

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chairperson

**Present:** Steven Brown, Chair; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Daniela Alvarado, Richard Asche, Kristen Berger, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Paul Fischer, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg Peter Samton, Meg Schmitt, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Anthony Thomas, Kristina Villarini and Howard Yaruss. **Absent:** Rosa Arenas, Madelyn Innocent, Jeannette Rausch and Benjamin Wu.

The full Board of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

## **Chair's Welcome** – Steven Brown

- We recently had a concern raised by a board member that the Zoom chat functionality might violate the Open Meetings Law. We will seek further information from the MBPO's office to clarify this issue. In an abundance of caution, for this meeting, the chat has been disabled.
- There is a link on the Manhattan CB7 homepage to allow the public to ask questions.
- For this Public Safety Session, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg will be doing a brief presentation followed by feedback and Q&A. There may be brief reports from the NYPD Precincts and the NYFD. But most of the time will be spent with time for DA Bragg. I ask everyone to be respectful and to allow for as many people to speak as possible.

## **Public Safety Session**

### **Presentation Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg**

Thank you for having me. I am just leaving the funeral for the NYPD detective and officer – a big tragedy. Estelle, Jacques, Meg and Ritchie are all attending this meeting from my office. I am a life long Manhattan-ite, and grew up in Harlem. I am a career prosecutor at the state and federal levels – having worked across the spectrum of crime. I want to provide some context for my early statements.

1. Number one on our agenda is guns. I appointed an Executive DA for gun violence, Peter Pope. This is the first time this position has been created. We are hard at work on this issue. We have done 40 gun possession cases already in the first month in office. This is dramatically more than a year ago. The goal is to take a gun possession case and turn it to a gun trafficking case – to try to figure out where the guns are coming from and who is buying these guns. In particular, we are also looking at ghost guns. We want to make sure this doesn't become a bigger issue in Manhattan.
2. Second, dealing with the disorder that we see at the micro level. In particular, we want to deal with crime in restaurants and stores. We have announced a Small Business Alliance to help crack down on larcenies in stores, etc. Those are potentially organized crimes. In addition, there are smaller crimes which should be divided into shoplifting due to substance abuse/need versus those who are repeat offenders.
3. Domestic violence and sexual assaults are being reimagined. There is a lot of expertise in that area in the office, with people brought in specially to deal with this.

## **Q&A**

- **Megan Martin:** I'm an Upper West Sider, parent, and physician. I am not your opponent. I want conversation and dialogue. I walk the streets and find daily robberies at so many stores around me. I was verbally accosted by a stranger and felt in danger. It has become commonplace. What is your tolerance of these crimes? Will you commit to quarterly reports of what your office is prosecuting to promote transparency?
  - DA Bragg: We are laser focused. Guns are our #1 priority but not to the exclusion of other crimes. We are focused on commercial robberies in those two categories. We have opportunists among us who are taking goods serially. I think we can do this and also be mindful that some of these criminals need mental health services as well. Our data dashboard is posted on our website so that you can see what is happening.
- **Elizabeth Kellner:** I live in Manhattan Valley and have been here for 45 years. I have seen the ups and downs of crime in this city. I am thrilled with the past 20 years of experiencing more safety in the city. I am a supporter of DA Bragg and want to see his approach succeed. The gun violence in my neighborhood seems to be connected to

the NYCHA Douglas Houses. What can I do as a long-time resident, privileged white resident, to support you and that effort? I feel you are being wrongly blamed for a whole lot of things that are affecting our city.

- DA Bragg: I have been trying to set the record straight on my beliefs. What would be helpful is to partner with community groups and leaders in the immediate neighborhood to stop a case before it happens. Connecting us with those on the ground is the most helpful thing – to stop the violence before it starts.
- **Gail Edwin:** I have a question about the need for mental health services. So much of what we see is about the failure of support services.
  - DA Bragg: Mental Health is a primary issue in so many of these concerns. The mayor has talked about upstream services to stop these issues before they happen. We are discussing how we can make these services more robust. Housing with wraparound services is the number one issue – but it takes a lot of money and coordination. But we know that works. Some temporary supports can be helpful – using partners to put services in areas that are “hot,” so to speak. The goal is to get the service there sooner in the process to improve the efficacy and the timeline. It will be a collaboration across city government.
- Several in the Q&A have asked: What is your position going to be on violent crimes that don’t involve a gun?
  - DA Bragg: Threats and uses/displays of weapons will be treated as felonies. It is a serious matter and will be treated as such. Verbal threats could be a menacing or stalking charge depending on the circumstances.
- **Michael Schwab:** There’s been a large spike in traffic violence during the past years. How can you address this?
  - DA Bragg: We have a unit to address this. We need more resources though. We see more traffic incidents. We are working in collaboration with NYPD to address this. But law enforcement takes the lead on this.
- **Steve Filler:** We need to find balance. There has been a problem with the shelters in the city. I will try to speak with DA Bragg directly offline.
- **Lynn Lendway’s Husband:** Is bail reform working for you? Should we keep it?
  - DA Bragg: Those are the profound questions of the day. I don’t have a say on that as Albany has decided that. I don’t think we know yet. The crime trends are national and even in jurisdictions that haven’t changed bail reform. I want to see data! The first iteration of the data was alarming but withdrawn as it was mistaken. I am following the data, and eager to hear more.
- **Marva Wade:** I wish you the best in your new job. I live on UWS. I see problems with people who are unhoused and have mental health issues. Are you looking to have mental health issues with the police? Sending police alone has led to bad outcomes. How will you reimagine the NYPD?
  - DA Bragg: I see some of the same issues. My dad ran a homeless shelter when I grew up. There was a pilot in Harlem about pairing NYPD and Mental Health responses. The mayor has discussed this. I support the concept. But the NYPD is a mayoral agency. We will defer to him but hope to see this idea explored.
- **Thomas Caffrey:** You mentioned upstream issues that result in crime. What do you think of the new administration in terms of collaboration among the agencies?
  - DA Bragg: The meeting I was referring to was with the five DAs and the Mayor and public safety leadership. We talked about how to address public safety across agencies in a broad way. There is a spirit of collaboration and have committed to meeting regularly. There is consensus that we should be working together.
- **Steven Brown:** The DA and his team are available for future discussions also.
- **Melinda Thaler:** We are seeing offenders with large numbers of priors. How will you handle these issues?
  - DA Bragg: We must escalate when people repeat-offend. The issue is that some of these petty crimes are difficult to deal with. I try to emphasize services if that is what is driving the issue. For larger value crimes, there are larger penalties and potentially felonies based on the circumstances. We are focused on this issue and committed to learning from experiences on the ground. The small business alliance is meant to gain this insight.
- **Robert Ellenbogen:** What is your approach to bike safety? Why aren’t bikes held to the same safety laws.
  - DA Bragg: That is not an issue I have reached in the first 30 days. I am happy to learn more from you and others offline on this.
- **Maria Danzilo:** Question about disposition section of your memo. Can you talk about what you view as exceptional circumstances that would result in your office asking for a sentence longer than 20 years?
  - DA Bragg: I wrote a letter to the *New York Daily News* about this. A case of an international cartel; a case of antisemitic violence are examples of exceptional circumstance. I would deal with it on a case-by-case basis. I set forth some parameters in that editorial letter.
  - *From the Chat:* Jacques Brunvil, Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg Jr.: You can reach out to me to connect directly. Jacques Brunvil, Community Coordinator. [Brunvilj@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:Brunvilj@dany.nyc.gov) or call (347) 276-3151

- **Peter Arndtsen:** I am concerned about gun violence and mental health issues. The 24<sup>th</sup> NYPD Precinct and Goddard Riverside have done tremendous jobs. I would recommend that you work with the Community Boards and its various committees along with the 24<sup>th</sup> NYPD Precinct and Goddard Riverside to help address these issues. This neighborhood would be a great place to try out and work out some of these Manhattan issues.
  - DA Bragg: I appreciate the invitation and look forward to collaborating.
- **Natasha Kazmi:** Quality of Life in the city has gone down a lot and is threatening to send families out of the city. The lawlessness on the streets and in the subways is extreme. There seems to be no real coordination among city agencies. Can you talk specifically about the potential for coordination among the agencies?
  - DA Bragg: Those are all mayoral agencies. We met with the mayor and his public safety team yesterday. This is on the front burner. We are ready willing and able to coordinate with the mayor. We must get to work and that is the plan.
- **Polly Spain:** We recently formed a Public Safety Task Force. Our four issues are: guns, violent crimes, street and subway safety, and the mentally ill homeless. Does your office offer resources to guide us with these priorities?
  - DA Bragg: I am glad you mentioned trains. Transit violence is something we will address. Transit is the lifeblood of Manhattan.
- **Jay Adolf:** Your memo divides into crimes you wouldn't enforce and crimes where you would reduce the severity of charges. Earlier you discussed bail reform and said those are questions for the NYS Legislature. I recognize you have broad discretion. In putting forth your list, how do you reconcile your role and that of the Legislature.
  - DA Bragg: We are using our discretion. But my statement was one of principles. It's a matter of prosecutorial discretion and resources. I think my priorities align with what has been discussed tonight.
- **Courtney Clark Metakis:** What will you do to ensure that the message from your office will be that recidivism and repeat offenses will not be acceptable.
  - DA Bragg: The biggest issues are efficacy and the timing of the services and getting them there when needed, ideally earlier in the timeline.
- **Shelley Fine:** This past Friday night, I was contacted by the FBI about a credible threat to our synagogue. Thankfully this was resolved with no incident. There has been a spike in physical and verbal assaults and hate crimes. How will your office deal with this?
  - DA Bragg: It is a significant issue. We have a great leadership team on hate crimes in the office but have such limited resources. We want to increase communication that we are open for business. The other issue is the burden that we put on hate crime victims (to prove motive) that we don't otherwise put on other crimes. We are stepping up investigative rigor and looking at the workflow to better address these incidents. We also can come and talk to various community groups to help bridge the communication gap.
- **Sara Lind:** Regarding traffic violence, almost 260+ people were killed by random traffic incidents. A person was killed in Brooklyn today. The officers on the scene implied there was no wrongdoing and likely no action to follow. Can something be done here to address the carnage on the streets?
  - DA Bragg: I think we can use our current tools to try to address this. Even with current law, there is more that can be done to address this. It's about matching resources to this issue. The data you provided is sobering. I will support the grand jury report findings regarding legislative changes.
- **Erana Stennett:** Regarding the courts, even before Covid there were trial delays that have been further exacerbated since. There are countless men and women sitting in jails waiting for a trial. What can we do to increase the speed of trials? What are you thinking about here?
  - DA Bragg: It's a very significant issue. I don't think anyone has seen anything like this – in terms of what the pandemic has done to the courtrooms! A lot has been pegged to improving health. To have a trial now, you need double the space – almost 2 courtrooms. The impact on Rikers is particularly disturbing. I think about this every single day! We need to be on the same team and collaborating across agencies and facilities. We are doing this, but the challenging part is triage. The speed to trial and severity of sentence are real deterrents. But the significant backlog is also important. It is one of the most challenging administrative issues that we have faced! I hope we have turned a corner on covid and then we can start things flowing again the way they used to.
- **Rich Robbins:** Public safety is paramount. But I worry that people lose sight of why you were elected. I want to hear more defense of policies that got you elected. I am also interested in data. Do you think you have been misunderstood?
  - DA Bragg: I have spent a lot of time talking about public safety recently because my memo mistakenly gave the impression that I don't think public safety is important. I believe in fairness when dealing with

these issues. But it doesn't need to be a tradeoff between public safety and fairness. I think both go hand in hand. But I own that my legalistic memo was put out without proper context.

- **Steven Brown:** Thank you for your time and being so available to us. And thank you to your team. We all support you in what you do. It's not how you start but how you finish.

### **Business Session**

After deliberation, the resolution to approve was adopted.

*VOTE: 40-0-0-0.*

2. **319 West 84th Street** (West End Avenue and Riverside Drive.) Petition EIN#20-4029558 for a new revocable consent for a proposed stoop and fenced-in areaway on the north sidewalk of West 84th Street.

Andrew Albert: This is another revocable consent. The Committee approved this unanimously as well.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve was adopted.

*VOTE: 40-0-1-0.*

### **Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons**

#### **Resolution Re:**

3. **61 West 86th Street** (Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace storefront infill.

K Karpen: We invited the owner and architect, Mr. Anastasios Giannopolous, to address our questions. This is regarding the first floor. There have been some bad recent renovations to the stone that would be nice to see rectified and restored. There are concerns with (1) the color and configuration of the sign band; (2) the mini-cornice line of brown stone; and (3) the chamfered entrance door. We are voting to disapprove but are giving the Owner the chance to answer these questions.

Michele Parker: This application will be in front of LPC on February 8, 2022.

- Mr. Anastasios Giannopoulos, Owner: Since our last meeting, we addressed the issues that were raised and also met with LPC. They had similar concerns as CB7. LPC was in favor of keeping the chamfered entrance because of a historical photo that showed the entrance in 1940. We matched the color of the stone to the brownstone above the cornice. We have addressed everything.
- Jay Adolf: At the committee meeting, I agreed with all the concerns except that I was fine with the chamfered door. I am glad to see that LPC agreed. With the applicant having made all of the suggested changes except for the door, I think we should reverse the resolution and make it one to approve with the suggested changes in place. I would so move.
- Shelley Fine: I agree with Jay to make an approval with the condition that those changes will be made. This would be a substitute motion.
- Anthony Thomas: What will the business space be used for? Local retail establishments (e.g., restaurants, yoga studio, etc.) is what is planned according to the Owner.
- Peter Samton: The white sign band is completely foreign to everything on the block. I don't support that at all. The Owner says the coloring will be done in accordance with LPC. I think the Owner should provide a new rendering before we approve it.
- Page Cowley: As we have not been given any revised information, I think we should disapprove this.
- Mark Diller: While the Owner agrees to the changes, we do not have any documents that reflect the new intention of the design. I do not agree with reversing this resolution. I think we should adopt the original resolution (which was discussed extensively at the Committee Meeting), and then go to LPC's public hearing to see what may have changed. We can thank the applicant in live testimony at the time if the changes are reflected.
- Klari Neuwelt: I agree with Mark Diller. We are seeing one thing, but being told we will get something different. This makes me uncomfortable. We should keep the original resolution and vote accordingly. At LPC, they will make their own decision.
- Michele Parker: I agree with Peter, Klari, Mark, and Page. I do not think we should change the resolution. We will go to LPC and see what happens there.

