

Manhattan Community Board Six
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM
NYU Langone Medical Center
550 First Avenue, Alumni Hall A

Board Chair Rick Eggers called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. He introduced Secretary Kathy Thompson and District Manager for CB6, Jesús Pérez.

The agenda was adopted.

The first roll call was conducted by Assistant Secretary Aaron Humphrey.

Public Session - Elected Representatives and Agency Reports

Council Member Ben Kallos announced that every M15 bus has recently been replaced with new buses. The bus arrival time data has proved to be unreliable in the older buses and MTA has committed to replacements not just on the M15 but also on the M101, M102, and M103. He is also working to restore preK seats that have been lost. Mr. Kallos will be co-hosting a Housing Forum on Tenants Rights, SCRIE/DRIE and Rent Guidelines Board Rent Rollback on May 18th at 6 pm. For more information please go to:

<http://benkallos.com/>.

Larson Binzer from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's office reported that on Monday, May 8, Ms. Maloney introduced legislation to reduce gun deaths through a smart gun technology bill. The bill promotes development of a 'smart gun' which is operated via the owner's fingerprint. Ms. Maloney recently joined other elected officials downtown to speak out about the firing of Former FBI Director James Comey; and called for an independent investigation into Russian ties to our government. She also reported that \$67M in federal funding will be provided to New York as reimbursement for the costs associated with protecting the Trump family. Congresswoman Maloney celebrated the opening of the Kosciusko Bridge recently. Finally, Ms. Maloney's office is starting a Congressional Youth Cabinet for high school students in the 12th Congressional District, which will serve in an advisory capacity. Please let her office know if you know of a youth to recommend. For more information please go to: <http://maloney.house.gov/>.

Madeline Grunewald from State Senator Liz Krueger's office reported that Ms. Krueger was very pleased with the Mayor's recent announcement of \$100M capital in his Executive Budget to extend the East River Greenway south from East 61st Street to East 53rd Street. She also reported that on May 1st, the State Senate Committees on Labor and Insurance passed two bills relating to reproductive healthcare rights that Ms. Krueger sponsored. Senate Bill S3791, known as the 'Boss Bill', which would ban employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their personal reproductive health decisions. Senate Bill S3790 would increase access to emergency contraception. Thursday, May 11th, is the final Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors for the season. Finally, on Wednesday, May 24th, Ms. Krueger will be holding an event entitled 'State of the Resistance: An Update from the Frontlines with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and State Senator Liz Krueger'. For more information please go to:

<http://www.lizkrueger.com/>.

Brice Peyre from New York State Assembly Member Dick Gottfried's office reported that on May 15th the office will be officially relocated to the new office space at 214 West 29th Street. On April 28th, Mr. Gottfried sent a letter to the MTA outlining his concerns over safety and the impact the proposed Park Avenue Subway Emergency Ventilation Plant will have on Murray Hill residents. Finally, Mr. Gottfried supports Council Member Dan Garodnick's commercial rent tax (CRT) reform legislation. For more information please go to: <http://www.dickgottfried.org/>.

Katie O'Hanlon from New York State Assembly Member Dan Quart's office announced that today the Assembly passed Bill A05667A, Mr. Quart's bill to end discriminatory gravity knife prosecutions. The bill is now on its way to the Senate. Mr. Quart also submitted testimony to the MTA last week on the proposed Park Avenue Subway Emergency Ventilation Plant. For more information please go to: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Dan-Quart>

Michael A. Stinson of Comptroller Scott Stringer's office reported that the Comptroller recently released an audit on broken elevators and escalators in the NYC Transit System. He noted that 80% of the subway stations' elevators and escalators are not maintained regularly; some not at all. He also recently released an audit of the City's oversight of Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS). Of the 333 POPS in the city, 275 have not been inspected in four years. In addition, half of the POPS failed to provide public amenities. For more information please go to: <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/office-of-the-comptroller/about-scott-stringer/>.

Grace Philipp from Council Member Dan Garodnick's office reported on the Mayor's announcement of \$100M in funding for the East River Greenway from East 53rd Street to East 61st Street. Ms. Philip also announced that the former Con Edison pier running from East 38th Street to East 41st Street is now open. On April 27th, Council Member Garodnick held a press conference with Borough President Brewer and other elected officials to urge Mayor de Blasio to support Mr. Garodnick's commercial rent tax (CRT) reform legislation. Finally, Mr. Garodnick recently held a hearing on the impact of the Trump travel ban on the New York City economy. He learned from the hearing that due to the travel ban, the city and state are expected to lose \$120M in tax revenue as the number of foreign visitors decline. For more information please go to: <http://www.garodnick.com/>.

Chair Eggers thanked Mr. Garodnick for his \$1M contribution to the rehabilitation of the former Con Edison pier adding that area as new public open space.

