

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2021 at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chairperson

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Robert Espier, Shelly Fine, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Rich Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Meg Schmitt, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Howard Yaruss, Doug McGowan, Bev Donohue, Rosa Arenas, Erana Stennett, Courtney Clark Metakis

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

Steven Brown shared that the chat has been modified so that all attendees can communicate with panelists and vice versa, but attendees cannot communicate with each other. This was done to maximize involvement and keep a safe environment.

Public Safety Session

Report from NYPD 20th and 24th Precincts

Captain Matt Byrnes, 24th Precinct

Captain Byrnes went through comp stat data. There has been a 33% decrease in YTD in all seven of the major crimes that the NYPD tracks. They recently arrested a burglar that hit multiple times in the past two years. Regarding package thefts, two people were caught and placed under arrest. Patrol cops caught the person who had spray-painted the word "Done" around the neighborhood.

Klari Neuwelt asked if the spray-painter is being held or if he has been released. Byrnes said he is out but that he will be in court for a while.

Ken Coughlin asked what the consequences are for graffiti artists. Byrnes shared he won't go to jail but he will likely have to participate in a community program.

Carmen Quinones, a resident, thanked Captain Byrnes for their help in distributing food at the Douglass Houses.

State Senator José M. Serrano (District 29) thanked Board members for their service. He presented his proclamation honoring Mark Diller on behalf of himself and State Senators Brian Benjamin (District 30), Robert Jackson (District 31), Brad Hoylman (District 27), Linda Rosenthal (District 67), and Daniel O'Donnell (District 69).

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer also thanked Mark and presented a proclamation to him naming February 2, 2021 "Mark Diller Appreciation Day" in the Borough of Manhattan.

City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal (District 6) presented a certificate to Mark Diller as well.

Business Session

Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons, Joint with Parks & Environment Committee, Klari Neuwelt, Chairperson

Resolution Re:

1. **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**, 1000 Fifth Avenue (East 82nd Street). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace the curtain wall/sloped glazing of the Michael C. Rockefeller Wing of the Museum.

Erana Stennett asked what the other Community Boards said. Michele shared that they approved it and that a

lot of their language was used in this resolution. Erana Stennett also asked if it changes the lighting inside the gallery, which Michele confirmed it does not.

The vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 41-0-0-0.

Directed by the City Charter mandate that Community Boards review matters prior to consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Preservation Committee reviews the “appropriateness” of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side’s Historic Districts.

Parks & Environment Committee, Klari Neuwelt, Chairperson

Resolution Re:

2. Department of Parks & Recreation plan to reconstruct the existing asphalt paths in Riverside Park at West 82nd to West 83rd Street and at West 97th Street near the Dinosaur Playground.

Jeanette Rausch noticed that one of the major stones on the retaining wall leading down to the bridge on 96th street was out. She wasn’t sure whether or not it was DOT or Parks but hoped it would be included in the proposal. She will be contacting Klari Neuwelt offline who will follow up and see.

Louisa Craddock asked what is going to be lacking on the west side as opposed to the east side of the playground. Klari replied that on the east side they are digging deeper whereas on the west side they are putting a top course of asphalt. She shared that they thought the path wasn’t as deteriorated on the West Side.

Erana Stennett asked for clarification if the path that is privately funded will be receiving less restoration than the publicly funded one. Klari replied that the response they received from Parks was that the path on the west was not as deteriorated as the east and doesn’t need the reconstruction.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 45-0-0-0. The resolution carried.

Health & Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

3. Covid-19 vaccine distribution.

Shelly Fine presented the resolution.

Elizabeth Caputo praised the resolution and noted that New York City is late to the game to distribute by zip code compared to other cities nationally and globally.

Ken Coughlin seconded that it’s a great resolution and asked about Mayoral control of moving the vaccine distribution to Health and Hospitals from the Department of Health. Shelly replied that vaccine distribution shouldn’t be in either place—it should be centralized in one for a more coordinated response, similar to the city’s food czar response.

Jeanette Rausch noted employees of the Department of Health have been working very long hours and she wants to ensure the resolution praises the staff for the work they’ve done this year. Shelly agreed.

Richard Asche stated that the resolution was fabulous and asked if it would be possible to add a phrase stating that it would be impossible for the city to reach herd immunity without greater participation by all communities in the city. Shelly agreed to include this.

Page Cowley shared that there has been a difference in county and state vaccine distribution and that she is worried this plan assumes there is uniform access to a computer or the internet. Shelly replied that whether

you call or online, they should be able to give you the nearest appointment. There needs to be a centralized system that takes into account all variables.

Madelyn Innocent stated she is concerned about herd immunity and asked about how it will be achieved if certain individuals in the minority community and NYCHA housing refuse to receive the vaccine. She emphasized that education is important and asked what the solution is. Shelly replied that there are some approaches in the resolution and added that if there's representative leadership in the coordination, the process will go better.

Rosa Arenas supported the resolution.

Robert Espier commented on the importance of the timing of the resolution in relation to Joe Biden being sworn in. He shared that he had heard some community members say they are waiting for the Moderna vaccine because it was designed by a Black scientist. He stated that testimony and outreach to different parts of our community are needed.

Rich Robbins acknowledged the paradox that there is a dreadful shortage of the vaccine and a great demand for it but also skepticism from the people to whom it is most important to get the vaccine. He stated that it would be great to use that to our advantage and find community leaders that can be offered the vaccine so that they can speak to vulnerable members of their community that should get vaccinated. He also praised the resolution effectiveness at pointing out the issue but acknowledging there needs to be someone in charge to address them.

Carmen, a member of the community, commended Shelly and the Board. She spoke to her experience in Douglass Houses, sharing that while many are skeptical, many would like it as well. As an ambassador, she emphasized the need to educate people and not dismiss those who are scared.

Iris, another member of the community who is an elder care attorney, shared that she has many homebound clients without smartphone access that she or their aides need to support. Steven replied and mentioned the Senior Taskforce, which Roberta elaborated on. Roberta shared that when it comes out, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will allow door-to-door programs because it does not require the same refrigeration as the other two vaccines.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 41-0-0-0. The resolution carried.

Approval of minutes from the previous full board meeting.

Ken Coughlin shared that there was a false statement made by a Board member at the last Full Board meeting: Michele Parker stated that Transportation Alternatives had campaigned for Richard Asche to be Chair. This was not the case, and Ken clarified that any involvement of Transportation Alternatives would endanger their nonprofit status and potentially be libelous.

