

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members

FROM: Bernard Haber, Chair
Transportation Committee

RE: Douglaston Hill Street Renaming

DATE: April 30, 2009

On Tuesday, April 28, 2009 the Transportation Committee met to review the above referenced proposal. Present were Bernard Haber, Committee Chair, and Board members Christine Haider, Ed Doster, Allan Palzer and Frank Skala. Also present were Bryan Rivera of Assemblyman Mark Weprin's office, and Linda Vallerugo, CB11 Assistant District Manager.

The Board again reviewed the request for the change of street names in Douglaston Hill. The new street names are Prospect Avenue, Hamilton Avenue, Orient Avenue, Church Street, Pine Street and Poplar Street. Main Street had been included in an earlier proposal, but has since been eliminated.

At our February 9th Transportation Committee meeting, we reported on the response we received from our mailing to the community, which was limited in return. At that time, the Committee agreed to request a dual name for each street. Consequently, the DOT advised us that this was not their policy and it could not be done. Since February the local civic association has canvassed the community, and our Board received 61 letters from 86 residents (71%) of the community requesting the name change. The proposal was brought before the full Board at the April 6th meeting and was tabled for additional discussion to find out the map change effect on the FDNY and NYPD. Both agencies were contacted by CB11, and a response was received from the FDNY, which stated that changing street names is not a problem. However, they pointed out that the name change request should be made of the NYPD, which we did, and we are awaiting their response.

After discussion, the Committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend to the City Council the name change for the streets.

2. We received a request from Councilman Tony Avella for an honorary naming of 28 Avenue between 203 Street and 206 Street in honor of Ron Carey. The protocol adopted by the Board resulted in the fact that Ron Carey died in December 2008 and therefore did not meet our requirements. The issue will be held in abeyance until December 2009.

3. We received a request from Assemblyman Mark Weprin for a change of the DMV testing area in Hollis Hills. The Board had reviewed other areas and suggested to Assemblyman Weprin an area bordering with Community Board 8, of 73 Avenue between Francis Lewis Boulevard and 210 Street, which was mostly bordered by parkland and very little residential homes. Assemblyman Weprin will have to contact the DMV to make a study of this area.

4. We received a letter from Mr. James Tom, a resident of Willow Drive in Douglaston, who suggests making Willow Drive a one-way. Willow Drive is a narrow two-way street with parking on one side. The easterly portion of Willow Drive is a one lane road with no parking. The Board will send out letters to all the residents requesting their agreement to this proposal as well as the preference for the direction of the proposed one-way street.