Tricia Ramcharit from Council Member Rosie Mendez's office introduced herself as the new CB6 liaison from Ms. Mendez's office. She reported that Ms. Mendez held community information meetings on February 6th, April 24th and May 4th on the Washington Irving Campus construction schedule and garbage accumulation. Her office is in regular contact with local residents affected by the issues surrounding the ongoing construction. On March 13th, Ms. Mendez and staff of the Borough President's office met with the current operator of Hotel 17 and their attorney. Although the property is zoned as a Single Room Occupancy (SRO), Hotel 17 has been operating as a hotel for almost seventy years. They intend to file a City Planning Commission special permit application to correct this conflict. Since local residents have recently expressed concerns that this property may be about to convert to a City-run homeless shelter, Ms. Mendez's staff followed up with the Department of Homeless Services and were informed that they have no intention of opening a shelter at this location. However, the building is privately owned and the owner can sign a lease with anyone so long as the building is complying with an allowable use under the zoning resolution. For information please go to: <http://council.nyc.gov/d2/html/members/home.shtml>

Senator Brad Hoylman reported that in the recently passed state budget the criminal age of responsibility has been raised from 16 to 18. He noted that he voted against the recent revival of the 421a plan as it appears that it will help create more luxury housing instead of affordable housing that is so desperately needed. Yesterday, Mr. Hoylman honored Michelle D. Winfield as this year's 'Woman of Distinction' for her commitment to community and unshakable sense of civic virtue. He recently introduced legislation with Senator Liz Krueger that would require SUNY, CUNY, and affiliated organizations and foundations to divest from publicly traded fossil fuel companies. Finally, Mr. Hoylman submitted joint testimony with Senator Liz Krueger on May 8th to the New York City Department of City Planning regarding the Greater East Midtown Rezoning proposal. For more information please go to: <http://bradhoylman.com/>.

Jill Schoenfeld from State Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh's office reported on the Mayor's \$100M contribution to close the East River Greenway gap. Ms. Schoenfeld also reported that she had attended CM Mendez's May 4th informational forum on the Washington Irving High School campus construction on behalf of AM Kavanagh. Mr. Kavanagh also recently met with the State Department of Health to express concerns and ask questions regarding the closure of Mount Sinai Beth Israel downtown facilities. She also notes that their office is tracking the Department of Education's lead assessment findings. For information please go to: <http://www.briankavanagh.org/>

Gabrielle Dann-allel from the Mayor's Office introduced herself. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office Ms. Dann-allel was a community liaison with Community Board 4. She reviewed the Mayor's \$100M funding to close the gap in the East River Greenway. For more information please go to: <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/index.page>

Public Session - Members of the Public

Qiyuan Shengni from the Citizens Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Keeping Track of New York City's Children: 2015'. He explained that CCC's mission is to ensure that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. He specifically reviewed the statistics of Manhattan CD 6. For more information please contact Apurva Mehrotra, MPA, Director of Research and Data Analysis at amehrotra@cccnewyork.org.

Louise Dankberg announced that the Bellevue Community Advisory Board (CAB) annual meeting will be held on May 24th at 6 pm. The keynote speaker will be John Jurenko, Vice-President of Health + Hospital Corporation.

Fabrice Armand, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement for the New York City Department of Corrections announced that the department is now hiring for non-uniform positions such as chaplains, physicians, attorneys, and more. He introduced his associates Officers Fredrick and Yeng. For more information please go to: www.nyc.gov/jointheboldest.com

Business Session

The April minutes were adopted as corrected with the clarification that there were two resolutions numbered 8a: Resolution 8a and 8a Negative.

Chair's Report

Chair Eggers reported that he has still not been advised as to board member reappointments. He deferred to Lesley Almanzar from the Borough President's office to update us during her report. Mr. Eggers noted that there is a possibility of a July meeting if the proposed zoning text amendment for the East River Fifties Alliance (ERFA) progresses. He also asked that any board member who wishes to change committee assignments contact him. He noted that the proposed Park Avenue Subway Emergency Ventilation Plant resolution passed last week was submitted during the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. There will be a task force meeting for Mount Sinai Beth Israel tomorrow, May 11th, a meeting on the need for additional school seats on May 16th, and a meeting on the East Side Coastal Resilience Plan on May 16th. Details for these meetings can be found on the board website at www.cbsix.org. Finally, Mr. Eggers requested that all board members sit in the first three rows of the auditorium, as it becomes difficult confirming a quorum and counting a vote if board members are not seated in one location.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Jesús Pérez announced that there would be no office search updates at this time. The Land Use and Waterfront Committee referred to the office the case of a billboard on Second Avenue and 36th Street. The committee asked that the Department of Buildings (DOB) order the billboard to be demolished. It has no permits. The story of the permits is long and spans some 37 years with court cases and appeals to various agencies; the final determination being that the permits that Perl binder Holdings thought they had for this sign were improperly granted. After various legal proceedings the original BSA ruling that the permits were improperly granted stands. Mr. Perez spoke to the DOB and asked them to refer the matter to their Special Enforcement Unit for Signs so that a Notice of Violation could be issued. When he followed up last week DOB advised that the property at 663 Second Avenue was issued four Environmental Control Board (ECB) Notices of Violation on April 3rd, 2017, which cite the illegal sign and billboard structure. Perl binder now has to face the DOB at an Environmental Control Board hearing. There is an automatic \$4,000 fine if they don't show.

