



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD

February 23, 2017

In Attendance:

Presiding: Matthew Washington, Deputy Borough President for Budget and Policy; Jessica Mates, Chief of Staff; Vladimir Martinez, Director of Budget & Capital Projects; Lucian Reynolds, Urban Planner; Hector Rivera, Topographical Bureau; Debbie Timothy, Budget Analyst; Yissely Ortiz, Community Liaison; Andrew Lombardi, Community Liaison; Diana Howard, Community Liaison; Lesly Almanzar, Community Liaison; Andrew Chang, Community Liaison

Council Members: Hon. Margaret Chin; Hon. Rosie Mendez; Hon. Ben Kallos; Hon. Helen Rosenthal; Hon. Mark Levin; Russell Murphy (representing Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez);

Community Boards: Anthony Notaro, Jr. (CB 1); Terri Cude (CB 2); Jamie Rogers (CB 3); Delores Rubin (CB 4); Vikki Barbero (CB 5); Roberta Semer (CB 7); Jim Clynes (CB 8); Padmore John (CB 9); Brian Benjamin (CB 10); Debbie Quinonez (Representing CB 11); Richard Lewis (representing Shahabuddeen Ally, CB12 Chair) (CB 12)

Members of the Public: Ryan Gillman, Board Member, CB3; Claude L. Winfield, Board Member, CB6; Audrey Isaacs, Board Member, CB7; Nadia Elokhdah, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; Marie Winfield, Board Member, CB11; Paul Westrick, Staffer, Hon. Ben Kallos; Vincent Fang, Staffer, Hon. Margaret Chin; John Lyne, Board Member, CB10

Minutes: Diana Howard, Community Liaison

Agenda for February 23, 2017 Borough Board – Adopted

Minutes for January 19, 2017 Borough Board – Adopted

Presentation: CreateNYC, A Cultural Plan for all New Yorkers

Presenters: Dylan House, LMSW, Director, Community Design, Hester Street Collaborative

About the Plan:

In June 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed legislation requiring the City to produce its first-ever comprehensive cultural plan: CreateNYC. CreateNYC will become a roadmap to guide the future of arts and culture in NYC.

The [NYC Department of Cultural Affairs \(DCLA\)](#) and [Hester Street Collaborative \(HSC\)](#) are working together with artists, cultural organizations, New York City agencies, arts and culture experts, and community residents to collect data and public input to inform the cultural plan. To develop a comprehensive cultural plan, HSC will analyze the City's current



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cultural priorities, assess how service to different neighborhoods can be improved, study the condition of arts organizations and artists, and plan how the city can remain a place where artists live and work in a time of high rents and other economic pressures.

Starting in fall 2016, the team will create a variety of opportunities for public input to develop a clear picture of the experiences, values, and cultural priorities of New Yorkers from all walks of life. Together with a broad range of research, data, and mapping, feedback will be incorporated into recommendations for sustaining and supporting art and culture throughout the city. The main goals will be to maintain New York's role as an international beacon for the creative community and to expand opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with the city's unparalleled cultural assets.

In the spring of 2017, a draft plan for public review and comment will be released. The CreateNYC cultural plan will then be distributed in Summer 2017, providing a living blueprint for supporting art and culture across all five boroughs, and integrating voices from the full breadth of communities that together make our city great.

The Process:

Input from the various communities is key to the CreateNYC cultural plan. CreateNYC wants to know what culture means to every New Yorker, how culture is experienced in everyday life, and how culture can be used as a tool to create a just, inclusive, equitable city. Many kinds of tools and forums will enable ALL New Yorkers to make their voices heard.

4-Step Process

Step#1

Timeframe: August – October 2016

Research and Discovery: Built on the huge amount of great work that has been done to date by arts organizations, advocates, academics and city agencies.

Step#2

Timeframe: October 2016 – March 2017

Public Engagement: The team facilitates workshops, focus groups, events, etc. to talk about what the public cares about regarding culture and how to incorporate those ideas into the plan.

Step#3

Timeframe: March – June 2017

Draft the Plan: Combining research and input from the community to draft recommendations which will be submitted to the City.

Step#4



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Timeframe: July 2017

CreateNYC Final Plan: Final plan will be presented to the NYC City Council for approval in July. The end result will be a roadmap for the future of NYC arts and culture.

Borough Board Vote: NYC FY18 Preliminary Budget

Cude (CB 2): There's the "in addition to" those six points, all of them are points that many of us have raised. Obviously, number 6 is something that CB2 is very much engaged. We just passed another resolution on the deficiencies of CEQR in School Seats, I am sure you have received that resolution. Is there a way to give these, and I join my colleagues in this being my first time at the rodeo, is there a way to bump this up?

