

CB9M Uniform Services and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, September 3, 2020; Zoom Conference Meeting

Attendance:

US&T Committee: Hon. Carolyn Thompson, Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson, Co-Chairs; Hon. April Tyler; Members Excused: Hon. Patricia Lewis, Hon. Theodore Kovaleff, Hon. Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas, Hon. Derrick Johnson.

CB9: Hon. Heather Jason; Eutha Prince, CB9 District Manager & Meeting Host.

NYPD: Deputy Inspector Lourdes Soto, 30th Precinct Commanding Officer.

DOT: Lyle Blackwood, Community Coordinator, Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office.

Bank Street College of Education: Shael Suransky, President; Suleyni Abreu, Deputy CEO; Marvel Architects: Lissa So, Partner; Jennifer Olson, Director; Brian Weinberg, Langan Engineering.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation: Bank Street School for Children - West 112th Playstreet Applications

- Playstreet applications submitted to DOT and DOE for use of West 112th Street, between Broadway and Riverside Drive in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist with student drop-offs/handoff, encourage social distancing which is basically done in the classroom, not enough space to do so on the sidewalk; motorists will still be able to park on the block, also access to emergency vehicles, deliveries, et al.
- Application is in response to COVID, when the pandemic passes, play street applications will be lifted, is not a permanent request. If approved, use of playstreet will be discontinued when the pandemic passes.
- Children 3-14 years old attend this school; they will not be outside in colder weather; someone will be on each side of the street to manage vehicle access for deliveries, alt side, emergency vehicles, et al. Also, all will be wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and opening windows in the building.
- Bank Street has submitted separate playstreet applications – one to DOT and one to DOE. If the Mayor's initiative application is approved by DOE, then the DOT application will not be needed & will be withdrawn. The DOT application was started before the Mayor's Initiative was announced last week. Bank Street has reached out to the community & some stakeholders for petition signatures, not yet to the residents on the West 112th Street block;
- Question to Lyle Blackwood – what are the DOT playstreet guidelines? Access to parking, residents can move their cars and reenter the block, access to street, barricades on each side that should be monitored by school staff; access for deliveries, emergency vehicles, et al. They should get petitions, letters of support, explain what the school is trying to do; anything to show that the neighbors are in support of the project; also get support from the local precinct; DOT will provide the appropriate signage.

- Carolyn asked if they'd reached out to the 26th precinct. They were waiting to meet with the US&T Committee first before doing so. Carolyn advised them that if the US&T Committee has no objections, they will have to come back to the September General Board Meeting for a final decision.
- Deputy Inspector Soto reported that NYPD precincts have already received a list of areas that playstreet applications were already requested for; the review process is already in process to make sure there are no safety concerns.

US&T Committee members present did not have objections, provided that all questions are answered by DOE and that DOT has no objections. Carolyn will call Jennifer on 9/4 to provide her with the 26th Precinct NCO contact information.

NYPD – 30th Precinct:

Deputy Inspector Soto reported that rapes, robberies, felonies, burglaries, grand larcenies, shooting incidents are down in the 30th Precinct. Grand larcenies of motor vehicles & shooting victims are up.

There are increased patrols on Riverside Drive, a lot of gun possession arrests - 9 in the past two weeks. 135th Street area patrols – 134 -136th Streets, Broadway & Amsterdam avenue; 135th Street between Broadway & Riverside Drive. A lot of resources have been dedicated to patrolling these areas. Noise complaints on the West Side Highway & other areas – music turned down when POs arrive, turned back up when POs leave; constant monitoring, responses to quality of life complaints. They're doing a lot of good work in the 30th Precinct and are confident that the community will see the results. Call the NCO or 311 for noise and other quality of life complaints.

PWJ requested follow up on Victor Edwards 9/2 email regarding cars speeding on Riverside Drive. Carolyn added Convent Avenue 141-144th streets. Deputy Inspector Soto introduced 30th Precinct Captain Marchese, who oversees the 30th Precinct Traffic Safety Program command, reported key enforcement initiatives including patrols on 125 – 155th Street, and on RSD and the highway. April reported speeding on Broadway 126-127th streets, groups of bikers (scooters, dirt bikes) on the weekends. Eutha reported complaints of kids playing in the sinkhole on 12th Avenue on 135th street. Deputy Inspector Soto is aware & they are handling it.

Committee thanked Deputy Inspector Soto for her hard work at the 30th Precinct and for participating in the CB9 Stakeholders Zoom meeting on Street Homelessness in CB9.

Eutha extended an invitation to Deputy Inspector Soto to attend events on September 10th & 12th sponsored by CB9 and the West Harlem Restorative Reentry Project.

NYC Department of Transportation:

Carolyn asked about the car share program parking spaces on her block. Enterprise cars are not parked there; residents are parking there & not being ticketed - are these spaces still designated for the program and if not, can the signs be removed? Lyle will verify & provide a status update. Signs are still up; resident cars should not be parked there.

Carolyn asked about the reduced speed limits on Riverside Drive. Lyle indicated that these are now in effect in 9 corridors in NYC; the only corridor in Northern Manhattan is in CB12 – Riverside Drive between 165th - 181st streets and not in CB9.

PWJ asked about the new Citi Bike stands that appeared suddenly in July; we've received complaints, some of the locations were not recommended during the February 2020 DOT presentation to CB9. Lyle – the new bike stations are permanent; all input was taken into consideration (CB9, DOT website portal, et al). If there are still locations that are recommended to be moved, notify DOT or Lyle directly. They will review each request on a case by case basis.

Eutha requested an update on the Revel process now that DOT is involved. Lyle reported that DOT implemented improved safety guidelines for Revel; he will locate info & send to CB9 for more info. Carolyn observed that there appears to be less Revels on the street since the new guidelines. Lyle said it's possibly a slow roll out for safety reasons; any concerns should be reported to Lyle.

Action Items: Liquor Licenses - New/Renewals:

- 7/15 - 126 Hamilton Place LLC d/b/a Hogs Head Tavern (30th Precinct) – renewal – no objection letter was issued on 7/16.
- 7/21 - 3508 Broadway Restaurant Group LLC (30th Precinct) – new on premises Liquor license – no objection letter issued on 8/7.
- 8/3 email - 1588 Harlem Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Uncle Tony's Pizza, 1596 Amsterdam Avenue – (30th Precinct) - no objection letter issued on 8/7
- 9/2 email - Nussbaum Wu Partners LLC – 2897 Broadway & West 113th Street - new license – Carolyn will follow up with 26th Precinct.
- 9/3 email – Plowshares LLC d/b/a Plowshares Coffee Roasters, 1351 Amsterdam Avenue, between 125 & 126th Streets – new license – Carolyn will follow up with 26th Precinct.

PWJ gave thanks to Eutha, Ray and Zita for all their hard work, dedication, support and assistance to the US&T Committee and all CB9 committees especially during this pandemic. Eutha accepted & thanked the Committee for the acknowledgment & promised to share that with Zita & Ray. She also thanked the committee for her 8/21 happy birthday greetings & announced the arrival of her new granddaughter on August 12th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.