

January 2006 Minutes

Full Board Meeting Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

January 3, 2006

American Bible Society

Mr. Fine called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Minutes from previous full board meeting were approved: 28-0-1.

Chairman's Report: Sheldon J. Fine

- Reviewed the work of the West 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force, which has been chaired by Melanie Wymore. The work of the task force has been completed, and now actions are being taken to move the project forward. As task force chair and as 1st-Vice Chair, she arranged a presentation on the project this evening by Belmont Freeman Architects and the Department of Parks & Recreation.
- Attended a number of committee meetings this past month and praised their work. Commended all committees for submitting minutes for December meetings.
- Asked Charles Simon, Co-chair of the Housing Committee, to report. The committee selected four priorities for the year: two related to NYC Housing Authority developments in CD7 and two related to affordable housing. At the January 9 meeting at 2345 Broadway, the committee will decide on specific goals and agendas to go with the priorities.
- Conflicts of Interest's Advisory Opinion No. 2005-3 was distributed to all Board members. Summary states: community board members will not violate Chapter 68 of the Charter by voting on rezoning of a large area in which they own homes, provided they disclose the interest.
- Council Member Gale Brewer introduced companion pieces of legislation: Res. No. 1279 calling on the NY State legislature to authorize the Conflicts of Interest Board to modify the scope of the NYC financial disclosure form and Into No. 765 amending the NYC code to require community board members to file financial disclosure forms.
- The US Department of Transportation/FAA has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the redesign of air space over NY, NJ and Philadelphia. Comments are due by June 1, 2006. Document and schedule of public workshops are available at www.faa.gov/nynjphl_airspace_redesign. The Board will develop comments on the DEIS and ask the Manhattan Borough Board to take up the issue.

- The Land Use Committee, Co-chaired by Richard Asche and Page Cowley, sent a letter to the Department of City Planning regarding Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus Master Plan. It will be distributed to Board members and placed on CB7's website.

District Manager's Report: Penny Ryan

- Mayor Bloomberg signed Intro 397A on December 29. The Intro is a comprehensive revision of the NYC Noise Code. DEP will now draft rules and regulations and some provisions may be challenged. Board follow-up is recommended.

- The Mayor also signed Intros 299A, 556A and 663, which deal with graffiti on buildings, the sale and possession markers, and penalties for persons convicted of graffiti vandalism. Full text of Intros is available at www.nyc.gov/citycouncil.

- 7 major crimes are down 8% year-to-date in the 20th Precinct, and up 3% in the 24. Street cleanliness has decreased on Columbus Avenue due to implementation of shorter street cleaning times on the eastside of the roadway.

- Renovations have not started at CB7's office at 250 West 87th Street. Larry Horowitz is requesting a meeting with the Commissioner of DCAS.

Public Session

- Peter Arndtsen, Executive Director, Columbus-Amsterdam BID, distributed a history of the Manhattan Valley area and invited members of CB7's West 96th-110th Street Task Force to take a guided tour of the area Lynn Opinante, Librarian, NYPL, Riverside Branch at 127 Amsterdam Avenue (West 56th-66th Streets) wants to know more about community needs and is working to increase children's programs. Call 212-870-1810 for information on branch programs.

- Christina Harvey, State Senator Eric Schneiderman's Office, gave a legislative update. The Senate held a special session on illegally purchased guns and the killing of police officers. There is no regulation of gun dealers. She read a statement by the Senator on this issue, which will be considered in the upcoming legislative session.

- Dan Berger, Congressman Charles Rangel's Office, reported on the prevention of the eviction of Boys Choir of Harlem, the Congressman's opposition to the Medicare drug prescription program and his support for Israel, and his concern about rent increases at West View on 97th Street.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

Josh Bocian, Director of Community Affairs: Hopes to have CB7 liaison by February meeting.

- **Asked Board members to return surveys.**
- **Agreed to bring back to the MBP questions about Parks Department decision on limiting access to the Great Lawn in Central Park.**
- **He can be reached at 212-669-8151.**

Reports by Legislators/Updates

Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito introduced herself and said she is looking forward to working with everyone. She can be reached at 212-828-9800 and plans to open her office at 105 West 116th Street.

Council Member Gale Brewer:

- **Christine Quinn will be the next Speaker of the City Council.**
- **David Lasky, Citizens Union, has proposed a number of City Council reforms, which can be found on their website:
www.citizensunion.org/programs_reports/Council_Reform_Final.pdf.**
- **Comments on the Department of Education's Capital Plan are due on January 29th. Input is welcome. Many West Side schools need to be redesigned, especially those that house several schools in one building.**
- **The City Council adopted the revised Noise Code. She asked for input on the provisions.**
- **MTA has moved to platform staff at three stations in her district. She asked for feedback on this change in service.**
- **In July 06 cultural institutions will be invited to apply for funds from the Department of Cultural Affairs. She wants more applications from CD7 and urged groups to apply.**

The City doesn't have enough uniformed police officers, especially in PSA#6. She stressed need for civilianization and recommended budget advocacy on this issue.

- **She agreed to have a representative at the January Youth and Education Committee meeting to help plan a forum on school access.**
- **The Council passed a bill on broad band.**

- There will be an open house at her district office in January.

Business Session

West 59th Street Rec Center Task Force

Melanie Wymore and Kristen Dionne (MCB4), Co-Chairs

1. Report Re: Phase 1 of the reconstruction of the Department of Parks & Recreation's West 59th Street Recreation Center.

Ms. Wymore gave the background of implementation of the Restrictive Declaration for 101 West End Avenue, which required the renovation of the outdoor pool at the 59th Street Rec Center as mitigation for loss of open space. The Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) determined the pool could not be restored and negotiated a \$2.5 M cash donation as an equivalent.

Through the 59th Street Rec Center Task Force, MCB7, MCB4 community groups and institutions, and elected officials developed a vision for the project and raised an additional \$2 M. In 2004, the task force issued a report and recommendations. MCB7 and MCB4 approved DPR's scope for Phase 1, which was accepted into the Mayor's Design for Excellence Program. A request for proposals was issued and a panel selected Belmont Freeman Architects. Phase 1 will go to the Art Commission in January.

Ms. Wymore introduced Bruce Eisenberg, Director of Architecture for DPR, and Belmont Freeman and Desmond Osborne, Belmont Freeman Architects, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Master Plan for the project and the schematic design for Phase 1.

The public bath house on West 60th Street was constructed in 1906; the field house on West 59th was constructed in 1912. In 1930 the buildings were joined, but none of floor levels line-up. The outdoor pool was constructed in the 1930's. The 60th Street building is in good condition and has the valuable program facilities, including a gym and indoor pool. The 59th Street building is in poor condition, and the outdoor pool irretrievable. There is a parking lot on the west side of the site.

