



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for February 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

February has been another busy month throughout our District. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for all. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you.

Updates

- **60 Hudson Street Crane Collapse on Worth Street** – thoughts are with the families of those who were injured or killed; investigation is underway regarding 02/05/16 tragic crane collapse; participated in many meetings/calls with City officials regarding this incident and to ensure the safety of all New Yorkers and prevent future tragedies. Mayor de Blasio announced new measures to increase crane safety: (1) Crawler cranes must cease operations and secure equipment when winds are forecast to hit 20mph, must certify equipment is in safety mode; (2) Increased enforcement of sidewalk safety and notification of surrounding buildings during crane activity; (3) Leading engineers and academics lead Blue Ribbon Commission recommending further reforms which will be available in 90 days from announcement
- **Borough President Brewer Construction Safety Working Group** – Jeff Ehrlich appointed as the CB1 representative to this Working Group which first convened in November 2015 and has been meeting monthly to investigate and research the best approaches to tackling issues have led to dangerous conditions on and near construction sites in Manhattan. The group includes the Manhattan DA's office, Building Trades Council, REBNY, NYSAFA, Community Board and Council representatives, various construction safety professionals, and DOHMH among others (02/05/16)
- **Resiliency** – City has not yet come up with a plan to fund resiliency for Manhattan Tip. NYC has only allocated a total of \$9.5 MM (\$8MM for The Battery and \$1.5MM for the engineering study). The City and HUD are in discussions on how the \$176MM Natural Disaster Relief Competition award will be distributed south of Montgomery Street and it looks like the entire \$176MM may be allocated north of Brooklyn Bridge. If the City is not flexible in this, then CB1 urges that the City allocate the entire \$100MM "leverage" money to CB1. The City submitted a proposal that would cost \$225MM for implementation of a resiliency plan for CB1, so there continues to be a huge funding gap. The City announced in a Crain's article (02/13/16) that the construction and engineering company AECOM, along with design firm Dewberry were selected to design a sprawling series of resiliency measures aimed at protecting Lower Manhattan from future flooding and rising sea levels. The [Register of Community Board Budget Requests For The Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2017 Manhattan 1](#) does not allocate any funding to either of CB1's Capital Budget Priorities and

Requests:#2 “Provide funds for short to medium term resiliency infrastructure” and #11 “Provide funds for long-term resiliency infrastructure” and responded, “EDC suggests that the Community Board work with federal and state representatives to secure grant funding.” CB1 has worked in good faith with the City since Sandy in 2012 and the community engagement planning process has not even begun and there is a huge funding gap for implementation. After raising this at the 02/18 Borough Board Meeting, Borough President Brewer followed up and shared with me HUD’s letter dated January 21 which HUD only agreed last week to letting the City make public:

- “Coastal Protection: Two Bridges (Eastern) This project constructs a floodable coastal protection system from the Two Bridges neighborhood **to** the Manhattan Tip....”
- **Elementary School** – first rendering of new school coming to Financial District was presented to CB1’s Landmarks Committee since it includes historic Dickey House/67 Greenwich Street attached to a new eight-story building which is part of a 500-foot, 35-story residential tower with about 85 apartments; construction of the project, developed by Trinity Place Holdings and designed by FXFowle Architects, is expected to begin in fall 2016 and be completed in 2019 (01/11/16)
- **Helicopters** – NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Helicopter Tourism & Jobs Council announced new measures to reduce helicopter noise and impacts: (1) reduce number of flights to and from Downtown Manhattan Heliport at Pier 6 in CB1 by 50 percent by January 2017, resulting in the elimination of nearly 30,000 flights per year; (2) eliminate all flights on Sunday and (3) prohibit flights over Governor’s Island; operators will be required to provide monthly reporting on number of flights conducted and EDC will have authority to mandate further reduction in operations (01/31/16)
- **Aggressive ticket-hawkers** – reached out to NYC Parks which has not shared with us their report from their 09/16/15 NYC Parks Manhattan Listening Group to address the issue of aggressive and illegal vending from costume characters, ticket sellers, and others in highly used parks around the city. The 02/15/16 violent incident of a tourist having his skull fractured after rebuffing a ticket vendor highlights the urgency of this issue for our District. The City responded that they are now in the process of scheduling a follow-up meeting to discuss developments regarding quality of life enforcement issues on parkland and adjacent areas in Manhattan. To clarify, the feedback expressed at the listening session was central to informing Commissioner Silver’s recommendations to the Mayor regarding helpful steps to address ongoing issues, including an expansion of PEP staff (funding for which was allocated in the Mayor’s new preliminary FY17 budget) and specifically a doubling of PEP officers to about a dozen at The Battery. Manhattan Borough President Brewer’s Office will write a letter requesting a meeting with all of the relevant agencies present, including representation from Lower Manhattan and from Staten Island, to address the issues (02/18/16)
- **New York City Marks the End of Dirty Number 6 Home Heating Oil** – all 5,300 buildings in NYC that were registered in 2011 as having used Number 6 heating oil have now converted to cleaner fuel, a major milestone toward cleaner air and a healthier city. The City will now move to phasing out heating fuel No. 4, the next-dirtiest grade; CB1 started working on this in 2010
- **New York State Comptroller’s Office is seeking your collaboration in their survey on noise in New York City neighborhoods** – research indicates that noise can adversely impact people’s health and quality of life; encourage and remind community residents to take the survey by March 15, 2016. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/539NTMP>

- **New Blue Mail Collection Box installed in Battery Park City** – 211 North End Avenue corner of Murray Street; thank you USPS, Congressman Nadler and Borough President Brewer (01/30/16)