Richard Asche stated that the minutes reflect what was said and that this month's minutes will reflect the refutation. He suggested that, though not a part of Robert's Rules of order, a footnote be added to the January 2021 Full Board minutes noting that the claim was refuted in the February minutes.

Michele Parker clarified that she said, "I heard that Transportation Alternatives...".

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-3-0

Chair's Report: Steven Brown

Steven shared information about the Donate a Device Program, which is a partnership between Community Board 7 and Goddard Riverside to collect devices and related accessories (i.e. headphones and chargers) and distribute them directly to students that are enrolled in one of Goddard's eleven educational programs. The current collection window is Tuesdays starting February 16th from 5-7 pm.

Madge Rosenberg asked if it is possible to make a monetary donation. Steven responded that that hasn't yet been figured out. Roberta shared that a donation can still be made directly to Goddard Riverside.

Jeanette Rausch asked if someone from Goddard Riverside could help remove personal information from the computer. Steven replied that one of the requirements is for those who are donating to remove all personal information beforehand.

Community Session

We welcome all members of our community (residents, businesses, CBOs) who would like to speak on issues of interest to them. Members of the community are granted time to speak as determined by the Chair, and we will also accept a written copy for the record.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

Borough President Brewer shared information about her Manhattan Vaccine Taskforce, which meets every Tuesday. She commented on the confusion between State and City sites and the need for more coordination, which is also needed to improve booking. Borough President Brewer highlighted the bill passed a few years ago requiring data on vacant stores, when they were last occupied, and what their last rent was to be available by the end of February. The next step will be coming up with ways to fill these vacancies. She also shared information on construction issues relating to 96th and Broadway and illegal vending and storage. She shared that work continues on the Helicopter Taskforce in collaboration with New Jersey. At the Panel for Educational Policy, the vote for G&T did not pass. Now the DOE needs to figure out what they will do. Finally, she noted that February 22nd, 2021 is the deadline for Community Board applications.

Reports by Elected Officials

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, District 6

Councilmember Rosenthal shared that her office is hosting a Housing Clinic the following night and that her office's application for nonprofits to receive discretionary funding has been released and the deadline is February 16th. She added that if people are having difficulty making vaccine appointments they can reach out to her office. She voted for and signed onto the street vendor bill. At the next meeting on February 11th, two of her bills will be voted on that address medical apartheid. Afterward, her office will be focusing on student debt legislation as well as domestic violence. She thanked the Board for the Budget Priorities, which she will take with her as she goes into budget negotiation meetings.

State Senator Brad Hoylman, District 27

State Senator Hoylman shared that they are in the middle of budget hearings. He noted his pied-a-terre tax proposal. Today his bill regarding walking-while-trans was passed, repealing a statute that disproportionately hurt transgender people. Finally, he thanked the Borough President for her vaccine town halls and shared that his office is available to help with vaccine questions and also has a vaccine survey they will be sharing with the Governor's office.

Erana Stennett asked Borough President Brewer if there is any way they can ring-fence vaccines in zip code areas. Borough President Brewer shared Erana's concern and spoke about what various hospitals and distribution centers are doing.

Erana Stennett asked Councilmember Rosenthal where street vendors will be going given the passage of the street vendor bill. Councilmember Rosenthal answered yes, and shared that the increase in licenses won't happen until 75% of vendors are inspected, and none of this will happen in the next two years. She also shared she is doing behind-the-scenes equity work in ensuring vaccines are getting to the specific pockets that most need them.

Doug Kleiman asked if there are provisions that prevent street vendors that are parked in front of Han grocery store. Councilmember Rosenthal replied that she will get back to him but that in the past having discussions between small businesses and street vendors has been helpful.

Reports by Elected Officials' Representatives (One-minute remarks)

Luke Wolf, Comptroller Scott Stringer

Luke Wolf shared a proclamation from Comptroller Stringer to Mark Diller.

Eric Cuello, Councilmember Mark Levine, District 7

Eric Cuello shared that the Councilmember has been working on COVID-19 vaccine distribution. and hosted a panel earlier today. The Councilmember is pushing to expand the right to counsel citywide.

Shana Harmongoff, State Senator Brian Benjamin, District 30

Shana Harmongoff thanked Mark on behalf of Senator Benjamin. She shared that the Senator will be hosting a COVID Vaccine Town Hall at 5:30 pm on February 19th.

Michelle Booker, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, District 13

Michelle Booker thanked Mark and shared that the Congressman has a proclamation for him as well. She also shared that the Congressman's office is working with New York Presbyterian and the armory on 168th street to assist seniors with enrolling and receiving their COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, they are hosting a Black History Month Event on February 18th at 6:30 pm that will be celebrating a few individuals.

Madelyn Innocent asked if people who will soon be turning 65 can get a vaccine. Michelle Booker will reach out to her offline and follow up with Presbyterian.

Liam Galligan, Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell, District 69

Liam Galligan shared that Assemblyman O'Donnell has been working hard to ensure that art institutions get the state support they need to get back up and running as soon as possible. In addition, he has introduced legislation to provide security deposit protections for rent-stabilized tenants, who were left out of rent law reform in 2019.

Bryce Peyre, Assemblymember Dick Gottfried, District 75

Bryce Peyre congratulated Steven on his Chairmanship and Mark for his service. Today, Assemblymember Gottfried was pleased to see legislation mandating staffing levels in nursing homes advanced out of the health committee and will be referred to another committee in the assembly. Gottfried was also pleased to see Senator Hoylman's legislation to repeal the ban of walking-while-trans legislation. Separately, he will be the Assembly sponsor of Hoylman's bill to allow NYC to set speed limits at less than 25 miles per hour.

Erica Overton, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, District 67

Erica Overton shared that the Assemblymember wrote a letter to the NYS Department of Health with constituent questions about the vaccine rollout with requests for additional sites on the West Side. They now are hoping to work with the Ryan Center and other providers to coordinate pop-up testing sites on the Upper West Side. On Thursday, February 4th at 6:30 pm, the Assemblymember is cosponsoring a vaccine forum with colleagues. On April 12th from 10 am to 3:30 pm the Assemblywoman is hosting Mammovan Day. The Assemblymember also wrote a letter to the Department of Tax and Finance regarding the need for physical tax sites on the Upper West Side so people can pay their taxes in person, which has been a concern their office has heard. The Assemblymember wrote a letter to the state requesting that pantry workers be included in vaccine designation. Finally, the Assemblymember met with Brooklyn Fair, which is fully on board with being as affordable or more affordable than Western Beef. They won't take possession of the space until mid-to-late February. While they work on the space they agreed to open part of it and will also offer free delivery.

