

Good Evening:

We shall begin with a bit of a T&T round up: Good News! The VNB lower level resurfacing is scheduled to finish July 3rd ahead of schedule, we received much information about 65th Street safety issues from Capt. Schiff, P.O. Venetia and P.O. Trechetta of the 68th Precinct. We need some more information including actual accident reports and will obtain them over the summer; NYS DOT officials are completing studies of 65th Street corridor and should be able to meet with the Committee in September therefore I promised to meet Mr. Fink and Mr. Mendez during the summer months in order to be ready for that meeting.

The Traffic and Transportation Committee met in quorum on Tuesday June 10, 2008 at CB 10's District Office with Chairman Rasinya present.

We discussed the need to send a follow up letter to NYC DOT about removal of the traffic signal on 76th Street and 10th Avenue. The committee voted to ask the Board to authorize sending a follow up letter to the original one and ask for a demonstrable response from DOT about our request to have it removed.

Discussion. I ask for a motion from the floor to send a follow up letter to NYC DOT about removing the traffic signal at 76th and 10th.

We received an application for a Public Geographic Area (PGA) naming, from the family of Richard B. Sherry, a local resident, a retired fire fighter and a tireless volunteer for the sports programs of the 68th Precinct Youth Council, who died on April 24, 2008. Ms. Maureen Disantis the applicant, his daughter in law, gave a touching description of Richard Sherry's life. This was followed by a statement from Robert Capano the current president of the 68th Precinct Youth Council. He described Richard Sherry as a prime contributor to the sports program. The request is to rename the corner closest to the park at the west corner of 83 Street and Shore Road.

Richard was actively involved in the Council's soccer and baseball programs for over 15 years. These programs serve over 1,000 children a year in our community. He was also a firefighter for over 30 years and a father of four who lived right here in Bay Ridge. His son is a teacher in Fort Hamilton High School. He made selfless contributions of time and effort as a commissioner, a coach and an advocate for the program over the years. He received a Citation from the Borough President in 2004 for this volunteer work. This application was strongly recommended by Congressman Fossella, Senator Golden and Councilmember Gentile as well as Bob Capano. His commitment to the youth of the community was described as invaluable. Richard Sherry qualifies for a PGA naming under our CB 10 guidelines: Article C., Section 2, since he made a consistent and extraordinary beneficial contribution to the community. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the application to rename the corner closest to the park at the westside of 83rd Street and Shore Road as the Richard Sherry Memorial Way.

Discussion. I ask for a motion from the floor to recommend the application.

The Committee received a report from the residents of 70th Street, between 12 & 13 Avenue, for action from the CB 10 regarding the construction of a new Walgreen at 70-12 13th Avenue. Mary Conte and her husband attended our Committee meeting at the suggestion of Assemblymember Peter Abbate's office. They gave the Committee a petition signed by 64

residents of the block complaining about noise, unsafe work practices, labor disputes, vehicles on the sidewalk and the a future loading zone on their residential street. A significant portion of the request is for CB10 to request that Walgreen change that loading area from 70th Street to 13th Avenue, like most of the commercial enterprises there including Rite-Aid and C-Town which have their no standing/loading zone on 13th Avenue.

The description of the work site troubled the Committee which agreed that the Buildings Department should be notified to investigate whether this is a safe project. DM Beckmann took the information to contact the DOB. Steve Harrison pointed out that Walgreen has a strong interest in good community relations and should be able to be persuaded to be a good neighbor. The commercial no standing/ loading zone is located on the side street of 70th Street right near a newly expanded loading dock area. This no standing/loading zone will be the area where vehicles park to use load and unload materials for the tenants including Walgreen.

The Committee will meet again after the summer with NYC DOT officials to ascertain if the no standing signs can be changed in order to keep the commercial vehicles on 13th Avenue instead on 70th Street. In the interim:

1) The Committee discussed the dangerous conditions at the work site and voted to ask the Board to send a letter addressed to the property owner, the contractor, and to the authorized corporate representative with authority from Walgreen to have them immediately address the noise and safety issues. The Committee wanted a promise in writing from the principals in this project that the problems would be abated. The letter should be sent to our elected officials and to the Department of Buildings, as well.