Press Conferences

- **Mayor de Blasio announced new measures to increase crane safety** – joined Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick, Bruce Ehrmann and City agencies (Worth and Church, 02/07/16)
- **60 Hudson Street Crane Collapse on Worth Street** – with Worth Street residents and neighbors including CB1 members (Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich, Elizabeth Lewinsohn and Diana Lapson) and Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick and Councilmember Chin (Worth and Hudson, 02/05/16)

Events

- **New York Stock Exchange ring bell at close to honor renewal of the Zadroga Health and Compensation Act** – joined Congressman Nadler, Congresswoman Maloney and others (02/22/16)
- **Trinity Wall Street Charrette #5** – due to community participation and input to 74 Trinity Place, building programming has changed to include wellness center and gymnasium (Saturday, 02/19/16)
- **FiDi Neighborhood Town Hall** – inaugural meeting hosted by Financial District Neighborhood Association; joined Senator Squadron and Councilmember Chin (02/11/16)
- **Mayor de Blasio's 2016 State of the City Address** (Bronx, 02/04/16)
- **Green Preservation of Multi-Family Affordable Housing** – sponsored by Enterprise Community Partners, The New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (NYU, 02/03/16)
- **Celebrating NYC's Roots founding of City as New Amsterdam Charter of self-government granted February 2, 1653** – Dutch Consulate General in NY Rob de Vos, sponsored by Lower Manhattan Historical Association and Bowling Green Association (02/02/16)
- **Commissioner Bratton unveiled 9/11 artwork that was displayed in the Russell Rotunda in Washington, DC** – to the subjects and/or their family members from December exhibit which was on display as a visual reminder to Senators who would be voting on the Zadroga Bill and when Commissioner Bratton joined Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and NYPD union leaders, to hold a press conference in support of the bill (02/01/16)
- **Manhattan Borough President's State of the Borough** (Sunday, 01/31/16)

Meetings

- **The Battery Conservancy Board Meeting** (02/18/16)
- **Manhattan Borough Board** – raised concerns about **construction safety** including **20 Pine Street** and **lack of community engagement in planning and funding of resiliency in Preliminary City Budget** (02/18/16)
- **Battery Park City Authority Town Hall Meeting Follow-Up** – with President Hyman and others, joined by Anthony Notaro (02/18/16)

- **Senator Squadron's Worth Street Task Force** – numerous City agencies and representatives of Borough President, US Congressman Nadler, Assemblymember Glick, Councilmember Chin, neighbors; joined Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich and Noah Pfefferblit (02/17/16)
- **Gotham Wind 2016 Continuity Exercise** – FEMA (02/17/16)
- **Assemblymember Deborah Glick convened meeting with Battery Park City Authority on security** – joined Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron, Councilmember Chin, NYPD First Precinct, Allied Barton and CB1's Andrew Zeltzer, Anthony Notaro, Ninfa Segarra and Paul Hovitz (02/12/16)
- **Zika Virus Briefing for Community Boards and Organizations** – update by NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (conference calls, 02/12/16 and 02/01/16)
- **67 Greenwich Street, aka 28-30 Trinity Place - Robert and Anne Dickey House** – exterior site visit, joined Roger Byrom and Susan Cole (02/11/16)
- **Blue School** – with Marco Pasanella; will come to upcoming meeting (241 Water Street, 02/11/16)
- **City's Elected Officials and CB1 regarding crane collapse** – follow-up regarding crane collapse for elected officials and community board with following agencies: NYCEM, FDNY, NYPD, DEP, DOB, DOT, DDC, Con Edison, City Hall IGA and CAU (Conference Call, Saturday, 02/06/16)
- **School Overcrowding Task Force** – convened by Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick, Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Chin with School Construction Authority, Principals; joined by Diana Switaj, CB1 members Zelter, Joyce, Hovitz, Chapman and Kennell (02/05/16)
- **Mayor's Office convened meeting on 60 Hudson Street crane collapse** – Deputy Mayor Shorris, Senator Squadron, Assemblymember Glick, Councilmember Chin, representatives from numerous City agencies; with Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich and Elizabeth Lewinsohn (City Hall, 02/05/16)
- **Continuity Webinar: Defining Success - Understanding What Successful Emergency Planning Can Look Like** (FEMA conference call, 02/03/16)
- **9/11 Memorial and Museum** – with Community Affairs about free Winter/Spring Public Programs and 15 year anniversary, joined by Diana Switaj and Michael Levine (02/02/16)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee** – joined by Kathleen Gupta (Conference Call, 02/02/16)
- **Construction coordination transition to NYC Department of Transportation Manhattan Commissioner Forgione from Lower Manhattan Commissioner Sanchez** – joined CB1 staff, Anthony Notaro, Patrick Kennell and Elizabeth Lewinsohn (02/01/16)
- **Worth Street Task Force convened by Senator Squadron** – joined by Department of Design and Construction, NYC Department of Transportation, Verizon, Con Edison, representatives from elected officials Assemblymember Glick, Borough President Brewer and NYC Council Member Brewer; attended with Bruce Ehrmann, Jeff Ehrlich, Elizabeth Lewinsohn and other stakeholders (01/28/16)

Announcements

- Thank you **Pat Moore, Tammy Meltzer** and **Francis Curtis** for organizing a wonderful holiday party!
- **Nominating Committee for 2016** – request nominations of members to serve on the CB1 elections
- **CB1 New Applicant Annual Comparisons** – 43 in 2016, 49 in 2015, 25 in 2014; from Manhattan Borough President Brewer's office