Hope Kaye, State Senator Robert Jackson, District 31

Hope Kaye shared that Senator Jackson's office is offering vaccine support for eligible residents seeking to secure appointments at the Armory who live in zip codes 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, and 10040. In addition, they are doing a wellness check on all of the seniors throughout their district. Part of the wellness check is inquiring about vaccination status.

Phillip Ellison, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Phillip Ellison wished everyone a Happy Black History Month. He also thanked Mark. Public Advocate Williams has been thinking about equity and has been advocating for that in various ways, including pushing the Mayor and Governor and getting access to data. He shouted out the Public Advocate and Environmental Justice team that worked to get a wind turbine in South Shore Brooklyn, a step towards environmental justice and dealing with climate change. Finally, he shared that the Public Advocate has been thinking about technology and how there can be bias and systemic racism in them.

Allan Valerio, Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr.

Allan Valerio congratulated Steve and thanked Mark. In January, his office re-released their report on their criminal justice investment initiative. February is teen dating violence awareness month. Their team that provides presentations is still down so over Zoom and can do so in schools and for organizations this month.

Hannah Weirnerman, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, District 10

Hannah Weirnerman thanked Mark for his service. She shared that Congressman Nadler is thrilled to work with the Biden-Harris administration. In the coming weeks, they have their second impeachment trial. Congress is also working on passing their crucial COVID relief package. She flagged the helicopter task force and noted that Congressman Nadler co-sponsored the Safe and Quiet Skies Act. Tax season begins February 12th and will go until April 15th. If you haven't received your stimulus check yet, you can claim that as a rebate credit on your taxes.

Suad Hassan, State Senator José Serrano, District 29

Suad Hassan shared that they moved offices and are now at 1955 Parks Ave (East 100th St). She also shared that one of the bills passed yesterday was Serrano's, which requires that medical professionals receive thorough cultural competency training.

Public Comments

Ashley Gonzalez, a librarian with the NYPL, shared that the St Agnes Branch is being used by the DOE as a Learn bridge location. All hours of all grab and go locations have been changed to better accommodate people: from 11 am - 5 pm Monday-Saturday. Roosevelt Island and Battery Park City locations have been open.

Zach Campbell from the AMNH for the Gilder Center Project provided his monthly update. As of today, the superstructure of the second floor has been completed. The last few days have been dedicated to dealing with the storm. They hope to be done with the fourth floor by the end of February. There will be scheduled weekend work for Saturday, February 6th from 9 am - 5 pm to accomplish work that was postponed due to weather and install the hoist. General work averages 30 trucks a day and approximately 100 workers.

Susan Peters, a member of New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech, spoke about the health danger of the introduction of wireless antennas on street corners and summarized a recent article on the issue. She noted that a typical antenna in public space outputs between 15,000 and 75,000 times more power than is necessary to make a 5 bar cellular data connection.

Olivia Killingsworth, a community member, invited members of the community and Board to join the UWS Open Hearts Initiative and Da Homeless Hero on Thursday, February 4th at 5:30 pm for a Mayoral Candidate Forum on homelessness.

Ben, a community member, voiced his support for the community doing whatever it can to help house the homeless New Yorkers in our neighborhood.

Peter Arndtsen thanked Roberta and Steven for their help with Trinity Lutheran shelter problems. He noted that the Columbus/Amsterdam BID has two upcoming history talks. He also that they are extending their open streets on February 7th and 14th to 10 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021 at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chairperson

Present: Steve Brown, Chair; Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Courtney Clark Metakis, Christian Cordova, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Mark Diller, Bev Donohue, Sheldon Fine, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Klari Neuwelt, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Andrew Rigie, Melissa Rosenberg, Roberta Semer, Howard Yaruss

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Chair Update

Steven welcomed the three new co-chairs: Courtney Clark Metakis (YEL), Jeanette Rausch (Land Use), Barbara Adler (Parks & Environment). He also shared that the office has increased its digital involvement and has been setting up the Zooms. Steven added that he will be sending an email shortly with information about an upcoming Zoom training for Board members. In addition, he acknowledged Ken Coughlin's work in adding a Secondary Street Name catalog to the CB7 website. Lastly, he reminded committee chairs to include attendance lists in their meeting minutes.

Committee Chair reports including any Agenda Items for Full Board

Louisa Craddock of the Housing Committee shared that they are planning to discuss the history of the Collegiate money at their March meeting.

Howard Yaruss provided the Transportation Committee update, noting that there is one potentially controversial resolution regarding left-hand turns that will be presented at the March Full Board. Andrew Albert added that the presentation from the MTA at the previous meeting was informative, and Steven encouraged people to view the recording.

Christian Cordova and Linda Alexander gave the Business & Consumer Issue Committee Update. They shared the panel that they hosted at their last meeting and the intended focus of their upcoming meeting on the continued use of curbside space by restaurants.

Michele Parker shared that the Preservation Committee had three applications at their last meeting, none of which were particularly controversial.

Richard Asche of the Land Use Committee shared the two items of discussion for the following night's meeting: a presentation from City Councilwoman Annie Levers of the "Planning Together" document to overhaul the city planning process and a construction plan update for 2330 Broadway.

Blanche Lawton provided the update for the Youth, Education, & Libraries Committee. She welcomed Courtney Clark Metakis as co-chair as well as the four new members. The meeting this Friday will feature Dawn Yuster, Esq., the Project Director for the Advocates for Children's School Justice Program, and Kevin Dahill-Fuchel, LCSW, the Executive Director for Counseling in Schools. Topics will include the current mental health crisis youth are facing, as well as learning loss. Courtney shared an update on the drive to solicit donations of working used devices in partnership with Goddard-Riverside for use by students for remote learning. Mark Diller shared that the first day of the drive was successful, with around a dozen devices donated.

Barbara Adler shared the update for the Parks & Environment Committee. Their meeting is next Monday, and they are not expecting any resolutions. Their meeting will feature an update on the Harlem Meer Pool and Rink Project, a presentation from the Central Park Precinct on NYPD operations in Central Park, and a discussion with Young Concert Artists about outdoor performances in the parks.

