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Public Safety & Transportation Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Bonifacio Senior Center
7 East 116th Street

***** MINUTES *****

- Present:** Beverly Alston, Jose Altamirano, Brodie Enoch, Judith Febbraro, James Garcia, Jose Grajales, Frances Mastrotta, Peggy Morales, Angel Mescain (staff)
- Excused:** Theresa Richardson,
- Absent:** none
- Guests:** Robert Anazagasti, NERVE; Manuel Ramos; Ricky Wong, NYC DOHMH; Sam Friedman, DOHMH; Sheila Webb-Halpern, NYC Transit; Aaron Sugiura, NYC DOT; Nina Haiman, NYC DOT; Perry Sheffield; P.O. Gibbons, 23 Pct.; Inspector Pagan, 23 Pct.; Det. Tobin, NYPD; Luke Bergman DOHMH; Mike Selick, NYHRE; Maria Grazia Cervone, DOHMH; Madai Velez, DA's office; P.O. Lucas, 25 Pct.; Diana Ayala, Speaker's office; Nina De Martini-Day, DDM; Evan Kashinian, Artimus; P.O. Jackson, PSA 5; John Volpe, DOHMH

1. Call to Order – Adoption of Agenda
2. Informational updates
 - a. 23rd Precinct
 - b. 25th Precinct
 - c. PSA 5
3. Presentations & Discussions
 - a. Presentation of proposed plaza at 125th Street & Park Avenue

NHEMA applied to DOT's plaza program, an application based program in order to convert public space to proper public space, where public can relax and enjoy the city. A federal Tiger grant was given last year to the Capsule project providing the funding for the development. Due to this a public amenity can be produced on a short schedule. The plaza program allows a not for profit entity to manage and maintain the plaza alongside DOT and community. Current focus is to activate pre-existent space, bringing in movable furniture, more lighting, and having an artist build a mural on the face of existing building.

New Harlem East Merchants Association. A non-profit organization of local merchants and whose mission is to improve quality of life issues in our area. Currently providing cleaning services in the area of 125th Street, besides such also provide farmers market and other services to community. NHEMA would be in charge of maintenance and functionality of plaza with funds raised from the site.

Jose Grajales made a motion to issue a letter of support for NHEMA's proposed NYC Public Plaza to be located underneath the Metro North viaduct on the south side of 125th Street and Park Avenue. The motion was seconded by Peggy Morales and passed with one abstaining (Mastrota).

- b. Update on M60 SBS and discussion on sidewalk extensions at 125th Street & Lexington Avenue

NYC Department of Transportation made a presentation of the speed improvements on the 125th street bus service. Also proposed installation of two bus bulbs located on 125 street extending the sidewalk up to the bus lane. This would provide more space for shelters and pedestrians as well as making the bus times more effective, since it would reduce the time the buses take to veer into the bus stop and veer out.

Peggy Morales made a motion to approve the installation of bus bulbs at two east/west bound bus stops located on 125th Street off the northwest and south east corners of Lexington Avenue. The motion was seconded by James Garcia and passed unanimously.

- c. DOHMH – Diversion Centers

John Volpe from the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene presented a project that would work with pre existing police space in order to have a 24 hour 7 day a week to have a public health detention center. Precincts involved would be 23rd, 25th and possibly the 28th. The center would be public safety, public health approach for any person that is facing a low level arrest, such as violations quality of life or public nuisance. The police would make the determination if such person needed help, the detainee would have an option on a volunteer basis to either go to jail or enter the program. This would provide a health response to an otherwise criminal justice situation. The detainees would only be from our community precincts. The focus of the center would be to stabilize the patient and follow up to provide ongoing support.

- d. Youth Court Diversion Program

Madai Velez of the NY District Attorney's office presented a pilot program called project Reset for any youth 16 -17 year old charged with non violent misdemeanors would be eligible to join the program. Upon completion of 3 month program the youth would avoid having a criminal record. The youth would avoid having to attend court or having a record.

The goal of the project is to divert youthful offenders from going through the justice system unnecessarily.

- e. Committee discussion to assess community district needs and develop recommendations for inclusion in the CB11 Statement of District Needs for Fiscal Year 2017

Due to time constraints this conversation was postponed until the next meeting.

f. Committee discussion on Neighborhood Planning

Due to time constraints this conversation was postponed until the next meeting.

4. New Business

none

5. Old Business

- a. Request to rename East 105th Street and Lexington Avenue as “Aida Perez-Loiza Aldea Lane”

Frances Mastrota made a motion to approve the co-naming of East 105th Street and Lexington Avenue as “Aida Perez-Loiza Lane”. The motion as seconded by Peggy Morales and passed unanimously.

6. Announcements

- a. The next meeting of the Public Safety & Transportation Committee to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

7. Adjournment