The goals of Phase I are to make the center ADA accessible, renovate the locker rooms, upgrade existing program areas, and add program areas. The plan is to build an addition on the eastside of the 60th Street building, over part of the outdoor pool area, and to moth ball the 59th Street building. The plan leaves options for future development open while providing safe, accessible, and useable recreational space. The addition's façade would be red brick, with a sober and strong façade on West 60th Street that would respect the ornateness of the public bath and would draw you to the brick and glass on the eastside. There would be many windows on eastern façade.

Ms. Wymore opened the floor to questions and comments:

- DPR can't give any assurances that the life guard training program will not return; trying to balance it out. New pool at Flushing Meadows can accommodate them.
- The current gym is not a full court; new gym in Phase 2 would be.
- Phase 2 would include construction on the parking lot.
- DPR tries to be as energy efficient as possible. Windows would be double-pane and glazed. Looking into funding from NYS that requires energy efficiency.
- Project has not gone out to bid. Additional funds may be needed.
- Indoor pool will be rehabbed when funds are available.
- Current programs will come back after renovations. DPR will help find alternative locations during construction.
- Some board members recommended exploration of alternatives for the West 60th Street façade, including the addition of windows.

Mary Rosado, President, Friends of the 59th Street Rec Center, reported that a majority of the Friend's board approved the design and asked CB7 and DPR to expedite construction. She asked DPR to address lifeguards. The Friends are committed to construction of a second pool with as much natural light as possible.

Business and Consumer Issues Committee

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero and Madge Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons

The OTB proposal for West 72nd Street was withdrawn.

2. 2006 Multi-block fairs. The resolution to approve the applications for 2006 multi-block street fairs was adopted: 33-8-0-0.

Questions were asked about impacts on public transportation and neighborhood representation at fairs

The committee has asked promoters to provide mid-block so people can get to businesses, and it plans to do a survey to determine the status of non-profits who sponsor fairs.

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman and Klari Neuwelt, Co-Chairpersons

3. The Promenade. The resolution to approve the design for the reconstruction of the Promenade, West 83rd-91st Streets, Riverside Park: 40-0-0-0.

Ms. Neuwelt gave an overview of the 8-block project, which has been funded by Council Member Brewer. Margaret Bracken, DPR, was present.

4. West 110th Street Playground. The resolution to approve the final design for the reconstruction of the West 110th Street playground, Central Park: 41-0-0-0.

Lenore Norman gave an overview.

5. 467 Columbus Avenue ADD DBA (West 82nd Street.) The resolution to approve application #058955 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a rear-yard addition was adopted: 39-0-0-0.

6. 15 West 63rd Street, Park Laurel (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) The resolution to approve an application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a canopy was approved: 39-2-1-0.

Hope Cohen proposed a friendly amend to approve a marquee rather than not canopy, which was not accepted.

7. 179 Columbus Avenue, d/b/a 67 Wine & Spirits (West 67h Street.) The resolution to approve an application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install signage and awnings was adopted:

37-0-1-2.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

8. West 97th Street GreenMarket. The resolution to approve the application by Greenmarket to the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits to conduct a market on Fridays on the north side of West 97th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues was adopted: 37-1-1-0.

D. Maria Watson asked why it can't be on Columbus Avenue since trucks cause congestion on 97th Street. The committee agreed to look into this at a future date.

9. 421 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th Street.) The resolution to approve renewal application DCA#1215000 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by Global Village Grill, Inc., d/b/a Monaco, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 36 seats was adopted: 37-1-0-0.

Present: Sheldon Fine, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Hope Cohen, Page Cowley, Alberto Cruz, Lance Dashefsky, Georgette Gittens, Victor Gonzalez, Phyllis Gunther, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, John Howell, Chaumtoli Huq, Joyce Johnson, Ulma Jones, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Gabrielle Palitz, Melanie Radley, Luis Reyes, Oscar Rios, Madge Rosenberg, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Steve Strauss, Barbara Van Buren, Tom Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Douglas Griebel, Marlene Guy, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Freddie Richardson, Helen Rosenthal, Sean Small.

Steering Committee

Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

January 31, 2006

Mr. Fine called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Focus issues for the year for each committee.

- Business & Consumer Issues, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero: February meeting – Discussion with ConEd on increase in utility bills; March – Discussion with the Department of Consumer Affairs; April – forum with area banks; May – pharmacies and prescription drug pricing. Asked for questions that other committees would like to include in these agendas.**
- Housing, Victor Gonzalez: He, Joyce Johnson and Barbara Van Buren attended a Residents' Association meeting at Frederick Douglass Houses. Listened to their concerns and invited them to come to CB7 meetings. At February meeting, committee will further clarify priority issues.**
- Youth & Education, Luis Reyes: Distributed January committee minutes. Committee will continue outreach to community-based organizations to understand what they need and invite them to give presentations. Planning a forum in March on kindergarten admission policies in CD3. Reaching out to the immigrant communities. Invited staff members of elected officials to meetings.**

- **Transportation, Dan Zweig:** Concerned about smoking in outdoor cafes, helicopters, subway accessibility issues. Wants to update CB7's café guidelines.
- **Parks & Preservation, Lenore Norman:** Working on designations north of West 96th Street, especially a Manhattan Valley Historic District. Interest in potential development of religious institutions' properties.
- **Health & Human Services, Barbara Van Buren:** Reviewing agencies committee has approved for funding and groups who receive public funding. Also looking into community based organizations needs. NORCs are building centered; wants to expand programs to horizontal model neighborhood. Exploring domestic violence in our community.

Mr. Fine asked the committees to give an update on one issue at the February 28 Steering Committee meeting. He encouraged the committees to focus issues and work toward outcomes – to account for what the Board is doing. He plans to have an intern review history of committees and analyze patterns in decisions that might be policies. This would create an institutional memory that everyone could share.

Committees' needs for knowledgeable and interested members.

Mr. Fine announced that the Manhattan Borough President's Office is beginning the board member appointment process. He reminded members that the BP will review attendance. He asked what committees need. The following were mentioned: People who are connected to the community and have a commitment, and will attend and participate; social service providers; historic preservationist; tenant organizer; finance person; parent coordinator.

Committee attendance issues.

Mr. Fine stressed that the Board's work goes on at committee meetings and how important it is to attend. He asked how to get members to attend meetings. Suggestions included: The Board Leadership should be taking an active role in the process of improving attendance; CB7's By-laws attendance requirements need to be clarified; 6 PM meeting start time. Additional recommendations included: keeping track of lateness; not assigning members to committees who are not attending regularly; before setting regulations, look at what's going on.

