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Chair

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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Public Safety & Transportation Committee February 2, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Bonifacio Senior Center, 7 East 116th Street

*** Minutes ***

Present: Beverly Alston, Jose Altamirano, Judith Febbraro, Frances Mastrota, Peggy Morales, Theresa Richardson, Jemar Ward, Jonathan Winstone

Excused: none

Absent: Jose Grajales, Faye Yelardy

1. Call to Order – Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Frances Mastrota, seconded by Beverly Alston; approved unanimously at 7:12pm.

2. Informational updates

a. NYPD

i. 23rd Precinct

CO Capt. Benjamin Gurley introduced himself, having joined the 23 in November 2015 as the Commanding Officer.

1. Slight uptick in robberies and 100% increase in felony assault (largely domestic violence). They are working with Safe Horizons and using other approaches to attempt to reduce domestic violence incidents. Also small uptick in burglaries (10 vs 7).
2. Mrs. Mastrota inquired as to whether we can get reports specifically identifying incidence of crimes in parks. Capt. Gurley indicated that this could be done as we move into warmer months.
3. Question about slashings and advice to community members for safety. Capt. Gurley advised to avoid cell phone use while walking around to maintain alertness.
4. Ms. Alston inquired about the body camera project. Capt. Gurley responded that it has been "working great" so far and has been helping the police solve crimes, such as assisting in quality of witness statements.

ii. 25th Precinct

Officer Aaron Rivera

1. Noted that most numbers are flat, with a small decrease in felony assault. Most notable is homicide in homeless shelter, with suspect at large. Also a shooting at 132nd & Madison where light towers and "Sky Watch" towers had previously been present. There was also a slashing at 116th & Lexington, apparently a dispute between two individuals known to each other.
2. Mr. Ward inquired about the shooting; PO Rivera discussed the incident briefly.
3. Mrs. Mastrota repeated her request made to the 23 regarding incidents in the parks.

b. District Attorney's office

- i. Madai Velez discussed the conviction of a man who had been operating a sex trafficking operation. She also noted the \$7.5M initiative announced by Gov. Cuomo and the Manhattan DA to provide higher education to prisoners in order to facilitate reentry of prisoners and reduce recidivism.
- ii. Ms. Morales applauded the higher education program, but expressed concern that while it is a step in the right direction, it is not enough.

3. New Business

a. Upper Manhattan Community Boards Vision Zero Forum

- i. Martin Wallace, CB9 Uniformed Services/Transportation Committee
- ii. Would like to get the word out more about Vision Zero by working with multiple boards to assemble a forum of community members to gain familiarity with Vision Zero to calm traffic and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.
- iii. Mr. Wallace noted that Maria Garcia of CB10 started a Vision Zero Task Force; he suggests that each CB create such a Task Force to develop localized plans that can be combined to a comprehensive plan to work with DOT and NYPD.
- iv. Nina Haiman of DOT discussed Vision Zero, briefly, in response to a question from the public.

4. Presentations & Discussions

a. 1st Ave and 124th Street proposals

- i. Nina Haiman, DOT discussed proposal to improve intersection for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- ii. Presentation was given about how to connect bicycle network from Willis Avenue Bridge to other roads. Willis Ave Bridge is marked as a shared pedestrian and bike lane. There is also no current NB bicycle connection from First Ave to the RFK Bridge. Most cyclists coming off the Willis Ave Bridge travel against NB traffic to 124 St to avoid 3 phase intersection at 125/2nd.
- iii. Also noted a high volume of jaywalking between the Wagner Houses and the Wagner Swimming Pool and Othmar Ammann Playground because of distance between crosswalks.
- iv. Proposal to create barrier protected 2-way bike lane on 1st Avenue between 124 & 125 Sts. No lanes of travel would be removed, and no parking currently exists. There would be no negative impact to traffic flow.

- v. Proposal to add a 2-way parking-protected bike path on E 124 St between 1/2 Aves, again without reducing lanes of travel. Use wider parking lanes to narrow lane of travel and calm traffic approaching RFK Bridge.
- vi. Proposal also for a mid-block crosswalk across E 124 Street with no signal, enhanced crossing with concrete island to shorten distance to cross and provide visual cue to motorists. This requires the removal of two parking spaces to allow the crosswalk. There are currently 49 parking spaces on this block.
- vii. Judith inquired as to whether anyone has contacted Wagner Houses. Ms. Haiman responded that she has, and Angel said that he had spoken with the Tenants Assoc who had said she would come.
- viii. Jon Winstone inquired about the bike interchange and expressed support for the plan overall. Ms. Haiman noted that it is legal for a bike to follow the path of a vehicle on to 2nd as well.
- ix. Ms. Morales expressed concern about the same issue. It was explained that there are signals that can protect cyclists making the left from E 124 to 2nd Ave without ever crossing traffic, newly enabled by this proposal.
- x. Frances expressed concern that PSA5 has been issuing too many summonses to cyclists who ride their bikes on to the RFK Bridge. Ms. Haiman noted that this proposal includes bike stamps to explicitly allow bicycles in that area. Signage is also included in this area.
- xi. Chair Altimirano noted that this proposal improves safety for pedestrians (especially children and seniors), cyclists, and drivers and removes only 2 parking spaces.

b. Review and discussion on FY 2017 Preliminary Budget (30 mins)

- i. Mr. Mescaïn discussed the preliminary budget. CB is entitled to submit a letter of comment to OMB in reply to the simple responses provided by the municipal agencies. This is not something that CB11 has done in the recent past, but it is required of the CB that we do so. Our charge is to review the recommendations under our jurisdiction to determine our response to each item. We must compile our responses into a letter of response, organized by agency. Other CBs generally submit a response of approx. 5-6 pages total, arguing why funding should be allocated. We will have our public hearing at the full board mtg on Feb 16, and respond to OMB by **Feb 22**.
- ii. The Committee discussed the logistics of responding to the document.

5. Old Business

a. Play Street Request

- i. East Harlem Scholars Academy, 105th St btwn 1st Ave and 2nd Ave (10 mins.). Andrea Wenner came to discuss.
 - 1. Ms. Wenner noted that the school can staff the barricade at 1st Avenue and escort vehicles. The 23 Pct. has also told them that they will allow vehicles to exit the street the wrong way as necessary. The bodegas (2), laundromat, and hair salon have all signed on to support the play street, as well as 30 signatures of people who live/work on the block and 200 from people who live in the District. Informal reactions were positive to them.
 - 2. Judith expressed concern about emergency vehicle access. Ms. Wenner stated that emergency vehicles and non-emergency service vehicles

would be allowed access to the senior center even during play street hours.

3. Chair Altamirano discussed the work that Angel and the CB has done to work with the existing service providers and obtaining assurance from EHSA that they would man the barrier and escort vehicles. There will be a vote today.

Peggy Morales moved to support the request by East Harlem Scholars Academy to establish a school play street on 105th Street between First and Second Avenue, on Mondays through Fridays from 11:00 am to 2:00pm. The motion was seconded by Jemar Ward and passed with two opposed (Mastrota, Richardson).

b. Street Co-Naming Requests

- i. Borinqueneers Way, 102nd Street and Lexington Avenue (15 mins.)

Theresa Richardson made a motion to support the request to co-name 102nd Street and Lexington Avenue as “Borinqueneers Way” which was seconded by Beverly Alston and approved unanimously.

6. Announcements

- a. Jonathan Winstone is now the Vice Chair of the Committee.
- b. Jemar Ward will lead a Task Force focused on public safety issues in the northern portion of the District.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jonathan Winstone, seconded by Frances Mastrota and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.