2) The Committee voted to ask the Board to send a letter addressed to the owner of the property, the contractor and to the authorized corporate representative of Walgreen to ask them to voluntarily relocate their no standing/loading zone from the 70th Street side-street to the 13th Avenue commercial thoroughfare. The loading and unloading and sanitation service should be done on 13th Avenue even if the loading bay is on the side street.

Discussion. I ask for a motion from the floor to authorize the two letters be sent as described in the foregoing paragraph.

Express bus service. In response to at least 25 complaints about the Express Bus Service on the X27,28,37 and 38 lines that connect Bay Ridge and Manhattan. That buses are late, have missed passengers and are overcrowded we invited Melissa Farley of the MTA to the Committee to get information. Ms. Farley and Ahmed Kuperbay, a supervisory dispatcher of express buses, came to the meeting and assured the Committee that there has not been a change in service there have been no diversions or reductions. However there has been an increase in rider ship in the service which has caused some delays and overcrowding. Mary DiVito, a regular rider, appeared to complain the buses leaving lower Manhattan during rush hour are consistently late and when the next bus arrives passengers cannot embark on the bus due to overcrowding. Mr. Kuperbay assured us that a dispatcher has been added to the 23rd Street area and that "quality ride checks" of the routes are done daily. It was also added that when the drivers change routes there is a

period of slowness attributable to drivers becoming familiar with their routes. However these route are considered desirable to the drivers and the turnover is not a major problem.

The express bus service to CB 10 is significant service and serves a significant ridership i.e. about twelve X-27 buses are scheduled to depart lower Manhattan for Bay ridge between 4:34 p.m. and 6:36 p.m. during the weekdays (approximately one bus on average of every 11 minutes). However some of the problems occur in the uptown area of Manhattan. We have more riders than express buses. The Committee reiterated the need for more service that has been demanded by our elected officials to the MTA representatives present. It is hard to deny the need for increased service and the need to add a new express bus line to serve Dyker Heights. We intend to gather the current MTA express bus complaint information and invite Ms. Farley back after the summer break. Larry stelter suggested that the current express bus denominated as X37 be changed to a different number so it will not be confused with the X27.

Dean Rasinya made a good point about complaint calls: after 5 p.m. all complaint calls are relayed to an office that is not staffed after 5 p.m. He recommended that there should be a staff member with a staggered work schedule like the one the drivers and dispatchers have so that the customers can reach a "live" person when they need one.

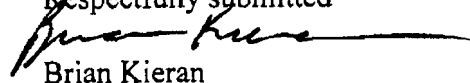
The Committee voted to ask the board to send a letter to MTA Chair Hemmerdinger and President Sandler with a copy sent to our elected officials to request:

- 1- Have staff work after 5 p.m. to accept and process complaints about bus service;
- 2- Add a new express bus line to the current routes to serve commuters in Dyker Heights;
- 3- Change the number of the X37 bus to a less confusing one: i.e. X99 or X007 ...

Discussion. Ask for a motion.

The Committee has an informational report from our meeting. John Logue of the 86th Street BID addressed the Committee and asked us to consider asking the Board to request that the City allow DiFazio Construction to deviate from their current 86th Street mater main contract by allowing them to reduce traffic lanes on 86th Street between Gelston Avenue and Fourth Avenue to one lane of traffic in each direction . The stipulation in their contract demands that the contractor must leave two lanes available for cars in each direction at this point on 86th Street. The desired result, if this "experiment" was allowed by the City, would be to see if the already behind schedule project could be accelerated. Steve Harrison pointed out that with no input from NYC DOT we would not know if this action is permitted or if permitted would it be reversed after the experiment was completed. Chairperson Rasinya and Doris Cruz pointed out the experiment would certainly cause safety and bus traffic concerns. The request was tabled without action or recommendation since the Committee did not have enough information to even advise a proper course of action to the entire Board.

Respectfully submitted



Brian Kieran