There was general agreement not to have excused absences. However, Mr. Fine will ask members to notify co-chairs if not attending or coming late to a

committee meeting and to call the board office if not attending or coming late to a full board meeting.

February will be attendance month. He asked co-chairs to contact committee members and remind them of meetings. He and Barbara Van Buren will propose changes in CB7's By-laws attendance sections by February 15 and include these on the February 28 Steering Committee agenda.

New business.

- The committee decided to hold a breakfast meeting with elected officials.
- Shanifah Rieara is leaving the board office staff to join the Manhattan Borough President's Office as director of the northern Manhattan office.
- Renovations of 250 West 87th Street will begin on February 7.

Present: Sheldon Fine, Victor Gonzalez, Marlene Guy, Bobbie Katzander, Lenore Norman, Luis Reyes, Barbara Van Buren, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig. District Manager Penny Ryan.

Youth and Education Committee

Luis O. Reyes and Alberto Cruz, Co-Chairpersons

January 19, 2006

Alberto Cruz called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Members in attendance Sharon Parker-Frasier and Alberto Cruz

Introduction of board members to community in attendance.

Introduction by Tyler Smith about his position in Council Member Gale Brewer's office.

Tyler has visited numerous schools in district 3. Assessing the needs of each individual school, and reporting findings to Council Member Brewer.

Has spoken to families about the reception they receive when entering school premises by the school safety officers. Overall parents do not feel welcomed.

Discussion on the "One to One in Ten" program in middle school. \$450,000 has been allocated to seven schools overall with four of those schools in community board 7 (MS 44, MS 54, MS 245, and MS 246). The other three are Columbus Academy, Center School, and MS 256. Laptops will remain in school.

Apple Computers also donated sixteen LCD projectors and sixteen camcorders.

Computers for Youth have also been contacted to provide refurbish computers to families who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

We also the discussed ongoing conversations on the potential of bringing Computer School Computer School I and II under the same roof. Currently they are located at PS 9 and MS 44 complex.

The expansion of the Anderson Program at PS 9, and its impact on the rest of the school.

Council Member Gale Brewer secured \$400,000 for the performing arts center at PS 191. This will include a partnership between Lincoln Center Institute and PS 191.

Money was also secured for existing programs in PS 191 (YMCA and Wingspan Arts.)

Another ongoing priority of Council Member Gale Brewer is the soon to expire lease of Beacon High School. The council member is working towards keeping the school within Community Board 7. Brewer has been in contact with Kathleen Grimm deputy director of the school construction authority regarding this issue.

Another concern of the council member is the MS 44 complex and the security and overall performance of the school. There have been meetings involving Gail Reeves, Penny Ryan, 20th precinct, and others concerning these issues. Possible improvements to the school include partnerships with the American Museum of Natural History and other Community based organizations.

31% of students at MS 44 have IEP on file.

Tyler Smith also reported on Council Member Brewer's testimony to the Board of Regents concerning Parent Involvement in Schools.

The Youth and Education Committee invited Council Member Gale Brewer to be part of our March forum on the Kindergarten application process. More information on the Forum will be coming soon.

Capital Budget

- Discussion on the capital plan and its affects on schools in community board 7. We discussed request for changes to the 2006 draft amendment.

- PS 84 – Work on the public address system and fire alarm system is scheduled to begin in 2008, but the school would like it done sooner.

- PS 87 – A. Classroom lighting at the school has been rated as a “5” on the Building Condition Assessment Survey (BCAS) report, but is not listed for funding.

B. The boiler system is not listed for replacement or repair: the boiler itself was rated as a “4”, although its useful life is 40 years and it has been at the school for 53. All ancillary systems that support the boiler were rated as a “5”. Consequently, even if the boiler itself is not in better condition than the ancillary systems, the overall system is in jeopardy.

- PS 191 – The school is scheduled for electrical system repair in 2006. Special consideration will be requested for electrical systems that relate to a new performing arts center being built at the school, a project funded by the City Council through funds secured by Council Member Gale Brewer.

- MS 44 – A. A surveillance system is listed in the plan without specification of timing or funding. Given the safety issues at the school, it will be requested that the system be installed as soon as possible. B. Brewer has secured funding to renovate the playground. However, additional funds are needed. It will be requested that additional funds be added to the plan for playground construction so that the project can be completed.

- Martin Luther King Jr. High School Campus – There are many issues involved with campus restructuring that will be discussed, most notably the inclusion of funding for pool renovations. It will be requested that money for pool renovations be assigned to other projects, as all 5 building principals desire this.

The items above are not currently included in NYC DOE 2006 Draft Amendment to the Five Year Capital Plan. Council Member Gale Brewer is working to include these items in the amendment.

- Council Member Brewer’s office will be contacting each school to go over any proposed additions or changes to capital plan.

- Mayor Bloomberg is also proposing an amendment to the current amendment.

- Discussion on funding for Middle School Basketball League and the possibility of expanding to elementary school level.
- We also discussed possible relationships between private schools and public schools in community board 7, and possible advantages for all from these partnerships.
- The mailer from Council Member Brewer's office will be out soon, and will be handed out at the open house on February 4 & 5 at the district office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Members of the community in attendance

Tyler Smith - Education Specialist (Council Member Gale Brewer's office)

Cecilia Blewer - Parents Association President's Council

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

January 10, 2006

Andrew Albert called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

1. 193 Columbus Avenue (West 68th–69th Streets.) New application DCA#1216111 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by Yun Hua on Columbus, Inc., d/b/a Yun Hua, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.

Betty Shau, owner, attended the meeting.

Discussion ensued over the amount of clearance between the proposed cafe and the planter along the curb of Columbus Avenue. It was determined that there was not enough clearance between the cafe, as drawn, and the edge

of the bricks surrounding the planter. It was agreed that Ms. Shau would take the committee's objections back to her architect, and the plans would be re-drawn, to allow for a narrower cafe. A vote was not taken.

2. Future Agenda Items

Discussion took place about items that the committee would like to see at future meetings. They are, in no particular order:

- Continuing problem of open lamp-post bases,
- Historic Plaques Program (with Councilmember Brewer),
- Publicizing the only 4 swipes on pay-per-ride Metrocards,
- Spring pothole review,
- 59th St. Subway station task force,
- Left-hand turn from southbound Broadway to eastbound 110th Street,
- Future of newsstand applications,
- Dangerous crossings/corners - i.e. 79th & Amsterdam,
- Reminder signs for no right turns on red in the City of New York,
- Re-routing of some bus routes,
- The bow-tie @ 65th Street/Broadway/Columbus Ave,
- Traffic calming,
- Delivery schedules on Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues,
- Revisiting issue of non-smoking sidewalk cafes,
- Keeping gradually expanding sidewalk cafes in check, and the
- Ongoing curb-monopolization of Fresh Direct trucks.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

Present: Andrew Albert, Dan Zweig, Linda Alexander, Ulma Jones, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman Oscar Rios. Board member Barbara Adler.
Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez.

