

**Full Board Meeting
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
November 7, 2001**

Chair Larry Horowitz called the meeting to order.

District Manager's Report

Penny Ryan informed the Board that many of the City agencies' telephone numbers have changed. She recommended that Board Members and the community call the office to get the new ones. It was also recommended that the numbers be placed on the CB7's website. Ms. Ryan thanked those Board members who attended that firehouse tours and conveyed appreciation from the firefighters. Ms. Ryan updated the Board on the Marathon and Thanksgiving Parade preparations.

Manhattan Borough President's Report.

Christine Argentina informed that Board that the Borough President has drafted a letter on the Club Ivy issue.

Legislators' Reports

Assemblyman Scott Stringer reported the NY State legislature has completed the State budget and so far it appears to be anti-NYC. Less money has been given to school aide. The Governor will introduce a new budget in December. The Assemblyman commented on hearings on charities in light of the September 11th attacks. 200 charities have raised \$1.2 billion dollars combined, and the Red Cross is holding \$260 million dollars. The Assemblyman also commented on the issues pertaining to Club Ivy. He expressed concerns that the Club owners have not done what they said they were going to do.

Public Session

Jim Eldridge, FEMA, thank District Manager Penny Ryan and her staff for their assistance and informed residents that disaster assistance is available.

Anna Hunter, State Senator Eric Schneiderman's Office, read a letter from the Senator regarding Club Ivy.

Dan Golub, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried's Office, reported that there will be a blood drive at the Ryan Center on November 11th.

Linda Rosenthal, Congressman Jerrold Nadler's Office, reported on the formation of the "Ground Zero Elected Officials Taskforce" to coordinate needs of residents and businesses. The Congressman and US Senator Clinton have introduced a bill to help small businesses get grants.

Dr. Peter Beitchman, The Bridge, informed the Board that they are providing free services by mental health professionals to address the immediate needs of residents regarding the September 11th attacks. For more information, please call (212) 663-3318.

Ralph Memoli, Lincoln Square BID, informed the Board of their "Winter's Eve at Lincoln Center" festival. It will take place after the Lincoln Center tree lighting on December 3rd at 6PM.

Sheldon Fine encouraged the Board and community to attend a bone marrow testing for a six-year-old boy. Test will take place on November 18th at the Young Israel Synagogue, 210 West 91 St. between 10-5.

Dean Smith, NYPL Bloomingdale Branch, informed that Board that at their last book sale they raised \$30,000. He commented on the 15% budget cuts. Only one regional library will be opened on Saturdays. Kevin Winkler, NYPL Performing Arts Library, reported on the re-opening of the library and the full calendar of events.

Winnie Falcon spoke against weekend cuts in NYC Public Libraries and urged all residents to support their local library.

Robert Josman informed that Board on his concerns with issues of crowd control at Congregation Ohab Zedek, 118 West 95th Street.

Martha Nivon, long time resident of West 95th Street, disagreed with Mr. Josman's comments and showed support for Congregation Ohab Zedek.

Elizabeth Gross, long time resident of West 95th Street, stated she is pleased to see the growth of Congregation Ohab Zedek.

Diana Schneider, ROAR, reported on the aircraft flyovers.

Michael Brandoni commented on the rat problems on 109th Street.

Business Session

Steering Committee

Lawrence Horowitz, Chair

Sgt. Kobel of the 20th Precinct gave an overview of the extensive number of serious incidents and arrests.

Nine residents of 215 West 75th Street and representatives of 256 West 75th Street, the West 75th Street Block Association, the West 74th Street Block Association, and the 20th Precinct Council spoke about the problems at Club Ivy.

Resolution to disapprove renewal application to the SLA by Club Ivy, Broadway and 75th Street (Beacon Hotel) for a liquor license was adopted: 40-0-0-0.

Landmarks Committee

Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Erana Stennett

Resolution to approve 455 Central Park West, the Towers Nursing Home site, application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify Certificate of Appropriateness #93-0115, 93-0116 was adopted: 37-0-0-0.