Deputy Borough President Washington: These are all things that came up at last month's borough board. If the Borough Board wanted to give the Manhattan Borough President's Office the ability to flush these out more in a substantive paragraph within the document, we can decide that now. This is the second time school seats was brought up by a member of the Borough Board, how do others feel about adding a section on school seats to the document.

Collier (CB11); CB11 supports it.

Clynes (CB 8); CB8 supports it.

Claude (CB6); CB 6 had several situations, and possibly face another one, where a J51 has been done, and we added maybe like 200 to 300 apartments, but there is no CERQ request for seats. And then we have the possible sell of the police academy building where the same thing can be done, and only a half block away is PS40. The possibility of establishing almost 600 apartments within that area without having anything generating school seats, I think it is an extremely important issue to raise.

Deputy Borough President Washington: There is unanimous support from the members here to incorporate a section on school seats. We will do that and circulate them to members of the Borough Board prior to submission to the Mayor, City Council and OMB.

Collier (CB11): CB11 environmental justice issue is critical, not just for CB 11, but for every community board that sits around this table. It needs to be included.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Does the Board want sanitation facilities and how they are sited? Do you want it specific to sanitation; I know that's what was mentioned earlier.



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Collier (CB11): We understand that you must have a facility somewhere close within your community; the problem is how they build it. With our community, it is always an outside garage, in others they do take the additional funds and build an elite or 'greener' garage.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Ensuring sanitation garages are built with the highest environmental standard, and fair share? I believe this has been the position of the solid waste board.

Benjamin (CB10): CB 10 wants to add extra support to the supporting our immigrants communities piece. In Central Harlem, you might not think of us as a natural place to be concerned about this, but we have a large African population from Somalia and Sedan, etc. We just had an executive board meeting last night; we are drafting a resolution about what CB10 wants to do on this issue. I think it would be helpful in one of our upcoming meetings to have whoever is focusing on this could come and be a partner. You know we are trying to figure it out, but this is a fast moving target, and obviously these other issues are very important, but this one is very disabling to a lot communities, so thank you for putting this in there.

Deputy Borough President Washington: We are happy to put you in touch with some organizations. There is some really good work that comes out of this office on it, and then there are some organizations doing work, so let's make sure to stay in touch base.

Benjamin (CB10): Thank you.

Rubin (CB4): CB 4 questions, even though these are not in any particular order, that we have the Citi bike plan in there when we don't have a priority for creating a bus plan within the Borough. Port Authority Bus terminal is still considering either expanding or renovating its facility, but we also have intercity buses that affect most of our neighbors, not just the midtown area. We have the mega buses, and other types of buses that come back and forth from Jersey that don't use Port Authority, and we don't happen to have a plan in place for a garage for these buses. They bring tourists in and literally idle for hours in many of the neighborhoods, not just the midtown area. So I am surprised to see that we have a citi bike plan as one of these top priorities and we are not looking at something that effect traffic and movement of people in our Borough much more broadly.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Those items are simply a digest of what came up at of last month's meeting. These items are not listed in any hierarchical order, but I certainly hear what you are saying. I think it's a concern for CB4, and there are certainly larger implications that we can talk about that I imagine CB4 is focused on, but I think for the purposes of a borough wide focus, Port Authority seems local to CB4.

Rubin (CB4): But again, I am talking about buses in general, and I think that many of our communities see buses in this way. The Chinatown buses that I am sure create some



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issues or problems, you also have these commuter buses that come uptown by Port Authority's George Washington Bridge area that don't go into the terminal. So again, I am just questioning that we think that the bike plan of Citi bike plan is more important than something that affects us all, every season.

Deputy Borough President Washington: I don't think anyone would say it's more important, it's just something that came up. I don't think anyone is assigning any level of importance.

Rubin (CB4): I just want it to be incorporated. If our thinking is as miniscule as biking, and I am a cyclist I bike to work, I just think this is not thinking big in our budget.

Deputy Borough President Washington: We can certainly add a list of things that need to be looked further into, and add a point about comprehensive bus planning throughout the borough.

Russell (Representing Hon. Rodriquez): This was incorporated through Council Member Rodriquez's suggestion. I am Russell Murphy for those who don't know, I work for Council Member Rodriguez. As Matthew said, I don't think these issues are mutual exclusive; specifically the bus issue seems to be more of a regulatory conversation than one about budget. That is something that we can and are absolutely interested in exploring as we understand the challenges that CB4, CB5, and CB2 faces. The inter-city buses are a major concern, we are talking with Port Authority to create space for those buses to park, so that is something we can also work together on. The Citibike issue that is one that our office has been very involved in working with Push and looking to get the Mayor's office to increase the scope of Citibike because there are some many areas that are left out of the original plan. From a transportation perspective we see this as a great equalizer in New York City because the price for a Citibike membership is so low, they offer discounts to NYCHA residents, and it's a clean and health way to get around the city, you don't overcrowd the subways or clog the road with cars. From our office's perspective on the budget side we are interesting this, and I agree with you that we need a plan for buses.