Business and Consumer Issues Committee

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero and Madge Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons

Agenda for January 11, 2006 Meeting

1. Discussion of 2006 Committee agendas.

OTB has withdrawn its proposal to relocate its current operation on West 72nd Street to 143 West 72nd Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.) We apologize for any inconvenience.

Parks and Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman and Klari Neuelt, Co-Chairpersons

January 12, 2006

1. Discussion of the Naumberg Bandshell in Central Park.

Christopher London, a descendant of the Naumberg family, gave some historical background about the bandshell and described its current state of disrepair. Because the bandshell was donated by the Naumberg family, it can't be torn down. Since 1993, he has been trying to persuade the Parks Department to restore the structure, but little has been done. In 1993, the stonework repair would have cost \$350,000. Today, in a further state of deterioration, its cost is estimated at \$2 million. In +/- 2003, some of the stone sloughed off the roof. The bandshell was closed for a year while the roof was repaired to stabilize it, re-opening in time for its centennial. However, the repair work was not complete (for example the drip course was not repaired, leading to subsequent water damage) contributing to further deterioration.

Klari Neuwelt brought up the fact that in 1998, CB7 as well as CB5 and CB8 had made a resolution to save the bandshell and recommended its restoration. She suggested that the committee's next step was to hear from the Parks Dept. At the end of the meeting, when the committee returned to discussing the bandshell, the committee decided to include further discussion about the bandshell on next month's committee agenda. A representative from the Parks Dept. will be invited to report on the status of the bandshell.

Elizabeth Starkey, CB7 member and bandshell supporter joined Mr. London in urging that CB7 renew its interest and support of the bandshell and take it up with the Parks Department.

Reference was also made to the recent appropriation of \$600,000 to Summer Stage to repair its storage facility (Parks and Preservation had reviewed the design and supported it several months ago), which is near the bandshell. Mr. London stated that Summer Stage events acoustically “upstage” those at the bandshell due to the proximity of the two performance spaces. To alleviate this problem, Mr. London suggested moving Summer Stage to Wolman Rink, describing the rink as well-suited since it is gated, has stepped seating, and lovely views to the south.

2. 120 West 72nd Street. Application to Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a new 16-story building.

Stephen Glascock (President of Anbau Enterprises) made introductory remarks. He reported that this is Anbau’s fourth project in NYC; they have just completed one on Central Park South, where they worked in partnership with the Central Park Conservancy. Here, he described their intent to work with CB7 and Landmarks West “to contribute back to the community” and to make the building as well as the design process a positive experience.

Elise Quasebarth (of Higgins & Quasebarth, preservation consultants) began the presentation by describing the history of 72nd Street and the current architectural context. In the mid 19th century, 72nd Street was referred to as a “Parkway” linking Central Park and Riverside Park, architecturally characterized by “elegant” row houses. In the 1910’s and 1920’s the residential character of the street changed as taller apartment buildings and residential hotels were built. Also, the advent of the elevated train line spurred commercial development at this time, leading to the conversion of many of the row houses to commercial use, particularly in their bottom two floors.

Ms. Quasebarth next described the site, located on the south side of 72nd Street, between Columbus and Broadway. There is a one story “taxpayer” building on the site which was originally occupied by two row houses. Immediately to its left (east) there is a 13-story elegant white terracotta “sliver” building (one of four on the Upper West Side), and to its right (west) there is a tan-brick thirteen story apartment building. She then described the architectural character of 72nd Street, with its rich mixture of materials and architectural details (masonry, terracotta, copper details,

projecting bays, several marquees; different window patterning, and different methods of breaking up the facades) and its active roofscape. Beginning with the elegant Dakota and Majestic apartment buildings at Central Park West, tall buildings continue west along 72nd Street on both sides of the street until part way through the Columbus-Broadway block, when the lower row houses with two story commercial bases takes over. Situated between two thirteen story buildings and within the immediate context of buildings as tall as 15 stories, the site was described by the architects as a "missing tooth" in this taller building portion.

Ms. Quasebarth ended her presentation by mentioning that they had met with Landmark West! on January 4, where "design, texture, shape and form" of the new building were discussed. The design to be presented to the committee this evening had already incorporated some of the comments raised by Landmark West! (Some members of the Parks and Preservation Committee had been sent the Landmark West! comments in advance of the meeting).

The developer had decided to put off their January 24 hearing with the Landmarks Commission until February 7 to allow more time to develop the design.

Next, Harry Kendall and George Schieferdecker of BSK Architects presented the design of the proposed building. The building is "as of right" in terms of its zoning envelope and street context. The proposed building builds to the maximum permitted street wall height: 153'-2" (150 foot plus cornice) – 14 stories, plus two penthouse setbacks. The total building height is 172 feet, including bulkheads - 16 stories. This is lower than the maximum permissible: 210 feet. The architects noted that the floor-to-ceiling height of the new building is taller than commonly built today, picking up on the "grander" scale of the adjacent terracotta building.

The lot is 50 feet wide by 100 feet deep. Setting back the required 30 feet at the rear above grade, the building footprint will be 50 feet x 70 feet. (The cellar, containing mechanical and storage, fills the entire lot). One of the architects noted that some of the "lot-line" windows of the building to the east would be covered over by the new building, which is permissible.

The architects showed various elevations along both sides of 72nd Street, as well as views of the new building within the context seen from along 72nd Street and also from 71st Street, since a low church structure abuts the rear yard. They demonstrated that both thirteen story neighbors, with

only 20 foot rear-yard setbacks (they were built before the current zoning) are more visible from 71st Street than is the new building.

Next, the architects showed renderings of the facades and described the design. Their overall design intent is to create a modern building which “engages in healthy dialogue” with its architectural context, rather than attempting to replicate that historical context... The facades are a combination of glass and masonry. Resting on a two-story all glass base (a reference to the two-story commercial bases along the block), the upper portion of the façade (floors 3-14) is divided into three vertical segments. On the left (east), the façade is sheathed in masonry, with two “punched” window openings per floor. On the right (west), the façade is sheathed completely in glass. At the center of the façade, over the residential entrance, there is a narrow, continuous vertical glass strip, which proposes to link the two sides through material and detail. Picking up on the larger scale patterns found within the facades of neighboring buildings, the new façade has a two-story patterning effected by “suppressing” and “expressing” the readings of the alternating floors, employing such architectural elements as mullions in the glass, the small balconies (4 foot wide, 8” projection) within the central vertical strip (a nod to the bay windows of earlier buildings) and other architectural details. The building is capped by a projecting metal band “cornice” at the roofline.