Sheldon Fine shared the Health & Human Services Committee's update. Their meeting next Tuesday will feature a community forum on methods for preventing and addressing hate crimes with relevant city agencies and offices as well as an update on vaccine distribution. There may or may not be a resolution that results. He shared that they met with the Manhattan DA's office regarding their hate crimes resolution, which their March meeting will be dedicated to addressing. The meeting will also be attended by representatives from the Mayor's office. Catherine DeLazzero welcomed new members to HHS and noted that she is a member of Borough President Brewer's vaccine taskforce and that Board members interested in updates can reach out to her.

Steven shared that the Budget Committee consists of himself, Mark Diller, Roberta Semer, and Beverly Donohue and they will be scheduling a meeting in the weeks to come.

Roberta shared an update on the Senior Taskforce, which hadn't met in a year, but will meet in March. They are planning to host a virtual event in April regarding coping with vision and hearing loss during the pandemic. They are also working on a newsletter with Councilmember Rosenthal and Levine's office regarding the services that are available to seniors in CB7.

Susan Schwartz shared the update for the Bylaws Taskforce, which is resuming regular meetings once a month. They will be starting their work using the Manhattan Borough President's template bylaws.

New Business

Sheldon Fine brought to the Board's attention that it has been three years since the Board acted on a resolution regarding the 106th street crossing for seniors and urged a follow-up. The Transportation Committee will be following up with DOT regarding this issue.

Catherine DeLazzero shared that Rosa Arenas has looked into Zoom Live Captioning and Translation service. Live Captioning is possible to enable, but translation to other languages will require a translator. Steven and Christian will try out the Live Captioning offline so that it can potentially be implemented.

Rich Robbins brought up the use of a derogatory slur by a community member at the Housing/Land Use Committee meeting, which he believes should be grounds for expulsion. Roberta noted that she was also unjustly called a liar at the meeting. Richard Asche stated that the Bylaws provide for members to be removed if they use derogatory words, but not if they call members a "liar" — there is a difference. Steven agreed. Susan shared the specific section of the Bylaws that addresses this, which notes that once a member is removed, they can't be censored or prevented from attending future meetings. Rich made a final comment, suggesting that the Bylaws might have a provision regarding repeat offenders, which other Board members noted would need to be approved by the Manhattan Borough President. Doug Kleiman noted that in an instance such as that which occurred, the member of the public could be demoted to the attendee position so that they could remain in the meeting but lose speaking privileges.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

February 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Joshua Cohen, Doug Kleiman, Paul Fischer, Andrew Rigie and Erana Stennett.

Non-Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Mark Diller, Jeanette Rausch and Seema Reddy. **Absent:** Madelyn Innocent.

The following matters were discussed:

New application to the SLA for a two-year On-Premises liquor license:

1. **50 West 72nd Street** (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application to the SLA by Fridman's CPW, LLC.

Presenting for the Applicant; Rosa M. Ruiz, Esq. – Rosa@RosaMRuiz.com

- Ms. Ruiz presented for the applicant Jonah Phillips, Owner – Jonah@Friedmansnyc.com This will be a second outlet for the applicant who has another one a block away on West 72nd Street, between Columbus Avenue and Broadway. The hours will be from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and there will be light background music.

CB7 Comments:

- The Committee's consensus was this is a good operator, with a strong track record on the Upper West Side, and the hours of operation will not disrupt the community.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 4-0-0-0

2. **Presentation by Natalie Mendell, Director of Business Recovery at the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, and Alejandro Martinez of the Small Business Resource Network (SBRN) on free personalized guidance for small businesses and how they can survive the pandemic.**

The Small Business Network is a private/public partnership that provides local businesses with free, personalized guidance needed now to survive the pandemic. The program provides business owners access to a brief intake form on the group's website where they can be matched with a Business Support Specialist who will guide them through various economic recovery resources. Through the program, Chambers of Commerce from all five boroughs are offering one-on-one support to businesses in their boroughs.

The program is funded by a \$2.8 million grant from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation and supported by in-kind contributions from other partners, comprising a collaboration led by the Partnership for New York City, the NYC Economic Development Corporation, and Chambers of Commerce from all five boroughs. The program leverages the city's corporate, financial, and professional services sectors, as well as universities, philanthropies, and expert volunteers to help small business owners gain access to a range of programs and services.

A PowerPoint presentation from the group will be available on the CB7 website for review.

3. New business.

- Erana Stennett suggested the Committee invite a representative from the Department of Consumer Affairs to our March meeting to discuss future plans for sidewalk cafes in the spring. Other committee members added it would be helpful to also have representatives from the Department of Transportation to clarify the curbside seating program.
- Further discussion was given to issues pertaining to restaurant owners who are enclosing their curbside areas, ignoring SLA requirements and possibly endangering patrons. The discussion also addressed a lack of fairness to owners who are abiding by guidelines and, as a result, may be disadvantaged in the colder weather.
- Community member Ashley Fischer expressed her dismay at so many vacant stores and wondered what could be done.

Linda Alexander agreed to reach out to the CB7 Board office to contact D.C.A. and D.O.T. for the March 2021 BCI Committee meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

BYLAWS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Susan Schwartz, Chair

February 4, 2021

Present: Susan Schwartz (SS), Chair. Barbara Adler (BA), Jay Adolf (JA), Josh Cohen (JC), Natasha Kazmi (NK) and Michele Parker (MP.) Task Force Members Not Present: None. **Board Chair:** Steven Brown (SB).

Meeting on Zoom was called to order at 10 AM and adjourned at 11:10 AM.

This was the first meeting of the newly reconfigured, reduced size Bylaws Task Force. The current CB7 Bylaws were last fully revised on February 5, 2013 with an amendment regarding committee chair term limits. This amendment was approved at the December 2018 full board meeting. The current Bylaws do not have any provisions for Zoom meetings or virtual voting. Since this last revision, the Manhattan Borough President's office convened a task force to review the Bylaws for all Manhattan Community Boards and subsequently issued Model Bylaws in October 2017, which have been adopted by many community boards. After a comparison and discussion, our task force members agreed to use the Manhattan Borough President's template Bylaws as a starting point for revising our Bylaws.

