

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street, Corner of Wilson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

Ms. Julie Dent the Chairperson of Brooklyn Community Board's #4 opened the Public Agenda portion of the meeting at 6:53PM.

- Public Hearing Item –

New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Representative Mr. Robert Patel

- Proposal for one way northbound traffic on Chauncey Street from Evergreen to Central Avenues

1) Safety Concern:

Everyday large trucks travel down Chauncey Street which has caused safety issues. In 2014 DOT received a request from the senior citizens that live in the area to see what could be done to improve safety for them and others. A major concern is the safety of the senior citizen as they cross the street on Chauncey Street and Evergreen Avenue. Due to heavy truck traffic there is a conflict between pedestrians and motorist.

All the other side streets are either going north or south except for Chauncey Street which is a two way street with Central Avenue being a dead-end street.

Chauncey Street is 31 feet wide and normally two way streets should be 40 feet wide with parking on both sides. Cars have been side swiped because of the narrowness of the street.

2) Chauncey Street is used as a cut through:

Trucks going down Moffat or Cooper Street turn down Central Avenue and use Chauncey Street as a cut through. Some vehicles to avoid traffic signals are coming down Central Avenue then down Chauncey Street then Evergreen Avenue and down Pilling Street. This is causing cars & trucks to speed and cause unnecessary traffic down that block.

3) Head on condition on Evergreen Avenue and Chauncey Street:

Vehicles traveling north bound on Chauncey Street can continue north bound or they can make a left or a right turn on Evergreen Avenue. The majority of them are making a left turn again using it as a cut through which is causing a confusion situation for motorist as to the right away and it is causing a lack of compliance for the pedestrians when they are crossing.

DOT's Request:

The proposal is to make Chauncey Street a north bound Street between Evergreen and Central Avenues. This will eliminate the head on condition at Evergreen Avenue. So all vehicles will have to go either north bound or make a left or a right on Evergreen Avenue. This will improve pedestrian safety and less confusion. Speeding will also be reduce so that Chauncey Street would not be used as a cut through anymore.

There will be no changes with the parking regulations that is currently there.

Questions were entertained:

Ms. Jackson: On Pilling Street to Chauncey Street is two way traffic. Requesting a STOP sign or ALWAYS sign be put there.

Mr. Patel: These are the only changes that are being worked on at present. Once the changes for Chauncey Street are in place then if other changes are needed with improving traffic and safety around Moffat Street and Cooper Street it will be looked into.

Ms. Martha Brown: Cooper Street will be congested if Chauncey Street is turned into a one way street. There is also a church and a school on Cooper Street. This should be taken into consideration as well.

Ms. Dent: When was the study done?

Mr. Patel: End of 2014 beginning of 2015. A study was done in the morning at the hours of 7am to 10am and during the pm hours of 4pm to 7pm. They physically went out to observe the traffic. They also took sample counts where they went out in the morning and evening times and took a count of the pedestrians and vehicles.

Ms. Dent thank Councilmember Antonio Reynoso for being present at the Community Board #4 meeting and she ask all to congratulate him on getting married.

- Wyckoff Avenue Corridor, Intersection & Plaza Safety Improvements. Representative Mr. J. Roth
There was a workshop done at the beginning of 2016 at Wyckoff Avenue and Palmetto Street.
There have been 3 fatalities and 25 injuries at this intersection and it has been confusing to many. More work still needs to be done stated Mr. Roth.
In 2015 DOT received a lot of money from City Hall to redo Wyckoff Avenue.
This location is found on the border line of Brooklyn CB4 and Queens CB5. It is a 6 leg intersection meaning that you can come in 6 different ways with 25 different movements. The L train runs under it and the M train runs over it. This is also a bus station location causing lots of traffic and pedestrian commuting. There are 6 bus routes. Myrtle Avenue and Cypress Avenues are truck routes which also contributes to the traffic congestion. Wyckoff Avenue is not a truck route.
DOT has been engaged with other city agencies in an initiative called Vision Zero to reduce traffic fatalities. The data from Vision Zero showed that the Wyckoff & Palmetto area is a priority corridor and intersection.
Out of the 25 injuries, 16 of them (64%) were pedestrians
The Ridgewood Bus Terminal was started in 2010. The Department of Transportation feels that the retail and transit hub can better serve the subway and bus transfers riders and the community if changes was made. DOT feels that if there was less movement or options for drivers that it would be a safer and simpler place.
DOT's proposal is: To put a plaza on Wyckoff Avenue between Myrtle and Gates Avenue. By the removal of vehicles there will be better access to the L and M trains and the bus terminal.
In January 2016 DOT met with the Community Board. In February they met with the Council members. On March 29th a workshop was held in Queens at IS 77 located at 976 Seneca Avenue on April 27, 2016 the workshop was held in Brooklyn at Bushwick School for Social Justice located at 400 Irving Avenue. DOT hosted a one day plaza to show people what the plaza would look like. At the event they asked 130 people if they would like to see a permanent plaza there. Out of the 130 people surveyed 122 of them said yes. They asked how a permanent plaza would affect your shopping. 61 persons (41%) said that it would increase their shopping there. 46% said plaza will cause no change in their shopping.
The B26 and the Q55 would also be re-routed.
If the plaza is approved it will start in the late summer. The reconstruction of Wyckoff Avenue would start in 2018.