The street wall of the new building will be generally co-planar with the street walls of the two neighboring structures, with some minor planar variations: at street level, the street wall is set back 1'-6". Above the second floor, the masonry sits back 5-1/2" from the plane of the all-glass façade to its west. At the edges of the building, the facade sets back to create a “reveal” at the joint between the old and the new. This is particularly important to the east, where this gesture allows the decorative “quoining at the corner of the terracotta building to continue to be visible.

The rear façade is a simpler version of the 72nd Street façade: with punched windows in masonry to the east, full-glass to the west. There is no two-story patterning at the rear, but each floor has a 4-5 foot deep balcony outside its glass-front end.

In terms of materials, the architects showed sample boards of the brick for color, which will be a mixture of lighter and darker tan brick, to be installed in a subtle pattern, muted but not flat and visually boring. The color choice was intended to be darker than the terracotta structure to the east to allow that structure to stand out, and similarly neutral in color to the tan structure to the west. (On the simpler rear facade, there will only be one shade of brick in the masonry portion.) The actual brick will be standard-

size or preferably "Roman" (longer than standard), installed in running bond; it has not yet been selected.

The glass portions of the building are made up of clear glass (central vertical strip and glass above sill level at the west end) and "fritted" (opaque) glass below sill level. This fritted glass will also be used on the first two floors, in combination with clear glass. Other materials include the use of metal in the form of a "brise-soleil" screen layered over the second storey glass facade (a modern evocation of the larger scale joints of a rusticated masonry base), metal window mullions in a "Kynar" metallic finish, and the metal cornice band. There may also be some stone incorporated in the area near the residential entrance.

The facades reflect the interior program:

--The first floor contains the residential lobby, whose central entrance is marked by a stationary metal marquee; there is commercial on either side.

--The second floor has a communal "recreation" space. (This is one of the requirements of the "Quality Housing" bulk regulations established a number of years ago by the City Planning Commission, which also dictates the 150 foot maximum and 130 foot minimum street wall heights, lot coverage, etc. The regulations were created in reaction to the tower buildings set back in plazas.)

--Full-floors 3-14 contain two apartments per floor, although some larger apartments may occupy an entire floor. In each, the living spaces are located to the west (behind the all-glass facades), and the two bedrooms are located to the east, behind the masonry portion).

Because the lot is 50 feet wide, it is not governed by the "sliver" site rules, which apply to lots 45 feet wide or less. This allows the building to be taller than its neighbors, something the architects advocate from a design perspective as furthering the lively alternating roofline along 72nd Street.

Following the architect's presentation, factual questions were posed, including questions about lot coverage, heights, material details, and what initial comments the Landmarks Commission had made at their preliminary meeting. After the factual questions, lengthy comments and discussion ensued from both the public and the committee members. (The overall discussion of this building took over two hours.) One comment made by someone from Landmarks West was the observation that this project has been moved along at a very quick pace. They were first informed of it on December 22, and met with the team on January 4. The project team has also had a preliminary review by the Landmarks Commission.

Varying opinions were expressed regarding the choice of materials and their relationships, the architectural composition of the facade, the relationships to the architectural context, the undeveloped nature of the first two floors, and the relative success or failure of the overall design. There was a general consensus that the design was still somewhat schematic, a work in progress.

Because of the preliminary nature of the design, the decision was made that it was premature to propose a resolution. The project team is anxious to hear comments from the Landmarks Commission, so they did not want to put off their February 7 hearing a second time. Instead, Francis Angelino (the Land Use attorney for the project, of DeCampo, Diamond and Ash) agreed that at the February 7 meeting, they would request that Landmarks keep the record open and defer any decisions. The Parks and Preservation and Land Use committees will jointly submit a letter to Landmarks summarizing the committees' concerns and stating that the applicant agreed to keep the record open.

Action: Klari Neuwelt as Parks and Preservation co-chair, and Page Cowley as Land Use co-chair will draft the letter, to be circulated among the committee members present at this meeting for comment, before finalizing the letter and submitting it to Landmarks in advance of the February 7 hearing.

3. Presentation by the Department of Parks & Recreation on the reconstruction of sidewalks around Theodore Roosevelt Park.

Bob Redmond of the Parks Department described the existing conditions of the sidewalks surrounding Theodore Roosevelt Park, which include 81st Street, 77th Street, and Central Park West and Columbus Avenue between these two cross streets. The sidewalks are in varying states of disrepair, with portions of the sidewalk heaved. City Council has granted \$2.5 million for phase 1 of this project. Doug Nash (a landscape designer in the Parks Dept.) introduced Linda Barie, the landscape consultant who described the project to the committee.

The project calls for:

--removing the existing hexagonal block pavers, regrading the sidewalks to be level, and re-paving with new hexagonal pavers set on a stone base.

--enlarging the planting pits around the existing trees to 5 feet x 10 feet.

--replacing the hex block pavers between the planting pits at the inner edge of the sidewalk along 81st and 77th Street (at the perimeter of the park), with continuous granite blocks set on sand pits, to improve the aeration of the planting pits.

--replacing the nine existing benches along 81st Street with nine new "World's Fair" benches, and installing twelve new World's Fair benches along 77th Street (currently bench-less.)

--replacing the "cobra-headed" light fixtures along 77th and 81st Streets with the two-headed Columbus Avenue light fixtures. These fixtures have a lower arm extending in over the sidewalk for pedestrian lighting and an upper arm projecting out over the street for general illumination. (Central Park West has the "Fifth Avenue twin" fixture. No lighting changes are proposed here.)

Phase 1 focuses on work along 77th and 81st Streets and Central Park West. Concern was raised by Barbara Adler and Linda Alexander about the need to repair the sidewalks along Columbus Avenue as soon as possible as well, because they too are in poor condition and in some case pose tripping threats to pedestrians. Bob Redmond said the budget did not allow all four sidewalks to be done at the same time. Central Park West is a relatively small area, and the sidewalks along the two side streets are in relatively worse condition than is the Columbus Avenue sidewalk. He said that Columbus Avenue is still a priority, and he anticipates that Phase 2 will happen within the next year or two, as soon as the next round of funding is appropriated

Don Slippen of the Museum of Natural History said that the museum is completely committed to completing Phase 2 of the project. Peter Wright (President of Friends of Roosevelt Park and Head of the 77th Street Block Association), described particularly pressing problems along the 77th Street sidewalk. He too agreed that the Columbus Avenue sidewalk had to be repaired but re-iterated that it was in relatively better condition than the other streets.