- Erana Stennett: This corner has been a blight for decades! I welcome activation of this block on Columbus. But I agree that the Committee members have a very thoughtful recommendation that should be honored. The Owner should have provided revised renderings and drawings to reflect the changes. I don't think we should proceed with even a conditional approved without the revised drawings.
- Steven Brown: We are now voting to approve Jay's substitute resolution conditional upon the verbal changes.

SUBSTITUTE Resolution:

**61 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street** (Columbus Avenue). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace the storefront infill.

This resolution is based on the following facts:

The subject building is a 5-story flats-style apartment building at the corner of West 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue. It was built ca. 1888-89 by architect John G. Prague in the Romanesque Revival style with its two primary facades clad in Flemish red and brown common brick with brownstone accents.

- The building is included in the Upper West Side / Central Park West Historic District.
- The existing ground floor storefronts include two cladding schemes. The corner store is clad in a thin faux stone of a deep red color with faux mortar that gives new meaning to the term "unfortunate." The thin stone treatment is in a significantly deteriorated state, with the cladding peeling away from the main façade at several spots.
- The second storefront on the northern portion of the Columbus Avenue façade consists of glazed tile mounted with the long edge vertical to unsuccessfully resemble common red brick arranged vertically rather than the customary horizontal configuration.
- Both storefronts include aluminum storefront windows above a base of approximately 4' in height that would be typical of the 1970s.
- The proposal is to replace the existing storefront infill for both stores with a series of tall metal window units framed above and in between the units by new brown stone detail. The window units would include clerestory windows whose mullions align with the divisions in the main store windows below, and metal recessed panels along the plinth. There will be 5 such units with associated doors on the Columbus elevation, and two units on the West 86<sup>th</sup> Street elevation.
- The stone curb at the base of the facades will be retained and repaired.
- The main entrance to the southernmost store space is proposed to be chamfered at a 45° angle to the West 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue facades.
- The sign band above the fenestration appears in the presentation drawings to call for longer continuous panels on the northern portion of the Columbus Avenue Storefront than the southern, although the intent appears to be that they should be unified.
- The color of the sign band appears in the presentation drawings as stark off-white.
- An existing line of brownstone-colored stone serves as a dividing line between the storefront and signband below and the brick cladding of the residential portion of the building above. The presentation materials make it unclear whether that line of stone is to continue to the full width of the storefront on the West 86<sup>th</sup> Street elevation.

The proposed changes to the storefront infill would be appropriate to the character of the Historic District if changes were made to the color and uniformity of the sign band, the continuation of the brown stone dividing line above the sign band, and the chamfered door were replaced with a door on the same plane as the Columbus Avenue façade.

NOW, THEREFORE, Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application as presented as appropriate to the character of the Historic District **conditional upon the following changes to the proposal:**

1. The color of the sign band is replaced with material/color that matched the Flemish red elements of the brick façade above the storefront infill;
2. The configuration of the sign band should be made uniform across the Columbus Avenue and West 86<sup>th</sup> Street facades; and
3. The mini-cornice line of brown stone above the sign band should be a uniform width and continued across the entire storefront, including beneath the fire escape on the West 86<sup>th</sup> Street elevation.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the substitute resolution was adopted.

Vote: 21-15-2-1

**Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons**

**Resolution Re:**

4. New application to the SLA for two- year liquor license:

**242 West 76th Street** (Broadway – \_West End Avenue.) 242 West 76th Hotel Corp d/b/a The Wallace

**2330 Broadway** (West 84th – \_85th Street.) GWC-Broadway 85th, Inc. d/b/a To be determined

**953 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 107th Street.) TSR 953, Corp. d/b/a Tropical Sensation

Linda Alexander: We are bundling the three liquor license applications above.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve was adopted.

VOTE: 37-0-1-1

*(Melissa Rosenberg was ineligible to vote [abstained for cause] on one of the three applications in the bundled vote above.)*

**Parks & Environment Committee, Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons**

**Resolution Re:**

5. **Bull Moose Dog Run at Theodore Roosevelt Park (TR Park)**, issues with misuse of the lawns in the park.

Barbara Adler: For over two years, there have been serious issues with the Dog Run, especially as relates to sound levels. The barking all night long is a terrible problem in the neighborhood. All the potential solutions found have been proposed but rejected by the NYC Parks Department due to a variety of reasons. The dog run has expanded into more of the TR Park area and has become more of a neighborhood problem. Hours of operation are proposed and a request for enforcement for the rules are proposed, as detailed in the resolution. I and Linda Alexander are current board members of the Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

- Loren Brenowitz: I live across the street on the Columbus Ave side of the Museum. I have been eagerly awaiting the opening of the dog run. The substrate put down is dangerous and not appropriate for dogs. Recently, there are large black rocks that are appearing on the surface and those can injure the dogs and the owners. This is a longstanding conversation that has not been addressed. This is why the dog owners are using the lawn instead of the dog run.
- Kristin Berger: I am concerned about what ‘proper enforcement’ and potential ‘un-breacheable fencing’ would mean.
  - Barbara Adler: This would be fencing as is seen throughout TR Park. We do not mean to create a jail at all.
- Elizabeth Caputo: I will vote in favor with a few questions. It is important to note that we had a PEP representative come to talk about enforcement and what that would mean. Perhaps this can be addressed?
  - Barbara Adler: The PEP officers will blitz the area and issue fines. Perhaps that will be the necessary deterrent.
- Ken Coughlin: I support this, but I don’t recall discussing the involvement of the NYPD. I object to asking the NYPD to get involved. I would propose striking that clause.
- Linda Alexander: I am a founding member of the dog run. There are alternatives for dog runs and unleashed time for dogs throughout the neighborhood. There is no reason for this to be happening in Bull Moose Dog Run. I agree with enforcing hours of operation, as was originally in effect. We should we working with neighbors. There are solutions.
- Janne Appelbaum: I think the 9pm locking will backfire. The dog run was previously locked at 10/11pm. We should start with 10pm to incentivize good behavior. I will write the Parks Department with my suggestions on the replacement surface and other suggestions. Should perhaps the dog run be moved to the SW corner of 77<sup>th</sup> and CPW to protect the neighbors?

After deliberation, the resolution to approve as amended to allow the Commissioner of Parks’ discretion on enforcement was adopted.

VOTE: 35-1-2-0

#### **Chair's Report, Steven Brown**

- We have been a little shorthanded due to our District Manager Michelle Booker being out on medical leave. I want to acknowledge Max's and Jesse's hard work in keeping the office running smoothly.
- Roberta Semer: The Budget and Strategy Committee had a nice meeting. We will be coming to each committee meeting in February to discuss the district needs and budget priorities and to explain the process.

#### **Approval of minutes from previous full board meeting**

*VOTE: 26-0-3-0*

#### **Community Session**

##### **Councilperson Gale Brewer**

- Regarding Participatory Budgeting, we received applications for 70 projects with 30 of them going on to further rounds of potential funding analysis.
- In terms of NYCHA, the General Manager did a walking tour of two locations in our neighborhood. We should have been notified.
- The brownstones, with Cynthia Tibbs' leadership, has managed to do a pilot to install fire/smoke detectors into hallways. We continue to get complaints regarding Wise Towers also.
- Regarding sanitation, we did a walkthrough with the DSNY (Department of Sanitation for NY). They cleaned West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street with brooms that night. I will go door to door to merchants to let them know the rules, as I would prefer to educate rather than ticket.
- On West 72<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway, there is a homeless person who is disturbing the peace. We are hopeful he will move soon.
- In terms of the Duane Reade, I have been in touch with the manager and owners. I am following closely what is happening to the individual who will be arraigned. There was an off-duty officer who really came through during that incident.
- Regarding the boat basin, I wrote a letter to EDC and Parks regarding the Boat Basin design. They are all supposed to come back to the community. We will continue to monitor that.
- In terms of restaurants, on February 8th, there is a hearing at the City Council to talk about the restaurant/outdoor dining issue. It will likely be an all-day hearing. DOT will be put in charge of the outdoor spaces. They will put out guidelines.
- Helicopters: We will continue to work with NJ, but we still need the federal legislation. We want the heliport to be moved out of Hudson Park. It is noisy and disruptive.
- I am a big fan of Project Renewal. They bought the building at 537 West 59th Street. I wish it could be a permanent home (60 residents vs. 200 residents as a temporary home). Generally nonprofits would like to do permanent housing but the city often pushes transitional housing instead.
- I am on the leadership team for Speaker Adams. I am heading up oversight and investigations and will be looking closely at the restaurants.

##### **Cynthia Tibbs**

- Our new NYCHA GM (General Manager) showed up unannounced! He came here because we had no heat for two days in a row! He agreed then to put in smoke alarms as a pilot program in our building. If it goes well here, then they will expand to other buildings. There is no cost issue. I am glad we got it done!
- Two weeks ago, we had a fire in my building. It started below my apartment and blocked me into my bedroom. NYCHA is working closely with me because of the pre-war fire codes that apply to these buildings. The sprinkler systems didn't go off because the fire never made it to the hallways. We are going to try to get them approved for all 35 additional brownstones.
- The GM and NYCHA Commissioner Russ are for privatizing NYCHA.

##### **NYS Senator Brad Hoylman**

- Regarding redistricting, we had an independent commission that failed to reach consensus. It was then kicked to the legislature to draw the maps. The maps are clearly more representative of different demographic realities in NYS. But you can still question certain districts. I would be interested in feedback. It was turned around quickly due to deadlines. My new map hews closely to the West Side – just below Canal St to W81st, east to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.



- I have a bill that would allow NYC to set its own speed limits – lower limits to 20mph and 5mph on certain streets. The bill is named Sammy’s Law. It is moving to the full Senate floor from the Transportation Committee for consideration.
- I have introduced a new bill for a crash victims’ bill of rights. It sets a standards for people who have suffered a crash.
- I also proposed another bill banning PFAS chemicals and anti-fogging chemicals. The chemical is toxic and used in many products.
- We passed a remote option extended for CB’s. But it will only last until mid-February. We will need to extend or pass my new bill that would allow remote options permanently in NYS.
- We are in the process of budget hearings now.
- Elizabeth Caputo: I would argue that as much as you are doing in Albany, the redistricting issue is something that many constituents have not heard about. Can you help us make this more public? We are losing a member of congress, maybe a state senator, and an assembly member in our neighborhood!
  - Senator Hoylman: The redistricting commission was flawed with deadlocked votes at every turn. You would almost think this is by design, but it is not the case. I think it is partially due to the fact that both houses in the NYS Legislature have a supermajority which was unexpected. So, the process took on a different path. This is moving swiftly and will likely be voted on tomorrow. There will likely be legal challenges. NY Courts have tended to view these decisions as political. It is a shame that we don’t have a truly independent commission like California.
- Rich Robbins: I would love to see remote and/or hybrid options for CB meetings to be continued. I am concerned about Zoom’s chat feature. Any new legislation should incorporate that chat is valuable and should be available to the public in real time.
  - Senator Hoylman: I will look into this and get back to you.

#### **April Adams, MBPO Office**

- MBP Mark Levine has announced Aldrin Bonilla as his “Covid Czar.”
- We have a pop-up covid testing site at our West 125<sup>th</sup> Street office.
- We have masks and sanitizers available for people who need.
- For those who are interested, the application to be on the Community Board is open.
- February 17<sup>th</sup> is our Borough Board Meeting. Mary Basset, the Health Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health, will be there to discuss the budget and Covid response.
- The MBPO is calling for a pilot installation of subway platform door barriers.

#### **Erica Overton, NYS Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal’s Office**

- AM Linda Rosenthal sent a letter to the DSNY. We had done a walkthrough with them to review chronically littered spaces and intersections with no garbage receptacles. Please send us your feedback.
- Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez from NYC DOT will be walking through with the AM. Please send us feedback.
- Regarding the boat basin, the AM sent a letter to EDC and Parks regarding a hearing to get a better design than what has been proposed.
- The AM is having a mammogram day. Please sign up for a free mammogram.
- Ammunition Microstamping: I and Senator Hoylman are sponsoring a bill on this. There is laser technology that would imprint in a gun. The shell casing would have the serial number, make and model of the gun used. This would help with gun crime!

#### **Bryce Peyre, NYS Assembly Member Richard Gottfried’s Office**

- [gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov). or call 212.807.7900
- For redistricting info, I found a site that is helpful to see the new maps: [www.ny.redistrictingandyou.org](http://www.ny.redistrictingandyou.org).
- Max will have the info as well, and can distribute as needed.

#### **Dana Gallagher, NYS Assembly Member Daniel O’Donnell’s Office**

- We held a number of events: Holocaust Memorial event, etc.
- In March, we have a rat academy event planned.
- In budget season, the AM is looking to ramp up support for the arts. We hope to continue the momentum on increased arts spending.



#### **Hannah Weinerman, US Representative Jerry Nadler's Office**

- Today, Representative Nadler and Mayor Adams discussed infrastructure funding and gun violence. They discussed pushing President Joe Biden for more housing funding in NYC.
- If you tried to order covid tests through the USPS but had problems, there is a website and phone number that you can use. I will send the information to the CB7 Office. If you did put in your address, you should get your test soon. We are trying also to ensure equitable access to these tests.
- Masks are starting to be distributed now in partnership with CVS, Walgreens, and Rite-Aid. But call first before you try those stores. Feel free to call our office too.
- We are also working on helicopters. I hope to have more info on that soon.

#### **Demarys Vasquez, NYS Senator Cordell Cleare's Office**

- Senator Cleare is on the several committees.
- Our office is open and we are taking remote meetings as well.
- Please call our office with any issues especially as relates to evictions.
- We are working with other electeds regarding housing and will report back then.