Hon Rosenthal: I'm just looking up what the living wage is right now in New York City. Yup, \$27/hour is the living wage for two adults and two children. I think what's missing here, despite the fact that I love that you put the "year of the senior" first; I would really argue that is the year of the woman. Last time I was here I pitch the human services sector as something that is incredible important, and I know it's hard to put in words what that means. I have to tell you this is an extraordinary document so thank you for pulling this together and I know how hard it is to pull Manhattan together, so job well done!
Yesterday, I was at a rally for the Summer Youth Employment (SYE) program, and we were talking about how it's great that the City is now funding 60,000 jobs, but there were 140,000 applicants. Over here we are talking about seniors and for sure seniors in poverty is a really big problem. Women are 60 percent more likely to live in poverty as a senior than men are. You look at how much woman are paid compared to men, white women make \$.74



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on every dollar; black women \$.64 on every dollar; Latino women \$.54 on every dollar, all of this is played out in the Human Services sector.

So if we fully funded the Human Services sector including seniors, youth, daycare, services for those with disabilities what we would be doing is brewing up women's work to be paid at the same level as what society has done for me. The analogy I like to give is can you imagine the city negotiating for funding a bridge and saying to the contractor "great we have a deal, we are all set to fund this bridge, and we agreed its \$40 million, we are only going to pay you \$35million and you figure out how to cross subsidized to figure out how to pay for the rest of the bridge. That is outrageous, but this is what we are doing on the Human Services side. I have been working over the last couple year to get people to understand what it means to fully fund the Human Services sector. There are cracks in the system, SYE that is an example of an underfunded Human Services Sector program. Our seniors program is another crack in the system; we are underfunding how we pay for our seniors. I think it all comes back to we pay Latino women \$.54 on every dollar, and Black women \$.64 on every dollar. Out of very serious respect for this board and the work you have done I am happy to vote "aye" on this, but I think we are missing the larger picture in this story.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Thank you, I think it's a critical point, in regards to the Budget was a specific request you think we should incorporate?

Hon. Rosenthal: We should fully fund the Human Services Sector, and they have put the number at \$500 Million. I cannot verify that, but when you think about the fact that a living wage is \$27/hour, it's not crazy talk that we don't fully fund. We all complain about the homeless contracts and the homelessness being treated badly. Well yeah, we don't pay them enough to provide the care we are asking them to do. So I am not surprised there are filthy locations or that we are not catching domestic abuse or violence against children, why is anyone surprised, we devastatingly underfund these programs. So, I will go with fully funding the Human Service sector, and it's a broad brush. The City's Human Services contracted budget is like \$40billion, so we are having for \$500 million more.

General Counsel Caras: This is just a proposal to make one change to the actual report where we have "1" fund the citywide Citi Bike plan and then "2" fund citywide bus plan as well, so we cover both those things and the numbers will change accordingly on the points. And then we proposed that the motion to adopt this report read, "the Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities Report for FY18 be adopted, and that the Chair or the Borough Board, which is the Borough President, include a section on funding for analysis and meeting needs for new school seats in the body of the report, and an item on funding to accomplish environmental justice in the siting of sanitation facilities in the body of the report, as well an item to fully fund the Human Services sector with an emphasis on community suffering from the effects of job and pay disparity. Is that ok Helen?



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Hon. Rosenthal: That makes a lot of sense. Although I would add an “and” that the institution themselves, the organizations themselves be fully funded. It’s so easy for the OTPS piece to slip off, the Mayor’s Office has done a great job in making baby steps in increasing funding to pay the workers. Sorry to make this so muddled, but maybe you can add a line to call on the State to fully fund as well. You know the City funds its contract workers \$15/hours, the State does not. So you have a City worker and a State worker in a Senior Center, side by side, and the city-funded position is fully funded at \$15/hour, but the State one is not. How do you think they pay the State worker? You take it out of upgrades for technology; you take it out of serving healthier food. It needs to be comprehensive and you might call the Governor to do the same.

Deputy Borough President Washington: In terms of the response to the Preliminary, we might think of a separate action to the Governor, can we focus on what we have right here now, it still needs flush out, but I think everyone gets your points. Russell, I see your hand, but I gave Council Member Chin the floor and I want to keep moving along.

Hon Chin: This is the year of the seniors, ok! It’s about time, we have waited long enough! I am so glad that it is highlighted in the report; I really want to thank all the services providers and advocates who helped us to put together the budget picture for the year of the senior. Last year, we did pay equity for caseworker which is a big deal, this year we are focusing on right-sizing the budget for the center. This would include fixing the inequity, and to make sure every center has the staff support it needs. This is how we start to solve the problem. Thank you!

Murphy (representing Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez): Small changes, I would add that you incorporate something to look at intercity buses.