Land Use Committee

Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#0928022 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 519 Columbus Restaurant Corp., d/b/a La Bicyclette Restaurant at 519 Columbus Avenue (West 84th-85th Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats was adopted: 34-1-0-0.

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#1072082 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Classic Food Inc., d/b/a SIDO at 267 Columbus Avenue (West 72nd-73rd Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 3 tables and 6 seats was adopted: 34-1-0-0.

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#695954 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 269 Columbus Restaurant Corp., d/b/a The City Grill at 269 Columbus Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 16 tables and 34 seats was adopted: 25-5-4-1.

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#1007182 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Wilson and Raul Restaurant Corp., d/b/a Café Rocchetta at 513 Columbus Avenue (West 84th-85th Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats was adopted: 34-1-0-0.

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#0917301 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway 76 Ltd., d/b/a Niko's Mediterranean Grill & Bistro at 2161 Broadway (West 76th Street), for a five-year consent to operate an *unenclosed* sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats was adopted: 34-1-0-0.

Resolution to approve renewal application DCA#0917302 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway 76 Ltd., d/b/a Niko's Mediterranean Grill & Bistro at 2161 Broadway (West 76th Street), for a five-year consent to operate an *enclosed* sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats was adopted: 25-5-4-1.

Transportation Committee

Co-Chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig

Resolution to approve the Department of Transportation's proposal to install a bike lane on northbound Central Park West, as amended, was adopted: 19-13-0-0.

Resolution to approve the request by the Plant Shed, 309 West 96th Street, to the Department of Transportation for a Truck Loading Zone, 8:00AM-8:00PM, on the north side of West 96th Street, Amsterdam Avenue-Broadway was adopted: 32-0-0-0.

Resolution to approve renewal application #B01743 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by Two Way Black Cars, 2642 Broadway (West 100th-101st Streets), for a For Hire Base Station license was adopted: 33-0-0-0.

Youth Committee

Co-Chairs: Peter Bailey and Sharon Parker-Frazier

Resolution to approve the proposed CB7 Youth Council was adopted: 25-0-3-0.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee

Co-Chairs Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann

Resolution to approve NYC Department of Parks and Recreation plan for the reconstruction of P.S. 199's Playground 70 on West 70th Street, between Amsterdam and West End Avenues, as a "Playground for all Children" was adopted: 32-0-0-0.

Resolution to approve NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's scope of work for the restoration of Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Plaza, Riverside Park at West 89th Street was adopted: 29-2-0-0.

Resolution to approve NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's scope of work for the restoration of Riverside Park, Riverside Drive between West 79th-87th Streets was adopted: 30-1-0-0.

NYC Budget and Capital Planning Committee

Co-Chairs: John D. Howell and Helen Rosenthal

Resolution to approve CB7's priorities for the NYC Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 was adopted: 29-0-1-0.

Resolution to approve CB7's priorities for the NYC Expense Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 was adopted: 29-0-1-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Present: Larry Horowitz, Chair, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Janet Alvarez, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Beth Berns, Gale Brewer, Steve Carbo, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Doug Griebel, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, John D. Howell, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, George Price, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Hector Santana, Jr., Ethel Sheffer, Elizabeth Starkey, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, Robert Zuckerman, Daniel Zweig.

Absent: Phyllis Gunther, Joyce Johnson, Betty Katz, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Erana Stennett, Patricia Stevens, Evelyn Tamarin, George Zeppendfeldt-Cestero.

Uniformed Services and Environment Committee
Co-Chairs: Melanie Radley and Hector Santana Jr.
November 14, 2001

The revised street fair guidelines were reviewed and discussed. Melanie Radley highlighted a few of the stylistic and editing changes that would clarify and specify the sponsor's and promoter's responsibilities. She noted that the Community Board would accept only cancelled checks as evidence the sponsor had fulfilled the obligation to donate 20 percent of the proceeds to other West Side charities and pointed out new language that would require the sponsor to have a designated person, acknowledged to be integral to the operations of the sponsor's organization (i.e. member of the board of directors, chief operating officer), on the premises of the fair. She noted the sponsoring organization would be required to maintain a presence at the fair with a separate booth and literature describing its purposes. The Community Board would expect documentation to be submitted that validates compliance with these requirements.

