



The City of New York

# Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

## **Chairperson's Report for December 2014** **Catherine McVay Hughes**

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1 since the November monthly meeting. 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. It has been an amazing year. Thank you everyone and Happy Holidays!

### Updates

- South Street Seaport
  - Seaport Working Group follow-up and final meeting to provide additional feedback to Howard Hughes Corporation (12/03/14, 12/09/14)
  - CB1 Special Landmarks Committee Meeting 1 of 2 to consider Landmarks Preservation Commission application by Howard Hughes Corporation for a Certificate of Appropriateness for: (St. Paul's Church, 6 – 9:00pm, 12/10/14)
    1. Tin Building: relocation and one-story addition
    2. Pier 17 western edge/removal of headhouse
    3. Pier 17 canopy and mechanical screen
    4. Pedestrian canopy
    5. Demolition of the Link Building
    6. Construction of pavilions and lighting under FDR Drive
    7. East River Esplanade
    8. New building on Pier 16
    9. Schermerhorn Row and new building on John Street
    10. Wayfinding dynamic signs
  - CB1 Special Landmarks Committee Meeting 2 of 2 for above – Resolution; Seaport/Civic Center and Planning Committee Members encouraged to attend (Monday, January 5, 2014, Smithsonian *National Museum of the American Indian, Diker Pavilion for Native Arts and Cultures, 1st floor*)
  - Executive Meeting canceled for January to encourage all CB1 members to attend January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Monday, January 26, 2015 – full board meeting (*note change of date; location PS 89, 201 Warren Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium*)
  - Landmarks Preservation Commission public hearing likely on February 3, 2015
  - No news or timetable yet for Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) application for Howard Hughes Corporation "mixed-use" project which would include the proposed school and the New Market site

- The Cuomo administration announced that it would ban hydraulic fracturing in New York State, ending years of uncertainty by concluding that the controversial method of extracting gas from deep underground could contaminate the state's air and water and pose inestimable public-health risks. Howard Zucker, the Acting Commissioner of Health stated, "I cannot support high volume hydraulic fracturing in the great state of New York." Thanks to Speaker Silver for his deep and continuing commitment to the health and safety of all New Yorkers and for helping pass in the Assembly, on several occasions, a moratorium on the controversial gas-drilling practice known as "hydrofracking." CB1 joins Speaker Silver in wholeheartedly commending Governor Cuomo and the state Department of Environmental Conservation, for the decision to ban hydrofracking in New York State. Thank you Assembly Member Glick and Senator Squadron for your support over the years. (12/17/14)
- Barriers removed from Liberty Street sidewalk – thank you NYPD (12/08/14)
- Cortland Way signage installed to alleviate pedestrian traffic on Liberty Street – thank you PANYNJ (12/08/14)
- Finishing sealing up of 4 WTC after hoist removal; when complete, Liberty Street north sidewalk can be completed
- West Thames Street Pedestrian Bridge – passed City's Public Design Commission (12/08/14)
- River Ecology Center Planned for TriBeCa Pier 26 with Clarkson University picked to lead it; Hudson River Park Trust will present at January Tribeca Committee Meeting (12/05/14)
- Office of Management and Budget approval of City funds totaling \$10,146,330 for restoration of the South Street Seaport Museum's Wavertree. Department of Cultural Affairs and Department of Design and Construction Budget (12/04/14)
- Final steel rafter installed on World Trade Center Transportation Hub (11/25/14)
- NYS and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) responses to CB1 letter on Liberty and West Street intersection

#### Press Conferences

- NY Water Taxi Service Expansion between Lower Manhattan (Pier 11 at Wall Street), Red Hook and Midtown 365 days a year in continued effort to connect communities – attended with Ro Sheffe (12/15/14)
- Rescue Mission – served Thanksgiving Banquet with Manhattan Borough President Brewer, Ms. New York State, Kathy Lee Gifford, and others; Chinese delegation was there with the U.S. Department of State to learn about replicating this model back in China (11/24/14)

