

**Full Board Meeting
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
September 3, 2002**

Chair Larry Horowitz called the meeting to order.

Chair's Report

Larry explained the reasoning behind why the Steering Committee acts on Full Board issues in July. Hope Cohen announced the assembly of a Sidewalk Task Force, which will focus on sidewalk cafes and other issues. First meeting will be held on September 23rd, 7PM at Goddard-Riverside. Dan Zweig announced that nominations for Board officers would be taken at the October meeting, with elections in November.

Public Session

Ron Kapon, 20th Pct. Community Council, announced that crime is down 69.47% in the last 9 years. Michael Watkins, NYPL, stated due to budget cuts some libraries would only operate 5 days a week. Kevin Winkler, NYPL, announced that there was a 12.5% cut for city libraries.

Margaret Walton, American Museum of Natural History, introduced herself as the new community intergovernmental affairs person.

Benjamin Ryan, Freelance Journalist for NY Observer, stated 1,600 homeless people with AIDS are without appropriate housing and medical care.

Jim Farrin, candidate for the 8th Congressional District, introduced himself and discussed his candidacy. John Davenport, Co-Chair, Westsiders for Viable Neighborhoods, spoke about concerns with "circus in Riverside Park" which shouldn't be in a public park.

Alex Medwedew, Westsiders for Viable Neighborhoods, spoke against the Park's Department proposal for Riverside Park.

Janet Harvilchuck read statement by Co-Chair of Westsiders for Viable Neighborhoods against the proposed adventure concession in Riverside Park.

R. Jimenez discussed the poor safety and quality of life concerns at the Malibu Hotel.

Jim Barberine stated as taxpayers we are paying for the services at the Malibu Hotel and it is not working.

Kathy Henken stated a man who was ill was found on her stoop today. They use the street as a living room. Sees crack smoking, drug dealing, and garbage.

Susan Larson the city is trashing her property. Trash is all over the block.

Zehava Gal moved to her block in 1994. Unable to walk the streets at midnight because of unbearable conditions at the Malibu Hotel.

Romeo Dellavalle stated he was robbed at 2 AM; witnessed by 10 people; no one helped.

Amelia Gewirtz saw someone get beat up; no police were around. Something has to be done about the Malibu Hotel.

Harold Stephan has lived in the neighborhood since 1993. Someone got beat up across the street from his apartment. Feels the Malibu is a danger for tourist and the Youth Hostel.

Peter Feldman stated drug deals are taking place in front of his apartment.

Michael Ouellette, Malibu Hotel Tenants Association, said victims need health services and stable environment.

Anne Cunningham, President of Commander Hotel Tenants' Association, stated we must have housing for all. Landlords are exploiting this community with illegal conversions of buildings. She feels there is harassment of rent-stabilized tenants to empty buildings.

Walter Zugball said the tenants of the Malibu get moved every 28 days. Have no space to live in, no air conditioning. City should provide more services.

Mildred Ortega said she witnessed people selling drugs.

Steve Atkatz, assumes CB7 knew this was coming and wants to know what is the 24th Pct is doing about the situation.

Barbara Van Buren, CB7 Co-Chair Health and Human Service Committee, stated we have been working on this issue since the Dinkin's administration.

Chris Dorian, Mayor's Office, said he would see about changing sanitation routes tomorrow morning.

Will speak to 24th Pct. and Narcotics this week.

Lisa Lehr reported that she spoke with Councilmember Perkins concerning SROs.

Lt. Jackson, 24th Pct. addressed the Malibu issue.

John Howell announced a Red Cross survival course.

Sheldon Fine announced a celebration of restoration at Young Israel.

Business Session

Land Use Committee

Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen

1. Resolution to disapprove the new application DCA#1111397 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by PGGS Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Columbus Avenue Deli Café at 261 Columbus Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 18 seats was adopted: 16-6-3-0.
2. Resolution to approve new application DCA#1114632 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Bulgarski & Bulgarski Realty, Inc. d/b/a Bagels & Co. at 393 Amsterdam Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 19 seats was adopted: 24-4-2-0.