Steve Strauss brought up the need to move the bus shelter for the east-bound M-79 further east at the Columbus Avenue end of 81st street further east, to work with the longer articulated busses, but it was decided that that issue was separate from approving the design of the sidewalks. There are hex. pavers the entire length of the bus stop, so moving the shelter location will not impact the tree pit enlargement project. The re-positioning of the shelter will be taken up at the Transportation committee meeting.

Resolution:

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the final design for the reconstruction of the sidewalks surrounding Theodore Roosevelt Park on the 77th Street, 81st Street and Central Park West borders, including related landscaping, lighting changes and new benches; and

In light of the severely deteriorated state of the sidewalk on the Columbus Avenue border, Community Board 7, Manhattan, urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to seek funds for a prompt reconstruction of the sidewalk on the Columbus Avenue border.

**Vote: Parks & Preservation Committee: 6-0-0-0. Public Member: 1-0-0-0.
CB7 members: 2-0-2-0.**

4. 333 West End Avenue (West 75th-76th Streets). Application # 06-3914 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge window openings.

Elaine Didyk, the designer (of Spacecraft) presented the proposal: to enlarge two existing window openings in the north and west walls of penthouse apartment 16 C. The penthouse walls are set back 11 feet from the building faced; only the top one foot of the penthouse parapet wall is visible from the street. Current window openings are 3'-6" wide, and contain aluminum windows. The designer proposes to enlarge each of the two window openings (8'-6" wide on the north façade; 7'-6" wide on the west façade, both ending at a corner brick pier.) Steel windows, visually modeled on the tri-partite composition of the typical window groupings in the main street facades, will be installed within the wider openings.

Resolution:

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the application for a certificate of appropriateness for the removal of the existing windows on the northwest corner of penthouse apartment 16C at 333 West Avenue, and for their replacement with new larger windows in enlarged openings.

**Vote: Parks & Preservation Committee: 6-0-0-0. Public Member: 1-0-0-0.
CB7 members: 2-0-0-0.**

5. 270 Columbus Avenue, d/b/a SQC (West 72nd-73rd Streets). Application # 062272 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter and existing enclosed sidewalk café.

Daniel O'Connor, the architect, presented the project. Restaurant owners Scott and Linda Campbell were also present. The original sidewalk café was installed in the 1970's. In 2001, the Campbells acquired the restaurant and hired an architect to make some changes to the greenhouse enclosure. Unfamiliar with the filing requirements, a previous architect had installed bright yellowish-orange plexiglass panels within the existing greenhouse structure without any review or approval. The restaurant was issued a violation by Landmarks. Current efforts by Mr. O'Connor and the Campbells are intended to remove the violation and improve the visual appearance by toning down the bright color. One modification has already been made: the lower solid panels have been replaced with transparent panels, with Landmarks approval. Mr. O'Connor is proposing to paint the exterior of the existing mullions a dark bronze color, and to spray-paint the underside of the curving plexiglass roof panels an opaque brown color, to tone down the yellowish-orange color, and to help reduce the amount of daytime light and heat. Page Cowley urged Mr. O'Connor to investigate the use of automotive paint to prevent the paint from bubbling. Mr. O'Connor was congratulated on devising an effective, economical solution to the problem.

Resolution:

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the application for a certificate of appropriateness for the modification of the enclosed sidewalk cafe at 270 Columbus Avenue (SQC Restaurant) by (1) the application of spray paint in a brown tone to the inside of the roof of the plexiglass-enclosed greenhouse extension and (2) the painting of the exterior mullions in a darker tone.

Vote: Parks & Preservation Committee: 6-0-0-0. Public Member: 1-0-0-0.
CB7 members: 2-0-0-0.

6. Following a completion of the discussion on the Naumberg Bandshell (see item 1 above), the committee briefly discussed the decision of the Department of Parks and Recreation to limit the size and number of events on Central Park's Great Lawn.

The discussion was brief (owing to the late hour) but passionate, with concern expressed by many about the privatization of Central Park, and the loss of spaces for large gatherings and demonstrations. At the same time, the need to preserve the grass was of equal concern to some, possibly outweighing the need for more opportunities to gather on the Great Lawn. Klari Neuwelt will talk with Shelly Fine and Penny Ryan about bringing this

issue to the Borough Board level, if CB7 is interested in taking a strong stand on this issue.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 pm.

Present: Parks & Preservation Committee: Klari Neuwelt, Linda Alexander, Page Cowley, Phyllis Gunther, Klari Neuwelt; Gabrielle Palitz, Patricia Stevens. Land Use Committee: Page Cowley, Barbara Adler; Hope Cohen; Ethel Sheffer; Steve Strauss; D. Maria Watson. Board Member: Elizabeth Starkey.

Public member: Michelle Kidwell. Absent: Lenore Norman, Lance Dashevsky.

Submitted by Gabrielle Palitz

January 15, 2006

Housing Committee

Victor Gonzalez and Charles Simon, Co-Chairpersons

January 9, 2006

At Euclid Hall, 2345 Broadway

Called to Order: 7:30 P.M.

Review of priority housing issues that were identified and voted upon in the December meeting.

Copies of the Housing Committee's #1 and #2 priorities developed at the 12/13/05 meeting (attached) were distributed. After introductions, Charles Simon restated our focus for the next year, and what we hope to accomplish. Specifically, he asked that in this meeting we set tangible goals for the four priorities (two each from the public and affordable housing categories) that were set on 12/13/05. With respect to "Building-Wide Safety" in Public Housing, the Committee discussed NYCHA's ticket system. The Committee agreed to (1) confer with Co-Chair Victor Gonzalez about how complaints are taken and how they're handled, (2) review the Department of Investigations audit that was done several years ago, (3) get

input from the residents of Frederick Douglass Houses to determine what they think our specific goal should be in this area, possibly by conducting a survey, (4) confer with the manager of Frederick Douglass Houses, and (5) confer with Councilwoman Mark-Viverito.

With respect to “Community Services” in Public Housing, the Committee agreed that we need community and agency input (from the Children’s Aid Society, for example) to determine specific goals, and that we should conduct a site visit for these purposes.