Question were entertained:

Mr. Eliseo Ruiz the chairperson of the Environmental Protection Committee (EPT) commented:

A beautiful presentation was presented -

- a) DOT is not worried about safety
- b) The 3 fatalities did not occur because some vehicle hit them. It occurs because they walked into path of the back of the bus. This could occur again today or tomorrow if someone does it again.
- c) The police are not enforcing whether someone can make a left or right turn.

Mr. Patel: The plaza is not the focus of the project. They want to make the intersection safer for the people.

Councilman Reynoso: No one jumps behind a bus unless they are trying to commit suicide. What happen was the buses have a blind spot and when the bus turned it hit the person. This issue is important to the love one of the people who were killed.

Ms. Annette Spellen: Turning Wyckoff into a one way. Food Bazaar is on one side of the street that have two driveways. Auto Zone is on the other side of the street they both have entrances, what happens to the people that shop and use those entrances or exits?

Mr. Patel: Ridgewood place will stay the way it is, he feels that their business would not be impacted by the change.

Mr. Robert Camacho the chairperson the Parks and Recreation expressed his concerns:

Watched the area for 3 hours. There are six houses on Palmetto Street. Ridgewood Place is a two way street.

There is 39 feet and only 21 feet to park. There will be no parking on the block if the changes are made.

There is another Plaza located at Woodbine and St. Nicholas Avenue and the residents over there are not happy.

The Plaza will not work!! If you close it down I think it will be the worst thing you could do.

Edward from Food Bazaar: Food Bazaar is not happy with the proposed changes and feel that it will have a bad effect on the business.

25 to 30,000 families come to the store and dozens of truck come in and out of the parking lot.

The closures of streets and other concerns would cost the food store. If the curb cut is opened on Madison Street as proposed then that will divert traffic in front of their supermarket and exit area and this will cause people who pass through their parking lot as a cut through to get to Palmetto Street because it is closed off where it will be closed off because of the Plaza.

They asked to be included in any future discussions about the changes. They feel the proposed changes will be a huge safety concern.

Ms. Barbara Smith the chairperson for the Public Safety Committee: The fatalities that occurred happened on the Queens side and they did not start to occur until MTA changed the bus routes to make those turns.

Mr. Patel: The proposal is not about the Plaza it is about making the intersection safer.

DI Tolentino, 83rd Pct.: The fatalities that occurred did occur in the 104th Pct., however we consider what happened over there to have happened on this side as well. We have a lot of trucks in that area. Which is compounded by tons of vehicles and tons of people in the area. I wish there was a walk through so that we could see how to solve the issue/problem.

I do feel that if you build a Plaza there you are going to divert problems elsewhere. Bushwick already have a problem where trucks go down streets that are not designated truck routes. This I believe is going to happen.

The right thing to do is to shoot for zero fatalities but if this is not the right solution for the community then one need to go back and look at everything and look at it together to get the correct solution. The Deputy Inspector said that he is the kind of person who like to walk the street and look for himself what he sees. He feels that is what needs to be done a little more. He request that they get together with the 104 Pct., and get some local people to work out the problem so that local businesses will not be impacted, there is safety for the people as well as the area looks nice. We do not have the manpower to put someone there 24 hours but we do have to work out a solution.

Ms. Julie Dent thanked DOT for the excellent presentation.

She welcomed the MTA to speak and asked that everyone not forget the M line even though the L line is the train line that will highlighted in the presentation.

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For safety and environmental reasons, it is not possible to complete the necessary demolition and reconstruction only overnight and/or during the weekends. Each time a track is closed we need time to restore the system to a safe and reliable weekday operation.

Full closure will start in 2019, but the prep work that requires night and weekend closures will begin before that. What additional subway service would be provide during the different shutdown scenarios?