#### **Community Members**

**Ian Clarke:** I am calling in regarding the Skate Park in Riverside Park. It is technically complete. Many people say it is the best skate park in NYC! We are really happy with it. There is limited opening now because of the weather. I would like to thank the Parks Committee and CB7 for their support in the funding of the park and renaming it as Andy Kessler Park!

**Zachary Campbell, American Museum of Natural History:** Operations on the Gilder Center project continue as was mentioned last month. We continue working with shockcrete. We will continue to average more than 100 workers and 10 trucks per day. As we continue to enclose floors, we will do weekend work inside. This should not be disruptive to neighbors.

**Heather Groeger:** I want to discuss the shelter on West 59th Street. What population will be served here? Will it be for women? This is a highly residential area. How is community safety being addressed? Has there been an impact report issued on this?

- Steven Brown: It is early. We believe it will be a women's shelter. There will be 200 beds available. The rest is not clear.

**Daniel Golliber:** I am a Lincoln Square resident. I want to thank you. From my view, the city is still a great place. The CB meetings have been a great way to understand the civic structure of the city. I thank you for being a big help to me.

**Alan Roemer:** I have a request for the Transportation Committee. I live at West 96<sup>th</sup> Street and West End Avenue. The corner is one of the most dangerous on the UWS. The lighting in that intersection fails to light the western part of the intersection where pedestrians are. How can I best move this forward?

- Steven Brown: You could be added to the Transportation Committee agenda to discuss further.

#### **Q&A Transcript**

➤ **Christian Cordova 06:35 PM**

Steven Brown

Community Board 7/Manhattan 06:40 PM

You can go the home page and sign up, raise your digital hand or put your question here and I can ask

➤ **meg reiss 07:01 PM**

The Manhattan District Attorney Data Dashboard can be found at: [data.manhattanda.org](http://data.manhattanda.org)

➤ **Steve Filler 07:07 PM**

Can I get DA Bragg's contact information?

Jacques Brunvil, Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg Jr. 07:08 PM

You can reach out to me to connect directly. Jacques Brunvil, Community Coordinator. [Brnunvilj@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:Brnunvilj@dany.nyc.gov) or call 347 276 3151

- **ANONYMOUS**  
Anonymous Attendee 06:47 PM  
3D printed guns how can your office control production?
- **Michelle Gittelman 06:51 PM**  
Is there any thought about using trained dogs for commercial security? In Europe, many small shops have trained German Shepards that may be effective deterrents. We use dogs for many service jobs in NYC - how about security?
- **Daryl Cochrane 07:22 PM**  
Resource from the NYC Commission on Human Rights on the discriminatory harassment provision of the City's non-discrimination law -- <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/media/brochures/discriminatory-harassment-brochure.page>
- **Reed Perron 07:28 PM**  
Does the DA's office have specific individuals assigned to develop relationships with the other city agencies?
- **Estee Williams 07:31 PM**  
Is hate mental illness?
- **Steve Filler 07:31 PM**  
There are "Menacing Laws" that the local police force is not aware of and therefore are not enforced.
- **Loren Brenowitz 07:31 PM**  
For DA Bragg - When is enforcement of the rules of the road and sidewalks for not only cars and trucks, but e-bikes, bicycles, mopeds and motorcycles going to become a priority? How many pedestrians have to die or get injured before attention is paid to the lack of safety for the pedestrian created by the lack of enforcement.
- **Amelia Gewirtz 07:32 PM**  
@meg [https://nextdoor.com/p/BMpfcyDPxJBP?utm\\_source=share&extras=MzM2MTU1NDM%3D](https://nextdoor.com/p/BMpfcyDPxJBP?utm_source=share&extras=MzM2MTU1NDM%3D)
- **Diane Del Valle 07:34 PM**  
When does something fall under a "Menacing Law"? According to the definition I found online, verbal threats would fall under this, no?
- **Erica Gerson 07:35 PM**  
There is no chat function enabled tonight. Is that on purpose and if not can you remedy it?
- **Sandra smith 07:35 PM**  
How will stores continue to stay in business if your office won't prosecute any shoplifting. I've seen people stealing bagfuls of merchandise with no impunity. All neighbors suffer without local retailers.
- **Meg Reiss - from Bragg's memo: Armed robbers who use guns or other deadly weapons to stick up stores and other businesses will be prosecuted only for petty larceny, a misdemeanor, provided no victims were seriously injured and there's no "genuine risk of physical harm" to anyone. Armed robbery, a class B felony, would typically be punishable by a maximum of 25 years in prison, while petty larceny subjects offenders to up to 364 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.**
- **Nicole Metzger 07:36 PM**  
My question is what constitutes "serious injury" and "genuine risk of physical harm"? I'm sure the victim who has a gun stuck in his or her face believes there is a genuine risk of physical harm. I'd like to hear Bragg respond to that question. thank you
- **Amelia Gewirtz 07:36 PM**  
Meg I can't respond to you so posting here my friend sent me the next door post robbed 3x the counter person told my friend same person can't get help here is post :  
[https://nextdoor.com/p/BMpfcyDPxJBP?utm\\_source=share&extras=MzM2MTU1NDM%3D](https://nextdoor.com/p/BMpfcyDPxJBP?utm_source=share&extras=MzM2MTU1NDM%3D)

- **Steve Filler 07:41 PM**  
When it comes to criminal behavior and mentality there are individuals with Narcissistic Personality Disorders who will never be conditioned into healthy assertive behavior. This is a sad reality which some may not want to face, but as it is destroying the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Inevitably we need to face this reality and encourage serious reform that will increase the quality of life for all New Yorkers and stop policies that reward abusive behavior.  
This question has been answered live
- **Amelia Gewirtz 07:43 PM**  
Meg screen shot from next door : 7:38  
al a  
General  
Jennie Dundas  
UWS (W96-Rside-W98-Amst) • 11w  
Hello Neighbors,  
I'm not usually one for shameless self-promotion, but I'm reaching out for help. I opened Blue Marble Ice Cream location at 97th & Bway last spring, after being disheartened to see my favorite local coffee shop/cafe close. We were robbed three times last week and had someone violently throw something at the window once. That's four crimes in a week. They arrested one of the thieves  
This question has been answered live
- **Steve Filler 07:43 PM**  
We want to contribute to DA Bragg's efforts to help everyone involved.  
The best to you DA Bragg.  
Thanks for your time.  
This question has been answered live
- **megan martin 07:46 PM**  
thank you CB7- I really appreciate you coordinating this. Thank you DA Bragg for your time.  
This question has been answered live
- **Diane Del Valle 07:53 PM**  
What is the plan for this new business on W86th?  
This question has been answered live
- **Joy Hecht 07:57 PM**  
On the chamfered entrance, if they keep it, wouldn't it look better if the signs above were chamfered too?  
This question has been answered live
- **Diane Del Valle 07:59 PM**  
Do we know the plan for the use of this space on the corner of W86th and Columbus Ave?  
This question has been answered live
- **Diane Del Valle 08:02 PM**  
If this is a restaurant can we prevent the use of the sidewalk space as outdoor dining?  
This question has been answered live
- **Diane Del Valle 08:03 PM**  
Actually — How can we prevent the sidewalk and street space from being used as outdoor dining?  
This question has been answered live
- **Joy Hecht 08:05 PM**  
Does Mr. Giannopolous even have much control over who's there? I mean, whoever wants to rent the space, no? So presumably neighborhood-oriented retail. Unless such retail has really become a sellers market.  
This question has been answered live

- **Diane Del Valle 08:06 PM**  
Indeed the sign-band is quite foreign.  
This question has been answered live
- **Amelia Gewirtz 08:23 PM**  
Just a comment for 86th store. Tall wide glass even under a prewar building is preferred by the residents in general . The short dark glass is not realistic as something that would survive. Look at columbus and Amsterdam ave all the 1950s 1960s buildings redone retail has massive glass. Light sunshine makes shoppers happy. Dark less glass makes sad. This is positive with more glass  
This question has been answered live
- **Nancy Brandwein 08:28 PM**  
To Steve Brown or Mark Diller: I'm reporting for West Side Rag. Can I have contact info for someone to give me the upshot of this vote? It's VERY confusing, especially for someone not on the community board and learning about this (reversal, non reversal). Please send to nancybrandwein@gmail.com or put it here.
- **Roberta Semer 08:32 PM**  
Which issue
- **Hilary Wescount 08:37 PM**  
What about the surface of the dog run?  
People are using the grass because the dog run material is insufficient and dangerous to dogs
- **Matt Paige 08:42 PM**  
What is the point of the lawn if you want to create a web of fencing throughout the park?
- **Joy Hecht 09:06 PM**  
On the helicopters, can you "send up the balloons?"  
(Ken Coughlin, I saw you quoted on this in the recent New Yorker. Interesting!)
- **Matt Paige 08:47 PM**  
Instead of creating more, if the fencing that creates the "illegal dog runs" was removed, would that not remove the incentive for those dog owners to use that grassy area instead?
- **Hilary Wescount 08:54 PM**  
There are so many other terrible things going on. You spend so much of this call talking about crime and now you want to use the NYPD resources for this??
- **Erica Gerson 09:09 PM**  
I unfortunately cannot stay much longer. Can you either call on me shortly or ask Gale Brewer to give an update on the crossing guard on 79th who has several complaints against her both for failing to do her job and for a recent antisemitic tirade which was mentioned at the Build a Block meeting?
- **James Payne 09:09 PM**  
What isn't Gale doing? 🍷 Great work Madame CW.
- **Zachary Campbell 09:30 PM**  
If you have questions or concerns about the Gilder Center project, please contact me at [zcampbell@amnh.org](mailto:zcampbell@amnh.org)
- **Joy Hecht 09:45 PM**  
Not all Walgreen's/Duane Reeds have masks. Only some. The ones that don't have them don't know who does. Is there a website where we can find out who has masks?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

February 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm*

**Present:** Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-chairperson; Jay Adolf, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, William Ortiz and Erana Sennett. **Parks & Environment:** Barbara Adler, co-chairperson. **Preservation:** Michelle Parker and K Karpen, Co-Chairperson; Josh Cohen, Mark Diller, Klari Neuwelt, Madge Rosenberg and Susan Schwartz. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Robert Espier, Shelly Fine, Ira Mitchneck, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins and Roberta Semer. **Absent:** William Ortiz.

*Joint with Preservation Committee, K. Karpen and Michele Parker; Co-Chairpersons and the Parks & Environment Committee; Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons*

1. **NYC Department of Transportation update on the renovation of the West 79th Street Rotunda Complex.**

Presenters: Colleen Chattergoon, Joannene Kidder, Gregg Fisher, John Herrold. Also present Huascar Robles, Hui Yang, Mathew Drury, Thomas Cirrinicione (Sp?)

Presenters provided a comprehensive update regarding the various phases of the project and related issues. Several committee members expressed serious safety concerns about the plans for the bike lane...

Central Park Traffic lights:

Several Board members asked Colleen Chattergoon to advise on the work that's being done to traffic lights in Central Park, and the possible re-grading of traffic signals. Ms. Chattergoon indicated that she will find out more about the work and will report back to the committee.

## Transportation

2. **141-145 West 108th Street, WSFSSH (Amsterdam - Columbus Avenues.) Request to the Department of Transportation for a "No Standing Anytime" sign in front of the WSFSSH main residential entrance. Anna Driscoll presenting on behalf of WSFSSH.**

After a discussion and Q&A:

Vote: Approved, *Committee: 6-0-2-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 5-0-1-1.*

3. **Restoring residential street sweeping to pre-pandemic levels of twice weekly and the associated alternate side of the street rules.**

After a discussion among Committee members, and several members of the public, a resolution was proposed:

Summary: In order to keep the streets cleaner, CB7 calls upon the City (DOS, DOT etc.) to take effective steps in order to do so, including but not limited to significantly increasing fines and enforcement of the alternate side of the street parking (offenders obstruct the city's ability to do so).

Vote: Approved, *Committee: 8-1-1-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 4-0-0-0.*

## New Business

A member of the public asked about the exit and entrance ramps to West Side Highway at 59<sup>th</sup> to 61<sup>st</sup> Streets, as to why they aren't operational yet. (The committee will follow up with DOT and will revert back).

CM Shelly Fine reminded the committee about the previously approved crosswalk at 106<sup>th</sup> Street. (The committee will follow up with DOT and revert back).

BM Richard Robbins asked DOT and Police PCT to come up with a plan to keep bikes safe that are going east and west. (The committee will follow up with DOT and revert back).

Community Member mentioned that there is not enough street lighting at cross walk of 96<sup>th</sup> Street and WEA, creating a dangerous condition, as well as noise issues related to honking horns on the block. He also mentioned that there's often a backup of traffic related to the gas station on the block. (The committee will follow up with the DOT on all issues and revert back).

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.*

# BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

February 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:xx pm by Co-Chairperson Linda Alexander.

**Present:** Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Joshua Cohen, Paul Ficher, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman, Andrew Rigie, Erana Stennett and Anthony Thomas. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Seema Reddy, Roberta Semer and Benjamin Wu.

## 1. Brief presentation by member/s of the Budget and Strategy Committee

Comments: Because of issues precipitated by the pandemic, BCI may be submitting Budget Needs criteria to the committee this year, in addition to the DNS.

### *New Application to the SLA for two-year liquor license:*

#### 2. 200 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street (Amsterdam Avenue) Heledona, Inc. d/b/a Olympic Flame.

Presenting for the Applicant: Hong Liu, President, [HongLiu25@gmail.com](mailto:HongLiu25@gmail.com); Peter A. Takvorian, Attorney, [PetrosTak@gmail.com](mailto:PetrosTak@gmail.com);

- Ms. Liu, who was introduced by her attorney, Mr. Takvorian, presented.
- Despite being the relatively new owner of a long-established diner and cafe, during the early days of the pandemic in 2020, she and her staff prepared and distributed complimentary meals for staff across the street at Mt. Sinai Hospital and other first responders, including police and EMI workers.
- During that period, she additionally purchased 5,000 masks and donated them to hospital workers.
- Ms. Liu is a former hedge fund manager, originally from the China mainland, whose dream was to own a local business in New York City. Her restaurant has survived and is again thriving. She has applied for a full liquor license.
- The restaurant's hours of operation are **6 a.m. to 11 p.m.**, Monday through Sunday.