The committee passed two resolutions to present to the Board (see below) that recognize the past and future impact of 9-11 on multi-block street fair revenues and not-for-profit sponsors. It was acknowledged that four West Side organizations had already suffered because their fairs were cancelled. During the spring and summer of 2002, street fairs will be operating in an uncertain economic environment. It was the consensus of the committee that the requirement to submit signatures of community support as part of renewal applications for 2003 would be an undue burden on sponsors. The decision to require signatures of support will be reviewed by Uniformed Services Committee in the autumn of 2002.

The committee unanimously accepted the proposed dates for street fairs with two caveats:

- All fairs will begin on the north side of the most southern cross street and end on the south side of the most northern cross street.
- Sponsors of fairs scheduled for May 19 (Columbus Avenue-West Side Chamber of Commerce), September 22 (Columbus Avenue-West Side Chamber of Commerce), September 29 (NAACP and Symphony Space), which are Jewish holidays, will agree not to schedule loud music in close proximity to any religious organizations and will observe a music ban until noon.

It was noted that the organization Safe Horizon is now called Victim Services.

Resolution: Group Fair Proposal

WHEREAS the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, Symphony Space, Concerned Citizens for Community Action and Safe Horizon (aka Victim Services) lost considerable revenue when their street fairs were cancelled in the aftermath of 9-11

WHEREAS other Westside organizations that depend on the 20 percent share distributed by these organizations were also penalized

WHEREAS the fund raising and economic environment for the remainder of 2001 and 2002 are predicted to be negatively affected by the continuing tragedy and the economic environment of New York City, and will have an adverse impact on booth rentals for street fairs during 2002 and thus on revenues these organizations can anticipate from their 2002 autumn fairs

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 7 recommends that the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits authorize a one-time only permit to these four organizations to jointly sponsor one twenty-block festival or two ten-block festivals during an available Sunday date(s) in the summer of 2002. These organizations would be expected to abide by all street fair rules in force during 2001 and

contribute 20 percent of their proceeds to other West Side not-for-profits. This one-time event will be in addition to their scheduled 2002 fall street festivals.

Committee: 2-1-1-1; Public Members: 4-10-1-0.

Resolution: To Lower the Community Contribution

WHEREAS West Side not-for-profits are adversely affected in their ability to raise money and fund programs in the current economic crisis caused by 9-11, and at the same time, they are being asked to provide more services to their constituents

WHEREAS the organizations that sponsor street festivals have become dependent on revenues derived from booth rentals to fund significant portions of their operations

WHEREAS there are indications that fewer vendors will choose to participate in New York City street festivals during 2002

BE IT RESOLVED that to assist the not-for-profit sector in an economic recovery after 9-11 that Community Board 7 for calendar year 2002 only reduce its requirement (CB7 Multi-Block Street Fair Guidelines II.C.) that organizations sponsoring street fairs contribute 20 percent of profits to other not for-profit organizations on the Upper West Side to 10 percent minimum. This will only be in effect for the 2002 festivals and will be reevaluated for 2003.

Committee: 4-0-0-1. Public Members: 5-0-0-1.

Present: Melanie Radley, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittins, Ulma Jones. Public Member: Lisa Lehr.
Absent: Hector Santana, Steve Carbo, Guillermo Gonzalez, Marc Landis, Oscar Rios.

Transportation Committee
Co-chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig
November 13, 2001

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Dan Zweig, Barbara Keleman, Barbara Van Buren, Klari Neuwelt, Oscar Rios, Elizabeth Starkey. Committee Members Absent: Gale Brewer, Joyce Johnson, Barbara Van Buren and Tom Vitullo-Martin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by Mr. Albert.

1. REQUEST FOR A BUS SHELTER AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BROADWAY AND WEST 106TH STREET FOR THE M-116 BUS.

