

CB9M Uniform Services and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, February 6, 2020, CB9 District Office, 16-18 Old Broadway, NYC

Attendance: US & T Committee: Hon. April Tyler, Hon. Patricia Watler Johnson; Members Excused: Hon. Michelle Caine, Hon. Theodore Kovaleff, Hon. Patricia Lewis, Hon. Carolyn Thompson. CB9 Members Present: Hon. Victor Edwards, Hon. Martin Wallace

Meeting called to attention at 6:30 p.m. Quorum was not present.

There was unanimous acknowledgment of and well wishes for US&T Committee Co-Chair Carolyn Thompson, who was absent due to medical leave.

NYPD Reports: Manhattan North, Detective Rijo:

Report included updates from Manhattan North (59th – 218th Streets) - reporting period January 2020 compared with January 2019. Crimes (except sex crimes - rape, sexual assault) were up & in the double digits - murders, robberies, felony assaults, burglaries, grand larceny (personal property, autos, et al). There tends to be an increase this time of year but he has never seen anything like this; hopefully this will turn around. 26th and 30th precincts will provide specific information about their respective jurisdictions.

NYC Department of Transportation Presentation – Citi Bike Expansion Draft Plan: Ms. Jennifer Santa Ines, Manhattan Deputy Borough Commissioner; Presenter – Ms. Lisa Morasco, DOT Bike Safety Team:

Overview of Bike Share Program - ridership has increased since the program's inception. Public outreach includes gathering feedback – public workshops, pop-up community outreach, interactive site map, stakeholder meetings.

Presentation focused on DOT proposed of Phase 3: 130th – 155th Streets, Riverside Drive to St. Nicholas Avenue. 26 sites are needed for CB9 draft plan, with site info from CCNY workshop (October 21, 2019). 3 – 5-minute walks to a station, majority are on the sidewalk instead of the street. Timetable for implementation – Spring 2020 – April – May 2020.

Concerns expressed about the absence of bike racks near parks and bike paths, and some proposed locations. There were questions about the methodology used to identify the 26 sites and if community input was included. DOT preference attempted to identify locations near transit and that do not take up parking spaces.

Next steps – to continue conversation, dialogue, justification, follow up with US&T Committee, CB9 members, NYPD. Presentation will be available on the DOT website.

NYPD – 26th Precinct – Detective Jason Harper:

Report on the period of January 6 - February 2, 2020. No murders; rapes, robberies up, felony assaults (mostly domestic violence) up, burglaries up (including unattended package thefts) grand larcenies up (including unattended property).

Boroughwide Robbery & Burglary patterns observed from the previous year 2019: juvenile perpetrators removing property from other juveniles; cell phone snatch pattern; perps entering residential buildings & remove packages 80% of the time, other times perps open packages, take what they want then leave what they don't want.

NYPD – 30th Precinct P.O. Tuero and P.O. Mendez

Only murder this year so far is the 1/26 homicide on 135th Street & Broadway. Rapes down, everything else is up – robberies, felony assaults, burglaries (package theft), grand larcenies. Arrests for grand larceny & burglaries were made, mostly delivered package thefts.

There have been a lot of auto break-ins on 12th Avenue & Riverside Drive. 12th Avenue has really been hit hard, especially theft of tires and rims. Robberies are higher at night. NYPD has increased patrols and have put flyers on cars advising drivers to remove all visible personal property from their vehicles. NCO meeting to be held in March 2020 at 3333 Broadway.

NYPD - PSA 6 – No report.

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

Lyle attended CB9 Senior Issues Committee meeting with Martin Wallace, very informative.

If we see any streets that need to be resurfaced, repaved, benches or bike racks repaired, et al, info should be sent to Lyle ASAP for addition to the Spring & Summer schedule. Work is expected to start around April or May 2020 and crews work in the Summer.

NYC DOT letter re: Morningside Avenue safety improvements on 113th – 114th Streets: This has been in the works for the past two years to improve street safety and add more curb extensions to make the streets more pedestrian friendly.

Det. Harper – question about construction at Morningside & Amsterdam Avenues, 126 & 127th Streets. There is supposed to be a stop sign there & is not. Lyle suggested that he email him & he will follow up.

New York County District Attorneys' Office – Ms. Ely Sylvester, Community Coordinator, Community Partnership Unit

Ms. Silvestre, attended the meeting to reintroduce herself as a member of the DAs Office staff and has worked with Jocelyn Minaya. She has attended CB9 meetings previously and will attend future US&T Committee Meetings. Ms. Sylvestre reported on summer internships for college students & will send more info to Eutha for distribution.

Action Items - Liquor licenses/renewals applications - Respective precincts had no issues at the business establishments identified on the meeting agenda.

Discussion of FY 2021 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities and the Agency Responses
– Eutha Prince, District Manager:

Committee Chairs asked to review and give comments on the agency responses & submit to Eutha, Barry and April. Public Hearing will be held on February 24th.

April reported approval of discretionary funds for the US&T Committee proposal for a Senior Citizens Pedestrian Community Survey.

Old Business

Morningside Park Community Forum – January 29th – sponsored by Manhattan Borough President's Office. CB9 was well represented by board members; workshops were facilitated by Barry, Eutha & Padmore, also Detective Harper.

New Business

CB9 Request for Installation of a Light Tower/Sky Tower: Background – a light tower was placed on 135th & Broadway in the summer of 2018, removed in response to local community complaints. Intent of the light tower is to bring so much light to the area in order to discourage criminal activity. An order for the light tower has been placed. P.O. Mendez will follow up with Deputy Inspector Soto, who is aware of our current request and is working on it. The preference is for a Sky Tower with an officer on duty; P.O. Mendez will inform Deputy Inspector Soto of the updated preference.

Parking Issues at Charter School West 133rd Street: Double parking observed between 133rd & 135th Streets near school; parents leave cars parked to drop off kids at the school which blocks bus stops & curbs. This is possibly due to the school rule that parents must escort students into the school building. NYPD will speak to the NCO and reach out to the school parent coordinator. Since this is an issue for the Youth and Education Committee, Eutha will notify the committee co-chairs and request that they reach out to the school principal.

110th Street Farmers Market: Mr. Michael Steigman and Ms. Mahalia Dees report panhandler & vagrant issues, destroying property & products, don't want shoppers or vendors to feel unsafe. They are requesting that the 26th Precinct provide patrols? Detective Harper suggested they call the NCO assigned to the 26th precinct; he will inform NCO Adams of their report.

Joint NYPD/MTA/DOT Meeting Request: Martin requested support for a joint meeting with NYPD, MTA and DOT to discuss senior concerns that cover various topics from various CB9 committees.

Meeting ended at 8:09 p.m.

Next US&T Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 5, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.