Clynes (CB8): Move to approve?

Deputy Borough President Washington: I see that Council Member Mendez has joined us; did you want to say something?

Hon. Mendez: No.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Well alright! There is a motion to approve by Jim, do I have a second?

Multiple Chairs: Second.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Okay, let’s go through the list of members. The motion carries.



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Deputy Borough President Washington: I saw a couple hands still up for CreateNYC, were there still questions?

CB8: CreateNYC mentioned that they are having difficulties getting to the community boards, but as we all know we all have a difficult time getting out to the public. You have the Link systems can they advertise there. And if you are trying to get to the museums and art galleries and getting them involved?

CreateNYC: Yes.

Councilmember's Reports

Hon. Helen Rosenthal: I just got the update; the current spending in the City budget for contracted services is \$4.7Billion, so we are asking for an increase of \$500million, so \$500million added to the \$4.7B. It is the year of the women senior!

CM Chin: Helen, if you want this to be the year of the women, you have to start planning, we have been planning that [2017] would be the year of the seniors, last year!

CM Rosenthal: The Budget hearings are coming up in March. When I was chair of the community board, it really matters when chairs come testify at hearings, so I urge you to do that. If there are leaders in your community, who you think can be helpful to shaping the budget; I think it is worth inviting them. Although, does the public get to testify at budget hearings.

CM Chin: Yes, they do! At each hearing.

CM Rosenthal: So that schedule is already up on the City Council's website. I don't know if you guys want to send it out to everyone.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Yup! I will ask Diana to circulate that to everyone. There are a lot of attachments coming your way!

CM Rosenthal: That would be great! And, I will say some really exciting stuff is getting ready to happen around Right to Counsel. The Mayor already announced fully funded it, which is pretty amazing. We have a little more ways to go, hopefully we will pass legislation supporting the Right to Counsel. The other, I think, priority for many Council Members is the Right to Know Act, and that is something that is seriously being talked about, which I think is great. Lastly, I don't know what's happening in your districts, I have been following you, Rosie, on Twitter, and you have been very active on this. I went to an indivisible meeting last night that was held at the Ethical Culture, they had to turn people away. The space seats 800 people and they had to turn away 200 more people. Rosie, I know you have hosted some amazing rallies. I think folks are really getting energized by starting to figure



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out what to do, in the era of our so-called President, and I do not know if the Borough President wants to take on an organizing role with that, but we are putting a lot of information on our website and starting to organize people. You know there is a lot of activism going on that I don't think we, as community leaders, often don't know about, because it's happening right in people's living rooms. I think it's really good and exciting.

CM Kallos: With regards to the citywide bus plan, I encourage all community boards to visit www.busturnaround.nyc, it is an app that we built with Transit Center and Riders' Alliance that shows bus bunching, and delays. Each community board can take a look at it, and ask MTA to explain why you have so much bunching and delays in your districts, on your lines, and further force them to not abandon the buses. With regards to school seats, there is a bill that has been introduced its being heard on February 28th, at 10am. It would require a geographic diversity tracking as well as the number of children being turned away by every school in our city, and ended up in our charters, and in our private schools or being home-schooled. This bill will allow us to see what's actually happening, the bill doesn't have a number yet it is pre-considered. But ultimately this is one of the biggest issues because SCA says we don't need more seats, but I think many of the community boards do. And last, but not least, please know for those who have reached out regarding the 12 tall buildings in your district, I may not represent you, but Gale Brewer does, and she is a full resource for you and she has a great land use staff, so if you are concerned about a building or its height, or affordability, its community use, or even its shadows, Gale is the stronger defender. Please do not worry about anyone taking you off the board, because Gale will protect you and she is awesome. That being said, I vote 'I' for the Budget and thank you for the time to speak!

Hon. Chin: Along with the budget, the Committee on Aging is holding its budget hearing on March 13th at 10am. There might be a rally beforehand, and the providers are still working on that, but we definitely encourage people to come testify, there are already a number of seniors have already signed up to testify, and they continue to come. There is a rally today at 11am, on the package of bills that we introduced in the City Council; we had a hearing on it, the bill deals with tenant safety. So we want to make sure that we work very hard to get those bills passed to prevent tenants from harassment. Some landlords have caused a lot of damage throughout the city trying to get rid of long-term tenants by doing renovation and construction in the building. The other good news is that we are working together with the Stonewall [inaudible], me and also Council Member Mendez, and the LGBT Caucus in the Council just launched a survey to work on finding out the needs of LGBT seniors and hopefully look at doing senior housing. The survey is online, we can send you the link, and you can send it out to get people to participate. The Mayor just signed a bill to extend SCRIE and DRIE benefits to seniors until the year 2020, which is great for our seniors. Especially the group of seniors who are making income from \$29,000-\$50,000, the sad part is that the State is not providing the resources. But I think for us, in the City, this is a good thing



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because it keeps seniors in their homes. We will continue to advocate for the State to do their part and provide the resources.