Steve Strauss, appearing in his individual capacity, made a presentation in favor of a bus shelter for the M-116 bus at Broadway and West 106th Street. The bus stop has been moved to the southeast corner at Broadway and West 106th Street, and Mr. Straus recommended a shelter at that location. The Board had long desired a shelter at that location as well.

RESOLUTION: Community Board 7 supports placing a bus shelter for the M-116 bus at the southeast corner of Broadway and West 106th St.

VOTE: Committee members: 5-0-0-0

2. DISCUSSION OF STREET CONDITIONS AT CONGREGATION OHAB ZEDEK, 118 WEST 95TH ST.

Robert Josman, a neighbor, discussed blockage of the street in front of the Ohab Zedek synagogue around the times of services, particularly in the summer months. He said that synagogue members prevent vehicular traffic from passing, and that garages on the street suffer a loss of business. He said that the problem is worst from around 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Penny Ryan, CB7 District Manager, advised that Captain Spinella of the 24th Precinct was trying to work out a resolution of the issue during the next month. The Committee told Mr. Josman that it would monitor the situation, and revisit the issue at the next meeting.

3. DISCUSSION OF WEST SIDE IRT SERVICE

Steve Strauss, representing New York City Transit, made a presentation concerning service on the 1, 2, 3 lines in light of the damage from the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center incident. He gave the Board an information sheet. He said that increases and decreases in bus service previously scheduled to start on January 1, 2001 had been postponed in light of the problems with subway service arising from the September 11 incident. NYC Transit is looking at several measures to ensure that service on these lines is as reliable as it can be, considering the loss of the South Ferry loop.

4. DISCUSSION OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE UPPER WEST SIDE

Diana Schneider, community member, made a presentation. She said that post-September 11 planes had been routed over water rather than the West Side, showing that that is technically possible. She said that the American Airline crash of November 12 over the Belle Harbor residential area in Queens highlighted the safety concern about planes flying over our neighborhood. There was a discussion about the noise and safety issues arising from planes flying over the neighborhood.

RESOLUTION: Community Board 7 urges the appropriate aviation authorities to limit flights into and out of the New York area airports to flying over water to the fullest extent possible, and to avoiding flying over residential and business neighborhoods to the fullest extent possible.

VOTE: Committee members: 7-0-0-0. Public members: 2-0

Note: new resolution will be presented at next meeting - this resolution is withdrawn at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth Starkey suggested that the Board's new planning task force should include transportation issues. Dan Zweig raised the problem of the Department of Consumer Affairs not enforcing sidewalk café space restrictions. There was also a brief discussion of public phones.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:30PM.

Minutes by Klari Neuwelt

STEERING COMMITTEE
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
November 28, 2001 7:00 PM

1. Request for letter of support by Riverside South Planning Corporation for an application for TEA-21 funding to restore the floating bridge and gantry at West 69th Street in Riverside South Park to provide public access and potential commuter ferry service.

Michael Bradley, Executive Director of Riverside South Planning Corporation, had presented the application and request for a letter of support at the November 15th Riverside South Task Force meeting, which was joint with Landmarks, Parks, Transportation Committees. The Board members voted 4-3-1-0 on the request for support, and no action was taken. However, the task force decided to bring the issue to the Steering Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Bradley gave a brief overview of the project. \$8 million is budgeted for Riverside South Park, Phase II, which includes stabilization of the bridge as a visual amenity without public access. The application for TEA-21 Enhancement funds, which will be submitted by NYC DOT, asks for \$2 million, 75% of the total cost to restore the bridge and gantry to provide public access and ferry service. The remaining 25% would come from the Phase II funds, and would be the local match. Parks and DOT would hold the 25% in escrow until a decision on the TEA-21 allocations is made. If the application for TEA-21 funds were not approved, the stabilization work would proceed using the escrow funds.

Tom Flag, archeologist, spoke about the history and significance of the bridge. A representative of NY Waterways described the company's operations and the potential for ferry service at this site. Direct service to lower Manhattan would accommodate about 100 passengers per boat and take 10 minutes. Cost would be "less than a taxi ride and more than bus fare".