Under both scenarios, additional M, J & G trains will operated. G trains will be doubled in length. The J and Z would operate local between Myrtle and Marcy Avenues, significantly increasing service to Hewes St., Lorimer Street and Flushing Avenue. A free out-of-system transfer would be provided between Broadway G and Lorimer Street J, M & Z and between Liviona L and Junius 3 stations. Other options will be explored and added if needed.

Work is anticipated to occur 24/7 within the tunnels.

The MTA will work with the community to ensure that impacts to businesses adjacent to work zones are minimized to the highest degree possible. Access to all businesses and residences will be maintained at all times.

Two options:

18 months: Full Closure of the whole line – No L service in Manhattan instead there will replacement bus services. The tracks will be closed starting January 2019 through the summer of 2020. From Rockaway Parkway to Bedford Avenue.

3 years: Close one tube at a time – will have service from Bedford Avenue station into Manhattan but it will be very limited.

First Roll Call: 9:01PM – 36 members present this constitute a quorum.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. Mr. Robert Camacho motioned to accept the agenda as written. It was second by Ms. Zulma Novoa. Motion moved.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. Mr. Joshua Brown accepted the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The motioned was second by Ms. Barbara Smith. Motioned moved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: 9:05 PM

The Chairperson Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all to Community Board #4's Wednesday, June 15, 2016 monthly public meeting.

Ms. Julie Dent asked that the Elected Officials and / or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Celeste Leon Representing Councilman Rafael Espinal, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
 - 2) Yamilky Crisostomo, Representing the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3809
 - 3) Kevin Worthington, Representing Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211, 718-963-3141
 - 4) Antonio Reynoso, The Councilman, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211
 - 5) Tahirah Moore Representing the Mayor Bill de Blasio 's Office, CAU, 253 Broadway, New York 10007
 - 6) Miguel Suarez Representing Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 573 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211, 718-573-1726
- City, State or Federal Agency Representatives were asked to introduce themselves and state their respective contact information.

- 1) Maggie Mangual, Program Manager – Wyckoff Heights Hospital, Sexual Health Behavior, 718-508-4669
- 2) Deputy Inspector Max Tolentino, 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 3) Detective Franco, 83rd Pct., Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 4) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch, 360 Irving Ave., 718-628-8278

Community Board #4 has been assigned twelve new members and one returning member. She asked that the members stand as she says their name.

Jo-Ena Bennett
LA Blacksmith
Joshua Brown
Sufia Chowdhry
Edwin Delgado
Denisse Reyna-Dolin
Ernest Estime
Kweighbaye Kotee
Nancy Liao
Dustin Sonneborn
Jerry Valentin
James Wiseman
Odolph Wright

Ms. Dent and the other board member welcomed them to the board and look forward to doing many positive things that will prove quite beneficial for the community. A package of information including the board By-Laws, committee choice form and updated contact information was sent to all members; she asked for the new board members to please return the form to the District Manager or Mr. Willie Morales at tonight's meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee will report on a wonderful design for the Hope Park Ball Field which the board are extremely happy about. However, the other side of the district- specifically on Moffat Street is a loss of a capital project. A skate park was to be constructed on Moffat Street from Knickerbocker to Irving Avenue. The previous NYC Council Member Erik Dilan had committed the money. The land, (PRIVATELY OWNED) was in the process of being acquired by the Department of Parks for the development of the park. Capital monies was in place and land - acquisition was underway. However, the owner had a change of mind, thus the park development at that site was no longer a plan.

The capital funds were replaced at Hope Park!! The community and residents are now questioning what happened to the Skate- Park? Why was the funds removed before working with the community to locate another site?

Bushwick Community Plan- Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016 from 6:30-8:30 -1474 Gates Ave.

Per Scholars is coming to Brooklyn to provide free IT classes to young adult. Classes start in September at 630 Flushing avenue Brooklyn NY. <https://perscholas.org/apply>

Feel free to contact Kelly Richardson Managing Director, New York regarding any questions at (718) 772-0647 Fax (718) 991-0362E krichardson@perscholas.org

DISTRICT MANGER’S REPORT: 9:16PM

The District Manager Ms. Nadine Whitted said greetings and good evening from herself and the staff of CB#4. Here is a brief items of major interest and or concern.

Saturday, June 11, 2016

The Kings County District Attorney’s Office –hosted at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church located at 1405 Bushwick Avenue the first local BEGIN AGAIN which is an opportunity to resolve any NYPD Summons issued prior to May 6, 2016.