Hon. Mendez: I am still doing a lot of work with people from my community regarding the proposed regulatory by HPD on HDFCs, the Manhattan delegations just got out a letter to HPD Commissioner regarding the process for the regulatory agreement and asking for it to be reset. I will ensure you all are put on the list to receive further information on the topic and our efforts. In my last and final year, I am doing a lot of work, particularly with HPD, trying to get my TIL building renovated. I have two former squat buildings that are under renovation and will go into homeownership, and a bunch of other buildings that are in various other programs, like TPT, making sure that those renovations go through. And in my downtime, having to stand up for immigrants and Trans people, we had a rally in Tompkins Sq. Park, with less than 48-hour notice more than 1000 people showed up. It was very, it was great because it was cold, but everyone felt great being there, I could look out in the crowd and more or less knew everyone, it was all local people. The Imam from our local Mosque came and spoke, so that was really important. And Margaret Chin came and spoke about her background when she came to this country, I did not know this history. Just while I was out of town, it is the year of the seniors; I went to take care of my mom who is having surgery, and then my dad gets sick, and so I had to take care of both of them. When I got back I was informed that there was a woman who was murdered by her husband, and dismembered, it turns out that she grew up in my neighborhood and a lot of her family still lives in my neighborhood. The family reached out to me, they are going to have a memorial/rally against domestic violence - there are no remains of the body at this point, so they want some type of closure, and it going to be this Saturday, which would have been the birthday of the victim, and her cousin is helping to organize this lives in [CM Rosenthal's] district. It will take place at Foley Square. The family wanted to do it in the neighborhood, but Union Square has a farmers' market on Saturdays, and Tompkins Square Park has a whole bunch of feeding programs on Saturday, so they suggested Foley Square which I think is a good venue and the family was fine with that. From 4-6pm, I think they have a permit from 4-7pm, but will really try and keep it from 4-6pm. If the Borough President could come, and we can get it out to the Women Caucus, and our other colleagues, and whoever could make it to stand up against domestic violence and support the family during this horrific time, I think it will be worth your time.

Community Board Reports

Community Board 12: Good morning, I am Richard Lewis, first Vice Chair of CB12, Shah is away on business, so he asked me to come and cover what we have done in our board. There are three major issues: Transportation, Affordable Housing, and Parks. We have had several workshops with the MTA regarding the elevators at the 168th Street train station, and variety of other issue associated with commuter transit in our district. The MTA has not been, in the past, very cooperative. There was a rally sponsored by Tish James and Council M Rodriquez, and with the help of Adrian Badida at 168th Street. The rally prompted



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a discussion by Assembly Member Ferrell, who is Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, with the acting-Executive Director of MTA. There is now an agreement to replace, not fix, those elevators at 168th Street. Dispute rumors of MTA not attending public hearings because they felt targeted, they are now trying to arrange a meeting, as fast as possible, with a small community group and the community board to work out these problems. The problem at 168th Street, if you don't know, because the elevators were not working, the train would bypass the station during rush hour, the next station is at 183rd Street, so of that created a lot of problems. So again, it was a problem with the elevators for years, and we are now starting to see them do something about it.

The second issue is affordable housing, there were two workshops on the Inwood Library and the possibility of building affordable housing with the renovation. Robin Hood Foundation offer \$5M, and HPD said they would offer another \$5M. No there is no plan, just these workshops. There is a website with links to gather community input. This is already generating a lot of community discussion. There is some apprehension due to the issues that occurred with the Sherman Plaza project. They will be coming back to us soon to suggestions of a plan, so stay tuned.

And finally, you probably know that \$30M was allocated for the renovation of High Bridge Park; there have been two Planning workshops with Parks. They have come up with an idea for a Master Plan that they will probably bring to the Parks Committee; there are two sections which they are considering, the Adventures park and another section where there are some steps at 183rd Street. So we will see what these plans offer, there will be wide community input before any of that money is spent. Of course it is not enough money for that huge 130-acre Park. And just one other special thing, we did get a presentation from Chris Noelle who is for Director of Disability in the Parks Dept. They have embarked on what is called Universal design; it is a little more than accessible design. There were over 100 slide, I think they are going to publish a book to present more options for accessibility/inclusivity designs in our Parks and Playgrounds. It's more than just your convenient ramp, but a way for everyone to navigate the landscape and enjoy the experience. We were surprised to see there was a beach map, so you can take your wheelchair near the water. I think that with AccessNY, they will incorporate more of these types of designs. I encourage you to invite Chris to your committees and see what Parks is working on in this regard.