As a starting point for this project, we had a broad-ranging discussion of topics of interest to consider, which each task force member submitted prior to our meeting:

- Zoom protocol
- Virtual voting
- Full board meetings procedures
- Task forces
- Term limits
- Attendance
- Scheduling, agendas
- Meeting minutes
- Conflict of interest
- Resolutions
- Open meetings law

Next Steps

1. Each Task Force member will review one of the other Manhattan Community board Bylaws and send a summary to the Chair by Friday, February 26th, as follows:
CB1 – Barbara Adler CB4 – Natasha Kazmi
CB2 – Jay Adolf CB5 – Michele Parker
CB3 – Josh Cohen CB6 – Susan Schwartz
2. Chair Susan Schwartz will create and circulate a draft Best Practices document by Friday February 26, 2021 for review by Task Force members prior to our next meeting. This document will be the focus of our next meeting.
3. Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 4, 2021 at 10 AM on Zoom.

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Joined with the Transportation Committee and Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Jay A. Adolf and Andrew Albert, Transportation Co-Chairs

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons, BCI Co-Chairs

February 17, 2021 at 6:30PM

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay A. Adolf, Andrew Albert (co-chair transportation, Richard Asche (co-chair land use), Steven Brown (Board chair), Christian Cordova (co-chair BCI); Kenneth Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Sheldon Fine, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Jeannette Rausch (co-chair land use), Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Roberta Semer and Ethel Sheffer.

1. City Council Presentation and question and answer session with Annie Lever, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Initiative re:
 - a. The City Council's proposal for establishing a city-wide comprehensive plan that would connect budget, land use and strategic planning into one document (the Plan);
 - b. A new 10-year comprehensive planning cycle and processes for implementing, coordinating and approving the Plan to be led by a newly formed Long-Term Planning Steering Committee (the Committee); and
 - c. Proposed legislation [Intro 2186-2020] to establish the mandates for the Plan and Committee and a framework for the Plan.

Ms. Lever advised the Committee that Council hearings on the proposed legislation would commence the following week, but that the Council expects months of hearings and that she had not yet presented the plan to several Community Boards. There would therefore be an opportunity to comment in the months ahead. She emphasized that the legislation is not set in stone, and the Council welcomes community comments. She shared her presentation and noted that the Council's recently released report "Planning Together" and proposed legislation can be found on the Council's website.

Ms. Lever noted that comprehensive planning is common in large U.S. cities and that New York is one of the only exceptions. New York uses an ad hoc approach, particularly in addressing long range climate change issues, long term capital budgeting; infrastructure needs, and equitable distribution of resources. It is the goal of the proposed legislation to bring together in a rational framework these issues, as well as issues relating to public housing, health care and education, and a study of the impact of recent development on neighborhoods. Ms. Lever stressed repeatedly that there would be an opportunity for neighborhoods to participate at each stage of the planning process, and that community boards would be able to develop plans similar to 197A plans provided for in the City Charter.

Development of the Plan would be coordinated by the existing Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning, which would accumulate relevant data from several agencies and identify the major challenges and opportunities confronting the City. The Mayor's office would then work with the newly formed Committee to develop a Citywide Goals Statement. The Committee would consist of 13 members, four each appointed by the Mayor and the City Council President, and one each by the borough presidents.

The legislation contemplates that the first Plan would be developed in four years, and be revised consistently on a 10-year cycle, each requiring a GEIS Future land use applications would not necessarily be required to conform to the Plan, but would then be required to explain any divergences.

The Plan would reform the City's budget process, creating a full-blown infrastructure needs statement every five years. Budgeting for infrastructure would be detailed, rather than general as it is currently. The Plan also contemplates a periodic report detailing the City's most urgent infrastructure needs.

Several committee members raised objections to and questions about the proposed legislation:

- Roberta Semer noted that under the Plan the communities are not involved at the beginning of the process of developing the legislation. She also suggested that to have meaningful input in the planning process Community Boards would require funding to hire experts. Ms. Lever responded that funding is a common concern of community boards she has spoken with and she acknowledged that there is no provision in the legislation for such funding.
- Page Cowley noted that there did not seem to be provision for outreach to city agencies such as the Landmarks Commission, the City Planning Commission, transportation or environmental impact departments. Ms. Lever responded that the Plan would require coordination among these agencies, where information is currently siloes. The Plan would also strengthen the role of the district needs statements and require an assessment of affordable housing by neighborhood. Ms. Cowley responded that there needs to be a more granular plan, which details these proposals.
- Louisa Craddock noted that the proposed Plan appears to be a top-down structure, which only adds to existing City bureaucracy. She also observed that there is no reference in the plan to working with the private sector in the planning process.
- Sheldon Fine opined that the proposed legislation appears doomed from a political perspective, particularly the composition of the Steering Committee, on which Mayoral and Council President appointees could outvote borough president appointees 8-5. Mr. Fine agreed with Ms. Craddock that the Plan would add a level of bureaucracy, while at the same time further centralizing the existing cumbersome City planning processes. He also questioned whether the 10-year Plan would be an impediment in the event of an unforeseen natural disaster and suggested that a comprehensive plan by borough would be more effective.
- Peter Samton agreed with Mr. Fine, and observed that the Plan does not optimize the role of Community Planning Boards. He also noted that the lengthy City Council document entitled "Planning Together is vague and "doesn't say very much." He also opined that the City should allocate funds to Community Boards for planning purposes and questioned why more attention was not paid to the processes that created the 1969 "Plan for New York City"
- Ethel Sheffer commended Ms. Lever for her presentation. She opined that the timing of the process is "ridiculous," in that half the City Council members, as well as the President and the Mayor would be replaced this year; that the idea for a comprehensive planning process is a good one, but that the issue is extraordinarily complex and should not be rushed. She noted that to the extent the legislation seeks to strengthen identification of social and economic inequities it is admirable. She agreed with the other board members who complained that the Plan lacks a structure that strengthens the role of Community Boards. She likened the proposed 13-member Steering Committee to the Board of Estimate, which the Courts had declared to be illegal because it was not representative. She observed that cooperation among existing agencies could occur within the existing framework.