With respect to the “Future of SRO and Residential Hotels” in the Affordable Housing category, the Committee agreed that we need to educate the Community Board and Community at large with respect to the important role played by SRO’s. The Committee also agreed that we need to better understand the status of SRO units in the district – how many of the SRO units are being used as they are supposed to be used. Penny Ryan indicated that we have a database of SRO units; the Committee decided that we need to determine whether the database reflects reality. In order to do so, the Committee agreed that we should conduct a survey and/or coordinate with Councilwoman Brewer’s office (and other elected officials) to do so. The Committee discussed the fact that too many city agencies are responsible for overseeing the SROs, so that there is no real accountability. The Committee decided that once we better understand the status of SRO units in our district, we should organize a forum with elected officials and relevant city agencies both to educate the community and identify flaws in the system.

With respect to “Working with City Agencies” in the Affordable Housing category, the Committee determined that enforcement of relevant codes and regulations was hampered by the lack of coordination among responsible city agencies, both in terms of information-sharing (who tracks ownership?) and monitoring. We agreed that focusing on one particular property or landlord with an egregious number of violations would make sense. We agreed that for our next meeting we would invite an SRO expert to discuss with us the complex SRO issues identified above and to help us identify a constructive role for the Housing Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Present: Charles Simon, Marlene Guy, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Barbara Van Buren, D. Maria Watson. Absent:

District Manager Penny Ryan. Ann Cunningham and Rosalba Rodriguez from City Council member Gale A. Brewer's office, *** from Senator Schneiderman's office and Chris Santee.

Housing Committee Issues – #1 and #2 priorities developed at 12/13/05 meeting.

NYC Housing Authority: Amsterdam and Addition; Wise Towers, WURSA Brownstones, De Hostos, Sandra Thomas; Frederick Douglass Houses and Addition; Dome.

#1 Building-wide safety: entrance doors, intercoms, elevators, public hallways, garbage storage and disposal

#2 Community services: youth, seniors, families (joint with health & Human Services Committee)

Additional issues:

- Law enforcement and criminal justice:
 - o NYPD: illegal drugs; 7-major crimes; quality of life, domestic violence
 - o Manhattan District Attorney's Office
 - o Court System
- Apartment maintenance and repairs

The committee found the following would be outcomes of the process:

- Strategy for improving CB7's relationship with NYCHA residents.
- Implementation of HUD's Public Housing Plan for Fiscal Year 2006.

Preservation of affordable housing.

#1 Future of single-room-occupancy and residential hotels: commercial, non-profit supportive housing, hotels; conversion to transient hotels and/or condominiums

#2 Working with City agencies:

o Enforcement of the NYC Housing Maintenance Code and other regulations: Housing Preservation and Development, Buildings, Environmental Protection

o Evaluation of current codes and effectiveness of enforcement (inspections and fines), and need for upgrades in standards

o Department of Youth and Community's Development's Neighborhood Advisory Board

Additional issues:

· Monitoring required levels of affordable housing: 80/20, Tenant Interim Lease (TIL), inclusionary housing, Riverside South

· Liaison with non-profit community-based organizations in the housing field:

o Manhattan Valley Development Corporation

o Stryker's Bay Neighborhood Association

o SRO Law Project

o West Side Federation of Senior and Supportive Housing

o Goddard Riverside/Section 8 Coalition

o Project Find

· New models of affordable housing: Mitchell Lama Buildings; creation of new affordable housing; what made government create affordable housing in the past?

· Rent control and stabilization; input to Rent Guidelines Board; Home Rule; Section 8 vouchers.

Health and Human Services Committee

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

Agenda for January 17, 2006 Meeting

1. Update on Lantern Group's projects in CD7.

2. Developing goals and setting committee's agenda for the coming year.

Land Use Committee

Richard Asche and Page Cowley, Co-Chairpersons

January 18th 2006

1. Leader House 100 West 93rd Street - Amendment to Zoning Resolution.

Representatives from Leader House Associates, their attorney and their architect, presented a plan for modification of the existing building (basement parking levels, main floor and an addition of commercial space up to the second floor that would include a roof terrace/garden) that would essentially change space allocated under the expired West Side Urban Renewal Area Plan (WSURA) as community/residential space. This proposal could be approved under a text change and Large Scale Redevelopment Plan modification. In the course of the presentation it became clear that this modification would affect other sites also transferred from city ownership to private developers.

There was considerable opposition and a number of specific questions raised the large number residents that attended the meeting and voiced their concerns. At issue was the extent and nature of the change as it affected the amenities presently in the building that would or have already been modified in the anticipation of the addition of commercial space enlarging the foot print of the building and the lower two floors.

The committee discussed many aspects of the proposed changes, not only at this site but as it would affect other buildings within the WSURA that are collectively a single zoning lot with respect to the transfer of development rights -- e.g. that which applies to one applies to all to achieve agreement and approval. This proposal and modification would permit the individual owner and other developer/owners to undertake the same type of alteration without individual case-by-case-consideration. While the reinstatement of the approximately 2 million square feet of commercial space for these WSURA buildings was considered desirable in concept, almost every committee member had a question or issue with how this amendment might be interpreted or implemented. Consequently, no conclusion could be reached.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Chair of NYC Planning Commission explaining and alerting them of the CB7 concerns (attached.) It

was further suggested that the residents of the building, who had much to say on this matter, convene to determine and resolve their own priorities, as the proposed modification would greatly affect their living accommodation and amenities

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Present: Richard Asche, Page Cowley, Barbara Adler, Hope Cohen, Victor Gonzalez, Ethel Sheffer, Steve Strauss, Tom Vitullo-Martin. Absent: Robert Hermann, Eric Nelson, Melanie Radley, Ethel Sheffer, D. Maria Watson.

Respectfully submitted by Page Cowley, co-chair LU Committee

Public Safety and Environment Committee

John Howell, Chairperson

Minutes, January 5, 2006

The Chairman, John Howell, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Presentation 1. Elizabeth Leath, Business Analyst and Community Liaison for the Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT) presented an overview of the 311 system—its abilities and limitations.

The 311 system operates under the aegis of Local Law 407 which states that 311 information must be posted.

On average, 311 receives between 40,000 and 45,000 calls daily. On the Tuesday of the December, 2005 transit strike, 241,000 calls were received.

Approximately 400 people work on the telephone "board."

The Department of Sanitation has, for a long time, had its own system for dealing with queries and complaints and, therefore, opted not to participate in the 311 system.

Thus far the system has not been able to refine its reports to specifically direct them to a Community Board district. They can report the call activity within a City Council district.

Reports of 2005 activity will be available at the end of this month.

The 311 system is an FCC licensee.

Bruce Lai, Chief of Staff from Gale Brewer's office, introduced himself as being present on behalf of the City Council member. He spoke about the recently passed law requiring disclosure of some 311 data.