Comments:

- Committee members were touched by the story and expressed their gratitude for her service and perseverance.
- Since purchasing the restaurant in 2019, she has made it a beacon for the neighborhood and is continuing to offer police officers and hospital staff 50 percent discounts on their meals.
- It was an unexpected and spontaneous narration, and a great example of community!

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: Not in attendance.

#### 3. 226 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street (Broadway – Amsterdam Avenue) Staub Hospitality Group, LLC d/b/a Haven UWS.

Presenting for the Applicant: Brian M. Staub, Manager, [BrianMStaub@gmail.com](mailto:BrianMStaub@gmail.com); Frank Palillo, Attorney, [FWPalillo@gmail.com](mailto:FWPalillo@gmail.com);

- The owner, Mr. Staub, has lived on the Upper West Side since 1995.
- This is his first venture into hospitality and the new restaurant will feature 17 tables with 38 seats in the dining area, plus a bar with 18 stools.
- The restaurant is geared to a family-friendly, upscale casual dining experience, featuring such unusual twists on everyday fare as miso soup with matzoh balls.
- The hours of operation will be: **11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**, Monday through Wednesday; **11 a.m. to 1 a.m.**, Thursday and Friday; **9 a.m. to 1 a.m.**, Saturday; and **9 a.m. to 12 a.m.**, Sunday.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: Not in attendance.

4. **175 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street (Amsterdam Avenue) HDMS Food, LLC d/b/a Hummus Kitchen.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Sharon Hoota, [Sharon@HummusKitchen.com](mailto:Sharon@HummusKitchen.com); Bob Callahan presented for Michael Kelly, [KellyMLK136@gmail.com](mailto:KellyMLK136@gmail.com);

- This is the second unit for Hummus Kitchen, which has had another unit in the West 50s for several years, also featuring Mediterranean cuisine.
- The interior space will have 21 tables and 42 seats, the outdoor space, which is part of the building's commercial use footprint, will feature 36 tables and 72 seats.
- Hours of operation for both areas will be: **10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.**, Monday through Sunday.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: Not in attendance.

5. **660 Amsterdam Avenue (West 92<sup>nd</sup> Street.) Temporary Retail Permit to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses by Izzy's BBQ Manhattan, LLC d/b/a Izzy's BBQ Manhattan.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Israel Eidelman, LLC Member, [Izzy@IzzysSmokehouse.com](mailto:Izzy@IzzysSmokehouse.com); Michael Paleudis, Esq., [MJP@KPLawyers.com](mailto:MJP@KPLawyers.com);

- This is a Kosher Barbeque restaurant, which Mr. Eidelman opened in February 2021.
- There are 13 tables with 26 seats inside the restaurant, and 16 outdoor tables with 32 seats in the outside dining area.
- Recorded background music is featured only in the interior space.
- The hours of operation are: **12 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**, Monday through Wednesday; **12 p.m. through 11 p.m.**, Thursday and Saturday; **1 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.** on Sunday; and Friday, the restaurant is closed.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: Not in attendance.

6. **New Business.**

- Peter Arndstan, Columbus-Amsterdam BID, announced the return of the open restaurant series, from West 96<sup>th</sup> Street to West 110<sup>th</sup> Street, starting March 13, operating Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - The discussion included remarks from the committee regarding safety, as there are several drug dealers in the immediate area.
  - Peter responded that he and his staff, along with the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct, are aware of the issues and there could possibly be increased patrolling and enforcement.
- Doug Kleiman discussed the advent of licenses being issued to legally sell Cannabis on the Upper West Side.
  - He pointed out the inclusionary licensing criteria may include 50 percent M/WBE ownership.
  - He also suggested the Community Board may soon be responsible for reviewing applications in a process that could be similar to SLA applications.

*The meeting ended at 7:42 p.m.*



## TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2022 at 10:00am

Roberta Semer, Chair

*Roberta Semer called the meeting to order at 10am*

**Present:** Roberta Semer, chair; Louisa Craddock, Beverly Donahue, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen, Cindy Cardinal, Lisa Beth Miller (Lighthouse Guild), Mark Jennings (Project Find), Jennifer Cinclair (JCC), Connor Callahan (DOROT), Council Member Gale Brewer, Ed Amador (Brewer), Hannah Weinerman (Nadler), Emmitt Sklar (Abreu), Max Vandervliet (CB7) and Jacques Brunvil (DA Bragg).

1. Presentation by Mark Jennings on proposals for spring forums for seniors. Housing 101, Tips for obtaining housing, keeping housing and thriving. These may be a series of programs enabling seniors to attend the programs pertinent to their own needs. The first part would explain the types of housing available, how to get onto waiting lists, income verification requirements. The second part will be about how to stay in one's home: SCRIE, DRIE, DHCR, Homebase, obtaining accommodations such as ramps, grab bars etc. The next part will be about community resources. The last will be how to stay safe perhaps with programs by the police and the Manhattan DA's Office. There was a discussion about holding these programs in hybrid form - with a zoom component and using senior centers and other facilities to have in person viewing of the zoom and then local discussion. The committee that will work on this will be Mark Jennings, Lisa Beth Miller, Ed Amador, Cindy Cardinal and Roberta Semer.
2. Lisa Miller stated that it is very important to emphasize the need to always report problems to 311
3. Madelyn Innocent said that we need to have all materials in Spanish and English, It was decided to try and have Spanish translations of the programs
4. K Karpen announced that there will be a series of film programs at St Paul and St Andrews
5. There are more in-person programs at the JCC, Goddard Riverside, DOROT and Project Find

*Next Task Force Meeting will be Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.*

# PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

February 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Thursday, February 10, 2022, via the Zoom online platform. The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 pm by Preservation Co-Chairs Michele Parker and K Karpen.*

**Present:** Michele Parker and K Karpen, Co-Chairs; Jay Adolf, Klari Neuwelt, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz and Mark Diller. **Absent:** Joshua Cohen and Page Cowley.

The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

**District Needs Statement and Statement of Budget Priorities.** Mark Diller, who also serves on the Strategy and Budget Committee, gave a brief presentation on the procedures to be followed and timeline for the Committee's section of the narrative portion of the District Needs Statement and the Statement of Budget Priorities for the City budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

**Re: 117 West 81<sup>st</sup> Street** (Amsterdam Avenue - Broadway). **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to "legalize" the installation of a smooth stone surface on the ground floor front façade in the areaway of a townhouse with a restored front stoop in place of the rusticated stone called for in a previous Permit issued by LPC.**

The subject building is a four story plus basement brownstone townhouse in the Northern Renaissance Revival style designed by Henry L. Harris and completed ca. 1884-85. It is included in the Upper West Side – Central Park West Historic District.

Presentation by Andres Lizarraga and Ronnette Riley, architects.

- The application concerns the use of smooth stone with thin scored horizontal lines across the ground floor façade and the eastern face of the restored stoop during renovations that were completed ca. 2006-09 based on a series of applications to the LPC that resulted in multiple Certificates of No Effect and Certificates of Appropriateness.
- The scope of the front façade renovations in the 2006-09 project included the restoration of the front stoop, the replacement of significant architectural details on the parlor and second floor, and ornamental detailing surrounding the windows on the front façade, among other improvements.
- The portion of the front façade at issue in this application is only a portion of the ground floor façade as the restoration of the stoop shortened the width of the façade, which is now the backdrop to the restored areaway enclosed by a knee-wall and an iron gate.
- The original condition of the front façade at the ground floor was rusticated stone.
- The architects' drawings submitted in connection with the 2006-09 applications showed smooth rather than rusticated stone. The applicant was advised that those drawings had been approved.
- Included in the Permits and Certificates related to those drawings and Certificates, however, was a written requirement that the façade surface at the ground floor in the areaway be rusticated stone.
- Through an oversight, the drawings that the architects and contractor understood to have been approved were used, and smooth stone with horizontal scored lines was used on the ground floor façade in the areaway.
- The building to the east is the Endicott, whose façade is brick with ornamentation at the windows and entrance. The building to the west is another townhouse, with rusticated brick painted a color that made the Committee wish that building was under review.

Committee Questions and Comments:

Jay:

- Confirmed timeline of applications and permits.
- Would have approved the use of smooth stone if considered ab initio.

Klari:

- The cost of installing rusticated stone now is not an issue that should guide the Committee's determination of the application either way – the application should be determined based on whether the use of smooth stone would have been approved if brought as part of the original application.
- Confirmed that the use of smooth stone was simply an oversight as the rustication requirement was contained in the text of a Certificate.
- Tough decision to make as to whether smooth stone is appropriate.

Peter:

- The use of smooth vs. rusticated stone is the only issue and should not detain the Committee long. It should be approved.

Mark:

- The use of smooth stone can be seen as a welcome transition from the brick façade of the Endicott to the rusticated stone of the neighboring townhouse.
- The determination might have been harder or more difficult if this smooth surface interrupted a continuous line of townhouse areaways with rusticated stone.
- The determination as to whether the condition to be “legalized” should be considered not in isolation, but in the context of the entire application, which included the restoration of the stoop and other significant historical features and decorations.
- Based on the totality of circumstances and in context, the use of smooth stone is appropriate.

Michele:

- The use of smooth stone is not out of context and is appropriate.

K:

- Based on the overall impression, the use of smooth stone is appropriate.

Community Comments and Questions:

[none]

Resolution: To approve the application to legalize the use of smooth stone in place of rusticated stone.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve was adopted.

VOTE: *Preservation Committee: 6-0-2-0.*

Application is not yet calendared for a public hearing at LPC.

**Re: 121 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street (Columbus – Amsterdam Avenues). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a full-floor rooftop addition.**

The subject building is a 4-story townhouse constructed ca. 1898 from designs by architect Alonzo B. Kight in the Renaissance Revival style. The primary façade is composed stone at the ground floor and brick with stone details at the upper floors on the front façade. The main entrance is only a few steps up from the sidewalk grade.

CB7 heard a previous application concerning this project in October 2021, at which time CB7 approved the relocation of the main entrance to the center doorway, and approved the modified fenestration on the rear façade, but disapproved the penthouse/rooftop addition, which was visible from certain vantages in the front, and was co-planar with the main rear façade.

Presentation by Brian Ripel, architect.

- The applicant is returning with a modified proposal for the rooftop addition intended to address the concerns raised by CB7 and LPC with the previous application.
- CB7’s objections concerning the prior proposed rooftop addition were that it
  - Was co-planar with the main rear façade, and should have been set back to distinguish the penthouse from the main rear façade.
  - Was too tall, with excessive interior ceiling heights; and
  - Included a front railing behind the cornice that was visible from certain vantages, which railing should not have been glass.
- The rear wall of the proposed penthouse is now to be set back 3 feet from the rear façade, creating a clear distinction from the main rear façade.
- The proposed height has been reduced. The roof of the proposed penthouse still slopes, but except for the stair bulkhead, the roof over the occupiable space slopes at a shallower angle, which leads to reduced ceiling and overall heights. Because of the reduced slope, an additional railing is required at the rear. The stair bulkhead remains at the original slope due to Code requirements. The new proposed rooftop addition is not visible from the front.

- The railing on the front portion of the roof has been moved back and is no longer visible from the public way. The railing is now proposed to be a thin metal tubular railing instead of glass.
- The penthouse is still visible from the rear as the donut is interrupted by a playground on West 89<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Both townhouses that flank the subject building have rooftop additions, although none as deep as the subject building.

Committee Question and Comments:

Madge:

- Confirmed the new heights of the rooftop addition.

Jay:

- Appreciate the applicant returning to CB7 with the revised design.
- The new design fits like a Lego block between the existing flanking penthouses.
- The revised design is appropriate.

Klari:

- The revised design is appropriate.
- The applicant should have been required by LPC to complete its mock-up before presenting to CB7.

Mark:

- The setback of the rear wall from the main rear façade is just barely adequate to address the previous concern.
- The revised design is therefore appropriate based on the limited scope of issues before the Committee.

Community Comment:

[none]

Resolution: To approve the design as presented.

After deliberation, the protective resolution to disapprove was adopted.

VOTE: *Preservation Committee: 8-0-0-0.*

The application is tentatively calendared at LPC for a public hearing on March 15<sup>th</sup> (beware the Ides of March).

**Re: 325 Riverside Drive (West 105<sup>th</sup> Street). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for permission to engrave the newly adopted name of the building, "Sherwood," on the limestone lintel over the main entrance facing Riverside Drive, in honor of longtime tenant advocate and Co-op president James Sherwood.**

The subject building is a 13-story apartment building constructed in the Colonial Revival style by architect Gaetan Ajello and builder Paterno Brothers ca. 1920-21. It is included in the Riverside – West End Historic District Extension II.

The front façade is composed of brick, limestone and terra cotta, with significant stone and terra cotta details surrounding each window.

The main entrance consists of a two-story limestone archway with wide pilasters flanking the few steps up to a double-door main entrance with a tall transom and narrow side windows. The address of the building is visible in the center of the transom in gold-colored decal lettering.

There is a horizontal lintel between the transom and the second-floor windows contained within the archway.

Presentation by: Michelle Baker, Co-op Board President.

- The Co-op recently determined to name the building after the late James Sherwood. Sherwood was a tenant advocate, first as the president of the tenant association when the subject building was a rental residential building, and then as leader in the co-op conversion, and later for over 40 years as the president of the Co-op.
- Sherwood was instrumental in the rescue of this formerly derelict building.
- The proposal is to etch the name "Sherwood" in the lintel above the main entrance. The Co-op Board is continuing its search for the most appropriate font.
- The Rutherford, another similar apartment building at 360 Riverside Drive just up the street, which was designed by the same architect and builders, has its name etched in a similar location above its main entrance.
- Then Manhattan Borough President (and current Council Member) Gale Brewer submitted a letter of support for the application, noting Mr. Sherwood's "lifelong service" and his work "improving the infrastructure and staffing while keeping the maintenance affordable."