Andrew Albert and Kari Newel summarized issues raised at the November 15th task force meeting: Area is not well served by public transportation; hard to get to the bridge because of the steep ramp at 68th Street and icy conditions in winter; no vehicular access; impacts of commercial enterprise on park in residential area; pollution of Hudson River; potential of area for development of marshland and wildlife habitats.

Public Comments:

Roberta Semer: Concerns with access; application process is too rushed; urged Board members to visit site.

Madeleine Polayes: Could be in conflict with easement for Amtrak at 66th Street; site is not handicapped accessible.

Batya Lewton: NYC gets \$12.5M; heard at task force meeting application would be \$1.3 not \$2M; originally budgeted for \$650,000 in 1992 as a visual amenity.

After extensive discussion, Board members voted to send a letter of support with the request that CB7 be included in the planning process: 12-8-0-0.

2. Report by Task Force on Community Social Responsibility, George Zeppenfeldt, Chair.

George Zeppenfeldt distributed the most recent draft of the task force's mission statement. Next steps include enhancing and updating the Board's CBO list. The Board members unanimously endorsed the mission statement and complemented the Task Force on its work.

3. Review of December 4 Full Board agenda.

Hope Cohen reported on the Land Use Committee's resolutions on the Rodeph Sholom application. The applicant has new information on light and air studies that were not presented to the committee. Mr. Horowitz suggested sending the matter back to the committee. Later, it was decided to bring the application to the full Board on December 4th.

4. Committee Reports:

The Uniformed Services/Environment Committee will discuss visits to fire houses in December.

Housing Committee's December 17th Forum is postponed until January.

The Health and Human Services Committee will not meet in December.

The Steering Committee will not meet in December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Larry Horowitz, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Beth Berns, Steve Carbo, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, David Harris, John Howell, Eric Nelson, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Barry Rosenberg, Hector Santana, Barbara Van Buren, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppendfelt-Cestero. *Committee Members Absent:* Richard Asche, Peter Bailey, Robert Herrmann, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Helen Rosenthal, Erana Stennett, Dan Zweig. *Board Members Present:* Gale Brewer, Klari Neuwelt, Georgett Gittens, Phyllis Gunther, Tom Vitullo-Martin.

Parks Committee Minutes

November 9, 2001

Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann, Co-chairs

Present: Barbara Adler, Linda Alexander, Phyllis Gunther, Bob Herrmann, Klari Neuwelt, Bob Zuckerman

1. Information update by the Department of Parks and Recreation on the temporary dog run in Riverside Park at 72nd Street. Erik Axelson, the Department of Parks and Recreation Manager for Riverside Park, made a thorough presentation of the changes about to begin on this temporary dog run. The run, which is overseen by Floral, is about to undergo a slight shift of its parameters, both to make it less obtrusive in the landscape, as well as to move it away from the Eleanor Roosevelt sculpture and further from the residents who live in the Chatsworth. The dog run is being moved slightly north and west of its present location, and will be receiving new plantings to help screen it a bit. A combination of low ornamental trees and evergreens will help provide year-round screening. Realignment of the fence is to begin this fall. Landscaping may begin then as well, though may wind up being deferred until spring. Floral will pay for the new temporary fence that is to define the new perimeter, which will be 4' in height.

Two other items scheduled for discussion tonight were deferred until the December meeting.

The committee will ask K.C. Saul, the new Administrator of Riverside Park, replacing Charles McKinney, to address the committee in the near future.

Submitted by Barbara Adler

Land Use Committee
Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen
Minutes: November 19, 2001

1. 246 Columbus Avenue. (West 71st – 72nd streets). Renewal application DCA#907221 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by DFA Corp., d/b/a China Fun, for a five-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with six tables and 11 seats.

The manager of China Fun presented the renewal application.

