



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## Chairperson's Report for October 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

With your ongoing support, Community Board 1 has had another great month. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you, everyone!

### *Updates*

- **3 Year Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy** – Daniel Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency for the City of New York, requested that CB1 sign onto a letter of support for New York City's Application to the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) to Secretary Julián Castro, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. I agreed (sent 10/26/15) because he told me that both Battery Park City and Tribeca will now be included in the City's NDRC Application Phase II submission so that the "Manhattan Tip" will match the engineering study area Request for Proposal released several weeks ago (10/27/15)
- **Crossing Guards at Spruce Street, Peck Slip and PS 276 elementary schools** – a top priority and I continue intensive lobbying of City Hall, NYPD and elected officials
- **South Street Seaport** – Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) approved Howard Hughes Corporation's proposed Pier 17 project modifications for Certificate of Appropriateness including the removal of the previously proposed roof-top canopy, demolition of the Link Building and the Pier 17 building head house, completion of the western facade of the Pier 17 building with the same channel glass that was previously approved for the balance of the Pier 17 building currently under construction, mechanical screen on top of the Pier 17 building, and improvements to the access drive serving the Pier 17 building (10/27/15)
- **PAC WTC** – Value-engineered plan for Performing Arts Center at the World Trade Center is expected to be submitted at the next Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board of Directors meeting which is likely to be in November. In July the LMDC agreed to fund a \$500,000 study to see whether the current conceptual design could be modified to fit the new budget parameters. Over the past few months, PAC WTC officials have been working with consultants and an undisclosed architectural firm. Latest proposal envisions a roughly 80,000-square-foot building, rising three to four stories aboveground with a 600- to 700-seat auditorium and a 200-seat theater on the main floor. Both could be flexibly configured or combined into one larger venue. Upstairs, two additional theaters are proposed that could double as rehearsal studios. On the ground floor would be a cafe or restaurant space.

1 Centre Street, Room 2202 North, New York, NY 10007

Tel. (212) 669-7970 Fax (212) 669-7899

[man01@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:man01@cb.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1)

- **MTA Capital Program** - Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio and Chairman Prendergast announced agreement on funding for MTA Capital Program with nearly \$30 billion over a five-year capital program to renew, enhance and expand the MTA network. This marks the largest investment in MTA infrastructure in history; New York State committed to provide \$8.3 billion and New York City committed to provide \$2.5 billion (10/10/15)
- **22 Affordable Units at 465 Washington Street** – apply at [nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://nyc.gov/housingconnect) by mail: send a postcard or letter with complete name and mailing address to: Bridge Land West LLC, 1357 Broadway, Box 438, New York, NY 10018
- **Louise Nevelson Plaza** – barricades removed and park fixed up with planters; thank you Downtown Alliance (10/20/15)
- **Drumgoole Square reopened** – after being a staging area for the Brooklyn Bridge renovation project; it is a public park that sits in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge on Frankfort Street between Park Row and Gold Street under the Brooklyn Bridge ramp near Pace University and is maintained by Pace under the management of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (10/07/15)

### *Press Conferences*

- **U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced new legislative reforms to require more transparency and accountability from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** – so that home and property owners will be better protected in the event of another storm; called the Flood Insurance Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015; joined Councilmember Chin, Marco Pasanella and others (South Street Seaport Museum, 213 Water Street, 10/25/15)
- **Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pace University's Dormitory at 33 Beekman** – marking the opening of the world's tallest college residence hall and Pace's fifth NYC residence hall (10/20/15)
- **Council Members Chin and Johnson and Manhattan Borough President Brewer announced introduction of legislation to limit sight-seeing buses on congested streets** - if enacted, it would for the first time place a cap on the number of licenses granted to tour bus operators. Unlike many other licenses issued by the City Department of Consumer Affairs, there currently is no limit to the number of licenses issued to sightseeing tour bus operators and they have tripled in the past ten years. The legislation authored by Borough President Brewer and Council Member Chin would institute a sensible cap on the number of licenses issued to ease congestion, improve air quality, and reduce noise – especially around popular tourist destinations such as those in Manhattan (Broadway Double Decker Tour Bus Stop, 10/16/15)
- **Senator Squadron's Subway Station Study released calling for fully funded Capital Plan for subway station repairs** – study evaluated the 53 subway stations in Sen. Squadron's district and found trash accumulation at 70% of stations, ponding at 68% of stations, and deteriorating walls at 43% of stations; joined with other advocates including CB2 and CB3 (Canal Street 1 station, 10/09/15)