- Shauna Vey, a family member of Mr. Sherwood, was present to support the application.

#### Committee Questions and Comments

Jay:

- The etching of the name is appropriate.
- The Co-op should look for a classic font to match the lettering used for the addressed on the transom.

Susan:

- A touching way to remember a community activist and ensure his memory will be a blessing.

Klari:

- The application should be approved, with a different font than in the rendering.
- The current main entrance doors are not original, and the building should consider a more appropriate configuration in due course.

Madge:

- Honoring the tenant advocate is appropriate.

Mark:

- This way of honoring a community member's service is to be preferred over a secondary street renaming or other choices.

#### Community Questions and Comments

Reed Perron, community member:

- A more ornate font would be appropriate for this inscription.

Resolution: To approve as presented.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve was adopted.

Vote: *Preservation Committee: 8-0-0-0.*

The application is not yet calendared at LPC.

#### **New Business:**

The Co-Chairs and Committee discussed the comments and determination of the LPC Commissioners on the application concerning the replacement storefront infill at 61 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street, including that the Commissioners noticed and agreed with the observations by Peter Samton and Page Cowley at CB7 that the sign panels as depicted in the presentation were an inappropriate color, and directed the applicant to work with Staff after approval to select a more appropriate color.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Diller*

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Steven Brown, Chair**

**February 15, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM**

**Present:** *Steven Brown, Chair; Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Christian Cordova, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Sheldon Fine, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Rich Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer and Howard Yaruss.*

**Non-Committee Board members Present:** *Jay Adolf, Ken Coughlin, Ira Mitchneck, Jeannette Rausch, and Kristina Villarini.*

**Absent:** *Joshua Cohen, William Ortiz and Polly Spain.*

The Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

## Chair update

Steve Brown demonstrated the new hybrid meeting technology in the Community Board office. Several board members were present in person, while the majority participated through Zoom. He explained that the suspension of the State Open Meeting Law permitting virtual meetings was now technically tied to the Covid emergency declaration by the Governor. Since the Governor has signed a 30-day extension of the emergency declaration until March 15, Board meetings until that date will be on Zoom, including the March Full Board meeting. For the audience that will be attending hybrid committee meetings remotely, there are permanent microphones hanging from the ceiling to hear those participants that are present in the office.

Elizabeth Caputo, as Chair of the In-Person and Remote Task Force, thanked Steve for all he has done to open the office. Steve requested a meeting soon to review the recommendations of the task force, in order to make the “new normal” as productive as possible.

In response to member questions, Steve clarified that the tech set-up for Full Board meetings would be different as they are held in different venues. Regarding Senator Brad Hoylman’s bill allowing long term remote public meetings, Steve said he was aware of the bill but the Board has not taken a formal position on it. The OWL device provided last year by Borough President Gale Brewer will provide some tech support for hybrid Full Board meetings. We are still learning about its full capacity. If we move to in-person meetings, outside presenters will still be able to use Zoom and community participants will not be required to be present in person to speak, only Board members who are voting. Applicants for liquor licenses would not have to attend committee meetings in person.

Board members present in the office expressed their approval of the set-up.

Steve Brown then announced that Michelle Booker was moving on from her position as District Manager of Community Board 7. She will transition for the next 30 days, but she will not come into the office. He thanked her and wished her well for the future. Max Vandervliet, the Assistant District Manager, will be the point person and Jessie Nieves will continue to support him. CB7 will start the process to hire an additional person for the open spot. Max is eager to meet everyone. Barbara Adler, Shelly Fine and Linda Alexander commented that Max and Jessie have done an amazing job during Michelle’s medical leave.

Max stated that, for the coming weeks, he and Jessie would both be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Other days would require special arrangements. He highlighted that Jessie has been a great source of institutional memory.

## Committee Chair Reports Including any Agenda Items for Full Board

**Linda Alexander, Co-Chair, Business and Consumer Issues Committee:** There are 3 Liquor License applications that will be presented at the Full Board meeting. Of particular note is The Olympic Flame, which is situated across from Mt. Sinai, and has been giving back to the community, serving meals to the medical personnel.

**Michele Parker, Co-Chair of the Preservation Committee:** There are 3 applicants that will be presented at the Full Board meeting. One of them is 121 West 88th Street, which CB7 previously voted down. They have come back after addressing all the Committee’s concerns.

**Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairs of the Transportation Committee:** There will be two resolutions for the Full Board meeting:

1. 141-145 West 108th Street, WSFSSH, a request for a no-standing sign
2. Restoring residential street sweeping to pre-pandemic levels of twice weekly and the associated alternate side of the street rules

**Louisa Cradock, Co-Chair of the Housing Committee:** At the meeting later in the month the Committee will discuss two conversions. One of them, the Royal Hotel at 258 West 97th Street, has generated a lot of press and Council Member Gale Brewer has taken an active role in the project.

**Richard Asche, Co-Chair of the Land Use Committee:** The Land Use Committee is not meeting this month. Jeannette Rausch has resigned as co-chair because of the press of her work. He encouraged the Public Safety Task Force to weigh in on the discussion about the West 97th Street hotel.

**Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairs of the Youth, Education and Libraries Committee:** At the Committee meeting on Thursday, the guest speaker will be Betty Leon from Advocates for Children. The topic is a discussion of their recent report, *Not Yet For All*, which documents the inequalities faced in preschool by children with special needs. The report is stunning and provides the first data on the topic that the DOE has made available. A resolution is likely to emerge from the discussion.

**Barbara Adler, Co-Chair of the Parks & Environment Committee:** This month's meeting was a joint meeting with the Transportation Committee for a presentation on the 79th Street rotunda project. There will be no resolution for the Full Board. For the March Committee meeting, there will be an update on the Harlem Meer.

**Shelly Fine, Co-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee:** This month's meeting will focus on new proposals and initiatives for mental health. Mt Sinai and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will discuss their new programs. There is a 50-50 chance there will be a resolution.

**Roberta Semer, Chair of the Budget and Strategy Committee:** Members of the Budget Committee have requested the first 5-10 minutes of all committee meetings this month to discuss this year's process for preparing the District Needs Statement and the Budget Priorities. We will be meeting with Leo Bullaro, Councilmember Gale Brewer's Legislative and Budget Director, in March. The committee has added two new members—Benjamin Wu and Anthony Thomas. Max Vanderliet has agreed to serve as liaison.

**Susan Schwartz, Chair of the By-Laws Task Force:** The review is moving quickly and should take two more months. The task force has been using the Manhattan Borough President's By-Laws template as a guide and will be holding a separate meeting to address the template. She will circulate it for input.

**Roberta Semer, Chair of the Senior Task Force:** They are planning a series of forums on seniors and housing which will be on Zoom as well as in senior center venues.

#### **New Business**

Jay Adolf raised the issue of the chat function on Zoom, stating that he wished to see it revived. It was discontinued because Rich Robbins got an opinion from the State Committee on Open Government about what needs to be public and they expressed concern at using the chat room. Jay disagreed with their finding that everything in the chat needs to be made immediately available. Procedural items in Jay's opinion should not be prohibited and are essential to keep meetings moving along. Ken Coughlin agreed with Jay. What Rich Robbins asked about was sending messages just to panelists and hosts rather than to everyone. Mark Diller commented that it would be helpful to have some functionality to deal with ministerial communications.

Elizabeth Caputo stated that the In Person and Remote Task Force will try to do a meeting by March 1 where some of these questions can be addressed.

Steve Brown responded that he had communicated with the Manhattan Borough President's legal expert, Adele Bartlett, who noted that most boards do not use the chat function. It was her recommendation that CB7 not use the chat. Steve stated that CB7 would follow her advice.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:36PM.*



# BYLAWS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Susan Schwartz, Chair

February 17, 2022

**Present:** Susan Schwartz (SS), Chair; Barbara Adler (BA), Jay Adolf (JA) and Natasha Kazmi (NK). **Non-Task Force Board Members:** Ken Coughlin, Mark Diller, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins and Madge Rosenberg.

*Meeting on Zoom was called to order at 10:00 AM and adjourned at 11:00 AM.*

Prior to our meeting, we asked all Board members to review the MBPO Bylaws template, which is our starting point for our new Bylaws and to email any comments or suggestions for our consideration, without limitation on length. We began the meeting with a productive discussion about suggestions we received from Beverly Donohue on four topics:

## 1. Roll call/attendance

- Most other Manhattan Community Boards have a mechanism for ensuring attendance for substantially all of the meeting. There was consensus that an accurate record of attendance is crucial, particularly since attendance is a key component of the MBPO's renewal process.
- Consider a timer for presentations by elected officials to streamline our Full Board meetings, similar to what some other boards have and what is currently used at City Council, the Assembly, and State Senate. By streamlining our meetings, attendance at the full meeting is expected to be less of a burden.

## 2. Elected treasurer

- Consensus that this is a great idea, with quarterly reports to Full Board
- Perhaps this role could be aligned with the Budget Committee

## 3. Executive session

- Discussion about how Open Meetings Law pertains to Executive Sessions

## 4. Vice chairs

- Discussion about whether the duties of Vice Chair should be delineated, as are all other elected positions

We urge anyone else with suggestions or comments on the MBPO template to email Max and Susan; anything we receive will be discussed at the next meeting.

Following the discussion of Beverly's suggestions, we resumed our work on the Bylaws template, beginning on page 15 Section IV B Election of Officers Number 1 Election Committee and concluding with Section IV B Number 2 Nominations for Officers.

## Next Steps

1. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 17, 2022, from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
2. Jay agreed to research Open Meetings Law with regard to Executive Sessions.
3. Susan will reach out to past and present CB7 Chairs for input on delineating the role of Vice Chair
4. We will begin our next meeting's discussion on Page 15 Article IV Officers B Election of Officers with a quick review of Number 2 Nominations for Officers.

# YOUTH, EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTE

Courtney Clark Metakis and Blanche Lawton, Co-Chairpersons

February 17, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

**Present:** Courtney Clark Metakis and Blanche Lawton, Co-Chairpersons; Catherine Delazzero, Beverly Donahue, Mark Diller, Paul Fischer, Seema Reddy and Audrey Isaacs. **Non- Committee Board Member:** Roberta Semer. **CB7 Staff:** Max Vandervliet. **Absent:** Rosa Arenas and Kristen Berger.

*The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by co-chairs Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis.*

## 1. Presentation by Betty Baez, Director for Advocates for Children of New York's Early Childhood Project.

ACNY works with families with children with disabilities. These children are being underserved by the city's universal preschool programs and have a legal right to special education services at home, school, or specialized areas. ~30k children, and ~10k kids did not receive mandated services. Children of color were underrepresented in receiving these services. These interventions at an early age have a significant impact on a child's growth. City needs to address the shortage of these special education classrooms and services, as well as providing an insufficient budget and salary for necessary teachers. Recommend support for sufficient evaluations, budget, and programming necessary to assist these underserved children.

Follow-Up Questions:

- Where is the city currently on this topic?
  - DOE needs to improve its data collection practices and doesn't rely on inaccurate or incomplete data for its analyses. There is evidence that families are not receiving the services they should. Preschool needs to be included in the system
  - There is currently a hiring freeze at DOE preventing these positions from being filled effectively
- Is there liability for the city to not comply with the law?
  - Children are legal right to services and are being denied
  - Individual families can pursue remedies through an impartial hearing process
- What can CB7 do to advocate for the issue (e.g., budget), and what're the weak links?
  - Are there not enough qualified teachers? Or is it funding and salary parity?
  - Losing special education teachers to general education classrooms, critical to be able to improve salary parity via contract enhancement.
  - Need to improve teachers who are multi-lingual in order to provide support in other languages, DOE has not followed up to ensure this
  - Difficult from a location perspective to get providers to get to less accessible locations. May need to compensate more to enable this
- Are kids also not aware of the program, and that's creating some of the deficiency?
  - Focus is on kids who have applied but yet aren't being served, but a recommendation is also to continue to promote and improve awareness

Committee - likely to have a resolution, at least re: the budget, on this topic.

## 2. Presentation by Robert Semer from Budget & Strategy Committee

- Bev, Robert, and Ben on the Budget & Strategy Committee
  - Discussing the District Needs statement. Will be thinking about it differently as compared to the past
    - Limit the District to 20 capital budget and 20 expense needs
    - Priorities based on data, including city, census, DOE, etc.
    - Historically schools have been high priority
    - Timeline starts now, complete by June any meetings with stakeholders, and begin to draft the statement, as well as the expense & capital budgets
    - Budget & Strategy Committee will provide a template and will continue to support the process
    - September will be a public meeting to evaluate the collective budget priorities, with voting in October
- Mark, Courtney, Bev will work together to draft a version for discussion for the board

3. **Update on YEL** Will be no meeting on YEL in March
4. **Resolution.** Vote on a resolution of all topics discussed today, 8-0-0-0.
5. **New Business** No New business

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm*  
*Submitted by B. Wu*

# HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons**

**February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM**

**Present:** Shelly Fine, Co-chairperson; Audrey Isaacs, Sara Lind, Madge Rosenberg, Robert Espier and Kristina Villarini.

**Non-Committee Board Members:** Roberta Semer and Beverly Donohue, Budget and Strategy Committee.

**Guest:** Council Member Erik Bottcher, District 3; and Dr Praneet Singh, Mt Sinai Addition Psychiatric Services.

Shelly introduces Roberta and Beverly for a presentation on the procedure for committees to develop their District Needs Statements and Budget Priorities.

Roberta recapped the last year's protocol. This year we expect to complete budget and District Needs by July. We ask committee to look at their priorities, for a vote on budget priorities in July. We are using the City Planning template to enter the material. Material submitted by committees were not compatible with CP template. We'll be back in May out assist committees in formulating their material. We have our top three priorities, but we'll revisit those to determine if they will remain so.

Shelly comments on importance of this part of our work. It's the message to legislators and our community. It's not just money asks. Statements on overall needs are equally important.

Beverly made a distinction between District Need Statements which don't have to be about money, and budget priorities. They can ask for things that don't involve changes in City budget. It's good to be as concrete as possible, so we can be taken more seriously. We should hone in on true priorities. We limit ourselves to 20 expense budget priorities and 20 capital budget priorities.