#### Events

- Senator Squadron's Town Hall Meeting with a Tenant Resource Fair – CB1 was a co-sponsor; attended with Bob Schneck, Bob Townley and Tom Goodkind (PS 142, 100 Attorney Street, 12/02/14)
- Friends of the Seaport Town Hall Meeting – with Council Member Chin, Borough President Brewer, South Street Seaport Museum Captain Boulware and others (12/01/14)

#### Meetings

- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (12/18/14)

- Speaker Silver called World Trade Center Security Plan meeting – Speaker Silver calls for air monitors to measure tour bus pollution around 9/11 Memorial; Speaker Silver convened task force to bring community, City and NYPD together to explore ways to cut pollution and reduce bus traffic on local streets around the WTC; Speaker Silver, joined by Senator Squadron, Congressman Nadler, Borough President Brewer, Council Member Chin, and members of the community, also asked the city to re-examine its procedures for tour buses dropping off and picking up visitors at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum (12/15/14)
- Speaker Silver’s School Overcrowding Task Force - Pratt Institute GAUD Working Group (12/11/14)
- Borough President Brewer’s Training on “Diverse, Inclusive and Transparent Leadership;” encourage members to take this free course (12/15/14)
- Borough President Brewer’s Training on “Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Training;” encourage members to take this free course (12/11/14)
- Conference call with consultant for Fisher Brothers and The Witkoff Group for the former St. John’s site at 101 Murray (at West Street) – with Peter Braus and Noah Pfefferbilt; will present demolition plans in early 2015 and construction plans when completed (12/10/14)
- New York-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital Community Advisory Board Meeting – attended with Ruth Ohman (12/08/14)
- Peck Slip Park Meeting with Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner Castro – arranged by John Fratta, joined by Marco Pasanella and Jason Friedman (12/4/14)
- Borough President Brewer’s Office arranged meeting with Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Menin, Community Board Chairs and District Managers, topics included: double-decker tour bus regulation and enforcement, newsstand regulation and enforcement, sidewalk café law changes, etc. – attended with Noah Pfefferbilt, please contact him if you have any related questions; no clear answer as to why if CB opposes a newsstand location and DCA approves an alternative location (e.g. Dey Street), it does not come back to CB or why DCA should not be considering issues related to constituents who live in an area and not just width of sidewalk and nearby obstructions (12/03/14)
- Senator Squadron called a meeting on Department of Design and Construction’s (DDC) Worth Street reconstruction with NYC DOT which coordinates downtown construction projects – attended with Bruce Ehrman; task force including Verizon, Con Edison, AT&T, Time Warner and 60 Hudson will be created to minimize impact on area; DDC will present preliminary plans at January Tribeca Committee meeting (11/26/14)
- Senator Squadron called a meeting on Chambers Street Reconstruction Project with Department of Design and Construction, Community Affairs Unit (CAU), Department of Sanitation (DOS) to address the ongoing issue of garbage pickup with local residents; both CAU and DOS committed to trying to prevent this issue from happening again here or elsewhere on their projects (11/26/14)

#### Announcements

- Congratulate Lucy Acevedo for graduating from the NYPD Citizens Police Academy Fall 2014 (12/18/14)
- Thank Pat Moore and her committee for organizing the Holiday Party that will be in January 2015; details to follow
- Southbridge Towers incident – thank Captain Timoney and the NYPD 1st Precinct who are investigating the crime and doing everything possible to alleviate the fears and concerns

- Roger Byrom will return as Chair of Personnel Committee; thank Linda Gerstman for her work and she will stay on committee
- Welcome two CUNY Service Corps Members: Marlene Paul (John Jay) and Evgeny Namsaraev (BMCC) – thank you Borough President Brewer for this initiative and Diana Switaj for writing the submitted proposal and supervising them in the Planning Department
- Many construction projects continue downtown, information is available at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/lower\\_manhattan\\_construction.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/lower_manhattan_construction.shtml); Tamar Hosvepian has been attending the bi-monthly Lower Manhattan Community meeting construction, so if you have any questions, please contact her and go to: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/lmcc\\_meetings.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/lmcc_meetings.shtml)
- Community Board Applications (renewal and new) are now online on Borough President Brewer's website and the deadline is 5:00pm on January 30, 2015: <http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/community-boards/community-boards.shtml>