Community Board 11: First, I would like to thank all of my fellow Chairs, and Council People for including that siting of the sanitation garage to the budget document, it is very important, clearly, to CB11. And sandwich between Vicki and Richard they were talking about how things are slowly down for them, this is not the case with CB11, we have 5 ULURPs from now through June 2017. Let me just give you an idea of what they are about, you have Coop Tech, which is three new High Schools with a tower residential component of 1000 apartment units. 30 percent of apartments will be affordable. The African American Burial Ground in Harlem, plus the W126th Bus Depot, we still do not have a determination



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as to the location of the Park land for the burial ground. 111th Street, the public site, that's 655 apartments, a new high school for Harlem RBI, and a bunch of other things associated with it. And of course the sanitation move that I was talking about. They are moving from 99th to 127th street, so naturally we are concerned, as I said a rapidly changing residential area. And finally, of course, the rezoning in itself, the entire East Harlem rezoning of the East Harlem district, all of which to be accomplished by June 2017. In preparation for these ULURPs, we have created a few new committees, Budget being one of them, the rezoning committee. We also included Events and Marketing committee, the rezoning and marketing committee, is clearly to make sure that the public is finding out about our public hearings, and keeping them informed as we go through these ULURPs, and encouraging their participation. We formed an HDFCs taskforce because we realize that the regulatory agreement is important, but also, we have a lot of TIL buildings that we really need to pay attention to and ensure they move into the HDFC pipeline. So, that being said, obviously it is going to be a very, very busy time for CB11. And in answer to something CB10 had talk about, we also passed a reso on the executive order, and rather than go through the whole thing, it's on our website, clearly we state that we support the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and clearly we call for the expansion of the allocation of funds and the fully-funded FY18 Budget, given all the issues associated with the executive order. That's it! I think that's enough!

Community Board 10: Hello everyone! Brian had to leave, I am John Lynch, 2nd Vice Chair of CB10. First up tonight, we are having an event, in recognition of Black History Month, we are having an event honoring all of our past CB10 Chairs. I think we have identified about 12 of them, a couple of pass on over the year, some can't make it, but I think we will have about 7 or 8 of them, and we will have them say a few words, and give them a certificate of some sort, so that should be fun. We have heard about the reso that we drafting regarding the executive order and sanctuary cities. We were having a discussion last night at our public safety committee, there was a suggestion to declare Harlem a "sanctuary neighborhood," some folks raised a technical point as to whether we have the power to do that, but we will see. We decided, that was a very good discussion, we should word it to say that CB10 support the mission and concept of sanctuary-ness, and that we would put our resources behind whatever it takes to promote the mission of a sanctuary area, and of course we have a tremendous immigrant population from Africa; West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Somalia, Senegal, Yemen a lot of whom are people of Muslim faith, so it is an important issue in our community. We have recently started a Re-entry taskforce to address the issues faced by formerly-incarcerated people re-entering our community, the taskforce will be supported by the Public Safety committee, and the Economic Development Committee. We had an organization come speak to us who represents formerly incarcerated Seniors. That taskforce is going to have a seminar on a weekend in April, a lot of people don't realize that in New York State at least, if you have been convicted of a felony, if you have been in prison, you can vote. Unless you are in prison on a sentence, or completing your early release parole, those are the only two situations where you cannot vote. If you are at Riker's Island, awaiting trial, you can vote. If you have been convicted of a crime, but



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not sentenced to prison time, you can vote. If you have been through your prison time and parole, and you have completed it, you can vote. Of you have to register, but you can vote. The other issue, which is quite important, is that formerly-incarcerated persons are prohibited from holding certain jobs that require licenses. You need a license to be a barber, you need a license to be a cook, and you need a license for a lot of things. So this is a disability imposed on the formerly-incarcerated except this disability can be lifted if you obtain a certificate of good standing or a certificate relief from the disability. So at this seminar in April, we will register people to vote, we will provide lawyers to advise and fill out the paperwork to obtain your certificate. We are doing this in conjunction with former judge Milton Tingly, now the Clerk of New York County; it's a big issue for him. If we bring the community, which we will, Milton will bring the attorneys to work on the paperwork and give the advice, so we are very excited about this. Our Economic Development is continuing our work on a Small Business portal on our website. Small business is the engine of economic development in Harlem, of course, so we want a site where we can provide information, link people to other organizations and agencies for whatever they need, and also potentially setting up some type of 'Job Board' page to provide a link to residents and business owners. I think that's it! Thank You!