Shelly asked CB7's Asst District Manager, Max Vandervliet, committee members and other board members to introduce themselves. He gave Robert a generous introduction (since Bob is off mike and recording the evening's minutes).

Next, Shelly introduced District 3 Council Member Erik Bottcher and his liaison to our Board, Laurie Hardjowirogo, who devoted much time and emails to arranging tonight's presentation.

Shelly credited the Councilmember with organizing the Governor's efforts to pass New York State's Marriage Equality legislation, which set a standard for entire nation. Councilmember Bottcher was also formerly Chief of Staff for Speaker Corey Johnson, where he was active on affordable housing and senior services issues. CM Bottcher is a member of the City Council's Mental Health Committee.

Madge alerted us to an OpEd that highlighted CM Bottcher's efforts on mental health issues, subjects HHS had addressed over the years. Shelly hoped that by inviting him to speak tonight and informing us if his proposed initiatives, the HHS Committee would support his efforts. HHS advocates on actionable proposals.

CM Erik Bottcher. Thanked Shelly and Laurie, for her Liaison work.

He explained that Mental Health was a signature issue during his campaign for City Council. This is why:

Mental Health profoundly affects every neighborhood in NYC. There is too much untreated mental illness. We should be ashamed in the USA, in the richest city in the world to have so much untreated mental illness.

Furthermore, he told us:

"I'm from Lake Placid NY (pop 1,300 — fewer people than my block now). At 15, I was hospitalized for suicide attempts; sent involuntarily to Four Winds Hospital, Saratoga NY a facility for young people. That was origin of my political awakening.

- Treatment saved my life; that's why I'm here today.
- Too few Americans have access to that kind of in-patient MH care.
- Early detection and treatment can prevent severe mental illness.
- Mentally ill people do not account for vast number of violent crimes. Conversely,
- vast number of people who commit violent crimes do not have mental illness.

He is advocating for the following mental health initiatives:

- **Reverse closure of psychiatric beds.**  
New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) rang the alarm on this. Outpatient services work, but inpatient psych services are vital for many.
- The Unfortunate history of Willowbrook, led to closing hospitals and the replacement with community-based services were never fully funded. Rather, prisons were used to house Mentally Ill sufferers.
- **Medical Respite beds** should serve persons from Emergency Rooms, who are not well enough to be discharged to the street or shelters. You can identify them by wrist bands they keep on. These facilities are also called Crisis Stabilization Centers. We need more of them.
- **Clubhouse Model** of community center (Fountain House in Chelsea is a perfect example): It provides friendship, educational/vocational training; recreation, and psychiatric services. People need things to do all day long. They provide places for people to engage in structured activities. CN Bottcher recommends that we need 10 additional Club House Centers around the city.

We also need to revamp the discharge planning system. Now too many people are dumped in NYC shelter system.

He emphasized that he is on City Council Mental Health Committee and Councilmember Linda Lee is Chair of the Committee.

He concluded that this is a national failure we need to address and “We’ve been failing”. Furthermore, he thanked the HHS Committee for the invitation to discuss these initiatives

#### **Shelly opened the question/answer session.**

Madge: What about the mental health services at Roosevelt Hospital and St Luke’s? Have hospital in our district done away with these services.

Erik: Mt Sinai West does have these services still. The issue is: there is a need for staff, and clinicians, but also a need for patients to go at all points in the continuum, not to the shelter. Outreach Teams complain they have no options to offer clients, other than shelters, for example. They don’t want to go back to Wards Island.

We must create capacity at all points in the continuum [of care].

Roberta: After closings, no plans were put in place. Goddard Riverside has several programs, but we have to create safe space and much more intensive care.

Kristina Villarini: There are a lack of interventions for young people aging out of the system, exposed to violence, and a lack of opportunities. We need to start chipping away at narratives, and have real dialogues about access to care at the City level.

CM Erik: Aging out of support systems is the issue. The Mayor has talked about the Foster Care system vis a vis exposure to violence.

LGBTQ Ali Forney Center has enriched services, but people wind up in shelter system. There are empty beds for 18–21-year-olds, but they are turning away 18-24 -year-olds. The State is intervening, but we need to do at the City Council is bring in best minds to determine what must be done. The DeBlasio budget grew exponentially. We should be expecting results.

Shjelly: Our HHS Resolution will support your recommendations, and we will advocate for them

Doug: Thanks for CM Bottcher. I’ve had family member hospitalized against their will. There is a great issue of how to navigate a balance between civil liberties and public safety/self-harm. I’ve been involved at all levels of navigating mental illness hospitalizations. Essentially, the point is how to navigate treatment and protecting civil liberties.

CM Bottcheer: Civil Liberties is at the core.

The book, "Bedlam", delves into history of mental illness in this country. Historically, tickets were sold to look at mentally ill patients. The author examined families engaging service system for mentally ill.

Community Parent: "Son died with Civil Liberties intact", was a comment made by one parent. Kendra's Law dispute must be revisited. We must confront this issue, especially if it's going to save their lives. Kendra's Law should be applied more frequently. Getting people help is as important, as civil liberties is.

Shelly: Public discussion is a must as well as training on what is MH. Everybody is affected. 100% of population needs MH — to different degrees. Through CERT, I have organized and been trained in MentalH First Aid.

We are planning MH First Aid training for the community. Pastor Payne and I have been trained in MH First Aid and we are planning mental health training for the public. Too much is not understood. Public discussion will shed light on the issues and what solutions we need.

CM Bottcher: Public service is the highest calling. He appreciates CB7s' advocacy. Thanks for having me. Good night.

Shelly: Introduced Brad Korn, Mt Sinai System Community Affairs Director; Dr Praneet Singh, Mt Sinai System, Addiction Psychiatric Services.

Dr Singh: The Governor and Mayor have just addressed changes to address crisis level in MH crises.

On the beds, NYC has special crisis. Directive encourages the ERs across state to lower the threshold. NYS does not have shortage of inpatient beds. We are never at capacity. The rest of state has shortages in beds. We shouldn't lump NYC with the rest of state.

The heart of matter is, what to do with persons once they receive services: there are no places to engage in activities. What about the balance of Civil Liberties (as Doug mentioned), Roosevelt/Mt Sinai West is as active as ever. Confinement in inpatient unit, as opposed to horizontal setting, is not effective.

The need for outside housing is the preferred solution. Housing programs expect incoming patients to be picture ready for housing. This is not realistic. Sometimes the threshold is too high. Medication management is an example of perhaps a too high expectation. Denver has Housing First for high users of ER or in legal system. Giving housing first: lowered hospital stays and ER usage and reduced involvement in legal system.

Shelly: What have you seen differently in your practice.

Dr Singh: People disconnected from treatment. Field teams, as well, began functioning remotely — quite different from face to face. People fall out of treatment. Also a rise in agitation toward each other and staff. Shortage of manpower critical as well; harder to hire people.

Shelly: Which demographic has been coming in most frequently.

Dr S: No significant change in the background of people, but in the past year there has been a significant increase in children in the ER. The Chief of Child Psychiatry opines that children have been engaged in remote learning, and their issues have not been picked up. Now that they are going back to school, teachers are quick to refer children to the ER and that causes increase usage. There has been a reduction in child beds.

We have seen increase in substance abuse in treatment of patients seeking services. Also, adults with substance abuse problems engaged more with remote care, TelePsychiatry. More reimbursement for TeleCar makes it easier than public transit to the provider. TeleHealth is not face to face, but it is preferred.

It has become an accepted medium in NYC now.

Shelly: A friend's son who was on heroin likes TeleHealth because it's so hard to get up and get out of the house. He finds that online is easier.

Dr S: Adolescents keep appointments better. They get care more often. It is better than no contact.

Shelly: Thank you Dr Singh.

Peter Arndtsen: There are several MH providers in the UWS. They should all have Community Advisory Boards.

There are a concentration of mental health providers in the UWS. Police are frustrated by bringing people to hospitals who have no place to go afterwards.

There is a need for easy contacts to assist in crisis situations. We need stronger laws to guide police in care of mentally ill. Community Advisory Boards are critical for community involvement and community support for facilities.

Wendy Blank: I support Peter's point of view. One family member was brought to the ER for psychosis and was turned away. He was taken up where he was hospitalized for schizophrenia.

People in psychosis are in no condition to give consent. We need to change the system. Are there not empty beds that be reactivated? Bellevue and Creedmoor are examples.

David Megley: Those on the street are not connected to family. Reconnection where possible to family can be a major help for these individuals.

Natalia Malone: Wonderful meeting. A close friend is a nurse at Bellevue, founder of the Bilingual Psych Ward that was suddenly closed. Safety of staff is an issue. How can community residents support CM Bottcher.

Shelly: We will have a HHS Resolution. Advocate for our Resolution. MH issues will be on agenda of upcoming forums. Showing up and advocating works, as does testimony. The number of advocates that show up and speak at the Cith Council is important, too.

Shelly: Thanks again, Dr Singh.

Dr Singh: Feel free to email me with questions.

Shelly introduces Pastor James Payne, who will partner with Shelly and CB7.

Pastor James Payne: Natalia's question is apt. What can you and I do right now about Mental Health. Dr Singh put it as vertical vs horizontal service models. Another way is 'family.' How to curate the idea of closeness and proximity. Becoming trained in MH First Aid is key. He describes MH First Aid and emphasized that it is important to pick up signs of mental illness, changes in patterns of behavior. Mental Health Aiders provide early intervention for mentally ill persons.

He reiterated the need for a horizontal approach as much as a vertical approach. Pastor will sponsor free MH training for anyone interested. We have a sponsor in NYC, who has a 5-year grant to provide this training free.

Shelly: A key issue worked on in the training was stigma around mental health, which still exists. Sports figures and celebrities sharing stories enables other to come out, as well. People need to accept MH as is reality of life. We all have mental health issues on different levels at some time. Participation in MH First Aid would help spread solutions to help those with mental illness.

Pastor Payne: Training would give us tools to share information on MH.

David Megley: 'Listening' is the important tool for assisting MI persons.

SF: Shelly reads and comments on details of our HHS DRAFT Resolution.

Madge: What is happening in schools?

Shelly: Social worker in every school, but how effective has it been? We haven't received a report on their work.



**Shelly proposes Resolution.**

Passed Committee members: 5-0-0-0. Passed Non-committee members: 3-0-0

Passed unanimously.

March meeting: Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention.

**New Business:**

- Charles Shorter, ED, Ryan Health Center.
- Ryan Health Center, had provided services at Regent (104th Street).  
Ryan Center is officially terminating its contract with Volunteers of American, effective in 90 days.

*Meeting was Adjourned at 8:40 pm*

Respectfully submitted by Robert Espier

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

Louisa Craddock and Melissa Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons

*Joint with* HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

February 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

**Present:** Louisa Craddock and Melissa Rosenberg, Co- Chairpersons; Robert Espier Ayala, Kristen Berger, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Ira Mitchneck, Rich Robbins, Susan Schwartz, Ethel Sheffer and Polly Spain. **Chair:** Steven Bown. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Mark Diller, Catherine DeLazero, Bev Donohue, Shelly Fine, Paul Fischer, K Karpen, Doug Kleiman, Madge Rosenberg, Roberta Semer. **CB7/M Staff:** Michelle Booker, District Manager and Max Vandervliet, Assistant District Manager,

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.*

- **Presentation by Roberta Semer, CB7 Budget & Strategy Committee**
  - Info on NYC agency responses to DNS and budge requests sent to all committee members, including schedule for the year and outline for DCP DNS template
  - Asking for committees to meet with stakeholders March-May to get input
  - Vote on budget priorities in July meeting
  - Public hearing in Fall and vote in Steering and October Full Board – respond to OMB responses to CB7 budget requests
  - Using new template, therefore one long report from each committee is not necessary. Will indicate what info is needed.
  - Also looking for letters of community support, e.g. if want to convert a building into senior housing
  - District Needs don't need a budgetary component, could be something like better communication
  - Hope that committee engages closely with community
  - Beverly Donohue
    - Indicated that a number of sections in DCP template address work of several committees - should collaborate closely on budget and DNS
    - DNs don't need budgetary component, could be something like better communication
  - Roberta Semer
    - Should focus on data and site when possible
- **Fortune Society presentation on 258 West 97<sup>th</sup> Street**
  - Fortune Society represented by Joanna Page, CEO; Stanley Richards, Deputy CEO; Sherry Goldstein, VP of Operations; Coleen Roach, Community Relations Consultant;
  - Huge opportunity to create affordable housing at formerly illegal hotel
  - Fortune purchase completed in January 2022
  - HPD and DSS support
  - Design team – Curtis + Ginsberg; ALC and Ted Houghton are consultants
  - About Fortune
    - 54 years old
    - Mission: support reentry from incarceration in terms of housing and supportive services; promote alternatives to incarceration
    - Serve 9,000 people a year
    - Main service center in LIC – housing, employment, supportive services, substance use disorders, family services, HIV services, discharge planning, case management, crisis intervention, lifetime aftercare
    - Programs designed by people most impacted
    - Housing is critical for community reintegration and to rebuild lives
    - This project would also create affordable housing for community members
  - The Fortune Society also has a residence at 140<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverside Drive, Castle Gardens
    - Decided to build something community would be proud of and to create housing for community and those impacted by incarceration
    - Building opened in 2010, 114 units
    - 60% of units dedicated for supportive housing
    - 20,000 s.f. of program space
    - 24 hour security

- Organize community food distribution
- Have been good partners with 30<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- Committed to listen and add value to community
- 258 West 97<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Will be similar in operations of Castle Gardens
  - Commitment to affordable housing for community and for those impacted by justice system;
  - Pathway to jobs: workshops and skills training
  - Onsite supportive services, including in-building case management Mon-Sat, group sessions. Case managers on call Sun. Supplementary services in LIC. Note: all services are voluntary.
  - 24/7 security onsite
  - Two residential aides on site per shift
  - Residents have access to services in LIC as well
  - The building is a SRO and subject to DOB requirements per SROs
  - Only some units will contain bathroom facilities; most will have shared hall bathrooms.
  - 83 dwelling units – all rent-controlled
    - 58 units for formerly homeless persons paying 30% of income (PA)
    - 15 existing SRO tenants who will stay in building
    - 9 units for low-income community members (60% AMI) per neighborhood lottery (HousingConnect)
    - 1 super unit
  - All units will have hospitality kitchens (small refrigerator, microwave oven)
  - Social service offices on first floor
  - Building well-kept, so only minor construction needed but 93 present units will be reconfigured to 83 units to accommodate offices, meeting rooms, etc.
  - Hope 15 SRO tenants stay, but might have to switch units to do work
  - Adding a lift for those with mobility limitations to access basement areas
  - Work will take 12-18 months, so no new tenants will be accepted until then
  - Rigorous tenant screening process
    - Need to be homeless and have justice-involvement
    - Screen for those who are ready for permanent housing
    - Commitment to safety and community – want to be integrated, encourage tenants to get involved in community and CB
    - Excluding
      - Convicted of arson
      - Sex offenders on lifetime registry
      - Meth production
      - Risk of current violence
      - Inappropriate for independent housing model
    - Process – Intake and assessment
      - Skilled clinicians review screenings and vet tenants
      - Ongoing care management
- Outreach
  - Have met with local organizations and elected officials
  - Have offered tours of Castle Gardens
  - Will be attending future CB meetings
  - Will provide contact info
  - Going to 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct community council meeting 3/16
  - Agree to participate with a Community Advisory Board
- **Questions from CB members**
  - Rich Robbins
    - People will be concerned about security and crime. Any data from neighborhoods where Fortune operates?
      - Joanna Page – work closely with 30<sup>th</sup> in Harlem. Made a commitment to neighborhood to make it safer. Cameras and lighting contributed to that. When we arrived, people were afraid

of crime. By the time, we developed adjacent empty lot, CB was supportive. Was an illegal parking lot in backyard and drug dealing before? FS cleaned it up and eliminated drug dealing. Made neighborhood safer. Have become trusted neighbors.

