

JREB

**Environmental Committee
Community Board Ten
April 7, 2009**

Present: Greg Ahl, Allen Bortnick, Anna DeMetz, Ron Gross, Scott Klein, Mary Nolan, Larry Stelter, Fran Vella-Marrone, Josephine Beckmann, Mary Ann Walsh

Excused: Dean Rasinya, CB10 Chair

Absent: Kevin Peter Carroll, Tim Cross, Stella Kokolis

A quorum was met.

Stephanie Giovinno, a representative from the office of Councilman Vincent Gentile's office, Brett Sullivan, a representative from State Senator Marty Golden's office, and Iggy Terranova, from the Department of Sanitation were also present.

Meeting Location: Community Board 10 office 8119 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m.

There were 4 items that were discussed at the meeting:

- 1. Update on Fort Hamilton Parkway Sewer Odors**
- 2. Sanitation Issues**
- 3. Merchants storing products on the sidewalk**
- 4. Corner Trash Baskets**

1. Odors on Fort Hamilton Parkway

Letters were sent by CB10 to the Department of Design and Construction, and Department of Environmental Protection about the ongoing odor problem on Ft. Hamilton Parkway, and as of yet, no response has been received. Many complaints were made to DEP in March, and many phone calls were made by the Fort Hamilton Parkway Senior Center. The City seems unable to find the source of the problem. DEP still seems to have no idea how to rectify the problem. The time as come to hire an outside

consultant. This site has had many problems, including a major gas leak, during the second re-building of the sewers. J.R. Cruse, the construction company says that the terrain underground is not straight, and they did not take out the old sewer mains. Something isn't right. Odors come on very strong, and then disappear. DEP is trying to camouflage odors, but this is not working as well.

The Fort Hamilton Army Base has the problem as well, at the front guard station. It's pumping station is off to the right of the entrance. The odors are by the sentry station and not back towards the closest buildings. The project only went to 99th Street, and the Army Post is at 101st Street. The odor problems started when the trench was still open. It took a year for us to find out that the catch basins are not tied into the new sewer mains ant Marine Parkway and Fort Hamilton Parkway. CB10 was never given a punch list to sign off on.

The first sewer main project was a failure, and then, a second contract was issued. That seemed to solve the back-up water issue.

J.R. Cruse, the contractor, has been cited for faulty work at other sites in the city.

Maybe it is time for the effected homeowners to try and get TV coverage on this issue. A Town Hall Meeting with the Mayor might be another way to get someresponse and relief for this problem.

The bottom line is that the City agencies seem unable to get to the bottom of this problem.

2. Sanitation Issues

The Mayor's office has a team of inspectors whose job it is to rate the City's cleanliness. I don't know how the cleanliness is rated, or who these city workers are, but Bay Ridge has a 97% cleanliness rating. I think that grade is baloney. The issue of the cleanliness of the city has been a problem for decades.

People are constantly putting household garbage in the corner litter baskets. Small multi-family homes store garbage in the front of the building. There are grease and gum stains on our sidewalks. There are plastic bags hanging

from our trees. Illegal posters are on just about every pole. Graffiti is rampant, and litter is being thrown from vehicles with no thought. I find it an embarrassment when family and friends visit our city. They always comment on how dirty it is. There is not much that I can say when they comment on this, except that they are right.

Our Sanitation representative, Iggy Terranova, will now start enforcement in the 69th Street area, from 5th Avenue to Ridge Blvd. The residents have already been given warnings.

As of this date, and disappointedly, nothing has changed. We held off enforcement until after the snow and holiday seasons passed. Let the enforcement begin!!

The Department of Sanitation has an outreach program for schools, and each school was approached in September and asked to participate. This program is called the Golden Apple Award, and offers a prize of \$6,000.00 for the school, along with a trophy. The categories for participation are:

1. The Garden Program
2. Recycling Program, or
3. Clean-Up Program

Only about 10 schools participate city-wide each year. Maybe we can get more schools in Bay Ridge to participate.

3. Merchants Storing Products on the Sidewalk

Merchants storing products on the sidewalk is still an issue. Tickets do not stop the merchants, as they consider it a necessary cost to do business. What is needed is for the NYPD to go out with Sanitation and not only issue tickets, but seize all the items on the sidewalk. We will do a coordinated enforcement sometime in the near future.

One of the biggest problems with a summons issued from Sanitation is that there is no real collection of fines, and these fines are too low. The Environmental Control Board does not go after these fines. The City has found a gold mine in parking tickets, and are very efficient in their collection, and the same efficiency needs to be shown in the collection of Sanitation fines. At this time, when the City needs all the revenue it can get, this seems like a good place to chase the money. Success will mean a

cleaner city. It is a true win/win situation. The bottom line is that better collections = more compliance.

The board is considering having several committees look over the issues and plan a path for us to pursue. Possible committees are:

Zoning and Land Use
Traffic and Transportation
Environmental
Police and Public Safety
Education
Library
Seniors

4. Corner Trash Baskets

A location has not been picked for a test yet. With so much going on in Bay Ridge and Community Board 10, we will look at it again in the near future.

Also, the new Sanitation Digest of Codes is coming out shortly. As soon as they are available, the Board will obtain copies for anyone who is interested in having one.

There is also a new graffiti waiver is simpler. Painting and power washing is free. All commercial buildings and 6-family and up buildings are required to remove graffiti. The Environmental Control Board will do this for free

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Ahl, Chair

