

**Community Board #4 Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM**

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

The NYC- Department of Transportation presented the Bushwick Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Proposal.

Representative Heidi Wolf Project Manager Stated that the total project covers both Community Board #1 and Community Board #4 along Bushwick Avenue, however for tonight's presentation the concentration will be the portion of Bushwick Avenue within community district 4. Noted institutions along the strip are PS.120 and the Diana Jones Senior Citizens Center. It was also stated that community requests from Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council Inc., asked that safety improvements to Bushwick Avenue between Noll Street and Beaver/Arion Place due to the missing sidewalk along existing green street.

Also a community letter requesting a curb extension or island at the intersection of Bushwick and Jefferson Street where pedestrians are vulnerable was received by DOT.

General issues along the corridors are: missing sidewalks, long wait for walk signals, long crossing distances, weaving traffic and skewed intersections. Ms. Wolf referenced the DOT Toolkit that is available which could be used to change pavement markings, add concrete sidewalk extensions and islands, new signage and painted and or textured surfaces.

Locations and DOT's Proposals

Bushwick Avenue and Beaver Street- long crosswalks and long wait times and missing sidewalk

Proposed plan to build a new sidewalk around green-street extending to intersection where currently there is just a pedestrian signal in the middle of the asphalt. There would be concrete so that there will be a place to wait. The new concrete would allow for the shortening of the crosswalks.

At a previous meeting there was some interest as to what the signal timing is so DOT Diagramed the signal timing at this location as follows: Phase One: Bushwick has green, pedestrian could cross Beaver and Arion Phase Two: Beaver has green –Bushwick and Arion are traffic is held Phase Three: Arion has green- people could cross straight Bushwick. The current signal crossing in the field and would remain the same.

Bushwick Avenue and Jefferson Street- issues are the long crosswalk and flush median (it's basically a triangle with no protection for anyone standing waiting to get across.)

Proposed plan to build a solid concrete island that provides pedestrian refuge and calms traffic. This proposal would require removing two parking spaces

Bushwick Avenue and Flushing Avenue-currently in Brooklyn left turn crashes account for 7.5% of all crashes. At this location left turn crashes account for 31.2% of all crashes-very high in comparison to the rest of the borough.

Proposed plan- Ban the left turn (northbound) during the AM peak 7-10am. So instead of making the left at Bushwick & Flushing Avenues the left would be made at Bushwick Ave and Garden Street to lessen the congestion at the intersection of Flushing Ave. / Bushwick Ave.

Ban the left turn (southbound) during the PM peak 4-7pm. A NYPD request-the diversion would be to drive over to Varet Street and down Bogart and make the left on Flushing Ave. there.

Bushwick Avenue and Myrtle Avenue- At this location left turn crashes account for 23%.1% as opposed to the 7.5% borough wide.

Proposed Plan- Ban the northbound left turns all the time- not just during the rush. Vehicles would continue on Bushwick Avenue to Troutman Street to make the right.

Conversely –Ban the southbound vehicles will continue on Bushwick Avenue making a left turn on Willoughby and then a right on Myrtle Avenue.

The borough of Brooklyn injury summary from 2006 -2010 states that Bushwick Avenue, the entire corridor, is in the top third of all crashes with one (1) fatality, sixteen (16) pedestrians twenty-four (24) bicyclist- one hundred seventy eight (178) motor vehicle occupant.

Confusing Striping along Bushwick Avenue-due to the rush hours regulations; during rush hours there is no parking so cars use it as a moving lane. This becomes confusing during non-rush hours when there's a car parked in a lane that's 15 feet wide when a car is only 6 to 7 feet wide. The confusion to drivers is too wide for parking lane and too narrow for moving lane.

Currently the existing striping allows for the follow: 15' Parking/Rush hour moving lane, 10' Moving Lane 10' moving Lane 15' Parking Rush hour Moving Lane.

Proposed Plan – Add a flush median. Narrow the parking lane to 13' feet have a 10' moving lane and have a little spare room in center of the road- 4' to provide a little bit of buffer against opposing traffic; giving vehicles a little bit more space to make left turn while waiting for opposing traffic to clear.

All of the proposed improvements:

1. New sidewalk at Bushwick Av/ Arion Place
2. New concrete island at Jefferson St and Bushwick Ave
3. Ban left turns from Bushwick Ave to Flushing Ave during peak hours
4. Ban left turns from Bushwick Ave to Myrtle Ave at all hours
5. Clearer street marking plan while maintaining rush-hour regulations for peak hour traffic
6. Improved signal timing plan along the corridor.