- Melissa Rosenberg noted that the proposed framework continues to countenance the current practice of deferring on land use issues to a single council member of the affected district. She gave as an example of how this is harmful and noted the recent rejection of the Industry City Plan, which would have provided significant economic benefit to the city and the local neighborhood, but was quashed by a single Council member.
- Seema Reddy asked whether the Plan allowed for modifications where adherence to the Plan was deemed inadvisable. Ms. Lever said that the Plan contained this flexibility.
- Richard Asche complained that the document “Planning Together” did not provide a clear and understandable roadmap of how the new planning process would work. He agreed with previous speakers that there already exist several agencies charged with long-range planning and that coordination among these agencies could be brought about within the existing framework. He stated that he supported efforts in the Plan to improve the budgeting and infrastructure needs planning process, and to address issues of inequity in access to resources. Mr. Asche took issue with Ms. Lever’s representation that the Community Boards would be involved at every stage of the process. He pointed out that according to “Planning Together” Community Boards would be involved only after the Steering Committee had established neighborhood by neighborhood targets for growth. Ms. Lever acknowledged that there is no explicit reference in the legislation to Community Board input prior to the establishment of targets.
- Jeannette Rausch stated that the need for comprehensive planning was important and the outline of the issues in the Council’s report valid, but it would have been better if the City Council had started by soliciting input from the communities before drafting the legislation. She observed that the proposed process does not lend itself to the goal of equity given the makeup of the proposed Committee. She also agreed with other board members that boro-wide planning may be a more equitable approach and that the Plan should provide for stronger community-based input earlier and throughout the Process. She questioned whether the District Needs Statement, which is very project oriented and governed by other factors, was indeed the format to follow and suggested more resources and adherence to 197-a plans. She also questioned why the proposal was not building on the Department of City Planning and the City Planning Commission instead of creating new entities. She opined that at the same time, the current land use review process could be streamlined rather than made more cumbersome.

The Committee thanked Ms. Lever for her presentation and she agreed to field questions from the Board on an informal basis going forward.

Jeannette Rausch agreed to collect any further comments from members and draft a summary of our comments to be considered at the March committee meeting.

2. 2330 Broadway: request to enlarge 85th Street roadway and eliminate pedestrian passage on South side of 85th Street:

Mr. Asche reported that the developer and contractor for 2330 Broadway had approached the Board to inform them of its approved construction and operation plans for a new building on the southeast corner of Broadway and West 85th Street. Preliminary conversations thereafter led to an alternative layout that the developer asked the community to consider. The proposed new layout might better serve the community and speed up construction.

Current plans provide for a narrowing to 11 feet of the roadway on 85th Street adjacent to the site and a covered walkway shed on the south side of 85th Street. The developer requested that the plan be changed to widen the roadway to 12 feet, eliminate the pedestrian walkway shed, and widen an area inside the site to allow for construction trucks to enter the site rather than queue on Broadway. According to the developer, this would allow vehicles safer passage from

Amsterdam Avenue to Broadway, and allow trucks to off-load within the site, which would substantially shorten construction time. The developer would still be erecting a pedestrian shed in the next few days to accommodate a walkway adjacent to the site, but is prepared to remove the shed if the Amended plan is approved. Under this plan signage at Amsterdam Avenue would advise pedestrians to cross to the northern sidewalk. Further, a midblock crosswalk and stop sign would be installed to accommodate pedestrians who did not cross over at Amsterdam Ave. A flagman would be located at midblock. The installation of speed bumps would also slow down traffic and hence provide greater safety to patrons of the three restaurants with outdoor seating on the north side of 85th Street.

- Page Cowley noted her safety concerns around the manner in which trucks would enter the site at the corner of Broadway and 85th Street, and suggested that the Board not involve itself in the construction plans, other than to note its concerns regarding safety.
- Ken Coughlin noted that the best way to slow-down traffic is to narrow the roadway, not widen it. He stated that he had visited the site and observed that there was ample room on the 11-foot roadway for cars to proceed westward on 85th Street. He stated that eliminating the walkway violated the Board's principle of putting pedestrians first. He suggested that instead of eliminating the walkway, the City close the street to vehicular traffic during construction or that a lane on Broadway between 84th and 85th Streets be closed to traffic to allow for queuing of construction vehicles.
- Jeannette Rausch suggested that Jersey barriers be placed in the roadway alongside the pop-up restaurants on the north side of 85th street across from the construction site. She also stated that there is a need for more than two flagmen at the site.
- Jay Adolf suggested that there be signage and a flagman to divert westbound pedestrian traffic to the north walkway.
- Richard Robbins asked why the matter is being heard at the land use committee rather than the transportation committee. Steve Brown explained that initial discussions with the developer involved land use issues, and that he thought it best for continuity that matters involving 2330 Broadway remain with the land use committee. Mr. Robbins also noted that procedurally it would be improper for any decision to be made at the committee level, particularly in the absence of public notice. Mr. Asche agreed, and said that the issue could be presented to the full board, with notice at its March meeting.
- Several board members suggested safety measures which the Board should insist on as a condition to approval, including the placement of flagmen at Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues, as well as midblock; the placement of speed bumps to slow vehicular traffic; signage diverting unnecessary through-traffic, and warning pedestrians of the closing of the walkway; a mid-block crosswalk to allow residents of apartment houses East of the site to cross safely to the north side of 85th street.
- Several members raised questions about the proposed plan, including:
 - As to the developer's assertion that the proposed change would substantially shorten construction time by allowing trucks to enter the site rather than queuing on Broadway, the members wanted to know if the developer could be more precise as to how much time would be saved.
 - More detail as to how trucks would enter and exit the site.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that more clarification would be requested from the developer and thereafter the land-use and transportation committees would reconvene, perhaps on the afternoon of the March full Board meeting, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

[Subsequent to the meeting the chairs of land use and transportation committees, in consultation with Board Chair, Steven Brown determined that the preferable course of action would be to table discussion of the proposed revised plan until after the existing approved plan was carried out and the community could observe whether any change was necessary or appropriate].

PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Adler and Klari Neuwelt, co-chairpersons

February 22, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Committee members present: Barbara Adler and Klari Neuwelt, co-chairs; Ken Coughlin, Natasha Kazmi, Susan Schwartz, Polly Spain. **Not present:** Doug McGowan, Elizabeth Caputo. Board Chair: Steven Brown. **Non-committee board members:** Mark Diller and Doug Kleiman.

Public: Geoff Martin, *Manager of Riverside Park*; Caroline Greenleaf, *VP for Parks Operations, Central Park Conservancy*; Matt Genrich, *Dept. of Parks & Recreation*. **Presenters:** Lane Addonizio, *VP for Planning, Design & Construction for the Central Park Conservancy*; Susie Rodriguez, *Architecture & Design*; Chris Nolan, *Chief Landscape Architect for the Central Park Conservancy* William Gallagher, *Commanding Officer of the Central Park Precinct*; Dan Kellogg, *President of Young Concert Artists*.

