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Public Safety and Transportation Committee Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 5:30pm
Board Office
1664 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10035

- Present:** Brodie Enoch-Vice-Chairperson, Judith Febbraro, Aime Kyros-Pettrucci, Frances Mastrota, Peggy Morales-Chairperson, Jennifer Yu, Lucian Reynolds and Theresa Richardson
- Excused:** None
- Absent:** Jose Altamirano, Olga Ambert, Israel Miranda and Jonathan Carrillo
- Guests:** Ingrid, Manhattan Borough Presidents Office
Mariely Sanchez-Moronto, District Attorneys Office
Rita Hirsch, Chair Streetscape Committee
P.O. Footmon – 25th Pct.
P.O. Murphy – 23rd Pct.
Dalila Hall, Department of Transportation

1. Informational updates (25 minutes)

P.O. Footman – 25th Pct. provided statistics on crime in the area and informed us that there are some personnel changes taking place at this time and he will have more to share as changes become final. Community Council meeting will take place on the 28th of the month at 6:00pm the location will be at the precinct or at the CUNY School of Social Work.

P.O. Murphy – 23rd Pct. provided statistics on crime in the area and reminded us that the Community Council meeting will continue to take place the third Thursday of each month at the 23rd Pct at 6:00pm.

District Attorney's office representative Mariely Sanchez-Moronto (212) 335-9026 was present on behalf of their office however did not have any information to share at this time.

Department of Transportation-will present later on in the evening when we review the institution of the buffered bicycle lanes along 1st and 2nd Avenue.

2. Presentations (30 minutes)

a) Plastic News Rack Boxes-Rita Hersch and Tali Cantor, Civitas

The presentation centered around the plastic Free News publication boxes (est. 1984) that sit on our sidewalks generally in close proximity to the train stations or street corners. These plastic boxes originally intended for distribution of reading material have become an eyesore to many of the communities that they were slated to serve. The boxes are being use as trash containers while the owner show little concern over their conditions. Civitas is interested in working with the owners of these boxes to create a more aesthetic and useful container. Their goal is to give DOT the enforcement power to regulate their use. Civitas has an ally at the City Council level Councilmember James Vacca however they are meeting with CB11 seeking a resolution to move this agenda item forward. They will be presenting to the Borough Board on September 15th. A1 boxes came on the street approximately 2 years ago; Civitas succeeded at getting them removed through the entire city. One immediate step that we can take within the community to assist in holding the owners accountable is to call 311 or go on to the website and send a picture to make a report.

Frances Mastrota made the motion to accept the resolution passed by CB8. The motion was seconded by Judith Febbraro and passed unanimously.

b) First and Second Avenue Bike Paths-Dalila Hall, New York City Department of Transportation

Via a PowerPoint presentation, DOT reviewed the areas where Manhattan currently has buffered bike lanes and the impact that these have had on the traffic patterns, traffic speeds, parking, traffic lanes, pedestrian traffic as well as cyclists. DOT goal is to enhance the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists throughout the city. Statistics show that where buffered lanes exist there has been a reduction in the number of car to cyclist injuries. Stats also show a significant increase in cyclist activity. The lanes will be installed from 96th Street through 125th Street along 1st and 2nd Avenue this will have a slight impact on parking along these avenues. Traffic lanes will move from five lanes to three and based on traffic patterns in other parts of the city the remaining lanes can process the amount of traffic without difficulty. Melissa Mark-Viverito presented her support of this DOT plan to install the protected bike lanes and address the multiple needs of our community. DOT has begun to work with local businesses to get their input and hear their collective concerns. At this time DOT has discussed making provisions with businesses to address their delivery needs by giving them parking around the corner from their establishments. The committee expressed a concern regarding the current amount of double parking that is not being monitored and the possibility of its increase if enforcement is not consistent.

Brodie Enoch made a motion to support DOT's plan to extend the buffered bike lanes from 96th Street to 125th Street motion was seconded by Jennifer Yu.
In favor:5 Against: 1 Abstentions:2 Present not voting: 0

c) Newsstand Application (Northeast corner f 125th Street & Lexington) Sayeda Frazana Mozid, applicant

CB11 is in receipt of an application from Mrs. Mozid requesting our support to erect a permanent newsstand structure on 125th Street between Lexington and Third Avenue in front of The Children's Place and Gotham Plaza (building owners). While the Department of Consumer Affairs is the license issuing agency involved in this process they have asked the applicant to come before CB11 to present their request and get our support. Their application was submitted in a timely manner the required letters informing The Children's Place and Gotham Plaza of their application process were sent out in June, to date a response has not been received. DCA informed the applicant that the address on record at their offices was incorrect and the letters had to be resent. Gotham Plaza and The Children's Place only responded to the letter this week and noted their opposition to the newsstand citing that it would impede The Children's Place ability to adequately market their products. Mrs. Mozid's newsstand would sell newspapers, magazines (no adult publications) and the usual gum, candy and refreshments. As part of the package the committee members were given the dimensions of the structure along with pictures of where the structure would sit near the curb.

Brodie Enoch made a motion to support the application for the newsstand on 125th Street between Lexington and Third Avenue motion was seconded by Theresa Richardson. The motion passed unanimously.

d) New/Old Business (10 minutes)

We stopped to recognize three new members of our committee Jennifer Yu, Lucian Reynolds and Israel Miranda(absent).

CB11 has received a report from an individual who made a report to the police anonymously. The police in turn paid him a visit essentially identifying him as the reporter. The manner with which NYPD handles anonymity is being questioned by this community member who is now afraid for his safety. A meeting with Captain Hofmann is to be scheduled to discuss this matter.

Captain Morello of PSA 5 has not been responsive to our invitations to attend the CB11 meetings. Councilmember Viverito has offered to reach out to him and ask that someone from his personnel be present consistently.

Community Affairs answering service is not user friendly and suggests that calls are not necessarily welcome. Precincts should consider making their message more user friendly.

e) Announcements (10 minutes)

None

f) Adjournment - motion to adjourn by Brodie Enoch, seconded by Judith Febraro and passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

DRAFT