Presentation 2. Edith Prentiss, representing Di Luong, the Outreach Chair of Citizens for New York City, spoke compellingly about the need for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to exist, at a minimum, in all Community Board districts. CERT teams, which serve as initial responders—before either the Police or the Fire Department is able to reach the scene of an emergency. She urged the committee to start establishing such team(s) in our district.

There is both Federal and State funding available to train volunteers for such teams.

Candidates are screened before they may commit to the 30 hours (10 weeks) of training that are required. A final exam is given to make sure of the proficiency of the candidate. Currently there is not a Team in CB7 and there was a sense among the Committee members present that there ought to be one. Our committee Chair, John Howell, offered to arrange for lessons in HAM radio operations as part of a necessary preparedness for any emergency.

3. Diana Schneider, who has spoken frequently over the past several years about both the danger and noise problems of Commercial aircraft flights over the City, spoke specifically of the noxious gas emissions from the planes which are a bare 3,000 feet above our homes and of the 19 near misses--"near hits"--last year at JFK. Sheldon Fine, Chairman of CB7, assured Ms. Schneider that he would bring the problem to the Borough Board at its next meeting, in February.

Present: John Howell, Alberto Cruz, Sheldon J. Fine, Georgette Gittens, Joyce Johnson, Bobbie Katzander, Oscar Rios, Madge Rosenberg, Steve

Strauss. Absent: Annette Averette, Freddie Richardson, Sean Small, Tom Vitullo-Martin, Melanie Wymore.

Members of the Public Present: Marilyn Brenner, Brenda Garboos, Adina Obler, Ari Goodman, Ian Alterman, Joel Garboos, Jayne Brenda, Elazer Stepansky, Miki Fiegel, Toni Cindrich, Minda Aguhil, David Midrel, Joselinne Minaya, Joan Franklin, Bruce Lai, Lisa Lehr, Tom Sunderland, Miriam Febus.

District Service Cabinet Report on Municipal Services

Penny Ryan, District Manager

January 25, 2006

1. Introductions

- Melissa Mark Viverito is the new Council Member who represents the northeast section of CB7, north side of 96th Street, from the east side of Broadway to Central Park West, including Manhattan Valley.**
- Crista Carmody is the new Riverside Park Supervisor and Sal Trento is the new manager of Riverside Park South.**

2. NYPD School Safety Report

- IS 44 has a rapid dismissal system designed to insure student safety. Number of agents by school: IS 44/ 5; Brandeis HS / 17; La Guardia HS/ 6; Elementary schools have 1 each. IS 44 crime is down because of School Safety and NYPD patrols outside – 77th to 88th Streets. Clearing the perimeter of the school goes on until 3:20 PM.**
- The 20th Precinct, CB7, and Council Member Gale Brewer are meeting with the principals of the four schools housed in the 100 West 77th Street building, to help resolve safety concerns in and around the schools. The Council Member requested that DYDC begin after school support and also sent a letter of recommendations to DOE.**
- The 20th Precinct arrested five youths from Brandeis HS who were robbing ML King and La Guardia HS students of Ipods and telephones. ML King HS is being observed for gang activity.**

- The 24th Precinct is currently educating students about safety through the Safe Haven and Safe Corridor programs. There have been some school incidents.
- Marjorie Cohen, WWCP, will assist the precincts in establishing safety patrols for older students.
- NYPD can provide crime statistics of youth on youth violence. Most crimes are due to the theft of electronic devices.

3. SROs

- Mayor's office has the SRO inter-agency report ready. City of NY Corporate counsel is reluctant to pursue litigation against owners of SROs because current fines and penalties are too lenient. Legislation is needed to increase HPD fines and penalties.
- At the Kent, the precinct is doing vertical sweeps, crime is down, but living conditions continue to be unsafe. The Royale had one 311 complaint.
- The 24th Precinct has an SRO Task force that was able to obtain search warrants which led to drug arrests.
- CAU can lead an interagency SRO inspection at the request of NYPD or the Board.
- DA's office will update buildings in the Trespass Affidavit Program and increase enrollment.

4. Rodent Infestation - DOHMH and DSNY Response

- CPW & 85th Street – baiting about half a dozen buildings.
- 10 Manhattan Avenue, baited store and building.
- Malls – Parks exterminators will be baiting in the area soon. Parks will send the baiting schedule to Board office so it can coordinate with other agencies.
- Wise Towers has a rat infestation problem – addresses will be forwarded to Board and given to NYCHA and TA president.

5. Enforcement of parking regulations for tour buses at Central Park West and West 72nd Street. Few summonses were issued. The Majestic will be advised to continue their daily log which will be forwarded to NYPD Traffic Enforcement.

6. Enforcement of general street vendor rules. Vendor rules are extremely complicated in the 20th precinct area and need to be simplified for better enforcement. The 24th Precinct issued 48 summonses last month, and this month has issued 85.

7. Agency Updates and Announcements

- NYPD Transit District 1 – biggest problem is grand larceny incidents.
- DAs Office – The summer internship program for junior high school and high school students is recruiting candidates – visit the Announcements section of our Web site for further information. There are 160 buildings in District 7 that participate in the Trespass Affidavit Program.
- ACS – Any irregularities in children can be reported to ACS through the Board office or 311.
- Riverside Park – There is a graffiti problem between 105th – 108th Streets. There is an increase in homeless at 70th Street and 88th street – Parks will get a list of problem locations and give it to the precincts.
- DEP – The main complaint in the district was noise from construction and dog barking. There are new City rules that allow DEP to mitigate construction noise. DEP will test your drinking water for free – call 311 to receive a free residential kit.
- 20 Pct. crime is down – Tuesday night, January 17th, there was a robbery of the Subway restaurant on Broadway. The perpetrator was caught on the east side. Grand Larceny down due to ongoing efforts by the precinct to educate the public.
- 24th Pct. crime is down 14%. There were several shootings on Amsterdam Avenue. There is a dispute going on between youths on 109th Street and youths from Douglass Houses.

- **PSA6 has stepped up enforcement in Douglass Houses due to the recent shootings; otherwise, it has been quiet, with two robberies.**

- **DSNY – District received an increase in the number of trucks resulting in garbage being picked up more quickly – 96.7% of the garbage was removed on schedule.**

- **Parks – Someone at Bennerson playground hurled rocks onto a neighboring building. Bennerson and Aviles playgrounds have graffiti and spilled paint. The District Parks manager has requested trees be planted in all empty tree pits in Bennerson and a few other places in District 7. The new supervisor for horticulture is Sadaria Almonte.**

- **FDNY – Fires are down 1 %. Emergency response time is slightly up because operators are driving more cautiously.**