The results of the event is: 192 person seen with 110 warrants vacated. The difference is because one of the following reasons:

- Didn’t have a warrant
- Had a more serious criminal situation
- Transit or parking violation

Kings County DA THOMPSON – send Community Board #4 and other community partners in justice notifications on cases of which he has tried.

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Enjoyed our 11th Annual Brooklyn Queens Day Parade and Shape Up- Bushwick Festivities on Thursday, June 9th, at the Irving Square Park at Wilson Avenue and Weirfield Streets. With many gracious donations from a host of sponsors and supporters, including Metro Plus, Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Plus, Affinity, Woodhull Hospital and Wyckoff Hospitals, Health Care Education Project 1199, Broadway Stages, Bogopá Food Corporation, UJIMA CWT, City Agencies, local Community Organizations, Swerve Church countless volunteers, NYS Senator Martin Malave Dilan and NYC Council Member Rafael Espinal all participated or contributed to make sure the event was a successful one. We extend many thanks from the entire Bushwick Community.

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

ADA- Timothy Gough –Prosecutor in Charge of the Gray Zone

Ms. Whitted met at the 83rd Pct., to discuss items of concern in relationship to the DA’s office and the Bushwick Community. Currently we don’t have a person solely assigned to the district. Those present at the meeting all echoed the same need. NYCHA (Hope Gardens) representative spoke of the various ongoing arrests however person(s) still resides in the development often time conducting more crimes.

Monday, June 6, 2016

The EPT Committee convened a meeting which led up to the public hearing scheduled for tonight.

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center held a Community Engagement Session the Governor’s Office on the various components of the hospital.

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Congresswoman Velazquez representative Ms. Cruz invited United States Postal Services Community Relations Department and Area Manager to discuss ways of improving of service delivery within the district after hearing about the many postal complaints. Many of the complaints were focus on missed or lack of package deliveries and attitudes of workers and management.

In an effort improve on services the following was given:

GoPost- Information where one can ship and receive packages 24hours 7 day per week access. Registration is Free

- 1) Visit www.gopost.com and click “Register” and follow instructions. You’ll receive an email with your new gopost account number
- 2) Complete the registration process by showing your ID at this post office (or a nearby participating post office listed at www.gopost.com/poauthentication Let the clerk know your gopost account number and present one form of government – issued ID.
- 3) Once you receive an email confirmation, your account is active and ready to use. You can begin using gopost immediately! In the meantime, we will send you your gopost account card in the mail...You can start using your account event without the card. When you log into the gopost unity, manually enter your gopost account number, along with your selected PIN. (If you have already completed Step 2-i.e. shown you ID at the post office you can ignore the instruction included with the packet to do so.

GoPost –Locations regardless to where you live or work you are able to use any GoPost location.

For assistance please email gopost@usps.gov or call USPS-MY-GOPOST at 877-769-4676.

Availability of PO Boxes at the local Post Office sites

Jobs Available – with the United States Postal Service. However all males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with the Selective Service System

FDNY

6-5-16- 2ND Floor Exterior Deck Collapsed- 16 minor injuries

5-28-16- 2 St. Nicholas Ave. structural fire 3-story occupied multiple dwelling no injuries

5-22- 398 Woodbine St. structural fire. 3-story multiple dwelling no injuries

Department of Environmental Protection temporary intersection closure and new traffic pattern.

St. Nicholas Ave. & Scott Avenue & Troutman Street from June 20, 2016 to June 30, 2016.

Beginning Monday, June 20th and continuing through June 30th, the following closures and change to traffic will be implemented.

- St. Nicholas Avenue will have one way traffic pattern heading towards flushing Avenue from Starr Street to Jefferson Street
- Intersection of St. Nicholas, Troutman Street and Scott Avenue will be close.

No through traffic will be allowed on Troutman Avenue across St. Nicholas Avenue.

No through traffic will be allowed to Scott Avenue from St. Nicholas Avenue.

Traffic will be allowed to Scott Avenue from Troutman Street

- These patterns and detour plan will be on for 24 hours, 7 days a week.
This temporary change is necessary while the NYC Department of Environment Protection (DEP) performs upgrades to the sewer infrastructure in the area.

For more information contact the Resident Engineer’s office at 718-361-1601.

Committee Reports: 9:30PM

Park and Recreation Committee (PRC) Chairperson: Mr. Robert Camacho

Meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2016 - 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Attending: Mr. Robert Camacho, PRC Committee Chair, Julie Dent, Board Chairperson.