Community Board 9: Good morning, thank you! We recently had our executive meeting. We had a specific discussion on our budget hearing, we had about 3 to 5 percent of our priorities were approved, but not recommended for funding. One of our priorities is renovating the basement floor in the Hamilton-LaGrande Library on W145th Street. The space is practically useless because the floor on some days, even in the dead of winter, because the heat is so hot. So, we have been making a lot of requests for this on numerous occasions, and it has come back unfunded, so needless to say we are not happy with the way we are being treated, and I think it is very timely that CreateNYC presented today because this effects culture and the identify of our community, and we putting together a complete package to make sure that the recommended suggestions to go through. Another big issue is school overcrowding; there are a few schools that are very heavily populated, so it's a big issue for us. Something new, we started a process to give committees \$1000 to host a forum or event or workshop in response to a defined community need. Many of our committees are in the process of finalizing their proposals. These events will take place between April and June 2017, and we will definitely be putting that information out to all of you. Our Housing and Seniors committees are already working very hard on their projects. Much has been said that this is the year of the women and the seniors, I would like to add that this is the year of the youth! We are looking to invite an eight-grader from the school at Columbia, which is within our catchment. This student had been going through a year of bullying on campus and cyberbully, with allegedly no assistance from the school. We felt that Columbia has a strong responsibility to provide assistance to this student. I have to say that this young lady is a very strong individual. We have invited her to our next General Board meeting during which she will speak about her experiences, and what steps she took to advocate for herself. Our intention is to raise awareness in our community and empower youth to advocate for themselves, and identify other available resources. She will present at our



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general board meeting in April, and we are looking forward to hearing from her, and providing support to the family. Thank You!

Community Board 8: Jim had to leave. Our biggest concern at this point is the Manhattan Transfer station, which we would be most happy to donate to CB11.

Colier (CB11): We will send it right back.

CB8: Our office is creating a new website, some people are not happy with the old one. Getting back to the idea of community boards of helping the community find jobs and/or resources, would it be possible for the Manhattan Borough Board to create a standard website that everyone links to? We all have our own little problems and so to not recreate the wheel everyone could link to the general website for assistance with employment, applications, etc.

Deputy Borough President Washington: I think that every community board has their own flavor and some boards use the City's website, some have their own. We have a wealth of information that we can certainly share through our website, but ultimately, we want people to get to the Community Boards because it's a good focal point.

CB8: Correct, but in getting to our Community Board if we can have a link to the general site as far as getting employment and assistance for small businesses, these are citywide issue not limited to our own little area. I don't know, maybe it's something for the future.

The tennis bubble at the 59th Street Bridge, the other night we had a meeting and many, many people turned up. It had been extended for another year. Most of the people who spoke in favor of the project are members of the tennis association. We need to work out a compromise; we cannot have it as a tennis bubble for 12 months or as a playground or open park for 12 months, so that is something that we are trying to work out. Regarding plastic bags, we had Senator Liz Kruger came out to speak about fracking and other environmental issues. Plastic bags and fracking affects everyone, we are trying to do some work around that but are running into some troubles. One question with sanctuary cities is it possible to use, because everybody knows the name sanctuary and it's got a bad rap, is there was way to use another word or semantics that can be used to bypass the political attention, maybe call it something else like a neighborhood safety house. Like I said, Jim runs a well-oiled machine and we don't have many problems, except the rats and that is a citywide problem.

Community Board 7: We have two big projects that are probably going to come up in April or May. In the meantime we are working on a resolution for Tenant Safety and tonight in our steering committee will be looking at legislation around Secure Homes. We are also going to try to pass a resolution on immigration. We had a very interesting meeting here on Tuesday with the new interview process. We actually learned a lot about things we are not doing well, such as communication. Last night our communications committee met and is in



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the process of rethinking our outreach strategies. We stopped having public members when then-Borough President Stringer informed us that public members are included in the committee's quorum, and to avoid any attendance/quorum issues we eliminated public membership at that point. As we understand it, we have about 4 openings, and so there are over 100 or so people who applied, but won't get appointed. We are trying to figure out what to do with them. One of the suggestions from the Borough President's Office was to do some type of event, so we are putting together a committee to brainstorm on some ideas to involve these people in our community in a substantial way. The other thing we are doing is putting together a taskforce to study Broadway, from 110th to 59th street. No parameters. We will have transportation folks, some youth, some business people, and some folks in the creative arts to look at the corridor and rethink what it could be. On the super talks, we spoke briefly about it, but it would be great to connect with the other boards.

Vicki (CB5): CB 5 has a taskforce. If you are happy to join us, that would be great.

Semer (CB7): We would love to join you to do some sort of event or something like what you did at the library a few years ago.