Questions:

Mr. Camacho- the site of Beaver /Bushwick sidewalk needed

Ms. Brown- the northbound Bushwick Ave/Myrtle Ave traffic. Diverting traffic onto Troutman Street back Myrtle Ave. would present a problem as it's a dangerous corner.

DOT noted that they requested a warrant study at the location for a signal.

Ms. McClellan- requested if count-down is going to be installed.

DOT responded that count-down signals are coming.

Ms. McClellan asked if all of Bushwick Ave will have the count down. DOT response was yes.

A community resident asked if bike lanes will be considered on Bushwick Ave. DOT responded no and stated that part of the problem for bike lanes are the rush hour traffic.

Mr. Nunez commented on the turns onto Troutman Street will back up traffic-due to Troutman Street being a very short block. DOT did a study that revealed that left turns volumes are very low during the day. The mornings representing the highest with 80 cars making that left an hour; over the hour a little more than one car per minute. Adding that amount to that short block will not add too much to the congestion. Some drivers will divert to other parts of the neighborhood. DOT will monitor before implementation.

The area of Myrtle Avenue at Bushwick Ave under the train is extremely dark which presents issues for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Mr. Camacho question the left turns from Bushwick to Myrtle if it's proposed for a certain time. The response was it is a permanent elimination. The proposed elimination of the left turn at Flushing Avenue is during rush hours only.

Ms. Brown questions if any schematics/drawings are available. Some copies were made available for the membership tonight Mr. Quinn responded that this presentation will be up on the DOT's website tomorrow.

Mr. Carroll stated that the block of Willoughby where the turn is being suggested can only fit two cars. Mr. Quinn stated that have requested a signal study at Willoughby at Myrtle. The results would be available during the Spring.

Ms. Brown stated that other part of the Bushwick Avenue strip has issues as well. Mr. Quinn stated that if the board were to write a letter with this request it would give the DOT the go ahead to move forward.

He noted however that Bushwick Avenue narrows and widens; therefore some of the remedies utilized under the current proposal area may not be the same in different parts of the strip

The District Manager stated that if we are in agreement that the entire strip of Bushwick Avenue needs to be investigated for safety improvements then a meeting of the Transportation Committee needs to be convened-whereby key locations are identified. After such as recommendation will be brought to the full board for endorsement. Mr. Quinn noted that the corridor is extremely long as such they would like to work on the current proposal and thereafter the next piece.

Ms. Dent noted that we will be submitted something in writing in reference to that.

Ms. Dent then closed that portion of the meeting. Afterwards the regular meeting was opened. Ms. Dent introduced herself as chair of the board for 2013-14 operating year. She then requested the roll call by the District Manager Nadine Whitted who announced 38 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chair as for a motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Cyril Joseph, all members voted in favor.

Ms. Dent then asked for a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes with the necessary corrections. Ms. McKinley made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Elvena Davis, all members present voted in favor.

Chairperson Report

On September 7, 2013 Ms. Dent announce to some and recapped for others the loss of Rev. Matthew Rae, who had been a Community Board member since 1977. Although Rev. Rae was a quiet man, his full-robust comments always moved the crowd. Rev. Rae a true pioneer in our community will surely be missed. His leadership role on many local boards- included President of the Bushwick Community Action Association Inc., Chair of the Family Services Network of NY underscored his love for the community and the children.

The Chair, called for a moment of silence in honor of the life of the late great Rev. Matthew Rae.

The Life Audrey Johnson & John Coker Learning Centers will have a memorial celebration in honor of the life of the late Rev. Matthew Rae on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 2pm to 5pm. The location is 272 Moffat Street between Knickerbocker and Wilson Avenues, telephone (718) 574- 0130.

During this portion of the Chairperson's report, Ms. Dent requested introduction by the elected officials (or the representatives) federal, state, city agencies and local community based organizations.

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| NYS Comptroller Representative-Debra Dilan | Boniface Wewe-Brooklyn Public Library |
| NYS Assemblyman Espinal-Representative- Celeste Leon | Stephanie Purnell- CAMBA House |
| NYC Councilmember Reyna- Representative- Kevin Worthington | Maggie Mangual- Wyckoff Height Medical Center – PHM |
| NYPD-83 RD Precinct –PO Damarys Franco | Hedi Wolf NYC-DOT |
| NYPD-83 rd Precinct-PO Natalie Robinson | Travis Tench- ECOSTation –NY |
| Darnese Olivieri- EBC High School | Anita Haines- UJIMA |
| Carlos Olivieri-EBC High School | Keith Norris- Bklyn Ballers |
| | Sean Quinn-NYCDOT |
| | Wanice James-SCO-Flushing Family |

CB4- member update- The office has received notice of the resignation of two members: William Harris and Joseph Gabriel. Both have taken on residence outside of the state of New York. The Chair announced that the board has openings for membership interested parties should contact the board's office (718) 628-8400 or the Brooklyn Borough President's Office (718) 802-3700/3900 or contact your local NYC Council Member.

