address issues that are affecting communities and writes policies to address those issues. She wishes to meet and work with members and find out about the main issues that concern CB4.
Nicolette Witcher	Hudson River Park Trust: Ms. Witcher is the Vice President for Environment & Education for HRPT. She announced that there are a number of fun community activities that HRPT has lined up for late spring and early summer and beyond. There are brochures available with more information on HRPT's environmental education programs. HRPT is also running dance, movies, and concert type programs in June and July; more info will become available at next month's meeting and on HRPT website. Last year, HRPT educated over 20,000 people about the Hudson River and did it "in an engaging way." Most programs are free or with very low fee. New initiative: Big City Fishing is a very popular and crowded program and HRPT has responded to community demand and has added a Senior Fishing program at Pier 63 in Chelsea on Thursday afternoons starting in mid-June 2016. HRPT is also offering new Sunset Park Cruises, one in June and one in August, with guest speakers to talk about the highlights and development of the Park. HRPT is also accepting food scraps for Composting on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3-6pm at Pier 40 at West Houston Street and on Sundays from 11am-2pm at Chelsea Waterside Park at West 23 rd Street. Accepted food scraps that can be turned into fertile soil include: uncooked fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds and coffee filters, teabags, egg shells, breads and grains, dried or cut flowers.

Remarks from Elected Officials and Representatives	
Congressman Jerry Nadler	<p>C/M Nadler (NY-10) announced 2 recent legislative accomplishments:</p> <p>(1) C/M Nadler authored and was the lead Democratic co-sponsor of H.R.3326, the "Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016," which was passed by the House of Representative by vote of 402-2; and as S 1890 by the US Senate by vote of 87-0. The bill creates a uniform federal civil cause of action for misappropriation of trade secrets and in turn allows companies to enjoy a higher level of protection of trade secrets in today's digital age. The bill will now go to President Obama for his signature.</p> <p>(2) C/M Nadler, as Ranking member (and former Chair) of the House Subcommittee on the Courts, has been working on the priorities surrounding the "Electronic Privacy Act" since 2009. The Bill, which passed the House of Representatives by vote of 419 to 0, requires the Government to obtain a warrant in order to access individuals' electronic communications from a third-party provider (essentially adds Email Communication to a list of communications that requires warrant under 4th Amendment). The Bill will hopefully be brought to the U.S. Senate floor.</p> <p>C/M Nadler discussed 2 other legislative priorities that he has been active on:</p> <p>(3) C/M Nadler, as the senior (and only male) Democratic Member of the Select Panel on Infant Lives, which was set up over the past few months by Republicans to attack women's health and readdress the legality of use of fetal tissue for research, said he and his colleagues are very concerned and are actively addressing the fact that the (Republican) Chair of the Panel has been misusing/abusing the subpoena power (which was bestowed upon the Chairperson at the creation of the Panel and would not require members' vote) to obtain names and personal information of individuals who have been involved in abortions. The Democratic Members have not been able to get the Republican Members to agree to keep the subpoenaed information private and C/M Nadler said "this is worst than McCarthyism."</p> <p>(4) C/M Nadler has been working on the initiative of designating Stonewall Inn and the park in front of it as a "National Historic Site" to highlight the Stonewall Uprising, which inspired the modern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender civil rights movement in the U.S. In order to get this done, a bill was introduced years ago but C/M Nadler and U.S. Senator Gillibrand. Alternatively, the President can make the designation. So far, NYC has agreed to transfer the land and property rights to the</p>