Resolutions adopted by the Steering Committee on July 24, 2002, subject to ratification by the full Board:

Land Use Committee

Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen

1. Resolution to approve new application DCA#1109932 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by The Westside of Broadway Restaurant Group, Inc. d/b/a Carne at 2737 Broadway, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 17 tables and 34 seats was adopted: 20-2-2-0.
2. Resolution to approve the 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: 20-2-2-0.
3. Resolution to disapprove application #151-02-BZ to the Board of Standards and Appeals 223 West 80th Street, formerly Phoenix House by Cavan Development Corporation for a variance to exceed the permissible height limitations to permit the construction of a residential building with 12 floors and penthouse was adopted: 22-2-2-0.
4. Resolution to approve the recommendation to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for the disposition of City-owned Monterey Garage, 137 West 89th Street first to the current operator, and if not successful, to the general public through in an RFP, was adopted: 22-0-3-0.

Landmarks Committee

Chair: Lenore Norman

5. Resolution to approve application #026507 to legalize the installation of a security grille at the basement without Landmark Preservation Commission permits at 45 West 70th Street was adopted: 23-0-0-0.
6. Resolution to approve application #021679 for replacement of windows at 139 West 91st Street was adopted: 23-0-0-0.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee

Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann

7a. Resolution to approve the proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to install public art in Riverside Park: West 91st Street was adopted: 22-1-0-0.

7b. Resolution to approve the proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to install public art in Riverside Park: West 72nd Street was adopted: 22-1-0-0.

Present: Lawrence Horowitz, Chair, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Janet Alvarez, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Phyllis Gunther, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, John Howell, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Elizabeth Starkey, Evelyn Tamarin, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Beth Berns, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Doug Griebel, Joyce Johnson, Ulma Jones, Betty Katz, Barbara Katzander, Eric Nelson, Lenore Norman, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana, Jr., Ethel Sheffer, Patricia Stevens, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Robert Zuckerman.

YOUTH COMMITTEE
Co-Chairs: Peter Bailey and Sharon Parker-Frazier
September 17, 2002

1. Goddard Riverside staff gave committee members a tour of their newly renovated youth and family facilities which offers: computer lab, library, dance, music, visual art, and science lab.

2. Staff members explained the various services for children and teens:
After school program at Goddard Riverside serving 90 children offering science/math programs, technology, library, the arts, tutoring and softball during the spring.

The Beacon Program at Joan of Arc serves about 60 children ages 11-13 and is a free program providing several activities such as arts and sports. They also have a teen program with SAT prep, tutoring, sports, and the Options Program on 88th St. site.

Roy Baptiste, program director for the Interschool at Goddard Riverside shared with the committee that the loss of not getting the RFP, forced them to raise their fees for the after school. This also caused many parents to not come back. Some other funds did help to maintain the quality of the program for this year.

3. The Westside YMCA spoke about their teen center, which operates on Sat. nights and this past summer they hired 97 teens through Summer Youth Employment. They will be sponsoring a college fair for high school students on November 1-4 from 1-6pm.

4. The Upper Westside High School project held two meetings in March and April this past year. Parents from CSD #3 and political leaders from the community discussed why having another high school was needed and what kind of high school do parents want to have. There was the idea of exploring the various kinds of education models of current successful high schools and which process to take.

5. The 59th Street Rec. Center has plans underway for the renovations, to include an outdoor/indoor pool and a gymnasium. The estimated cost is at 24 million and a private donor has contributed several million already to this project. Councilwoman Gale Brewer is very committed in finding the necessary resources to make the Rec. Center a full service facility.

6. Columbia Independent School has a web site containing updated information about admissions, applications, etc. The brochures are being prepared in both English and Spanish to be available to the public soon. The committee will still review the admissions and criteria process of this school, which is to open in the fall '03.

7. CSD #3 school board chair Ronnie Wattman suggested the CB7 hold a public hearing on how and what community school boards should be replaced with for the fall 2003. This would be an opportunity to engage the community at large for a discussion of how to parents and the community continue to have a voice in public education.

8. Resolution: WHEREAS, the Youth Committee of Community Board 7 has duly reviewed and noted the proposed priorities for the NYC Capital Budget, fiscal year 2003 and identified an additional priority in CB7; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the committee strongly approves and supports maintaining funding and proportionally increasing after-school programs across the board in CB7.

Passed

Committee Members Present: Peter Bailey, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Patricia Stevens, Evenly Tamarin.

Committee Members Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez, Bob Zuckerman.

Transportation Committee
Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-chairs
September 17, 2002

1. Application by 333 West 84th Street Owners, Inc., to NYCDOT for consent to construct and maintain stoop, stair, & planter at 333 West 84th Street.