1. Update on the Harlem Meer Pool and Rink Project: Presenters for the Central Park Conservancy were Lane Addonizio, *VP for Planning, Design & Construction for the Central Park Conservancy*; Susie Rodriguez, *Architecture & Design*; Chris Nolan, *Chief Landscape Architect for the Central Park Conservancy*. Klari Neuwelt gave a brief overview of the Harlem Meer project, which was originally presented to CB7 in October, 2019. A resolution was passed at that time in unanimous favor of this \$150 million project to re-envision the Harlem Meer, at the northeast corner of Central Park. Since then, the project has moved forward with design details, and tonight's presentation concerned technical and design details regarding the pool and rink, interior spaces, their flow into the landscape, and other items.

Chris Nolan, Chief Architect from the Central Park Conservancy gave a detailed slide presentation and commentary about re-envisioning the pool and rink and surrounding areas of the Harlem Meer, describing this as the capstone restoration project to the park, at the northeast corner of Central Park at 110th Street. It includes the long-time deteriorating state of the Lasker pool and rink. These will now be totally redone and integrated into the landscape. Although this presentation focused on the technical details of the design, the entire landscape and the Meer itself will be restored, so as not to impact on waterflow to the Woodlands, Ravine, and Loch. The original pool and rink were built in the 1960's, and encountered problems from the beginning of the project, as they broke the hydrological connections and also disconnected the pedestrian circulation, as well as requiring numerous steps up or down to reach.

- This project re-envisioning the facility, while maintaining recreation areas and incorporating the structures into the landscape experience, rather than it being a large obtrusive building within the landscape. To achieve this, the entire existing facility will be removed and replaced. Note that the mechanical systems from the original used a refrigerant that will no longer be manufactured, rendering it obsolete, along with other outdated elements.
- All physical and visual barriers will be removed, expanding recreational space and making it totally welcoming, accessible, and sustainable, in an effort to serve more users.
- A boardwalk will be built around the facility, in an attempt to connect people as much as possible to the Harlem Meer, increasing the scale of the landscape. After the renovation, coming through Huddlestone Arch and onto the new boardwalk will achieve a more integrated experience. Sections of the existing path that are replaced by boardwalk will now allow people to walk over the water and within the marsh and all the way back to Huddlestone Arch.

Susie Rodriguez, Architect and Designer, continued the presentation, noting that everything about this project concerns integrating it into the landscape. Access to the pool is primarily from the north, taking one to the enclosed, large, and inviting multi-function facility including:

- Locker rooms sensitive to gender-neutral and family changing rooms, concessions, expansive pivoting glass doors that are 14 feet high to allow for a large shaded front porch area in summer.
- The pool itself is over 26,000+ sq. feet, and the pool design has a zero-entry (ground level) designed to be accessible to everyone. Lap lanes can be easily adjusted depending on the distance a swimmer can go, from full length, to shorter distances. The pool water level will be almost to the top, making it easier, through buoyancy, to get in and out, unlike the original structure. Once the swim season is over, the pool will be infilled from a permanent location underground to provide an interim season prior to the ice rink with a “carpet” that can be used as a surface for recreation, and the public will have access to entire pool area, the restrooms, seating and concessions year-round. When skating season begins, people will be able to move in and through the space as they wish, and/or use the rink.
- The attractive exterior of the enclosed facility is a stone that was chosen to blend with the exposed rock croppings found in the park.
- In the winter season, state of the art night-time lighting utilizes modern technology with energy- saving LED lamps to illuminate in less glaring, hi-performance controlled fixtures.
- The project will require 51 trees to be removed, but 130 new trees will be planted.

Many questions were asked and answered by the presenters. This spectacular, large, new project seemed to all very beautiful, a definite major enhancement to Central Park, and exquisitely, thoughtfully imagined. The project is expected to be completed in Spring, 2024, and during some of that time, Huddlestone Arch will be closed, though there are other ways to access the North Woods, Loch and Ravine other than through the Harlem Meer.

2. The Central Park Precinct: Overview of NYPD operations in Central Park by the *Commanding officer of the Central Park Precinct*, Captain William Gallagher.

Captain Gallagher began by telling us that the Central Park Precinct, which is on the 86th Street transverse in Central Park, is a fully functional precinct like any other NYPD precinct, and covers an area the size of both the 20th & 24th precincts, with 24-hour staffing, its own detective squad, the same as any other precinct though they cover only Central Park. Of the many interesting things Captain Gallagher told us, here are some highlights:

- The NYPD is mandated by law to report certain crime statistics (the 7 major crimes, also called index crimes). These are murder, rape, felony assault, aggravated assault, burglary grand larceny robbery, or grand larceny auto-theft. In 2019 there were 70 index crimes. This year, there was a 6% decline to 56. In 1993 there were 475 index crimes, so 56 this year is a great change but they are striving to get even lower. Wants to assure everyone Central Park is safe. Great majority of the crimes are unattended larceny, concerning someone who leaves their property on a bench or elsewhere, then returns to find it gone.

Some examples of more serious crimes they’ve dealt with in the last year:

- An intoxicated group walking through the Mall saw a group playing soccer. One person in group took out a gun shooting someone on playing soccer. A “rapid level one” mobilization apprehended the individual who was placed under arrest and indicted by a grand jury.
- 3 people all known to each other are heavily drinking in the park in the Hallett Preserve. One of them stabbed the other. They were able to ascertain the individual and place him under arrest.
- Being a cop not just about law and order: A four-year old child wandered off from the zoo with her mom, in a flash. An alert went out to neighboring precincts, helicopters called, and canine patrol as well. The child was

fortunately found unharmed at the other end of the park. This is not a crime, not criminal, but extremely serious.

In answer to some questions, Captain Gallagher said:

- There are generally two officers assigned to the Columbus statue on the Mall at the SE end of the park, as it is an extremely visible location.
- There are a number of officers assigned to the park at any given time. On the street are the sergeants (3 chevrons), and they function as street supervisors. There is always a sergeant at the precinct and one on patrol.
- Failure for bikes to yield to pedestrians is one of the most significant violations, though he feels during this pandemic period, giving a verbal warning in most instances rather than ticketing may be best due to personal circumstances.
- All officers now wear body cameras which has been a game changer for finding out what really happened.
- Best thing you can do is go over to an officer and thank them for putting their life in danger to support strangers. Cops can really use the support.

