



The City of New York

# Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills  
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

**Jerry Iannece** Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

## COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members  
FROM: Transportation Committee  
Bernard Haber & Chris Petallides –Co- Chairs  
DATE: February 20, 2014

On Wednesday, February 19, 2014, the Transportation Committee met. Present from the Committee were Chris Petallides, Allan Palzer, Joan Garippa, Andy Rothman, Christina Scherer, Henry Euler, Christine Haider and District Manager, Susan Seinfeld.

Susan Seinfeld announced the following:

1-The TLC has issued permits for Boro Taxis to livery car companies. These are green colored taxis which can pick-up street hails. They have meters, GPS and credit card readers.

2- NYS DOT has told Councilman Weprin that they will be landscaping along the LIE between Exits 28 and 29 in the spring.

3-NYCDOT is reviewing a request submitted by CM Weprin for No Parking signs on Cloverdale Blvd. between 67 and 69 Avenue, on behalf of Parkridge Condominiums.

4-NYCDOT issued a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Street Design Manual. The office has a copy along with the report "Making Streets Safer."

5- Rep. Israel held a press conference calling for increased bus service to Douglaston and said that he wants to bring federal funds to put more buses in service in northeast Queens. The other elected officials cited other bus lines that were cut by the MTA and the need for restoration of service.

6-Mayor DeBlasio announced the Vision Zero Action Plan, a citywide effort to prevent traffic fatalities. Borough President Melinda Katz has asked the Community Boards to advise her of dangerous intersections. She is forwarding these to the Mayor's office for increased enforcement.

The Committee cited the following intersections for consideration:

Union Turnpike and Springfield Blvd., 56 Ave. and Springfield Blvd., HHE and Springfield Blvd.; Northern Blvd. at Marathon Pkwy., Douglaston Pkwy., Little Neck Pkwy., Utopia Pkwy., Francis Lewis Blvd., Clearview Expressway, Bell Blvd., Glenwood Street (city line) and Alameda Ave. (east); Bell Blvd. and 73 Avenue; Utopia and Francis Lewis Blvd.; Francis Lewis Blvd. and HHE.

7-The Dept. of Design and Construction announced that they will commence a complex pedestrian ramp project in the Douglas Manor landmark area pursuant to the Landmark Commission guidelines next year.

There were four speed bump requests that DOT approved and asked the board to review.

- 1- 53 Ave. between 193 and 196 Streets. The office surveyed 23 residents on the block; there were 8 responses, 6 in favor 2 opposed. The committee voted 4-3 to recommend installation of the bump.
- 2- 53 Avenue between 198 Street and Hollis Court Blvd. 29 residents were surveyed, there were 8 responses, 6 in favor and 2 opposed. The committee voted 4-3 to recommend installation.
- 3- Oceania Street between 46 and 47 Avenues. The office surveyed 11 residents, 3 replied, all in favor. The committee approved, 6-1, due to the proximity to MS 158.

- 4- 46 Avenue between Cloverdale Blvd. and 220 Street. 25 letters were sent, it included Lakeside Towers and the Parks Department since the street runs along the north section of Oakland Lake. 6 residents were in opposition, 3 residents approved plus the Parks Department and Lakeside Towers. We received a petition of about 100 names from the building manager. The committee voted unanimously to approve this speed bump.
- 5- Hollis Hills Terrace between 73 Avenue and Union Turnpike. Nine residents were surveyed. Three responded, 1 in favor and 2 opposed. One person living on Richland Ave. was opposed. The person requesting the bump lives on Richland Avenue. Dennis Novick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, also living on Richland Ave., approved of the bump. However, the committee voted against the installation, 4-3, because the number of people responding on Hollis Hills Terrace was insignificant.

Discussion ensued about the process to review speed bumps. Allan Palzer asked for clarification. The policy has been that if a resident requests a speed bump, through our office, they have to provide a petition and support from a civic association, if one exists. The requests presented tonight went directly to DOT and they approved the need for the bump. Therefore, in order to recommend the installation to DOT, we survey the residents. There are no civic associations in the areas reviewed except at Hollis Hills Terrace. Dennis Novick is a member and past president of the civic.

The committee reviewed a request, from the director of PSCH, for “No Parking 8am to 4pm School Days” signs in front of their education facility at 189-15 Station Road for two mini school busses. The road is narrow and busses block the traffic in front of the school. The members agreed that these signs would improve traffic flow and we will forward the request to DOT.

The committee reviewed a request for the honorary naming of the northeast corner of Union Turnpike and Bell Blvd. at American Martyrs Church for the late Father John Murray. The request was made by board member Robert Liatto. We received a resume and letters of support from the civic association, the church and Hollis Hills Jewish Center. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the naming and will bring it to the full board for a vote.

The committee discussed an appropriate memorial for Jack Fried’s father, Ben, who died last year and had owned a hardware store on Bell Blvd. between 42 and 43 Avenues for many years. It was suggested that the NE corner of Bell Blvd. and 43 Avenue be named Ben Fried Way. Another idea was a plaque on the bridge over the LIRR. However, that was considered to be further away from the store location. Susan was asked to speak to Jack Fried, who was unable to attend the meeting.\*

Henry Euler brought up the subject of 26 banners hung on streets lights advertising NYHQ Primary Care on Francis Lewis Blvd. It is felt that there are too many, it is not appropriate and is a misuse of the DOT banner program, which is not intended for advertising. Assembly Member Braunstein spoke to NYCDOT and NYC & Co, which reviews permit applications, and asked for them to review this decision.

The District Manager reviewed the various street activity permits received:

- a- St. Nicholas Annual Greek Festival, multi-day, multi-street closures from 10-9 to 10-12-14
- b- Bayside Village BID Arts Festival, closure of 41 Avenue on 4-26-14
- c- Halloween in Bayside, closure of 41 Avenue on 10-25-14

The Committee approved the street activity permits.\*\*

\*Addendum: Jack Fried was pleased with the renaming of the corner for his father. He asked that the sign read “Benjamin Fried Boulevard”, since the store was on Bell Blvd.

\*\*On Friday, 2/21/14, the office received the Bayside Village September Street walk submitted by DOT for Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to close Bell Blvd. from 39 Ave. to 41 Ave. The event was held last year. The Street Activity Permit Office has asked for CB review.