

**Environmental Committee
Community Board Ten
February 4, 2009**

Present: Greg Ahl, Allen Bortnick Anna DeMetz, Ron Gross, Mary Nolan, Larry Stelter
Fran Vella-Marrone, Dean Rasinya, CB10 Chair

Excused: Kevin Peter Carroll, Mary Ann Walsh

Absent: Tim Cross, Scott Klein, Stella Kokolis

A quorum was met.

Susan Tirota, a representative from Assemblywoman Janelle Hyer-Spencer's office, and
Stephanie Giovinno, a representative from the office of Councilman Vincent Gentile's
office were also present.

Meeting Location: Community Board 10 Office

The Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

1.

We are all aware that America is facing an energy crisis with regard to oil. A shift to
natural gas for home heating and industrial use is already in play.

Chesapeake is an energy company that plans to drill in upstate, New York. The locations
that they have chosen are in the New York City Watershed area, in Rockland and Ulster
County. This threatens our drinking water.

New York City's drinking water is of such a high quality, that we have a 10-year special
permit, which exempts us from filtering our water supply. Permits for this type of
drilling would bring in one billion dollars a year to State Cooffers. Having to filter our
water would cost 10 billion dollars to implement.

Environmental consequences of developing gas wells could be severe. Getting the gas
involves a process called hydrofracking. They want to drill down a mile away from the
reservoir, and then they can drill laterally for miles to find the gas. They then shoot off
millions of gallons of water and chemicals at explosive pressure deep underground to
release the gas. What comes up with the gas is all the now contaminated water and
chemicals (whose chemical makeup is protected as a trade secret), making it difficult to
assess the possible environmental damage.

An investigation by ProPublica WNYC public radio found New York State had not
adequately assessed possible risks and did not have a complete regulatory structure in
place to determine where the water used would come from or how it would be disposed

of it after it was used. It found that New York State did not know the chemical contents of drilling fluids or the level of contamination.

Allen Bortnick brought this to our attention and has asked all community board and citizens to sign the petition asking for a 2 year ban on drilling, to give us the ability to access the possible damage. This petition is now available online.

Motion:

Community Board 10 supports a permanent ban on all drilling in upstate New York watershed areas and asks that this motion be sent to all of our political representatives.

2.

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that is most commonly made from domestically grown soybeans or palm; however it can also be produced from non-food crops and waste sources such as used restaurant grease. When used to replace petroleum-based diesel, Biodiesel significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Heating New York City alone with Biodiesel fuel would eliminate over 700,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, which is equal to approximately three times the proposed Congestion Pricing plan. Due to the fact that it can be produced locally, which cuts down on emissions from shipping.

On a more personal level, New York State offers homeowners tax credits of up to 20 cents per gallon for using Biodiesel blends, which is comparable with the current price for tradition petroleum based diesel. In addition, due to the fact that it will decrease emissions from shipping, Biodiesel produces cleaner air and lower asthma rates for New York City children.

Council Member David Yassky is proposing a bill that would require all home heating oil sold in New York City to be 20% biodiesel blend by the year 2012. By doing this, New York City's carbon emissions would be reduced by even more than congestion pricing. The price of biodiesel would be driven down and New York City homes would be not only be heated for cheaper prices, but they would be greener.

DRAFT: Resolution

To support introduction No.599 – Use of Bioheat in New York City

Whereas replacing 20% of the City’s heating oil with Biodiesel fuel will eliminate more than 700,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year; and

Whereas the use of Biodiesel fuel will reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuels; and

Whereas the present technology incorporated in boilers and furnaces allows for the use of up to 20% biodiesel fuels without any modifications to the technology; and

Whereas Biodiesel fuel is already available for purchase from companies which service all of New York; and

Whereas the use of soybeans in the production of biodiesel has minimal, if any, effects on the food supply: more than 80% of each soybean is still used for animal feed or food; and

Whereas New York State offers a tax credit of up to 20 cents per gallon for using biodiesel blended fuels; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the community board 10 calls on the Council of the City of New York to adopt Introduction No. 599 – Use of Bioheat in New York City, cited as “ Bioheat Act of 2007”

February 23, 2009:

The committee voted unanimously to support this resolution and write a letter confirming such.

3.

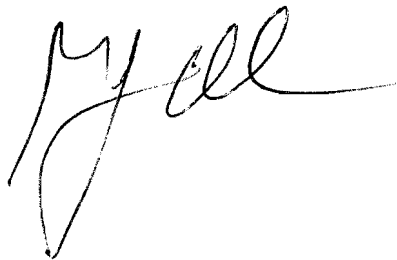
The issue concerning solid roll down gates has been talked about for years. I and many others have requested legislation that would ban solid gates and the city council is now studying this issue

Proposed intro #138 has been watered down (now 138-A) and now "grandfathers" in all existing gates. This change would make the conversion of solid gates a process that would take decades to complete.

Councilman Vallone feels that this change would be too heavy a cost. Upon researching this, I have found the average price to convert existing gates to be about \$400. I would like the new regulation to limit solid portions of a gate to be 5% rather than 30%. This would eliminate the occurrence of graffiti.

I would also like any gates being replaced or repaired to be see-thru gates. In addition any new tenant or building owner would have to convert existing gates to be see-thru.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory J. Ahl

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Ahl', written in a cursive style.