3. **Discussion with Young Concert Artists** (YCA.org) with Dan Kellogg, *President* about outdoor performances in the parks.

The organization is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, that has been around for two decades. They bring young stars from around the world starting at age 18, getting them performing opportunities throughout the country. This year they are celebrating their 20th anniversary and want to include some outdoor concerts as part of that. They'd be happy to set up at an outdoor venue to play at 30-minute intervals, potentially several times during the day. They are seeking permission to have concerts for walk-by audiences. Matt Genrich from NYC Parks and Recreation and Geoff Martin, manager of Riverside Park were there and both had important things to say regarding the relatively simple permitting process for all the parks, suggesting other locations both in and out of our district. Several other suggestions came both from the chat or from our board members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Adler

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: February 23, 2021

Re: Impact of school closures, social isolation, and pandemic-related stress and trauma on the mental health of NYC youth

The following facts and concerns were taken into consideration:

- One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City public schools have still not fully reopened, disrupting the educational experience of thousands of students, and contributing to the increased social isolation that is taking a toll on the mental health of the city's youth.
- NYC high schools, in particular, have remained closed since March 2020. NYC's middle schools will reopen on February 25th, though only half of the students will be full-time in-person, and most of the city's elementary schools have not reopened for in-person learning 5 days a week.
- In normal times, schools are important centers of connection and communication for youth, but the traditional methods by which teachers and school employees build trust with students, and the non-academic moments in which those relationships are often built, have been challenged by the transition to remote learning and the lack of in-person interaction.
- Community-based organizations (CBOs) – always an important school partner in providing services for students – have also been forced to shift to alternative methods of maintaining contact and building connection remotely, including phone calls, video conferences, and sending needed items like snacks and art supplies home to children, rather than utilize their normal methods for growing trusting relationships with students.
- Major research studies are ongoing, but initial indicators point to a growing mental health crisis as the disruption to the normal in-person school experience continues.
 - In a national survey of high school students conducted last spring, 30% of students indicated they were feeling unhappy or depressed “much more than usual.”¹
 - A national survey of high-schoolers this fall found students feeling increasingly disconnected from teachers and peers since the pandemic began (50% saying the strength of relationships with teachers had decreased), and noted that while a majority feel they have an adult at school to whom they can turn if they have a problem, the percentage who feel they have a trusted adult at school was lower for those whom attend schools with more socioeconomically disadvantaged student bodies.²
- As of the writing of this resolutions, there is no date to reopen schools for High School students and there remain concerns for a full opening for 2021-22 school year.
- Even prior to the pandemic, there was a need for increased mental health resources in city schools:
 - The NYC Department of Education (DOE) website reports that one in five children struggle, or will struggle at some point in their life, with their mental health.³
 - A 2019 study by the NYC Independent Budget Office identified more than 700 NYC public schools which did not have a full-time dedicated social worker.⁴
- The pandemic has only heightened the need to provide mental health support for students: last week, NYC Department of Education officials reported that five public school students have committed suicide during the current 2020-2021 academic year, including three students in the past three weeks – an increase over the 2019-2020 school year, in which there were four reported student suicides.⁵

¹ <https://www.americaspromise.org/sites/default/files/d8/Updated%20Appendix.pdf>

² <https://www.challengesuccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CS-NBC-Study-Kids-Under-Pressure-PUBLISHED.pdf>

³ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/mental-health>

⁴ <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/letter-bp-brewer-may-2019.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/five-new-york-city-students-have-died-by-suicide-this-school-year-11613600251>

- The crisis reflects a larger nationwide trend: according to the CDC, emergency departments nationwide reported significant increases in the proportion of pediatric mental health-related visits from April-October 2020, up 24% vs. the prior year for children aged 5-11, and up 31% for those aged 12-17 years old.⁶
- City plans to address the youth mental health crisis have begun to take shape:
 - The NYC DOE's 2020-2021 Bridge to School Plan included a trauma-informed training series developed in partnership with the Trauma Responsive Educational Practices (TREP) project at the University of Chicago, and recommended that all school employees voluntarily participate during the first few weeks of the school year.⁷
 - New York State's preliminary budget for fiscal year 2022 calls for \$35 million in funding for student social/emotional support.⁸
 - The 2021 Student Achievement Plan, announced in December 2020, includes a mental health plan intended to provide support to students citywide. Its first phase will target the 27 communities hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and promises:
 - 150 additional social workers across the approximately 830 schools in those 27 neighborhoods
 - An additional community school in each of the 27 neighborhoods
 - Social, emotional, and academic screeners for all K-12 students
 - Partnerships with community-based organizations
 - The second phase of this plan aspires to extend the benefits citywide, but acknowledges it would require significant federal funding to do so.⁹

The Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan believes the city's youth are experiencing an urgent mental health crisis, and that our students and schools will continue to struggle with the social and emotional impact of the pandemic for years to come.

The committee also believes that student experiences are crucial to informing policy decisions at all times, but are especially important now, as the education system is facing unprecedented changes. Only students can speak to the unique and diverse experiences and challenges that they are facing, including lack of socialization and social-emotional learning, increased stress and trauma, learning loss, etc. Efforts to increase student voice should also center equity, ensuring that a diverse and representative set of student perspectives on issues are heard and acknowledged.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan urges city and state officials to support funding and resources for mental health and social/emotional development for youth, their families, and schools in the 2021-2022 budget, and to plan for ongoing funding to address what is likely to be ongoing heightened youth mental health needs citywide in the years ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan urges city officials to support increased funding for ongoing mental health training, supervision, and support for teachers to better prepare them to address and support the mental health of their students, especially those who have experienced trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan calls on the DOE to incorporate student input and feedback into all policy decision cycles including issues regarding mental health and wellness by leveraging pre-existing

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6945a3.htm>

⁷ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/bridge-to-school-plan-08272020>

⁸ <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/030-21/fact-sheet-mayor-de-blasio-releases-preliminary-budget-fiscal-year-2022>

⁹ <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/879-20/mayor-de-blasio-first-lady-mccray-chancellor-carranza-2021-mental-health-and>

student groups (the Chancellor's Student Advisory Council and 7 Borough Student Advisory Councils) and creating new opportunities (such as town halls, councils, and forums) for student voices on mental health issues.