The US Environmental Protection Agency –EPA and the NYS and the NYC Department of Health conducted various surveys and testing over the past years that confirmed the presence of residual radioactive contamination from the Wolff Alport Facility. The EPA has confirmed the state and city's findings. The testing indicates that there is no immediate threat to nearby residents, employees or customers of business in the affected area along Irving and Cooper Avenues. Exposure, however to this residual radioactive contamination may pose a health threat under certain long-term exposure scenarios. The EPA and he City and State are working together to reduce these potential long term exposures to radiation. The proposed order of work per business is as follows:

PRIMO- SHIELDING

TERRA NOVA –SHIELDING

PRIMO#2 SHIELDING AT IRVING AVE. SHIELDING

A fact sheet with pertinent contact information is attached to the report.

MESA School Update (Mathematics, Engineering Science Academy) Current is in its ninth week of operation with an attendance rate of over 95%. The school has established a strong culture and are pushing students academically with 85% of the students coming from the Bushwick community district.

A number of students have IEP and 30 students have ELLs representing a higher number than that of the district. MESA has an open invitation to the board to come and visit at a convenient time. The goal is to continue the engagement with the community.

The Audrey Johnson and the John Coker –Life Learning Centers will host a Health Committee Meeting on Friday, October 25, 2013. The meeting will be held at 272 Moffat Street at 9:30am. All Health related agencies and organizations are encouraged to attend.

NYC-Council member Diana Reyna Office is creating and Ad-Hoc Committee comprised of many entities consisting of neighbors, community based organizations, CB#4 and local schools etc. to be a part of a community voice on the Rheingold Development proposal. On October 23rd, the City Planning Commission will vote on the project. The City Council will have 50 days to take on the application and organize at least one public hearing followed by a vote.

Council Member Diana Reyna has already been discussing several aspects of the project with the applicants as well as other community based organizations (**CUFFH, LOS SURES, St Nick's ALLIANCE, EWVIDCO**) and has been gathering intelligence and assessing the opportunities and threats resulting from this project.

“We want the community to pursue its organizing efforts”. In order to reach a constructive and comprehensive inclusion of the diverse voices that emerged in the last weeks, we suggested at last Sunday workshop organized in partnership with Parsons University and Bushwick Residents **to form an Advisory Committee.**” That Advisory /Committee meeting will take place Tuesday, October 29th. For more details on this matter, contact Council Member Reyna’s Office (718) 963-3141.

It is our understanding that other local elected officials has been receiving calls regarding this as well.

WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER LAUNCHES RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PCAC). The PCAC is a panel of community leaders and residents who are charged with being ambassadors for the hospital in the community and who advise Wyckoff about the health care needs of the community. The PCAC meets periodically throughout the year. The group will also be involved in the hospital’s Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Service Plan process. These NYS Department of Health directives align with the national and local goals, which promote health and wellness at the neighborhood level.

For more information or to request a PCAC application, please call 718-508-4630 or email bwaugustin@wyckoffhospital.org.

The Chair attached a current list of schools, principals and parent coordinators within school district #32 (CEC32)

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager (DM) Nadine Whitted stated that she would like to say thank you to the members of Community Board#4 for the volunteerism and commitment to the Bushwick community. The role of a community board member is not an easy job-particularly when decisions are made that others do not agree with.

I also wish to encourage the community to continue attending board meetings and other local meetings where we can all learn from one another. The DM commented on how exciting last month's meeting was. (for a lack of a better word) She went on to say that last month's meeting was the pure essence of a board meeting should be. Everyone will not and should not always agree on every issue- we should not be the rubber stamp board - we are to listen and learn as we move forward. She thanked all for their continued work for the betterment of our community.

Ms. Smith asked to comment on a statement made by the District Manager, when she noted that she takes full responsibility for what goes on at this board. Ms. Smith noted that it's not Nadine responsibility as the District Manager doesn't vote. She said we all have to stand behind our Chairperson and Community Board#4's Manager and take full responsibility.

Moving forward the DM stated how we all have a responsibility to our community. Inasmuch as we will not always agree with each other we must agree to disagree through consensus.

The District Manager elaborated on the following meetings of which she had attended over the past month.