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal applications DCA#907221 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by DFA Corp., d/b/a China Fun Restaurant at 246 Columbus Avenue for a five-year consent to operate an ENCLOSED sidewalk café with six tables and 11 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 6-0-1

2. 2525 Broadway (West 94th –95th streets). Application #287-01-BZ to the Board of Standards and Appeals by Frederick A. Becker, Esq. For Related Broadway Development for a special permit to allow the operation of a physical culture establishment of the cellar level, and first and second floors of 2525 Broadway.

Applicant was not in attendance.

3. 168-170 West 79th Street, aka 165-167 West 78th Street. Application to the Board of Standards and Appeals, BSA 258-01 BZ, by Congregation Rodeph Sholom, for a special permit to allow for the enlargement of the first floor (contrary to permitted obstructions in rear yards, which are limited to one-story in height); the enlargement of the third and fourth floors (contrary to rear yard requirements); and overall building enlargement (contrary to zoning resolution).

Sybil Pollet, who is presenting the application for the addition to the BSA, discussed how the congregation has reached out to the community by such measures as additional notification to neighbors, as well as the repair of the HVAC system and addition of thru-wall air-conditioning units in the design of the extension in order to mitigate noise problems. She also pointed out that the proposed construction would only comprise approximately 62 percent of the allowable usage and not increase the footprint of the building. She emphasized that the addition would have an impact on seven views between the two adjacent properties. The headmaster of the school, Irving Schlacter and the architectural consultant, Elliott Soffitt, concurred and offered to conduct a noise test for the neighbors the following day to confirm the efficacy of the HVAC repairs.

Approximately 20 community members, primarily from 172 West 79th Street (“172”) and 164 West 79th Street (“164”), were in attendance to protest the addition to the property. Among the speakers were John Nathanson (164), who distributed to the committee an 18-page document, entitled “Memorandum of Law and Facts in Opposition to Rodeph Sholom’s Application for Variances (BSA 258-01 BZ),” and Alan Kronad (164), who

brought photographs of his current view to illustrate how they would be diminished by the construction. Bob Lamm (172) proffered his personal opinions and brought letters from tenants at 172 West 79th Street who were unable to attend the meeting, and who reside in the following apartments at 172: 6C, 6D, 14C, 14F, 18C and 19C. Several other tenants distributed photographs of their current views to the committee, as well.

The community's issue, specifically affecting tenants and shareholders in 164- and 172 West 79th Street, concerns the diminution of light and air as the result of the addition. Moreover, the residents claim that the school in the past has not displayed good faith regarding construction times and that the crews were not properly supervised. They also claim that the 90 additional students would pose a hardship for the neighbors, who already feel inconvenienced in the morning by foot traffic congestion in front of the school, which extends to the front of the contiguous properties.

Two students spoke on behalf of the school, and emphasized the necessity for the school to continue through grades seven and eight. Two parents, one a member of the school's board of directors, also spoke on behalf of the school.

Richard Asche pointed out that despite the differing viewpoints as to the necessity of the addition, the determining variance that would be required in order to execute the construction of the addition was governed by one clause in the zoning laws, i.e., 72.21 Finding (C) Zoning Resolution. Larry Horowitz, CB7 Chairperson, concurred that it was a difficult decision. Committee member Melanie Radley said, "Rodeph Sholom has not demonstrated that the variance is necessary and does not meet the requirements." Maria Watson added that the community board should vote that evening for or against the addition. Hope Cohen agreed with Ms. Watson and pointed out that a vote would have to be rendered because Rodeph Sholom was scheduled to meet with BSA before the Land Use Committee's next scheduled meeting.

The Committee divided the Rodeph Sholom application into two parts:

- 1) The general enlargement: The increase in square footage due to splitting the height of the gym.
- 2) The rear yard encroachment: The increase of the encroachment into the rear yard by adding two stories to the existing encroachment.