Others Attending: Nadine Whitted, District Manager, Daniel Torres, Stephy Soto – Swerve Church, Eric Mattes, Imelda Bernstein, Mary Salis – Dept. of Parks, Yogi Rosario – El Puente

Items Discussed:

The Department of Parks and Recreation is hoping to get Community Board #4 support of the project which will update the Ballfield, adult fitness areas and a toddler’s lot. Should the board approve the plan, the project

will be process. The timeline for construction would take approximately one (1) year after the schematic design phase.

Plans for the project was electronically forwarded to the members for their review and for any input.

Recommendations: 9:32

- 1) Ms. Barbara Smith Motion to have the MTA L Train L project to take place in 18 months. Motion was second by Ms. Martha Brown. Raul Rubio abstain and Ms. Kweighbaye Kotee opposed requesting 3 years. Motion Moved.
- 2) Proposal for one way northbound traffic on Chauncey Street from Evergreen to Central Avenues. The board voted 17 yes, 10 abstain and 7 no.
- 3) Wyckoff Avenue Corridor, Intersection & Plaza Safety Improvements. The board voted 31 no, 3 yes.

Announcements – 9:48PM

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center: Be intimate with your health! Take Pride in Knowing! Friendly & Confidential Clinic Services

FREE Rapid HIV testing-resulting in 30 minutes, STD testing & Treatment, PEP (Post-exposure prophylaxis), PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis), HIV & Hepatitis C Medical Care, and Health counseling & supportive services. CALL or TEXT to make an appointment 347-723-6925 or 347-528-5604.

You can walk-in Monday to Friday 9AM to 4PM. 1610 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237 (Take the “L” train (DeKalb Station) or the B13/B38 buses.

Brooklyn Public Library: Need Homework Help? We Can Help!! Washington Irving Library – 360 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237, 718-628-8378

Tuesday at 3:00PM to 5:30PM, if you are in grades 1-8 we can help you with your homework. FREE!!!!
Call 718-628-8378

You Are More Than Your Credit Score! There’s no evidence linking credit history to job performance. That is why NYC made it illegal to use credit reports in employment decisions. For most jobs in New York City employers cannot run your credit report; ask your credit history in an employment decision. The NYC Commission on Human Rights has resources for both job seekers and employers to understand their rights and obligations under the law.

If you believe an employer discriminated against you based on your credit history, contact the Commission on Human Rights by calling 311 and visit nyc.gov/humanrights. #creditchecklawNYC

All New Yorkers are Pedestrians: Here are things you can do to protect yourself in the traffic environment.

- a) Stop at the Curb: The sidewalk is the safest place to check for traffic.
- b) Look in all directions for vehicles and bicycles. Even if it is a one way street... even if the signal is in your favor... look around, just in case.
- c) Watch for turning cars: 3 out of 4 crashes occur at intersections. Some spots are more complicated than others. Be especially alert for traffic turning left.
- d) Do what you can to be seen: Do not assume drivers can see you. Add a brightly colored umbrella, bag or scarf or something white at night.
- e) Heads Up: Put your phone down while crossing the street.
- f) Make eye contact with drivers of large vehicles: You cannot be seen directly in front of a bus or truck. Step back from the vehicle, even wave to make yourself seen.

Aging New Yorker are particularly vulnerable on the streets as pedestrians. They make up 12% of the population but account for 35% of fatalities on the streets.

NHS – Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City: We can help you purchase and repair your home with affordable loans.

For more information contact the NHS location nearest you.

Bedford-Stuyvesant, 1012 Gates Avenue, 1st floor, Brooklyn, NY 11221, 718-919-2100

Brooklyn Public Library: Resume & Career One-on-One Help – June 2016

Are you struggling in your job search or looking to improve your current employment situation? FREE assistance is available at the library. Work on your resume, get education and career advice, learn interview skills, practice LinkedIn, and more with help from a Job Information Resource Librarian. Patrons will be seen on a first come, first served basis.

DeKalb Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue – 718-455-3898

Tuesdays: 11am to 1pm

Thursday: 6/23 and 6/30: 3 to 5pm

Summer Reading 2016: Weekly Programs for teens

Starting July 11th to August 31st at the DeKalb Avenue Library from 2:30 to 3:30PM

An evening with Benjamin Furman: A free South American Jazz Concert for the public

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 6:00PM

DeKalb Library Auditorium (Downstairs)

Open House: Bushwick Community Plan (Help Plan the Future of Our Community!)

When: Monday, June 20th at 6:30PM to 8:30PM

Where: Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center, 1474 Gates Avenue between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues

Topics:

Zoning & Land Use

Housing

Economic Development

Neighborhood Resources

Open Space and Transportation & Infrastructure

2nd Roll Call: Meeting Ended 10:10PM