### *Testimonies*

- **[Oversight: Two Years After the SIRR Report: The State of Coastal Storm Resiliency in the City](#)** – submitted (10/22/15)

- [Governors Island](#) – thank you Diana Switaj for testifying (10/14/15)
- [Ferry Testimony](#) – submitted (10/08/15)
- [National Disaster Resiliency Competition, NYC Phase II Application](#) – submitted (10/02/15)

## *Events*

- **Taste of the Seaport 6th Annual** (10/16/15)
- **NYC GO PURPLE DAY to fight domestic violence** – joined NYC Councilmember Chin and others; all welcome at [NYC Family Justice Center](#), 80 Centre Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor (Fulton Center 10/15/15)
- **New York City Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Maria Torres-Springer** – presentation at Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association (10/14/15)
- **Governor Cuomo’s Announcement on Climate Change with former Vice President Al Gore** – pledged to make New York a leader on climate change initiatives by joining California in signing on to the Under 2 MOU. This is an agreement between states, provinces and local governments across the world to cap the rising average temperature by the year 2100 by requiring governments to limit greenhouse gas emissions. NYS already has a goal of reducing emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by mid-century; joined by Marco Pasanella and Elizabeth Avila (Columbia University, 10/08/15)
- **Grand Opening: William N. Rom Environmental Lung Disease Laboratory at Bellevue** – to study environmental health effects, including those of World Trade Center dust; \$2 million was allocated in 2009 by former NYC Council Member Alan Gerson (10/07/15)
- **Next Stop Summit on Transportation** – conversation about the future of transportation; unveiling of NYC Council Transportation Committee Chair Rodriguez’s vision (Rudin Center, 10/05/15)

## *Public Forum*

- **Hudson River Park Trust and CB1 Forum on Future of Pier 26** – introduction of design team Olin Studio and general discussion of the start of the design/programming process (120 Warren Street, 10/19/15)

## *Meetings*

- **Manhattan Borough President Brewer’s informational session on Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) and Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA) text amendments** – Mayor de Blasio has released both text amendments for Community Board review, with a deadline for public comments set for Monday, November 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM. The two citywide initiatives, once enacted, will have a number of significant long-term impacts to communities across Manhattan; will be on the November Planning Committee agenda (10/26/15)
- **Rat walkabout in Tribeca with NYC DOHMH’s expert Caroline Bragdon** – led by Melissa Gindin of Senator Squadron’s office; joined Jeff Ehrlich, Marc Ameruso and others (10/22/15)
- **Senator Squadron Meeting with Downtown Little League Baseball and Battery Park City Authority for Spring 2016 Ballfield time** – joined BPCA President Hyman, representatives of Assemblymembers Silver and Glick, Councilmember Chin, Andrew Zelter, Ninfa Segarra and others (10/22/15)

- **CB1 Orientation for New Members** (10/22/15)
- **Worth Street Reconstruction Task Force** – joined Chair Bruce Ehrman and Co-Chair Jeff Ehrlich with City agencies, stakeholders and representatives of elected officials (10/21/15)
- **Friends of South Street Seaport (FOSS)** – met with Diana Switaj (10/20/15)
- **Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs Commissioner Sutton, MD** – met with CB1 staff; they have kindly offered to share their to-be-completed conference room when possible with CB1 and to possibly work together on the renewal of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (10/15/15)
- **Governors Island Corporation Meeting of the Directors** (10/15/15)
- **Manhattan Borough Board Meeting** (10/15/15)
- **Borough President Brewer’s Office conference call on CB1 appointments** – applications available in early November and due by 01/29/16 with interviews starting in February; attendance at committee and full board meetings matter; joined by Noah Pfefferblit (10/13/15)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee** – joined by Bob Schneck (10/08/15)
- **Hurricane Joaquin Elected Official/Community Board conference calls** – Saturday, 10/03/15 and joined by Lucy Acevedo on 10/02/15

### *Announcements*

- **Reggie Thomas** – welcome to CB1’s new board member; Pat Moore will be his mentor
- **Andrew Zelter** – appointed to Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council representing Downtown Little League
- **Tamar Hovsepian** gave birth to a healthy Daniel Hovnatan Hovsepian, born 10/24 at 7:15am, 8lbs, 20 inches – congratulations and best wishes for health and happiness
- **CB1’s next monthly board meeting will be Thursday, November 19** – please note change of date due to Thanksgiving holidays; venue: PS 343 – The Peck Slip School at 1 Peck Slip
- **Resiliency Planning in Tribeca and Lower Manhattan** – sponsored by Manhattan Youth at their Downtown Community Center, 120 Warren Street, Wednesday, October 28th 2015 at 7:30pm