



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

The New York City Council Committee on Public Safety

Int. 983-2015 and Int. 992-2015

**In relation to an advisory board on crossing guard deployment
and reporting on crossing guard deployment**

The Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 10:00

Thank you, Chair and members of the Committee on Public Safety for holding this important public hearing today. My name is Catherine McVay Hughes, and I represent Community District 1 in Lower Manhattan where I am Chair of Community Board 1. Community District 1 includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge. Our neighborhood is very dense and has an enormous volume of vehicular traffic every day including construction trucks, commuter buses and double-decker tourist buses. Our community is roughly 1.5 square miles and has roughly 90 major construction sites. It also includes Route 9A which some young children need to cross to go to grade school.

Community Board 1 (CB1) supports Int. 983-2015 by Council Member Gibson with CB1's NYC Council Member Margaret Chin sponsoring this bill which is a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to an advisory board on crossing guard deployment. It would require that the New York City Police Department (NYPD), NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), and NYC Department of Education (DOE) participate in an advisory board relating to school crossing guards. The Board's responsibilities will include: assessing the number of school crossing guards in the City and where they are stationed, assessing traffic patterns, population shifts and the needs of particular schools and programs, and recommending changes and improvements to crossing guard deployment. It also requires that the Board must host at least one public meeting prior to issuance of the report and it must report its findings and recommendations before March 1, 2016, and have biannual reports thereafter.

CB1 also supports Int. 992-2015 by Council Member Lander which is a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to reporting on crossing guard deployment which requires that the NYPD to post a map on its website about where crossing guards are stationed in NYC.

School crossing guards have been a top concern for parents whose children have been attending our local public elementary schools for a variety of reasons including the lack of them until recent deployment of temporary NYPD traffic enforcement agents at both Peck Slip and Spruce Street School and irregular attendance of the crossing guard assigned to PS 276. Also, until we had a field inspection with Commanding Officer Iocca, the temporary Spruce Street School enforcement agent was assigned to Spruce Street instead of Beekman Street, where the majority of children are coming from, and near an FDNY station and a hospital parking garage and emergency entrance.

Please see attached CB1's November 2015 resolution which was passed unanimously and contains historical references, observations, facts and recommendations that we request to be considered as the assessments are being developed by the advisory board. Thank you very much.

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

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

man01@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/html/mancb1

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 – MANHATTAN
RESOLUTION

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2015

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: YOUTH & EDUCATION

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: School Crossing Guards

WHEREAS: Out of 80 additional school crossing guards funded in the city's FY '16 Expense Budget, only one has been assigned to Community Board 1, yet many of our school crossing guard responsibilities are understaffed while Peck Slip, PS343, and the Spruce Street School, PS397, have none at all, and

WHEREAS: The City Council has allocated funding for four additional school crossing guards in the Community Board 1 area, and

WHEREAS: CB1 has not seen increased school guard presence at three major schools in the district, PS276, PS397 and PS 343, and

WHEREAS: CB1 has experienced absent school crossing guards, vacant positions and inadequate supervision of school crossing guards, and

WHEREAS: CB1 has schools located in areas prone to accidents, due to its congested streets and sidewalks, and there was a recent fatality, and

WHEREAS: All Lower Manhattan Elected Officials support and are actively involved in efforts to provide school crossing guards for all Lower Manhattan Schools, and

WHEREAS: CB1 feels that there are systemic flaws in the current assignment of supervisory responsibility for school crossing guards, and

WHEREAS: The First Precinct has agreed to assign traffic control officers to school crossing duty at the Spruce Street and Peck Slip schools until permanent crossing guards are assigned, now

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 asks the New York Police Department to assign six additional school crossing guards, two each at the following locations: PS276, PS397 and PS 343, and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 recommends that the NYPD lift the cap of working hours of school crossing guards to reasonable hours to cover the needs of the community's schools and afterschool programs, and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 recommends that the long term solution to the problem of inadequate supervision of school crossing guards is to annualize the job of school crossing guards, thereby making it a 12 month a year title versus a 10 month title with all possible benefits to make the position more desirable to prospective applicants, and that applications for school crossing guard positions be fully vested for residents of the local community, and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 recommends that the city of New York mandate that all schools in CB1 have a minimum of one school crossing guard assigned to each school based upon a comprehensive plan for adequate coverage, and

BE IT
FURTHER
RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 recommends that local candidates are fully vetted for these positions.