

CB9M Uniform Services & Transportation Committee
Notes from Thursday, March 3, 2022 Meeting

Attendees: *US&T Committee Members:* Hon. Carolyn Thompson, Co-Chair; Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson, Co-Chair; Hon. Theodore Kovaleff, Ph.D.; Hon. Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas; Hon. Solomon Prophete. *CB9M Staff:* Manhattan Community Board 9 - Hleziphi Zita. *NYPD: 26th Precinct* - Captain Patrick Donohue; Detective Jason Harper; *30th Precinct* - P.O. Jeffrey Stumer. *NYC Department of Transportation (DOT):* Lyle Blackwood, Community Coordinator, Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office. *Community Members & Guests (partial list):* Marco Shalma, MASC Hospitality Group; Lois Penny; Annie Balla; Liz Mellen; Metternich Klemens; Amy Li; Mr. Vaughn; "Cecil" [last name unknown].

Meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Carolyn Thompson.

Uptown Night Market: Marco Shalma cited the success of the 2021 Uptown Night Market events & thanked the community for our support, with special thanks to Councilman Shaun Abreu, Lois Penny, CB9M, 30th Precinct, NYC Parks Department, et al. He is requesting feedback from the community on 2021 experiences, what they could do differently in 2022. Plans for 2022 include vendors with plant based food options, more collaborations with local CBOs, composting, waste management et al. Ted asked about plans to handle severe weather conditions, referring to the major rain that took place on the 1st day of the Summer 2021 event. Marco said that the event was moved under the viaduct arches after that for greater coverage & in the future they will cancel if weather conditions get bad. Solomon asked about measures put in place to handle crowd control issues in case of overcrowding. He didn't see major problems before but was wondering if there were any complaints or feedback. Marco said they will take appropriate measures and recruit more volunteers to keep the flow going smoothly. If we know of any vendors or potential volunteers, please let him know. He appreciates the community support; success could not have happened without it. Carolyn thanked him & expressed how we're looking forward to the coming season. Marco provided a youtube link and contact information.

Street Deterioration at 128th Street & Convent Avenue: Liz Mellen discussed the pictures she sent to the US&T Committee regarding the deteriorating sidewalk at 128th Street & Convent Avenue and is requesting repair of that curb area. Lyle requested that the email info and photos be sent to him for follow up; US&T agreed to do so. We will follow up with DOT and provide updates to Liz accordingly.

Dangerous Intersection at 114th Street & Morningside Avenue: Annie Balla discussed the pictures she sent to the US&T Committee requesting that pedestrian safety measures (speed bump, improved visibility and a traffic light) be increased at the intersection of 114th Street & Morningside Avenue. She has requested a traffic study from DOT, who confirmed that a traffic signal study would be conducted on her behalf. She was told the study could take up to 2 years; Lyle reported that there is a backlog due to covid. He will look into it and possibly schedule site visits at that location. US&T agreed to send her email and photos to Lyle and DOT will follow up with her directly.

Skinny Cantina Update: Although Peter Cramer did not attend this meeting, Carolyn reported that the matter raised at the February 2022 meeting regarding noise complaints has been resolved.

NYPD - 26th Precinct: Captain Donohue and Detective Harper provided updates of the most recent crime statistics in their precinct and answered questions. There continues to be a lot of package delivery thefts, petty larcenies, grand larcenies. Also, shoplifting at local stores; car parts theft, i.e. mirrors on new cars, catalytic converters, mufflers, et al; patrols have been added in the area.

NYPD - 30th Precinct: P.O. Stumer provided updates of the most recent crime statistics in that precinct and answered questions. Solomon asked about shoplifting at retail pharmacies, i.e. Duane Reade on 137th Street & Broadway. P.O. Stumer said there is part time uniform PO detail at 137th Street & Broadway and 145th Street & Bradhurst Avenue. This also happens at 145th Street & Broadway at the Rite Aid and CVS there. They are aware & actively patrolling the areas.

DOT: Lyle Blackwood reported that it is time for **resurfacing season**; DOT is starting in lower Manhattan then north to CB12 and making way down south toward CB9M. Any resurfacing needed in CB9M should be reported to DOT. **Open Streets Program** - DOT is accepting applications for 2022; email was sent to Eutha. If there are any non profit organizations, groups or individuals interested in supporting Open Streets, reach out to Lyle directly.

Dangerous Road Conditions at 155th Street Viaduct Construction site - Lyle reported that DOT sent a crew to the area of 153th -155th Streets along Riverside Drive. He received an email from Victor Edwards earlier in the day reporting that markers have been installed on the ground in that area & should be ok.

Action Items - Liquor License Applications - 26th Precinct - Heights Bar & Grill, renewal - Detective Harper reports no objections; 30th Precinct - The Porch - Class Change - PO Stumer reports no objections. **Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) Applications:** Carolyn reported no objections to the following applications: (1) Alpha Alpha Community Builder Block Party, April 30th, 2022; (2) 13th Annual NYC Multicultural Festival, June 11, 2022; (3) A Stroll 4 Cancer Awareness Block Party, June 25, 2022; (4) CRCA/CRCDF Grant's Tomb Criterium Street Event, July 23, 2022.

Old Business - PWJ provided the following update: the letter Councilman Shaun Abreu mentioned at the January 24th MHCC meeting to Governor Kathy Hochul requesting support for the 125th #1 train elevator was completed & sent to Gov. Hochul CC: MTA Commissioner Janno Lieber and included the following signatories: Councilman Shaun Abreu; Congressman Adriano Espaillat; Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell; Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine; Robert Stern, Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC); Barry Weinberg, CB9M; Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Phillip Salmon, Riverside Church; Isaac Adlerstein, Broadway Community. Carolyn added that installing an elevator at the 125th Street & 145th Street #1 train stations might be a problem.

New Business: 500 West 146th Street - Carolyn asked P.O. Stumer about the business owner's report about the residential building next to their restaurant at 500 West 146th Street, The Chopped Parsley. Reports of drug dealing in front of her business, drug paraphernalia & pipes in front of the building, et al. PWJ informed P.O. Stumer that the owner sent photos and email info earlier in the day & will send them to him for his info and follow up. **Formal Public Discourse on Public Safety** - Metternich Klemens wanted to introduce a formal public discourse that the community can use to deal with public safety issues. He will send the information to CB9M accordingly.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next US&T Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 7th @ 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Waller Johnson