The Graham Ave. BID – Meeting with Betty Clooney
ARCH- Wendy Siegal -Diversity Meeting
Housing and Land Use Committee
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center PHM
CB#4's NYS SLA Request Meeting

Chaired – District Service Cabinet
Executive Committee Meeting
Bushwick Film Festival –Panelist Discussion
83rd Pct. Community Council
HLU and EPT- Committees Meetings

El Puente a local Community Based Organization will host a meeting concerning safety in local parks- specifically in Hope Park. The young people of El Puente have invited a group of community leaders to a visioning and planning meeting. The meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2013 at 5:00pm at 311 Central Ave.

The NYC Dept. of Health has a new feature called Doula "doo-la" a supports pregnant women and their families before, during and after pregnancy. A doula will help prepare for and carry out your plans for birth, find your inner strength during labor and stay comfortable, gain the confidence and knowledge you need to make informed choices during the birth of the child, talk to doctors, nurses and other hospital staff about yours needs.

The DM highlighted the Positive Health Management of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center's new clinic for Sexual & Behavioral Health Services (SBH). The new clinic will offer the following services: STD Treatment & Screenings, Rapid HIV testing, Hepatitis A,B,C screening & Hepatitis A and B vaccinations, Short-term mental health& substance abuse counseling, etc. The location of the clinic is 374 Stockholm Street (the hospital) which is both convenient and confidential.

The District Manager's report contained the Score Card statistically rating for acceptable clean streets and sidewalks.

Committee Reports

The Environmental Protection/Transportation-Eliseo Ruiz Committee Chair: The committee met on October 8, 2013 to discuss the DOT- Bushwick Avenue – Pedestrian Safety proposal. It was determined that the proposed changes be heard at tonight's Public Hearing and full board meeting. Recommendation will be discussed during the portion of the meeting set aside for recommendations.

Housing and Land Use- Martha L. Brown Committee Chair- The committee met on September 28, 2013. Presenters were Eric Palatnik representing principals of 1296-1304 Willoughby Avenue regarding a proposed zoning map amendment and changes affecting the above referenced premises. The proposal seeks a zoning map amendment from M-1/1 to M-1/1/R6A which would allow for the enlargement and conversion of the existing manufacturing building on the site to a five story multi-family residence with 15 dwelling units and accessory off street parking. According to the representative, Mr. Palatnik, no tax abatement requests and no form of subsidies are being requested.

However, our thoughts were asked on his proposal. The District Manager stated that since the location is nearby the artists and the art community of the neighborhood, it would be more feasible if the units were made for studio lofts or art studio apartments that could be used as living and work space. The manufacturing aspect of the zoning may prove advantageous in that respect as well. It was suggested that we do not want to disenfranchise any particular group and would welcome newcomers who would be interested in living and work space in the development if the owner of the building would be amenable to such an innovative project.

Item number two-Robert Solano-Executive Director Churches United for Fair Housing Inc. (CUFF): Mr. Solano presented an overview of the organization which works with churches in alliance for fair housing. CUFF presents workshops, give affordable housing seminars in various churches: St. Lucy's, Parish of Mary of Nazareth, Sacred Heart, St. John the Baptist, St. Barbara's and St. Joseph's.

CUFF helps low to moderate income families qualify for housing and homeownership opportunities. Working with families whose income levels are \$0 to \$75,000.00 the organization prepares the families for what to expect in the application process by hosting Financial Literacy Workshops so that those seeking housing can get their affairs in order before being called for interviews as potential tenants. Mr. Solano informed the committee of some items which might interfere with the prospect of qualifying for housing: low credit rating, misdemeanors on records-which applies to all seekers including students and senior citizens.

He also noted that no credit history is as bad as having negative credit history. The CUFF has been chosen to do the marketing for the Shelter Rock Homes and the proposed Rheingold Development and the Bridge Street Apartments- of which he provided the formal announcement to the committee.

Item number three- NYC- HPD and DOB orders and Notification and Declarations

20 Jefferson Street: Emergency Declaration-full demolition

18 Jefferson Street: Emergency Declaration –full demolition

146 Wyckoff Avenue: Demolish remainder of 1-story garage and erect fence

173 Starr Street: The Cornish is pulling away from façade of building and is in danger of falling to sidewalk below- erect sidewalk shed.

97 Wyckoff Avenue: Immediate Emergency Declaration-work to remediate condition must begin immediately.

1238 Hancock Street: Emergency Declaration –structural condition of building located at Hancock Street and Wilson Avenue is to be fully demolished and lot backfilled.

1318 Bushwick Avenue: Order to Repair/Vacate Order.

This report required no vote- informational purposes only.