- Polly Spain
  - You mentioned a rigorous assessment. Can you give more details? How long does it last? Do clinicians test people?
    - Stanley Richards: We do intake and assessment for housing. Do an assessment around readiness. Once assessment is done (one-on-one), clinician writes up assessment and that is discussed by team about whether the person is ready for housing. Based on collective assessment, decision is made. Team is case managers, counselors. Real mix of skills.
    - JP: 2 levels of assessment. One for exclusionary categories. Other is ongoing assessment during life of person in residences. More assessment when people are having problems. More of a touch-base if doing well. Ratio of case managers to clients is very low. Have large LIC services space.
- Ethel Sheffer
  - Services described exist in LIC. Is that right?
    - JP: Case management is in building. That is the primary service for residents. Supplemental services in LIC.
  - So, is there space in building for case managers and other services? Created during construction?
    - JP: Converting some rooms into office and meeting space. Retrofitting a kitchen and gathering space on lower level.
  - Stanley mentioned services 6 days a week. What happens on Sunday?
    - SR: will have staff there 24/7. Case management 6 days a week onsite. Probably 8am-8pm.
    - JP: And case managers always on call.
  - On reconstruction and SROs, it has been an SRO, so there are shared bathrooms. How is that working? Refashioning?
    - JP: 2 bathrooms per floor. Some units have en suite bathrooms because building modified over the years.
    - Sherry Goldstein: there are some units without bathrooms that are too small and won't be used.
    - JP: building advertised as 92 rooms, but we will only have 83 units.
  - Will you conform to legal requirements of SRO?
    - Yes
  - I know and like the architect
    - JP: yes, we have done a number of projects with them before
- Mark Diller
  - Appreciate the services noted, especially art. Didn't hear anything about employment or job readiness. Also, can you speak to people reentering justice system and success rate?
    - SR: On employment, have robust employment services. Provide soft skills workshops to help prepare for job searches, interviews. Also have people who cultivate relationships with employers to help people obtain employment. Have job retention staff to help people stay employed and help them build a career. Created another pathway to help people build hard skills that includes remediation, construction, culinary arts to help candidates be competitive.
    - SG: In LIC, one of the biggest volunteer programs is mock interview. Help people practice. A lot of mock interviewers from UWS.
    - JP: To answer on permanent housing, the model for this program is Castle Gardens. Of 63 units, 97% of residents remained in housing for 2 years; 88% for 3-10 years. Very proud of wrap-around services, especially in supportive housing. In criminal justice stats, recidivism is higher for people under 30. Our average age is closer to 40-50 years.
- Catherine DeLazzerio
  - Appreciate what you said about making UWS better. Excited to have FS here. As CB members, we will be representing your residents. How can CB be helpful in supporting residents? What can Upper West Siders do to be good neighbors?

- JP: Need to realize that formerly homeless client have faced stigma most of their lives. If you know as people and invite into your community, they are eager to build new lives. We select people who want that. Will make building transparent and include meeting space for community. Make them welcome.
- Paul Fischer
  - Lives on 97<sup>th</sup> Street. Children grew up here. Has neighbors and friends whose children go to school nearby. What sex offenders accepted?
    - JP: low-risk level 1 sex offenders. To give an example, guy was a few years older than girl. Girl was underage and parents called police. Kid posed no risk whatsoever to community. Will not accept people who pose a risk. 3 levels of classification. 3 is high-risk to reoffend. Only accepting level 1.
    - SG: Courts categorize people. We then decide who will be housed.
- Louisa Craddock
  - What happens when clients have gone through job training and people want to move to a regular apartment, not an SRO. Is that part of the program? Encouraged? How much turnover at Castle Gardens?
    - SG: Most people who left Castle Gardens needed a bigger space or reunited with family. Most left for positive reasons.
    - JP: Consider that a success. Expect that the turnover will be higher here because of SROs. If someone enters a relationship, won't want to live in an SRO. We will support them. Expect two groups of people -- elderly will stay for life; others will move out for positive reasons
  - Mentioned healthcare. Do you provide it onsite?
    - JP: Have relationships and do referrals to local health centers, nearby hospitals. Have a nurse on staff at LIC. Do care management. Formerly incarcerated have health issues of someone 10 years older.
- Ira Mitchneck
  - Toured CG a number of years ago. And project team is great.
  - Using small spaces for anything else if not housing?
    - JP: will combine them when possible. Can use as small offices or storage. 10 rooms too small.
    - SG: Some will be opened up
  - Any informal social spaces? Encourage them.
  - Won't have professional staff 24/7, but usually have someone at building entrance 24/7. Offering that?
    - SG: Yes, residential aides. Not just security, they get to know tenants. Only 83 residents, so they will know them a notice if someone seems off or has something going on and can call a case manager.
  - Work alone or in pairs?
    - SR: 2 RAs at a time
    - JP: Clinical staff on 24/7 call
  - Any live in UWS?
    - JP: yes, have several.
    - SG: No one moving in for 18 months. Doing a training for current staff to get them
- Madge Rosenberg
  - Any entertainment rooms? Communal meals?
    - JP: Food equals love and food creates community. Do a lot around communal meal. Will be a shared space in cellar and in lobby.
    - SG: After architects do design, will think of what can be put in where. Also cleaning up back area to put chairs outside
    - SR: Also have services in LIC and encourage people to use that and serve meals there as well.
  - All men?
    - JP: No, co-ed
- Shelly Fine
  - In terms of health services, have long-term relationship with Ryan Center on 97<sup>th</sup> and Mount Sinai Morningside. Would be good to have other services available, would be good to have closer to home. Can help make connections if needed.

- Have lots of other connections that can be made with religious and other institutions and will have opportunity to create community.
  - JP: Appreciate that. This is a neighborhood of opportunity, want people linked to them.
- Miranda
  - Mentioned an interview process. Anticipate many more applications than rooms?
    - JP: That is the heartbreaker. Of 9k who come to FS per year, 25% are homeless. Huge number of prisoners leave prison and go straight to city shelter. This is a dop in the bucket that can only save a handful of lives. Trying to develop more. Working on a building to open in 2024 and working with BronxPro on senior apartments. Need is overwhelming.
    - SG: Also help people find housing
- K Karpen
  - Welcome. Pastor at St Paul and St Andrew at 86<sup>th</sup> and WEA. Have been working with other FBOs on justice-involvement. Would love to collaborate and welcome partnership. Church is also base for West Side Campaign against Hunger.
    - JP: Welcome partnership
- Steve Brown
  - How does someone end up at FS? What is funnel pf people reaching FS?
    - JP: Have collaborated with DSS on filling units at Castle Gardens. For this project, we have an arrangement with city to only take people from shelters. DSS sends referrals, FS screens and recruits. We have a number of current clients who are in shelter, so can recruit from those they know.
  - What is average time someone stays in units?
    - JP: In Harlem, average is 7 years, but may be lower here because they are SROs.
- Roberta Semer
  - Have known of work for a long time. It is very important we work with you.
  - Talked about food, so maybe community orgs can be involved in meals with you.
- Melissa Rosenberg
  - Will rear yard be used for smoking?
    - SG: Will be using backyard for other activities and plantings.
    - SR: Want people to live healthy lives and we focus on smoking cessation.
  - How will you prevent gathering in front of building?
    - SR: RAs will engage people and encourage them not to gather.
    - JP: We have not had that as an issue at Castle Gardens
  - Will you share contact info with the community?
    - JP: We will give out contact info and will attend CB meetings.
  - Will you have a Community Advisory Bord?
    - JP: Yes, plan to.
- **Members of the public**
  - Maria Danzilo
    - Have researched FS and thank you for great work. We are all aware of need for affordable housing in Manhattan and NYC. I am part of a new group with 150 members from all over NYC and very concerned about government transparency.
    - Have questions about how this came to pass. Respects FS's work but need to note the 10-year waitlist for senior housing in neighborhood. Young people can't afford to live here. LGBTQ youth. Lots of needs in NYC.
    - Reported that this transaction concluded in 1/31/22 for \$11M as a result of a case brought by city for illegal hotel use. Newspaper did not link to resulting purchase. How are these things connected? Any city council involvement?
    - Appears to be a settlement of city lawsuit.
    - As someone who has attended meetings for a long time, last month's committee brought up conversions and this was not brought up. Appreciate spirit of transparency, but not getting off on right foot.
      - JP: FS saw opportunity to acquire hotel as a means of cutting short five-year process to build from ground up. Explored a number of options. Bought the property on the open market

through a broker. We were not aware of city lawsuit until later in process. The two were not connected except that suit had to be settled so property was not encumbered with city sanctions. Closed on financing on 1/31. In agreement for sale, were sworn to silence and could not discuss. Two things were not connected, as bought on open market.

- What was the reason for confidentiality in contract?
  - JP: was a condition of the seller.
- Any government money used for transaction?
  - JP: Yes, for construction and operation. Mostly through competitive bid.
- Any other bidders on the property?
  - JP: We were approached by a colleague who was looking at creating opportunities through sale of hotels. Ted Houghton. He has done a number of arrangements for nonprofits.
- Is Ted Houghton a paid consultant?
  - JP: Yes, because he brought deal to us. He had offered it to a number of nonprofits.
- Grateful for transparency. Very concerning that this was done without any CB involvement. Doing important work, but other needs in neighborhood.
  - JP: Happens all the time. Normally inform the community ASAP. Have done that as first stops were CB and electeds. In the world of private business, wish that private developers had to consult with community, but nonprofits are the exception. Proud of transparency.
- Secrecy is unfair to communities. Might be other groups. You are taking it off the market for people in the UWS who desperately need places to live. Done with a paid broker and consultant.
  - JP: funding requires 30 years of affordability. Preserved affordable housing. Hank Fried owned 3 hotels. The Marrakech was destroyed and is being turned into luxury housing.
- Know neighborhood well and have spoken with residents on 95<sup>th</sup> street and there are similar facilities in the neighborhood.
  - MR: willing to coordinate with other service providers in neighborhood?
    - JP: yes, already meeting with Goddard
- Kim Duncan
  - Representing many small businesses on Broadway in the 90s. Have many existing issues on Broadway. Have loitering and panhandling, mentally unstable people. People don't want to walk down Broadway in 90s. How can this go in with shelters nearby already? Customers scared to walk at night
  - What accountability? What happens when there is a problem? How do you deal with people not using services?
  - 14 vacant stores in the 90s.
  - Where do people go during the day if not employed? Very upset and anxious.
  - Look at West Side Rag comments. Not alone in feeling this way.
    - JP: would suggest considering FS 10-year record in West Harlem. We are not supplying panhandlers, supplying people. Accountability is that if one of the tenants is causing a problem, call FS. Address issues as they arise.
  - How do you know what people do during the day?
    - SR: That's what onsite case managers do. They know if people are engaging with services.
    - JP: Will behave like other people in neighborhood. If there are problems, will intervene. Not a shelter. Cannot resolve problems with people who are not FS residents. Will supply you with a number to call 24/7
- Pablo Zevallos
  - Fan of FS's work and thankful for housing coming back and helping a population that has a lot of need.
  - Lives 4 blocks away and excited to see this. Happy to be of help.
  - What are your plans to make apartments available?
    - JP: People can apply through Housing Connect. Got 8 Section 8 vouchers.
- Peter Arndtsen
  - Welcome to neighborhood. Looking forward to that building getting up and running. Great to take over building that was run by a criminal.
  - Neighborhood has had SROs for years and they are a great housing resource that was taken away by private developers.
  - With WSCAH operating at St. Paul and St. Andrew, that's an opportunity to volunteer.