The co-op building owners were represented by Steven Phillips and George Lefteris who presented plans of the proposed stoop. The building is the most westerly of a row of 6 brownstones, all of which originally had stoops. The stoop to this building was removed in the 1920's. The property is not in a historic district. The owners propose to reconstruct a stoop identical to the stoop at 331 West 84th Street. The Committee asked that photographs of that stoop be brought to the full board meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CB#7 approves the application by 333 West 84th St. Owners, Inc. for a consent to construct & maintain a stoop, stairs, & planter at 333 West 84th Street. Committee: 5-0-0-0. N/C Board: 1-0-0-0. Public: 1-0-0-0.

2. Traffic Study of West 96th Street Corridor.

An informational presentation was made by representatives of the Sam Schwartz Company - Larry Kallman and Adriel Mesznik with comments by the Committee & members of the public. The purpose of the study, underwritten by the Manhattan Boro President's Office, is to identify short-term improvements, as well as problems that call for long-range solutions & capital improvements in the 95th-97th Street corridor. Andrew Albert walked the entire study area with Sam Schwartz & his people, as well as Dep. Inspector Spinella & Captain Pascarella of the 24th Precinct. Based on observations to date, the traffic study group and community members have identified the following problems:

CPW/97th St. exit from transverse, speeding cars, confusing signs, need to ascertain # of accidents.

CPW/96th St. - need adjustments with traffic lights.

97th St.-Amsterdam to Broadway - very congested block - wide part of 97th Street narrows to much smaller width, resulting in congestion/delays. Holy Name School has playstreet between Sept. & June, exacerbating the problem.

Riverside Drive/95th St. - Dangerous intersection - subject of NYS DOT Study - some talk of closing 95th St. entrance to Henry Hudson Pkwy. (dangerous entrance) 96th/Broadway intersection - very bad intersection, many pedestrians due to lack of subway entrance/exit on N side of 96th Street.

Ridiculous signs forbidding left on 96th St., 95th St., resulting in traffic having to use 94th Street, a narrow, residential block! Same for N bound traffic on Broadway unable to turn left (west) on 96th St, & having to use 97th Street. Also - bus movement turning N on Broadway & left on 97th Street blocks traffic. Also - double parking at Columbia - loading zone suggested - lights should allow for turn lane (as on 96th St./WE Ave) - major traffic impediment is popular taco stand (really mobile restaurant) in front of Gristedes.

96th/Amsterdam - residents identified 2 major problems - not enough crossing time at intersection - cars sometimes run the lights - perhaps a red-light camera is justified at this

intersection. Also - too much truck traffic on Amsterdam (a major truck route), insufficient # of loading zones, insufficient enforcement, double-parked cars everywhere.

95th St. - Bway - West End Ave - Isaiah Sheffer, of Symphony Space, reported that the re-opening of Symphony Space has resulted in school buses taking up spaces on the block, west of Broadway. Making 95th Street westbound from Amsterdam, a possible solution to other problems, would be problematic for Symphony Space patrons who park in garages on the block bet. Broadway & Amsterdam.

West End Avenue - commercial traffic on the Avenue a continuing problem.

3. Application by Mushtaq Ahmed to the Department of Consumer Affairs to construct and operate a newsstand at the S/E/C of Broadway and 67th Street.

The Committee adopted the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the applicant did not attend the September 17, 2002 Transportation Committee meeting; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2001, the Full Board unanimously adopted a resolution to disapprove this application for the following reasons:

- The applicant did not appear at two Transportation Committee meetings in 2001;
- The Committee did not receive any drawings or other specifics about the proposed newsstand, including hours of operation;
- There was community opposition to the application;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan disapproves the application to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Mushtaq Ahmed to construct and operate a newsstand at the S/E/C of Broadway and 67th Street.

Committee 5-0-0-0.

4. New Business

A play street was proposed for the Blessed Sacrament School on 70th Street between Broadway & Columbus Avenue. Patrick Abikarram, parent & graduate of Blessed Sacrament, made the proposal. There was a play street in the past there. The proposal would close the street between 11:30 AM & 1:00 PM school days. There is no recreation space in the school. A potential problem is the garage located in the western end of the block, near Broadway. The street west of the garage would have to become two-way to allow the garage to have cars enter & exit during play street hours. Mr. Abikarram was encouraged to discuss the proposal with the community & return to the committee.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Bobbi Katzander, Klari Neuwelt, Oscar Rios, Elizabeth Starkey, Tom Vitullo-Martin.

Committee Members Absent: Dan Zweig, Joyce Johnson, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, Barbara Van Buren.