	<p>Federal Government. The State has agreed to alienate park land to give to Federal Government also. S/S Holyman and A/M Glick have introduced and passed the State Bill through both NYS legislatures. The final step is that a Public Meeting must be held, where members of the public are invited to attend and comment. The meeting will be held on May 9th, Monday, at PS 41 at 116 W 11th Street (btw 6th and 7th Avenue) from 6-8pm. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan Jarvis will both attend the meeting. Everyone is invited to the meeting to make comments.</p> <p>In response to a member question regarding the redevelopment of the Port Authority, C/M Nadler commented that he does not support the proposed eminent domain and disagrees with the dogmatic approach being taken by the Port Authority. He mentioned that “he does not like the proposal at all” and said several times that “we have to fight this.” He also mentioned that the tension between the NY and NJ members of the PA is currently “poisonous.”</p>
Eric Holguin for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer	<p>Mr. Holguin introduced himself as the Comptroller’s new Manhattan Borough liaison, covering CB4. The Comptroller convened the Red Tape Commission to address the needs of NYC small business and its Executive Report titled “60 ways to cut red tape and help small business grow” is now available. Comptroller Stringer’s office also issued a report titled “NYC’s Millennials in Recession and Recovery” to address issues surrounding NYC millennials (from age 18-29), who are facing the toughest economic times since the Great Depression. Mr. Holguin also announced that everyone is invited to (1) attend the Haitian Flag Day Breakfast on May 20th Friday from 9-10am at the Comptroller’s Board Room at 1 Centre Street, 5th Floor (doors open at 8:30am) and (2) celebrate Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month with Comptroller Stringer on May 24th Tuesday from 6-8pm at Surrogate’s Courthouse at 31 Chambers Street.</p>
Erica Overton for Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal	<p>Ms. Overton discussed A/M Rosenthal’s ongoing efforts to address reports of elevated lead levels in water supply at NYCHA developments. A/M Rosenthal has called on NYCHA and DEP to test the quality of water at all NYCHA complexes in her district (Amsterdam Houses and Harborview). There are allegations that testing results were manipulated to maintain federal funding. Ms. Overton also mentioned A/M Rosenthal’s push for DOB reforms to address the constant levels of noise and disturbances as result of DOB’s haphazard issuance of after-hour variance permits to contractors. Ms. Overton said that the number of AHVs issued has increased by an astounding 47% since 2012. A/M Rosenthal has been addressing this issue since 2013, suggested specific reforms, and finally DOB has decided to “study” the problem. More news to come.</p>
Gaby Dann-Allel for A/M Richard Gottfried	<p>A/M Gottfried, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, has received feedback from the community about their lack of access to and lack of ability to pay for medical marijuana. In response, A/M Gottfried has introduced three bills that will improve the 2014 Compassionate Care Act: (1) Physician assistants and nurses would have the ability to write prescriptions for medical marijuana after taking the required online educational course offered by DOH; (2) List of qualifying conditions would be largely expanded (current list only includes HIV AIDS, terminal cancer, epilepsy in adults or children); (3) An advisory committee would be created for the NYS Commissioner of Health so experienced doctors from NYS and from around the country can advise the State on best policies and best practices surrounding medical marijuana legislation. A/M Gottfried is also introducing a bill that would expand the public access of Epipens so that day cares, youth centers, restaurants and other public places could have access and also have appropriate training to use Epipens properly during emergencies.</p>
Gabriel Lewenstein for Public Advocate Latisha James	<p>Mr. Lewenstein introduced himself to the audience. He announced that P/A James settled a lawsuit against NYCHA for keeping tenants in dangerously cold apartments (below 20 degrees). Secondly, Mr. Lewenstein discussed that P/A James wrote legislation and introduced it in November 2015 to protect pedestrians crossing at intersections in NYC. The law would change the current law, which states that as soon as a flashing red hand appears on crosswalk signs, pedestrians lose the right of way. The new law would provide the right of way to pedestrians crossing from a median when a numerical countdown has begun to count down.</p>
Lucille Songhai for Manhattan Borough	<p>Ms. Songhai first welcomed the two new CB4 members: Mathew Bergman & Liam Buckley. For people who applied but were not appointed to a CB, the MBP office is planning a “speeddating event”</p>