WHEREAS Congregation Rodeph Sholom (i.e. the applicant) operates a Reform Jewish day school for students K-6 at properties it owns at 165-167 West 78th Street and 168-170 West 79th Street; and

WHEREAS the applicant is proposing to split the height of its existing gymnasium to create a new floor that would include a new corridor and other floor area to improve circulation between the two properties comprising the school and to provide other needed space; and

WHEREAS the proposed addition of floor area is entirely within the applicant's existing building envelope and should have no effect on the neighboring community except during the period of construction;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application #BSA 258-01 BZ to the Board of Standards & Appeals by Congregation Rodeph Sholom for a special permit to allow the addition of approximately 1200 ft² of floor area by splitting the height of the existing gymnasium, thereby creating an additional floor and improving circulation between the applicant's properties on West 78th Street and West 79th Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan's approval of this application is **not** based on technical findings in accordance with Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution, but rather on the merits and non-intrusiveness of the specific proposal.

Committee Member vote: 6-0-1-0;

Board Member vote: 1-0-1-0;

Public Member vote: 1-0-0-0

WHEREAS Congregation Rodeph Sholom (i.e. the applicant) operates a Reform Jewish day school for students K-6 at properties it owns at 165-167 West 78th Street and 168-170 West 79th Street; and

WHEREAS the applicant is proposing to add approximately 2400 ft² by means of two stories (each 36' wide and 27' deep) added to the existing 15' encroachment into the rear yard associated with the West 79th Street buildings, to allow the school's expansion to include Grades 7 and 8; and

WHEREAS the proposed addition would create walls 17' away from existing windows in apartments at 172 West 79th Street and 7' away from existing windows in apartments at 164 West 79th Street, significantly reducing light and air available to at least 9 apartments neighboring the school, and exposing residents of those apartments to the noise of classrooms and the curious glances of students; and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan makes these technical findings in accordance with Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution:

- a) The applicant has **not** demonstrated that there are unique physical conditions peculiar to and inherent in its zoning lot which conditions prevent the applicant from complying with the Zoning Resolution; rather, the applicant is seeking to increase its current non-compliance in order to expand its educational program
- b) Not applicable to a non-profit organization such as the applicant
- c) The applicant has **not** demonstrated that the structure for which the variance is being sought will not substantially impair the appropriate use of adjacent property and has **not** demonstrated that the structure will not be detrimental to the public welfare; rather the structure would significantly reduce the light and air available at least 9 apartments neighboring the school
- d) The applicant has not created the difficulties and hardships that the applicant claims as ground for a variance
- e) The application appears to be the minimum variance necessary to afford the relief the applicant seeks; and

WHEREAS award of a variance depends on an applicant meeting all five (or, in the case of a non-profit organization such as the Congregation Rodeph Sholom, all four) tests of Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **disapproves** the application #BSA 258-01 BZ to the Board of Standards & Appeals by Congregation Rodeph Sholom for a special permit to allow the addition of approximately 2400 ft² of floor area by adding two stories to the existing 15' encroachment into the rear yard associated with the West 79th Street buildings.

Committee Member vote: 2-4-1-0

There being no further business following the vote, the meeting was adjourned.

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COMMUNITY BOARD 7
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF 11/27/01

CO-CHAIRS: David Harris, Barbara Van Buren

The major discussion of the night was about mental health services designed to meet the special needs of those suffering trauma from the World Trade Center devastation.

Peter McGarry, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health described the efforts of the Department to provide services swiftly in an effective way. Eleven million dollars was available for them to provide crisis counseling and mental health services related to the event. Project Liberty is the name of the bundling of funds, which have been made available by public and private efforts. Efforts were made to utilize services already in existence, but which would need additional funds to adequately serve people. An RFP was issued within 11 days of the event so groups could move swiftly with some security that they would be reimbursed for new expenditures. The REP offered contracts to community based organizations to provide crisis counseling to individuals, groups and to do public education.

It was realized that services were being offered in three waves:

- 1) To the victims and their families
- 2) To those affected by loss of jobs and homes
- 3) To others in NYC who had been traumatized

It is expected that funding will continue to be needed for a long time. In the case of the Oklahoma City bombing, counseling is still needed. Delayed reactions are anticipated in March and April, and it cannot be expected that the need will go away. Additional finds are being sought to provide the ongoing services.