Board Members Present: Betty Katz, Ethel Sheffer, Hector Santana.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee Minutes
Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann
September 12, 2002

Co-chairs Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM, introducing themselves and asking members of the committee to do the same. They next introduced Marty Taub from the Educational Film Center, to explain to all assembled why his film crew was present and would be filming a portion of tonight's meeting for a documentary 15-part television series called *Democracy in America* (see item number 3 on the Agenda). Note that approximately 100 members of the community were present at tonight's meeting.

1. Preliminary informational presentation by the American Museum of Natural History on a proposed public art exhibit, *Earth from Above*, a series of aerial photographs by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, which provide a view of the world's environment, in and around Theodore Roosevelt Park (Columbus Avenue, 77th -81st Streets.)

Margaret Walton and Liz Werby from The American Museum of Natural History made a presentation, which included photographs from an art exhibit in Paris, taken from the book, *Earth from Above*, published by Abrams Publishers. The public art exhibit has traveled the world, and it is now proposed for installation on the outside fence surrounding Theodore Roosevelt Park for a period of two to three months, beginning in April, around Earth Day. This will be the only New York showing of this exhibit on conservation of the earth and biodiversity. The Museum is planning to light the photographs until midnight each night, with lights not expected to impact on the community in any way. As plans develop for this exhibit, the Museum will come back to us for further discussion and questions. Abrams Publishers will pay for the cost of the installation.

2. Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation to move the 72nd Street dog run in Riverside Park to the north and west, improve drainage, and install plantings on the southern edge.

KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park, and Margaret Bracken, landscape architect, made the presentation on behalf of the Parks Department. The proposed project has previously been endorsed by Council Member Gale Brewer, Assemblyman Scott Stringer, Floral, members of Community Board 7 and members of the community. Margaret Bracken discussed details of the project with drawings of the proposed redesign, which calls for moving the run closer to the tunnel to the west and further from the residential buildings on West 72nd Street. Randall Vaughan, one of the owners of the Chatsworth (westernmost building on West 72nd Street) and Scott Mollen, resident of the Chatsworth, and the attorney representing the building, were two of 6 speakers on this topic, all opposed to having the dog run in this proximity. It was not clear from questions answered at the meeting how the run would be completely funded (some money from Floral, some from Parks Dept.), nor was it clear how rules concerning the run would be enforced. In light of these unanswered questions, Klari Newelt made a motion to table the discussion until these questions could be answered. Lenore seconded the motion, adding that Landmarks Preservation Commission should comment on the placement of dog runs.

Votes on motion to table the discussion: 5/3/0/0; 4/0/0/0; 11/0/0/0
The issue was tabled until such time as more information is available.

3. Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation to award a concession for the installation and operation adventure equipment (wall climbing, trapeze, trampoline, hot air balloon) in Riverside Park at West 105th Street, lower level. (This segment was taped by the Educational Film Center for their *Democracy in America* series.)

A presentation was made by KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park. He noted all the various

sporting fields in this area of the park, and said the proposal would afford the opportunity for a new and different form of recreation, at a time when the City is not funding big capital projects. He described the proposal as having minimal impacts on the physical, visual and sound considerations at the proposed park location. Community members in attendance were very vocal and in opposition to the proposal. As noted above, there were approximately 100 people present. Co-chair Barbara Adler announced the procedures that would be followed, including taking questions from board members and community members first. As there were over 40 public speakers on this issue, all but 2 opposed, it was announced that a straw poll of committee members and board members would be taken prior to the speakers, to get a sense of their opinions. After the question period was completed, when it was determined by a straw poll vote (8/0/1/0); 4/0/1/0; 8/0/0/0) that no one was inclined to vote in favor of this project, a resolution was written to disapprove the proposal.

Whereas, the project was objected to on many different levels by the community and board, including the following considerations: the scope is too large, the project is too invasive, the proposal is like a “circus”, the operator is planning far too little insurance money, and in general fraught with insurmountable issues,

Therefore, the Parks Committee of CB7 disapproves the application for the installation of adventure equipment in Riverside Park at 105th Street.

Vote: 8/0/1/0; 4/0/0/0; 8/0/0/0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Submitted by Barbara Adler

Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Bob Herrmann, Linda Alexander, Dan Cohen, Doug Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, Joyce Johnson, Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt.

Committee Members Absent: Bob Zuckerman.

Board Members Present: Andrew Albert, Hope Cohen, Larry Horowitz, Lenore Norman, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, D. Maria Watson.

Landmarks Committee
Chair: Lenore Norman
September 19, 2002

1. **West 78th Street.** Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the painting of the façade without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits.