President Gale Brewer	to introduce area NFPs to them so they can consider participating on their Boards of Directors and get involved in the community in a different way. Ms. Songhai also announced that the next annual Community Board members event hosted by the MHBO will be on Tuesday, June 14 th at the Museum of Natural History. Free tours of the museum will be offered. Ms. Songhai mentioned that the long-awaited B/P's report on congestion titled "Unlocking the grid: strategies to reduce vehicle congestion in Manhattan" is now available after the related hearings. Separately, the recommendations from the construction safety working group will be released next week. Also, on May 10 th from 10am-12pm, a Data Science task force will kick off, the intent is to bring teacher, students, and parents together to discuss strategies of bringing data science classes into Manhattan high schools. The MBPO newsletter has another long list of events and activities.
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Board Reports & Business	
Adoption of Agenda and Minutes	May meeting agenda was adopted unanimously with removal of Item 7 and 9 (both tabled). April 2016 minutes were approved unanimously.
District Manager Report (Ms. Rubin for Mr. Bodine)	<p>Board business:</p> <p>Quality of Life, Arts, Culture & Safety Committee: May meeting canceled; next meeting is Monday, June 6th</p> <p>Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee: Meeting will be at a new location: Cameo Studios, 307 West 43rd Street, Studio B</p> <p>Housing, Health & Human Services Committee: May meeting is rescheduled to May 24th</p> <p>2 new CB4 members introduced and welcomed: Mathew Bergman & Liam Buckley</p>
Board Chair Report	Ms. Rubin has spoken to a few developers who have responded to the Covenant Houses RFP. The process is starting and the CB is trying to see what the submitters hope to do with the project and in reverse, the submitters are trying to understand what the CB is looking for. Ms. Rubin has also spoken with the Hudson Yards Development Corporation by attending its board meeting and was able to get a sense of the zoning and protections put into place over the years. Ms. Rubin had a great meeting at the new Durst Building, VIA. The building has 790 units and over 150 that are affordable. Ms. Rubin also attended the tour of Gotham West, saw the apartments, and hoped the developer will continue to do affordable housing work in CB4. Ms. Rubin met with S/S Brad Holyman to discuss the concerns regarding Port Authority as a debriefing after the Town Hall.

Action Items	Motions, Amendments, & Comments	Result
Transportation Committee (TRANS)		
Item 01: Letter to DOT re M23 Select Bus Service	Friendly amendment suggested.	42 (???) PASSED; 2 OPPOSED
Item 02: Letter to DOT re Street Seats Proposal at 431 West 37 th Street	Bundled with 3-6, 8	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 03: Letter to DOT re Street Seats Proposal at 511 West 20 th Street	Bundled with 2, 4-6, 8	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 04: Letter to DCA re Newsstand proposal at S/E/C 34 th Street	Bundled with 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	PASSED

and Hudson Boulevard – RATIFICATION		UNANIMOUSLY
Item 05: Letter to DOT re Bike Corral at 712 9 th Avenue	Bundled with 2-4, 5, 8	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 06: Letter to DOT re Bike Corral at 892 9 th Avenue	Bundled with 2-5, 8	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 07: Letter to DOT re Intercity Bus Stop at 355 West 33rd Street TABLED	-	-
Item 08: Letter to DOT re Truck Traffic on 22 nd Street	Bundled with 2-6, 8	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Housing Health & Human Services Committee (HHHS)		
Item 09: Letter to Geffner House re Building Improvements – TABLED	-	-
Executive Committee (EXEC)		
Item 10: Letter to PANYNJ re Bus terminal Town Hall	Friendly Amendment Suggested	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 11: Letter to Electeds re Port Authority Bus Terminal	Friendly Amendment Suggested	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 12: Letter to DOB re Follow up on meeting with Electeds	Friendly Amendment Suggested	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
New Business (Note: BLP Committee did not have quorum at April meeting)		
Item 13: Letter to DCA re 198 8 th Avenue – Be Temerario Group, LLC	Bundled with 14	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 14: Letter to DCA re 414 W. 42 nd Street (9/10) – Chez Josephine Ltd.	Bundled with 13	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 15: Letter to SLA re 239 W. 14 th Street (7/8) – La Nacional Café LLC	Bundled with 16, 17	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 16: Letter to SLA re 229 9 th Avenue – Chuan Wei Yuan Restaurant Inc.	Bundled with 15, 17	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Item 17: Letter to SLA re 538 W. 58 th Street (10/11) – MRT 58 Restaurant LLC	Bundled with 15, 16	PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting Resolution	
Adjournment	7:56 p.m. Meeting Adjourned
Next Meeting Date and Location	Wednesday, June 1 st 6:30pm, Fulton Auditorium, 119 9th Avenue (17/18 St)

AS RECORDED BY: Lily Fan, Co-Secretary