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BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

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Joint Committees' Public Hearing Minutes
Environmental Protection & Parks
Traffic, Transportation and Public Service
April 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKdzo82_etA

The Environmental Protection and Parks, and Traffic, Transportation and Public Service
Committees met jointly on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Gerard (Jerry) Ruggiero opened the meeting with a pledge to the Flag of the United States of
America.

Attendance roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Olu A. Ajayi, Jordan Hafizi, Fred R. Guinta, Dr. Allan B. Perel,
Gerard J. Ruggiero, Stephen W. Zaderiko.

Board Members Absent: Igor Baboshkin, Ben D'Amato, Simone DiTrapani,
Diane L. McNamara

Staff Present: Debra A. Derrico

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:

Griffin Fossella for Council Member David M. Carr

Ninarose Salerno for State Senator Scarcella-Spanton.

Diana Switaj for State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

Jennifer Miller for Borough Commissioner Lynda Ricciardone of NYC Department of Parks &
Recreation

Guests: Carol Donovan of Richmondtown & Clarke Avenue Civic Association
Debi Vadola, president of Midland Beach Civic Association
Roop S.

Agency Representatives:

National Grid - Anthony El Houayek, Noelle Connolly, Joseph Rodak NYC EDC -Tara Das

NYC DEP - Robert Olivari for NYC DEP

NYC DOT - Borough Commissioner Rosanne Caravana, Victoria Carstensen, Martha Isaacs,
Alicia Posner and David Northmore

NYC Parks & Recreation - Jennifer Miller

Jerry announced the first presentation on the agenda.

National Grid will give a presentation on the Travis Avenue Wetland Mitigation Project.

Anthony El Houayek of National Grid showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Travis Avenue Wetlands Mitigation Project. NYC EDC is performing the project from Victory Boulevard to Richmond Avenue. The issue with Travis Avenue is that when there is a heavy rain or storm surge, the roadway floods and makes it difficult to travel so EDC is taking the initiative to raise the roadway to mitigate it from flooding. Due to EDC's project, National Grid has been directed to retire approximately 3,500' of an existing 12" steel HP gas main located on Travis Avenue between Victory Boulevard and Mulberry Avenue. In order to do this National Grid must install 8,500' of 16" Steel HP main along Victory Boulevard, Signs Road, Richmond Avenue and Draper Place, eventually tying back into the existing 12" main on Travis Avenue. National Grid will perform construction in three different phases. Phase 1: April-July 2023-Richmond Avenue between Travis Avenue and Signs Road (no anticipated road closures), Phase 2: July-October- Signs Road between Richmond Avenue and Victory Boulevard (no anticipated road closures), and Phase 3: October 2023-February 2024- Victory Boulevard, between Signs Road and Travis Avenue (no anticipated road closures).

Jerry made a motion in favor of approving "The Travis Avenue Wetlands Mitigation Project." Resolution "to approve the Travis Avenue Wetlands Mitigation Project."

Committee Member's Vote: 6-In Favor; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstentions; 0- Not Entitled

Martha Isaacs of NYC DOT showed a PowerPoint presentation. To curb speeding and traffic on Lincoln Avenue, the NYC Department of Transportation's proposal would narrow Lincoln Avenue from two to one between the Grant City Staten Island Railway stop and Midland Beach. The 1.16-mile stretch between Father Capodanno Boulevard and North Railroad Avenue is in a Vision Zero priority corridor, having one of the highest rates of traffic violence in the borough, according to DOT. Drivers speed through so often that NYPD officials asked the DOT to address the speeding DOT's redesign would make the northern curb between Father Capodanno Boulevard and Boundary Avenue — which today becomes a second driving lane for three hours during the evening rush — into around-the-clock car storage:

The block between Boundary Street and Hylan Boulevard would not change under DOT's plan. West of Hylan Boulevard, where the roadway grows to 37 feet, the city plans to narrow the two current lanes to one, and add an exposed bike lane with a three-foot painted buffer. The agency also hopes to paint curb extensions and add crosswalks outside Public School 38 at Lincoln Avenue and Poultney Street.

Jerry made a motion in favor of approving NYC DOT's Safety Improvements on Lincoln Avenue."

Resolution "to approve NYC DOT's Safety Improvements on Lincoln Avenue."

Committee Member's Vote: 6-In Favor; 0-Opposed; 0-Abstentions; 0- Not Entitled

Jerry announced the last presentation on the agenda.

Robert Olivari of NYC Department of Environmental Protection gave a PowerPoint Presentation on NYC DEP Amnesty Program. In January, Mayor Adams launched a temporary water bill

amnesty program to help New Yorkers save up to \$150 million of interest when they pay their overdue water bills. The amnesty program was authorized by the New York City Water Board and will only run until April 30, 2023. Because DEP wants to ensure that all eligible water customers are able to take advantage of the program, DEP has attached a deck with information about the program that can easily be sent out. DEP will also be sending this information to council members and other groups to help spread the word. This program is especially important for low-income homeowners who may be eligible for debt forgiveness if they have already participated in New York State's Low-Income Homeowner Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). DEP is offering up to an additional \$30 million to assist these homeowners with forgiveness of up to \$5,000 of their remaining delinquent balances. DEP wants to ensure that low-income homeowners have applied for both programs so that they can qualify for the maximum funds available. To receive amnesty and confirm eligibility, or for more information, customers should visit DEP's water amnesty website or call (718) 595-7000.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.