No one appeared to speak on this proposal. No resolution was made.

2. **165 West 85th Street.** Application to legalize the installation of a grate at the stoop and a security grille at the parlor floor building without permits.

The owner, Gary J. Mennitt made the presentation.

WHEREAS, the applicant indicated he needed the gate on the entranceway because of the safety of his three small children; and

WHEREAS, the iron work appears to be of good quality and matches the design of the rest of the iron work on his property; and

WHEREAS, there are other examples on the block of the type of security grille installed on the parlor window;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the application be approved on the condition that the security be gate removed when the youngest child reaches 8 years of age.

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

3. **229 Columbus Avenue.** Application to construct a rear-yard addition.

David Turner, the Architect made the presentation.

This is an application to construct an addition to the restaurant in the rear-yard to house the restaurant's kitchen thereby freeing space inside for more tables.

WHEREAS, the addition is not visible from the street; and

WHEREAS, there are other additions in the rear yard; and

WHEREAS; the addition does not obstruct any windows;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approves the application with the proviso that concrete tiles be installed on the roof instead of black tar.

Committee Vote: 4-0-1-0. Public: 1-0-0-0.

4. **57 West 90th Street.** Application to legalize alterations to the front areaway without Landmarks Commission permits.

The applicant was unable to attend and did not send his Architect. He supplied photographs, which the Committee was unable to understand. Therefore we denied the application due to an inadequate presentation.

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

The Committee reviewed the letter sent to the Chair of the Landmarks Committee regarding the Rice Mansion. We agreed to follow up with the members of that Committee and see what further efforts can be made on our part.

With respect to the proposed Manhattan Valley Historic District, efforts are still on-going to contact interested property owners and submit a report on whatever information had previously been submitted to the Landmarks Commission. We agreed to appoint a subcommittee to try to finally get this proposal off the ground.

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Ulma Jones, William Meyers, Patricia Stevens, Bobbie Katzander. *Committee Member Absent:* Janet Alvarez, Dan Cohen.

Land Use Committee Minutes
Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen
September 18th, 2002

1. **320 West 84th Street (West End Avenue-Riverside Drive.)** Application 223-02-BZ by Sheldon Lobel P.C. for 320 West 84th Street Corp. to the Board of Standards and Appeals for the legalization of an existing cellar apartment which increase the degree of non-compliance with respect to FAR and OSR at 320 West 84th Street.

Discussion:

Irving Minkin of Sheldon Lobel P.C., attorney for 320 West 84th Street Corp., presented the application to legalize an existing apartment. The space was originally a doctor's office (i.e. non-residential and therefore not subject to residential FAR limitations). The building includes 37 units, including the unit in question. The space was converted to a (rental) apartment in 1980.

Outcome/Resolution

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application # 223-02-BZ to the Board of Standards & Appeals by Sheldon Lobel, P.C. on behalf of 320 West 84th Street Corp. for the legalization of an existing cellar apartment which increases the degree of non-compliance with respect to FAR and OSR at 320 West 84th Street.*

Committee Member vote: 6-0-0-0.

2. Reports

Newsbox legislation: Council passed Moskowitz version

General scope of plans for permitting and monitoring unenclosed sidewalk cafes: City Planning hearing was laid over

September 17 City Council Hearing on the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise: come to September 23 meeting

September 23 CB7 Sidewalk Task Force Forum: City Planning, DOT, and representation from Deputy Mayor for Economic Development

Work with Council Member Brewer (enclosed sidewalk cafes, zoning of southwestern corner of CD7, inclusionary housing bonuses, air rights over public buildings)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Hope Cohen, Doug Griebel, Betty Katz, Lenore Norman, Maria Watson. **Committee Members Absent:** Janet Alvarez, Peter Bailey, Melanie Radley, Ethel Sheffer.

Housing Committee
Co-Chairs: Beth Berns and Barry Rosenberg
September 23, 2002

1. Budget Consultation Report (Barry and Jean)
 - a. 318 new units of L.I housing produced in CB7 within last 12 months. Info needs to be posted on CB7's bulletin bd., on website, and announced at Full board meetings. Report to follow from HPD (80/20's, TIL)
 - b. HPD discussed response mechanisms to complaints
 - c. HPD volunteered to meet with CB
2. SRO issue (brought up by Ann Cunningham want representative of DOB and HPD to answer questions; utility charges; illegal conversions.)
 - 240 West 73rd Street, OctoberRosenberg recommended filling out complaint forms.
3. 59-67 West 87th Street follow up.
Commercial income to be divided by 14 buildings.
4. November-NYCHA Budget

Health and Human Services Committee
David Harris and Barbara Van Buren, Co-Chairs
September 24, 2002

1. Discussion of Malibu Hotel, SE corner of Broadway and 103rd Street.

Reporting:

A. 24th Precinct - Capt. Joseph Pascarella, Executive Office.

... the 24th has been regularly patrolling outside of the Malibu, as well as on the NW corner of 103 and Broadway.