Treasurer's Report

Assistant Treasurer Brian Van Nieuwenhoven reported on behalf of Treasurer Beatrice Disman that the OMB Report from May 1, 2017 shows that of the Personal Services Budget of \$194,628, a balance of \$80,357 remains, with \$114,271 spent or obligated. The current budget for Other Than Personal Services excluding rent is \$129,911. The balance is \$94,856, which includes Street Fair Funds of \$88,128. Without Street Fair Funds the balance is \$41,782, with \$35,055 spent or obligated and \$6,728 remaining. Finally, our rent budget is \$126,009.00 with the balance, unchanged from last month, being \$22,627 and \$103,382 spent or obligated.

Borough President's Report

Lesley Almanzar from Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office reported that Community Board applications were still being processed. While the goal had been to send out the appointment letters by the end of April, it has taken some additional time as there were so many good applications to review. All boards will remain with their same membership until June, and the Borough President's Reception will be postponed until the fall. On May 11th the Borough President will be joining with the Manhattan Jewish Historical Society to celebrate Jewish

American Month. Ms. Brewer's office is also conducting a Waterfront Photo Contest to welcome the NYC Ferry Service. Finally, Ms. Brewer is sponsoring a Diabetes Health Fair on May 23rd. For more information please go to: <http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/home/home.shtml>.

Committee Resolutions & Reports

1. Street Vendor Working Group

Chair Ann Seligman reported on proposed legislation to curb licenses for not only sidewalk vendors but food trucks as well. The bill is not under active consideration at this time. The task force has not identified any major issues in our district, but welcomes input from the board. One issue they are focusing on is sanitation. They have contacted the district's police precincts, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), The Street Vendor Project, community groups, elected officials, and other community boards. The many regulations are obscure and cross departments at the city and state levels. The task force will be launching an online survey soon to get input from the community.

2. Budget and Governmental Affairs

Chair Pedro Carrillo reported that the Comptroller's Office made a presentation at the April committee meeting on the City's savings and the outlook for the next fiscal year, along with the impact changes in Washington's budget will have on the City's funding. The Comptroller wrote an Op Ed in late April where he suggested certain municipalities across the country are creating narrative budgets that would break down into simple format to follow programmatic changes from one year to the next. He also reported that the committee is considering a resolution in support of Council Member Kallos' Intro 1176, which would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide access to certain budget-related documents in a machine-readable format.

3. Housing, Homeless and Human Rights

Acting Chair Raj Nayar thanked Committee Member Mary Silver for connecting the 30th Street Shelter with artists for a joint art project benefiting the 30th Street Shelter residents. The 30th Street Shelter will also be working with New York Cares to paint murals and plant trees with the Kips Bay Neighborhood Alliance. The Department of Homeless Services has offered a tour of the 30th Street Shelter to the community to view the residents' artwork.

4. Parks, Landmarks and Cultural Affairs

Vice Chair Gary Papush waived a report.

5. Health and Education

Chair Ahsia Badi reported that the proposed resolution on advisory boards for all hospitals has been laid over until May. The senior survey is ready to be sent out; some final logistics are yet to be completed.

6. Business Affairs and Street Activities

Chair Keith Powers reported that Resolution 6b has a spelling change and the addition of the word 'now' to 'therefore be'. Resolution 6f should be changed on the ballot to reflect 4 tables and 12 chairs. Resolutions 6a, b, d, e, f, g, i, j, k, l were bundled and passed. Chair Powers waived his report. Board Member Aaron Humphrey asked if the community had any updates on the taco establishment on 28th Street that has such long lines outside. Mr. Powers noted that the committee will investigate.

7. Land Use and Waterfront

Chair Sandro Sherrod reported that Resolution 7a's final 'Whereas' should have the word 'now', not 'and'. Resolution 7a passed unanimously. Resolution 7b's final 'Whereas' should be 'now', not 'and'. Resolution 7b passed. Mr. Sherrod reported that there will be a meeting on the East Side Coastal Resiliency on May 16th. There is a possibility that the committee will need to meet during the summer to address the proposed text amendment from the East River Fifties Alliance (ERFA).

8. Transportation

Committee Members Molly Hollister and Kathleen Kelly presented Resolution 8a. Ms. Kelly reviewed the details of the resolution, which is in support of Senate Bill S1543A, to increase the number of traffic light cameras permitted on New York City streets to 250. Board Member Brian Van Nieuwenhoven moved to strike the second 'Resolved', which was seconded by Board Member Gene Santoro. Mr. Van Nieuwenhoven explained his reasoning and a discussion amongst board members ensued. There was a voice vote as to striking the second 'Resolved', which was passed. Resolution 8a, as amended, passed. Ms. Hollister and Ms. Kelly waived a report.

There was no old or new business.

Board Member Ahsia Badi congratulated Board Member Sarah Shmoon for her acceptance to Harvard.

The second roll call was conducted by Assistant Secretary Aaron Humphrey.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kathy Thompson.