



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for June 2014

Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you everyone.

Updates

- The 9/11 Memorial and Museum opened last month and the fences came down, something that we have been advocating for a long time so that the WTC site could be reincorporated back into the surrounding community. Although this is an exciting moment, it has created a new set of issues for pedestrian and vehicular flow for residents, which CB1 continues to work on. This was the subject of a Special June Quality of Life Committee Meeting with multiple agencies including: NYC (Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, Police Department WTC Command Center, Department of Transportation, Fire Department 10/10, Department of Design and Construction, Department of Health for food vendors), 9/11 Memorial and Museum, Port Authority of NY and NJ; Silverstein Properties, NYS DOT for Route 9A and The Tribute Center; no one from the Department of Consumer Affairs which regulates street vendors could attend; for further assistance contact: Alize V. Beal, Manhattan Borough Director, Office of the Mayor at the Community Affairs Unit at: abeal@cityhall.nyc.gov and 212-442-0508 (06/19/14)
- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery roundtable with Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens – conversation on the topics of nature-based infrastructure projects, general permitting processes and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects in NYC (6/13/2014)
- Speaker Silver's School Overcrowding Task Force (06/13/14) – Speaker Silver and Senator Squadron announced that the school overcrowding bill regarding School Construction Authority and Department of Education projection methodology which then passed both the State Senate and Assembly; CB1 created new map of all schools located in district
- Helicopters – invited NYC Economic Development Corporation to come to CB1 meeting. They are currently working on some mitigation efforts and will report back in fall 2014; resolutions passed in 2009 and 2011; continues to be a quality of life issue (especially with the development of the East River Esplanade and Governor's Island) and potential safety issue
- Gibney Dance – expansion of Gibney Dance studio, 53 Chambers Street, 2nd Floor (06/17/14)
- Seaport Working Group Guidelines Open House – presentation by facilitator; great community turnout and participation (06/02/14)
- Sandy Announcement – HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, Senator Schumer: Including \$335 million for Rebuild By Design for 23rd Street to Morris Street for part of Big U; concerned that nothing yet has been allocated to address flooding south of Brooklyn Bridge or anywhere in CB1, although costly damage occurred (06/02/14)

- Hudson River Park Trust Air Rights Meeting – Borough President Gale Brewer, Senator Squadron, Assembly Member Glick and other elected officials and stakeholders (05/30/14)
- Awarded the Downtown Alliance Exceptional Service Award (05/28/14)
- Walk the Walk – Financial District parents concerned about safety of their children crossing highways to get to school (06/13/14)
- Working with the Borough President’s office to get Fisher Brothers and The Witkoff Group (developers of 101 Murray, the site between Greenwich and West streets that was formerly St. John's University) to meet with CB1
- The 9/11 Memorial – Starting June 25 through September 21, the extended summer hours for the Memorial will be 7:30 am to 9:00 pm
- Chinatown Partnership Meetings – Vera Sung will now be going to meetings representing CB1 instead of Michael Levine
- Thank you Michael Skidmore who will be retiring from Community Board after 22 years
- Thank you John Fratta who is stepping down as Treasurer following the June CB1 meeting.
- Welcome Calli Lerner who will start on July 1

Testimony

- NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer Manhattan Sandy Oversight Hearing – with Diane Lapson (2 Bridges, 06/17/14)

Meetings and Events

- Governor’s Island Tour (06/23/14)
- Acting Local: New Initiatives for Community-Based Planning – Deputy Borough President Bonilla on panel; sponsored by City Club of NY; attended with Michael Levine and George Calderaro (06/23/14)
- Working Group Meeting – Discussion of Potential School Sites in Lower Manhattan with Pratt GAUD Studio and Build Schools Now, elected representatives (06/20/14)
- TD Bank opened its 113th branch in NYC and expanded services to Financial District with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 182 Broadway; energy efficient locations targeting LEED certification; first large North American Bank to become carbon neutral (06/20/14)
- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (06/19/14)
- Borough President Brewer Community Board Training (06/16/14)
- New York-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board (06/16//14)
- East Midtown Rezoning Meeting – with City Planning Commission Chairman Carl Weisbrod, Council Member Garodnick, CB5, CB4 (05/29/14)
- Greenmarket between Greenwich and Albany Streets (Site 5) – will continue to work with Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, GrowNYC, Downtown Alliance and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to try to activate the space for public use
- Historic Districts Council Grassroots Preservation Awards to The Multi-Board Task Force (CB1, 4, 5 and 6) chaired by Lola Finkelstein (06/04/14)
- World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee Meeting – with Bob Schneck (06/03/14)
- NYC DOT Community Construction Meeting – continue to work with numerous agencies to minimize construction impacts after dismantling of Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center; contact DOT Lower Manhattan Commissioner Luis Sanchez (06/12/14, 05/29/14)