... A number of arrests have been made relating to drugs and/or loitering

... The Malibu is participating in a Trespass Warrant program, allowing the PD to arrest anyone in the building who is not

headed to or in the room of the resident they are supposed to be visiting.

... He believes that the overall situation is improving

... The 24 will continue to regularly patrol the Malibu

B. Human Resources Administration, HIV/AIDS Services Administration - Peter Joseph Avitabile, CSW, Director, Procedures, Training and Community Affairs

... HRA was asked in advance to address the following questions:

1. Could they get a liaison for CB7 to address commercial hotels in our district

2. What are the number of social workers and frequency of contacts with clients

3. What could be done to coordinate with the non-profits in CD7 that provide services to the hotels

4. What is the possibility of having social workers assigned to areas rather than to clients

5. What is the possibility of having on-site social services in commercial hotels

... HRA's responses:

1. Yes. They gave us a liaison and a contact number.

2. One social worker is assigned to each client. They are required to visit each client once a month.

(Since once a month is

too little, and since clients are placed in the Malibu and other hotels for a maximum of 28 days and therefore may not be

visited at all, the committee considered this a concern that needed to be addressed immediately).

3. Mr. Avitabile announced that HRA was issuing a Request for Proposals for non-profits to take over the operation. He urged those present to contact our local non-profits to make them aware of the RFP.

4. They were looking into this, but currently, it is not the policy

5. Mr. Avitabile said that some of the hotels that he has worked with in the past do have on-site space for social services.

He said that the Malibu offered no such space. The committee urged him to press the Malibu for space. With regards to the social services, he said that this too was not happening, but that they were looking into it.

C. Penny Ryan, District Manager, reported on an interagency walk through at the Malibu with DOB, HPD and the Mayor's Office. Reports are being prepared by the agencies.

... CAU has offered to paint the exterior of the Malibu and other buildings on the block. This project is waiting for a signature of the owner who has indicated that he will do this.

... CAU has worked with the Department of Sanitation to address the trash concerns.

D. Report by Arron Lowenstein, representing Council Member Phillip Reed

... Reported that Council Member Reed would be having a hearing on the Malibu on October 8th at the Bloomingdale Library.

E. Robert Cordova, Ryan Center, reported that he had visited the Malibu this day and that he had never seen such a clean hotel. He said that Ryan was eager to provide services in the hotel and was hoping to get the permission of the manager.

F. Attending: Glen, manager

G. Discussion by public and committee:

... There were well over 50 members of the public present, many of whom spoke. Their concerns included:

... Quality of life concerns: including public urination, drug use, commercial sex, trash, loitering

... Safety: including intimidation, fighting, structural damage to the property (i.e. holes cut between the buildings to create doorways)

... Medical needs of those placed in hotel: including medically appropriate housing (i.e. kitchens to cook, elevators), access to social workers (i.e. regular visits, on-site support services).

... Housing needs of those placed in hotel: including finding permanent homes concern for the huge amount of tax payers dollars being spent on substandard housing and inadequate services.

F. Committee Discussion

... The committee reminded the public that the Malibu was not unique, that this Board has had an SRO task-force in the past, and that as recently as last year we were looking at the Yale, Marion, Camden and other SROs in the neighborhood.

... the committee discussed what the implementation and policy concerns were. Some argued that implementation issues were being addressed and it was agreed that the committee should continue to work on these issues. Tom Vitullo-Martin stated that the Board's role was to help coordinate the many city agencies involved.

... Regarding the policy issues, such as a lack of on-site services, the committee discussed sending a resolution to the full board. At the recommendation of committee member Elizabeth Starkey, the committee decided instead to write a letter - outlining the deep concern of the community, and need for city assistance - to be read aloud at Council Member Reed's forum. Mrs. Starkey and Tom Vitullo-Martin agreed to draft such a letter to be passed around the committee before the 8th.

... The community was urged to contact their elected officials and the Mayor's office directly.