Public Safety Committee Report- Ms. Barbara Smith- Ms. Smith announced that this session of the Public Safety Committee dealt with requests for NYS Liquor license requests. The following applicants attended the meeting. The committee's recommendation is listed.

1). Aris Pollos A La Brasa – 691 Knickerbocker Ave. Mr. Marte renewal of LWB restaurant license. Family restaurant. Hours of operation: Sunday through Saturday from 9am to 10pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

2). Steak-A-A- Mania Inc. – 178 Wyckoff Ave. Manuel Quito new application for WB restaurant license. Mr. Quito is awaiting NYC-Dept. of Health's approval. Planned hours of operation: Sunday through Saturday 10am to 10pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS –APPROVAL AFTER BOARD OFFICE RECEIVES PROOF OF DEPT. OF HEALTH APPROVAL

3.) Tavares 2 Restaurant Bar & Grill- 360 Central Ave. - Sobedia Toribio Nunez& Jose Corona Esq., new application for LWB restaurant license. Currently operating under a license which will expire 1/31/14. It was suggested that the new owner transfer the license under her name and change the name of the establishment. Additionally due to the noise complaints under the previous owners it was also suggested that the current operators reach out to the neighbors and give contact information in case of any issues such as loud music, noise, etc. Planned hours of operation: Sunday through Thursday 11am to Midnight. Friday and Saturday: 11am to 3 am.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS – HOLDING UNTIL RECEIPT OF TRANSFER FILING.

4). Carlo Martello LLC.- 423 Troutman Street. Leonardo Lasagni & Voglino new application for LWB restaurant license. This will be a brick oven pizzeria, planned hours of operation: Monday through Thursday 4pm to Midnight. Friday 4pm to 2am, Saturday 11am to 2am; Sunday 11am to Midnight. Operators are awaiting NYC-Dept. of Health's approval.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS- APPROVAL AFTER BOARD OFFICE RECEIVES PROOF OF DEPT. OF HEALTH APPROVAL

5). Tailypo Trail House- 445 Troutman Street. A new application for a LWB restaurant license/ with yard and front yard space. Planned hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. Sunday 11am to Midnight.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS- APPROVAL AFTER BOARD OFFICE RECEIVES PROOF OF DEPT. OF HEALTH APPROVAL AND THE DEPT. OF BUILDINGS APPROVAL BOTH OUTSIDE YARDS.

Each of the SLA applicants is encouraged to attend both CB#4 and 83rd Precinct Community Council monthly meetings. The DM noted that many of the applicants requesting license have said that their appropriate paper work is imminent and the District Manager's office will receive copies within the next few days. It has not occurred as of yet therefore the committee's recommendation prevails.

Both Ms. Smith and Ms. Dent thanked the NYPD 83rd Precinct – Deputy Inspector Tasso and Police Officers Franco and Robinson for working so closely with the committee on the NYS Liquor Authority applications and the process developed to render recommendations to the state.

Recommendations:

1). Public Safety Report- Aris Pollos -A La Brasa – 691 Knickerbocker Ave. Mr. Marte renewal of LWB restaurant license- Family restaurant. Hours of operation: Sunday through Saturday from 9am to 10pm.

The full board voted to accept the Public Safety Committee’s Recommendation – All in Favor

2). NYC- DOT Presentation - Bushwick Avenue Pedestrian Safety Proposal after much discussion it was suggested that a tour of the recommended sites be conducted by the Environmental Protection/Transportation Committee and the NYPD.

Old Business

Mr. Carroll asked if all of Bushwick Avenue were to be repaved including some extension of sidewalks. It was noted that the portion of Bushwick Avenue from Woodbine Street to Flushing Avenue has been repaved. Also some sidewalks nearby certain school did have sidewalk extensions. (I.S 296 and P.S. 106)

New Business- none

Announcements- 1.5 minutes only!

Bridgette Blood- newly formed Northwest Bushwick Community Advisory Group working towards Rheingold Advisory panel and the next meeting is on October 21, 2013- 389 Melrose Street from 7:30pm to 9:30pm all are invited.

Ken Worthington-NYC Council Member Reyna Office Immigration Services –Fridays from 10am to 1pm also Joining with El Puente on a Weatherization Event of October 23, 2013.

Brandon Zwagerman- Silent Barn 603 Bushwick Ave. (Neighborhood Arts Space) Halloween Family friendly event on Halloween.

Travis Tench- EcoStation NY -Saturday Tree Give Away at Maria Hernandez Park 9am to 12noon.

Calabasta Festival –Sunday, October 27, 2013 from 12noon to 5pm.

Ms. Dent asked that everyone leave the building neat and remove all garbage.

Second Roll Call

Adjournment