It was asked who could use the services, which are being offered free. Anyone who needs them. No one is asked immigration status, and if people come who were affected by the crash of the Dominican Airbus or the threats of anthrax, they will receive services- Sixty community groups have been funded to provide services, and they have been asked to reach out to their local communities to locate people who may not have come forward. Many people have accessed services by calling the hotline LIFENET, and Department of Mental Health is also working through the Board of Education and the Agency for Children's Services.

Professional mental health staffs are being used to provide crisis counseling so that the severity of problems can be assessed, and appropriate treatment provided. Many coming for crisis counseling need concrete help, and support in utilizing their own coping skills. Others will need ongoing help. It was emphasized that people need to be allowed to heal, and shouldn't be kept in a treatment situation if they don't need it.

Services have to be offered in a way that people can accept them. For many there is a stigma attached to seeing a counselor. In the Fire Department, which was so severely impacted, many fire fighters were reluctant to go to see a counselor. So the counselors have come out to the firehouses. Services are being offered on-site to many work groups, as well as in the offices of the mental health organizations.

It has been observed that the trauma of the World Trade Center has spilled over to many who had suffered easier traumas, and has reactivated problems with alcohol, substance abuse, and mental illness.

It was brought out that while the DMH acted swiftly to contract with community groups to provide services, this was done at the expense of insuring that all mental health organizations were treated equitably. Only those agencies which provide services through Article 31 licenses from the State Office of Mental Health were approached, while those which provide mental health services through Article 28 licenses issued by the City were not. The Ryan Health Center is an example of an Article 28 program, which is offering all the services the RFP called for, but is not receiving reimbursement. The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged the inequity, and said that additional funds were being sought so that all community agencies could be reimbursed for the crisis counseling and additional mental health services. In response to a question about services being offered to postal workers in relation to the anthrax scare, it was noted that the Federal government has extensive counseling services available to their employees, and all efforts were being made not to duplicate finds or services which were already available.

Peter Beitchman, Executive Director of the Bridge spoke of the efforts his agency was making in this area. He was accompanied by Bob Yankowich, their new Deputy Director. He stressed the cooperation between FEMA, New York State, New York City and the community based organizations in meeting the need. The Bridge sent staff down to the Pier where people were receiving counseling, and noted that they first had been serving immediate victims, and then displaced workers.

He again emphasized the distinction between crisis counseling and on-going mental health services. FEMA funds are used to engage people in an immediate crisis, those needing on-going help receive services funded from different sources.

Melinda Koenig, a clinical psychologist with St. Luke's/Roosevelt, said that the hospital had not applied to be part of Project Liberty, because they saw an increased use of service by their existing clients whose symptoms were reactivated and emerged as panic, stress, and anxiety disorders. They did not think they had adequate staff to take on new clients when old ones were renewing their requests for service. They did note that there were not adequate counseling services for Spanish-speaking clients, and they were seeking ways to address that problem. They were continuing group activities to help people get on with their lives.

Efforts will be made to do more assertive outreach, through subway ads, radio spots, agencies reaching out in their own communities. It was recognized that it was important not to imply that everyone needed on-going help, and that their coping skills should be affirmed.

It was not known which agencies in our community were providing services, and Peter McGarry promised to get this information to us. When we have it, we can work with all the groups about how out-reach could best be done. We will be including Article 28 programs in our efforts.

The Committee was brought up-to-date on concerns at the SROs. The Yale manager, Joel Shafran, had been seen, and he agreed to reinforce with his staff the need to maintain peace in the building. He will explore the installation of TV cameras on the street outside the building to address the neighbors' concern that tenants leave the building and act-out on the street. He encouraged community members to call immediately if there is a problem, and to keep a record of their calls so he can follow-up.

Contrary to information from the Division of Homeless Services, he assured us that that agency had two full-time workers in the building to provide supportive services to the tenants.

Committee members visited the Marion, where the manager, who is concerned about drug dealing, is working closely with the police. This has been confirmed by the Precinct.

We will continue to go out to SRQs, which are brought to our attention.

As December's meeting date falls on Christmas, and since there was no urgent business before the Committee, it was agreed there would be no December meeting.