- For outdoor space, restaurants found it helpful to put up retractable awnings and umbrellas to mitigate noise in backyard.
- CABs are an ideal best practice, as much as you can encourage that with other orgs. Did it at 108<sup>th</sup> Street and was very helpful.
- Martha Greenough
  - Understand FS involved in JISH (Justice in Supportive Housing) program. Will residents in this building part of that program?
    - JP: No, those are high-need people who bounce between shelters and jails. These residents will be screened to be lower need. JISH clients wouldn't be ready for this.
  - One of FS's models is to do scattered-site housing. Is that part of the model here?
    - JP: No, our model is congregate housing.
  - Would scattered site clients be using services here?
    - JP: No, they would go to LIC. We prefer congregate. Can offer more services while living with Fortune Society under daily observation. Scattered site offers opportunity for housing without FS owning the building. Must deal with landlords. House half our people that way, but not desirable.
  - Are you committed to not doing scattered site in this neighborhood?
    - JP: Could not afford to do scattered site here. Can afford it here because of long-term funding from city. Scattered site rents units from private landlords. This is a congregate setting; FS owns building.
- Michelle Benvenuti
  - Wants to return to question asked about issue with residents. Saying we will address it is not a plan. Even if few issues arise, what is the plan to deal with it?
    - JP: It needs to be brought to attention. Second, would have a case manager meet with the person and unpack issue. Would then wrap services around person to address issue. If illegal activity, make it a condition that it cease or intervene and would jeopardize ability to keep housing.
  - In relation to LIC, is there any accountability that a resident running into issues must use services?
    - JP: Bound by lease and all services are voluntary. Screen for likelihood to use services. Bound by lease and cannot force people. If behavior would jeopardize housing, can make it a condition to use services.
- Kristin Jordan
  - Thanks FS, for responses. Lives at 98<sup>th</sup> and Riverside. Has worked with unhoused for entire life. Also, part of activism around cannabis. Discussed the desire to lower rate of cigarette use but encourage patience with use of marijuana. Should be appropriate places for that consumption. Low-income people could benefit from use.
  - Hopeful that some entrepreneurs would pursue opportunities in cannabis industry.
  - Walks by 97<sup>th</sup> street nightly and looks forward to supports and services.
- Estee Williams
  - Is there precedent for mix of FH clients and community residents onsite? Separate entrances?
    - JP: No, all units will be mixed together.
  - Do you expect to easily fill units?
    - JP: yes, there is such a dearth of units at that level of affordability.
  - Will there be community preference?
    - JP: Not for 58 units. Remaining 24 units have 15 units of existing references.
    - MR: Willing to work with CBOs to spread the word?
  - What about people with mental issues?
    - JP: We will be screening people for suitability for independent living, so we are not taking people with severe mental illness. Will have some people with substance use disorders and mental illness but will screen out those who cannot live in this setting.
  - Is there an expectation of more use of EMS or ambulances?
    - JP: Have not seen that at Castle Gardens. Will have older people and therefore those with health conditions. Would not expect disproportionate need for emergency services.
  - Overdoses?
    - JP: With mental health services from FS and screenings, don't expect to see those issues.

- Haleigh Tutrow
    - When you organize events at LIC, can you offer tenants transportation there besides public transit?
      - JP: many uses, but we do issue MetroCard's.
  - Jane Thompson
    - Do you have steps? Do you have a ramp? Elevators?
      - JP: Elevator in building and steps. Have explored a lift to go to cellar. Pursuing funding to make that possible.
    - Possible to have ramp instead of lift? Need someone to run lifts.
      - JP: Ramp would need to extend too far on sidewalk to reach required slope. Building does pose challenges.
    - What happens if someone has a child or partner? Guests allowed?
      - JP: Units really meant for singles. If people have families, will be incentivized to move out. Will probably allow guests for a night, but not permanent.
  - Kenneth Karpel
    - Is a neighbor and board of Lotus community garden across the street.
    - Any exterior work planned as part of rehab that might affect garden?
  - JP: no, should not affect garden.
- CM Gale Brewer – would be a good lesson for other nonprofits to be as open as FS. This is the bar that others should aim for. Big fan of FS.

# DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES

Maxwell Vandervliet, Assistant District Manager

February 23, 2022 at 10:30 AM via ZOOM

*The District Service Cabinet of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Assistant District Manager Maxwell Vandervliet (MV).*

## INTRODUCTIONS

All agencies and participants are thanked for their participation and feedback regarding the survey to establish future meeting times. We are confirming meetings as we advance scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am.

## AGENCY UPDATES/ REPORTS

- **Luke Szabados, Department of Buildings**

We want to provide homeowners, landlords, or design professionals with resources. We're currently hosting biweekly Q&A sessions to answer constituents' questions. Information can be found here, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/dob/upcoming-events.page>

**Q:** MV-

- Thank you for looking into the smokestack located at 250 West 78th Street after receiving several complaints.
- What's the "Stop Work Order" status for 33 West 63rd Street? It's my belief the scaffolding was not utilized for over a year. I am uncertain if there's additional information available

**A:** Luke- I will look this up and get back to you

**UPDATE:** 33 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, does not have a stop work order on file.

- **Colleen Chattergoon, Department of Transportation**

- We are coordinating with the contract to Jud Lau on the Rotunda project. They have set up their staging construction site in your district. The assigned project manager, Kaitlin Magee, has been sending a weekly advisory to CB's and elected officials on this matter. Should any complaints come in, please forward them to either myself or Kaitlin and we will address them.
- We are also putting together our resurfacing schedule, so if you know any locations within CB7 that you would like us to inspect the roadway for eligibility, please forward the locations.

**Q:** MV-

- Following up on:
  - 110 West 70<sup>th</sup> (BDWY – Col Ave), replacement of the Lamppost

**A:** Colleen – I believe it was installed but I will confirm that.

- West 70<sup>th</sup> – 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets WEA, secure plates

**A:** Colleen – I believe an inspection was completed. I will look into who we issued the corrective action request to repair the plates.

- **Joshua Adams, School Construction Authority**

- **Project at P.S. 333**

- WORK to the exterior façade is currently being done. We are still building corners and brick replacement around the building. We will do the roof work in spring, which we cannot commence now due to the cold weather.
- WORK SCHEDULE, we are still on track with the timeline provided to the community. We aim to finish this project by the middle of August and latest early September. With completion occurring at the end of November. Due to Saturday work, we could push the project back about four weeks.
- COMPLAINTS, none have been submitted since our last meeting. We need to address several issues raised regarding noise or problems with the contractor. I will follow up with an email regarding any outstanding issues.

**Q:** MV- Regarding PS165, what is the status of the issue with rats at the construction site? Has it gotten better, same or worst?

**A:** Joshua – We are in the process of getting in contact with DSNY and getting a few pictures together. I am not sure if it's gotten worse or better, but we have a rat company that mitigates at the school, and they haven't observed any issues around the construction site itself. Rat complaints have continued regarding the trash issue from dwellings immediately flanking the schools.

**Q:** Erik – Between August and November's project timeline, will there be a clearance or congregating space for the public?

**A:** Joshua –

- P.S. 333: That's not an option since we first started with the facade work to approach the rooftop portion later in spring. It would have been simpler if it was only the facade-related work, in which specific areas could be completed to reduce the staging area. We can't reduce the staging area for safety reason due to the cylinder protection and for the warranty of the roof. We want our warranty for the roof to last, which typically lasts for about 20 years.
- P.S. 165: We are looking at possible areas to reduce staging since the work only consists of the roof and most of the work can be completed early. Currently, some stonework is being done, yet most of the stonework will commence in spring. Since the sealant for the stone needs to be placed during warmer weather to prevent cracking during cold or heavily windy days.

- **Marissa Yanni, Department of Sanitation**

- Curb Composting Program has been put on pause aside from the seven districts that already received it due to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. CB7 will not be affected! You will continue to receive services, but we won't be adding any new districts for the time being. We will continue to keep working with the Mayor's office and get more information about the plan moving forward. That's his first budget, and he will be putting out another one either this week or next. Also, the City council needs to weigh in, so there's a lot more that needs to happen.

**Q:** Joshua – Wanted to know if DSNY can assist us with two properties that are leaving excessive garbage by the projects staging area creating a rat issue. Are you able to do additional drive-by or sending an enforcement vehicle to address excessive garbage especially on non-garbage days?

**A:** Marissa – Please send me an e-mail with the addresses to forward to enforcement. Also, go to DOHMH (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/rats.page>) just to report the rats. They will also give the property a fine/ticket.

**Q:** Max – I have a complaint about excessive garbage and rats by a NYCHA property at 239 W 1103<sup>rd</sup> Street, should I also go through DOHMH?

**A:** Marissa – Yes, everything with rats goes through DOHMH. With NYCHA, it's a bit trickier because it's like giving yourself a ticket. After all, they are "The City" as well! We can provide them with an image, work with the porters, and go over their waste management plan. Please forward it to me and have a supervisor/superintendent revise and speak to building management. It's a bit difficult because they're managed by different people, not a specific person.

**Q:** Peter – I just wanted to inform you the Superintendent at District 7 has worked well with us. We've had a problem with garbage being a mix between residential and commercial, and it sits and the rat's increase. Supervisor Lispina and Perry have been very helpful with clearing that out. We are trying to push the Commercial haulers to use containers because of the rat problem. We want to advocate for it mandatory for curbside composting because we are a rat index area. I know it can be cost saving, but I believe it will be controversial.

**A:** Marissa – We would love mandatory curbside compost collection, as well our hands are just tied. Unfortunately, things cost money. As we get more information, we will provide further updates. I am hoping for good news as the weeks go by.

- **Verna, Department for the Aging**

- Meals are still available at different adult centers which some congregate and others are grab-and-go.
- March 1st is the deadline to apply for the enhanced star. To be eligible, you must:
  - Be receiving the basic star property tax exemption;
  - Must be 65 by the end of this year, December 31<sup>st</sup>;
  - Income must not be above \$92,000;
- Encourage to sign up for our newsletter <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/news-reports/newsletters.page>

- **Sandra Sanchez, Fire Department of NY**

- We had a fatal fire at 80 Amsterdam Avenue since we last met. According to the fire marshals, this fire is still under investigation; therefore, we don't have a "cause" yet. We will continue to push "Fire Safety" education to the community.
- Tip of the Month – Burn Awareness Week.
  - Place the burned area underwater for 15-20 minutes;

- Cover the burn with sterilized materials to prevent infection; and
  - Lastly, call 9-1-1 or your primary care provider. Please avoid old wife tales and seek proper medical treatment.
- **Kimberly Williams, Con Ed**
    - West End Avenue
      - Between W 100<sup>th</sup> – 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, transmission work is proposed for a month starting March from 9 am – 4 pm for weekday work. We are in contact with Gale Brewers Office and The Mayor’s Office for Media and Entertaining due to filming also happening in the area to ensure there isn’t any conflict.
      - West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, gas work is ongoing.
      - Between 63<sup>rd</sup> – 64<sup>th</sup> Streets, transmission work is proposed through March.
    - West 99<sup>th</sup> between Broadway and West End Avenue should continue until the end of April.
    - West 70<sup>th</sup>, we checked on the plate’s issue. If there are any additional issues, I am sure Colleen will reach out.
      - Colleen – the plates belong to ConEd and they were secured. Due to traffic, plates tend to shift.
    - There was an uptick in contact voltage reports in the area, and I encourage you to reach out to me or contact ConEd directly, especially after work hours. They will send someone out to check immediately.
  - **Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson**
    - Bill of the Day S7198 (<https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1379379>) The purpose of this bill is to reform of school discipline policies to ensure fair and equitable application school discipline for all students.
    - March 5<sup>th</sup>, Gun buyback program initiated last month where we are purchasing guns from the youth to take them off the streets. We hope it will be successful, since last time we held this event, we obtained 70 guns.
    - We started a podcast called “What’s Up S31?” accessible on the apple, radio, and google podcast platforms.
    - ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program), if you or anyone you know has any issues with rental assistance, please feel free to call our office, and we will be able to assist. We are open 9 am – 5 pm, and you can call (212) 544-0173.
  - **Sergeant Sean Pallone, 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct**
    - Crime is up a little bit but nothing of concern. Last year was historically low as well as the year before that. The one trend we have encountered is a lot of e-bike theft from delivery drivers. This issue falls under Grand Larceny, which brings up our numbers.
    - We are still out there doing our job!
  - **BIDS**
    - **Peter Arndtsen, Columbus/Amsterdam Avenue**
      - We have an upcoming "Open Street" application on daylight savings day on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will start working on Amsterdam, and I'm awaiting confirmation from DOT.
      - We have many issues with rats and garbage, yet DSNY has been helpful.
      - We are in the process of petitioning for 25 new trees around the NYCHA development by Frederick Douglass. The Tree Project from the Mayor can be helpful towards these initiatives and other trees in the neighborhood. We will have a lot of flower bulbs coming up in Amsterdam and Columbus.
    - **Nicole Paynter, Columbus/Amsterdam Avenue**
      - Currently planning Spring programming
      - Working on “Art on the Avenue,” we put artwork on our vacant storefronts. We are bringing that back. We have a call to art out, and I can share if it’s possible to share in your newsletter. If anyone has artist friends, and all artists are local and underrepresented artists. So, it’s a great program and an excellent platform for a local artist.
    - **Monica Blum, Lincoln Square**
      - Everything is reasonably OK and there’s nothing to report.
  - **Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried**
    - There's not much to report since this will be AM Gottfried's last term in Albany. Therefore, he has a lot on his legislative priority, such as "Fair Pay for Home Care." They are currently in the midst of budget preparation and passage. Locally, I checked in with George James, the attorney assisting Lynn Mark West to file the application in connection with the ABC site, as far as having it part of the Lincoln Square District zoning

regulations. It had been exempted as a functioning tv studio, but it's not going to be in the reasonably near foreseeable future. So, it's something we are keeping an eye on.

**CB7 Staff:** Maxwell Vandervliet (MV), ADM and Yassiel Nieves, CA. **Agencies Present:** Sean Pallone, NYPD 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct; John McDonald, NYPD 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Sandra Sanchez, FDNY; Erik Cuello, MBPO; Marissa Yanni, DSNY; Colleen Chattergoon, DOT; Luke Szabados, DOB; Kimberly Williams, ConEd; Joshua Adams, SCA; and Verna Arthur, Department for the Aging. **BID:** Monica Blum, Lincoln Square BID; Peter Arndtsten and Nicole Paynter, Columbus Amsterdam BID. **Elected Officials:** Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried; and Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson.

*The meeting was adjourned at 11: 10 a.m.*