

Good Evening:

The Traffic and Transportation Committee met in quorum on April 6, 2009 at the district office with our Community Affairs officers from the 68 Precinct, Councilmember Gentile and Assemblyperson Hyer-Spencer present. We were assisted in tackling our agenda by the able presence of Josephine Beckmann, Community Affairs Officer.

#### INFORMATION

We received a report of a vehicle pedestrian accident at the corner of 75<sup>th</sup> Street/Bay Parkway and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue just before the bridge overpass over the highway approach to the VNB. A vehicle traveling east from Bay Ridge towards Dyker Heights made a right hand turn across the pedestrian crossing on the south east corner of the intersection and struck a pedestrian crossing 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to reach the south side of the bridge overpass over the highway. The matter was discussed and we would like to request a traffic safety study from NYCDOT for pedestrian safety at the intersection especially on the south east corner.

The district office was notified that NYC DOT, in response to the push from City Hall to encourage alternative transportation and improve traffic safety, will introduce a bicycle lane to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 81 Street and 92 Street. The DOT will eliminate one lane of traffic in both directions and substitute in its place a bicycle lane in both directions. The existing four lanes of moving traffic will become two lanes for automobiles with two bicycle lanes and a wider center median. This will connect 81 Street with Cropsey Avenue with a bicycle connection according to the bike master plan. The effect desired would be to calm speeding traffic and allow safe bicycle traffic.

The district office received a Preliminary Design plan for a project to reconstruct the entrance ramp bridge over the Belt Parkway under the VNB. This bridge is the entrance ramp for automobiles traveling east on the Belt Parkway and it is located at the end of Fourth Avenue by Shore Road. The preliminary proposal estimates a closure of the bridge for four months and a re-routing of automobile traffic to Marine Avenue around Fort Hamilton and the VA Hospital to the Bay Parkway entrance of the Belt Parkway by Caesar's Bay. The anticipated start of the project is 18 months from now. The Committee had an initial negative reaction to the proposed alternate route and to the complete closure of the entrance. We will request a representative from NYC DOT and the design company to come to the Committee and discuss options and objections and possible solutions.

#### INFORMATIONAL REPORT

The Committee conducted a follow up meeting on the issue of automobiles parked on sidewalks in CB 10. The problem is a serious quality of life issue for citizens especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Captain Godfrey Samuels, Executive Officer for NYPD Traffic Enforcement for our area which is designated T-302 responded to our invitation. The T-302 area covers almost all of south Brooklyn and including the 68 Precinct as well as 9 other precincts. The Committee asked Captain Samuels many questions including the facts and figures

about summonses issued to automobiles parked on sidewalks in CB 10. In 2008 Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEA) issued 1,522 summonses to vehicles parked on sidewalks in the 68 Precinct. This number excludes any towing by NYPD of new and unregistered vehicles left on sidewalks since a TEA cannot issue a summons to an unregistered car. In 2009 between January and April a total of 527 summonses were issued for parking on a sidewalk in the precinct. If that rate that is sustained it will produce 2,108 summonses for the infraction which will eclipse the 2008 figure. We discussed the fact that certain locations seem to attract more sidewalk parking than other areas. Captain Samuels assured the Committee a TEA will issue a summons whenever there is a violation of the VTL however every individual incident is subject to the conditions present. He explained that a request to the Executive Officer or to the Traffic Manager for a deployment or concentration of TE Agents by the Community Board would be responded to if the personnel and NYPD Traffic Enforcement would permit it. There are 139 TEA agents assigned to T-302. They issued 71,868 summonses in 2008. The directive from Chief Scagnelli is to have Traffic Enforcement concentrate on impediments to moving traffic: standing, double parking, and stopping will be aggressively ticketed. If a motorist stops or parks even for a short period in a no standing or no stopping zone including bus stops a TEA is supposed to issue a summons. Mayor Bloomberg has pushed for and secured 66 million dollars to fund the hiring of 265 additional traffic agents so that Traffic Enforcement can assume responsibility for issuing tickets for blocking an intersection. Previously the responsibility for issuing a summons for this moving violation was the sole responsibility of NYPD police officers. Traffic Control Agents will now issue summonses for blocking an intersection. There will be no points on a violator's driving license for blocking the box.

The problem or "hot" spots in CB 10 have been identified as:

88<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (in front of "Universal Diagnostic Center next to Arirang restaurant)  
89<sup>th</sup> street by 4<sup>th</sup> avenue (Bay Ridge Volvo),  
89<sup>th</sup> Street by 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
89<sup>th</sup> Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> avenue (Giuffre Hyundai)  
92<sup>nd</sup> Street by 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
(behind Harbor Fitness, by "Windows We R" and Life Quality Motor Sales)  
Xavarian High School  
5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Senator street ( near Approved Oil)

Before any request for action is placed for the consideration of the board I believe that it is vital to discuss and weigh what would be best for the community before a request for increased enforcement is made. Steve Harrison asked if agents issue more summonses in the 68 precinct than other precincts in T-302. As an example of the relative enforcement it was related that more summonses were issued in the 61 Precinct than in the 68 Precinct in 2009. However over 8,000 summonses were issued in the 68 precinct over the 12 month period from March 2008 to March 2009. Some other suggestions for addressing the problem that were made include a request for street furniture for the sidewalk areas most often used as parking spots (hot spots) and a regular periodic tow program from NYPD once or twice a month that randomly could tow vehicles parked on sidewalks without registration or licence plates at the hot spots identified by the Board. A searching discussion should be had before we request any intervention. We do not want

people to ignore the law but we do not want to invite scrutiny which could increase the heavy traffic summons burden that our community bears.

I would like to have some discussion among the board members.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Kieran