Community Board 6: I'm Claude Winfield, first Vice Chair of Community Board 6. I am going to talk about three issues, two projects, probably not what Rick would say because Rick does not like to speak much. Number one is the Mt. Sinai/Beth-Israel transformation from Mt. Sinai to Mt. Sinai downtown, we will be monitoring that. This project involves CB3 and CB6. CB6 is monitoring the real estate portion, the sale of the block on 1st Ave between 17th to 18th streets that is being sold by Beth Israel hospital. The first part of it has already been sold, and that is Gilman Hall, and it sold for \$90Million to CIM. The remaining portion of the block is all brownstones, so we are concerned about that being sold and what a potential developer would want to do with that land. The second item is the Eastside Costal Resiliency Project, otherwise as known as the Big U. We are involved in this from Montgomery, originally it was 23rd Street, but Community Board 6 asked them to move it further north to 25th Street, and I will explain that. Again, this project involves Community Board 3 and Community Board 6; we have been working together in a taskforce since about 2014. We are now in the program design phase of the scheduling. At our taskforce meetings, we were presented with a program design that brought the tide back from west 25th Street to in the middle of Aster Levy Park, making the northern border right above that administrative building, which would cause the park to flood, in the event of a flood, which we definitely do not want. The concern is that over the years the East Midtown Waterfront project, which is the United Nations, and we had an MOU. One of the major negotiations from that MOU was that the community would get a replacement park, same in square footage, for Robert Moses Park, which is located at 41st and 1st Ave. The city de-mapped this park during the United Nations renovations to use it for a "swing area." Where it used to be a street going between 23rd and 25th streets, we de-mapped it, added it to Aster Levy Park and upgraded it. It has a track, a ping pong area, and a sitting area. We see this space as one location, not as two separate locations, so when they came forward with that plan we were



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really concerned about that. We had a follow up, outreach meeting on February 16th and a lot of people turned out to express their concern, hopefully, we are back to where we were. The real reason we are concern, I don't know if you know, but all of the hospitals are north of Aster Levy Park. There's the VA Hospital, Bellevue, there is NYU Hospital, and all of them have received FEMA money to build wall, so they all have walls around them. So our question is when all of these hospitals have walls and pumps, where does the water go! It goes to us, so that was our concern with the Eastside Resiliency project, and we have been working with the Mayor's Office since about 2014.

Hon. Mendez: I have been worried about the Big U, and is it not an issue that it does not go further north to cover the hospitals?

Claude (CB6): Yes, it is, but that is all of the funding, its \$350Million dollars, and it only extends up to, originally 23rd street. They were just going to bring it up to 23rd Street because the 50 year Flood Plane goes up to 1st and 3rd Avenues, so they are surmising that if it was flooded, the water would not reach that far up. But the Veterans Hospitals built a wall which would have allowed then, for Aster Levy to be flooded. We spent a lot of time and energy to upgrade that park, and within the resiliency project, they are taking the opportunity to upgrade Murphy Brother's park and Aster levy, so as they are doing upgrades the community wants to ensure that Aster Levy Park is not flooded.

The last issue is the one that is right before us now, and it is under ULURP, and that is the East Midtown Rezoning. That is a major issue on the east side right now. He had a hearing on February 1st, 2017 and there was a very good turnout. Councilmember Garodnick opened the meeting with a summary of everything that has been done up until now, MTA testified, DOT testified. MTA concentrated on the pedestrian realm at the surface level and DOT concentrated on transit networks the subways, etc., that would be effected by the change. We had two interesting groups come testify at that hearing, one was the Green Arce Park, and I do not know if you know, Green Acre Park is a private park that was built on 51st Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. It was built by the Rockefellers. It's funded and maintained by them, but it will be affected by the rezoning, primarily by shadows. The Rockefellers don't want to lose the beauty and upkeep of that park, that park is equivalent to Gramercy Square Park, it's a private park, kept and maintained. Also the American Jewish Committee and, interestingly enough, they are on the northern boundaries of the rezoning, just outside of the rezoning. They asked us to amend the boundaries lines to include them, so they want to zone to come over to the northwest corner of 56th Street because they want to be under the rezoning otherwise they will be built up around also, they are only an 8-story building. They are also concerned about the commercial entity of their building and how the rezoning would affect that. Those are the primary issues before us, we have others like the sanitation garage, but I will leave it there.

Community Board 5: First of all, I am always in awe of the difference we have, I mean we are all Community Boards in Manhattan, and when we start going from 12 down to 1, or



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reverse I think to myself what the heck we would do if we had to switch roles. I don't know if I could do it, the issues are so different and need to be handled in many different ways. It just blows my mind.

Barbero (CB5): A few years we partnered with other Community Boards, like board 5 would go up to board 12, and it was really interesting because it gives you more insight as to what goes on in our borough. With that said, East Midtown, I won't go into details because board 6 already did, but we also had a public hearing, I'm so sick of it, I can't wait for it to end. It's been like 5 years going through the Bloomberg proposal, and then two more, it's enough already. Anyway, that comes to a close soon I believe the Council is voting on the 9th of March, thank God! Community Board 5 felt for a very long time that East Midtown Rezoning was probably one of the most intricate, problematic, interesting, and important issues to come before us, however, I really think what is before us now in Board 5 in terms of infrastructure and transportation is going to be much more important, for lack of a better word, don't know if important is the right word, but. We have what we call the West Midtown Transit Corridor, which involves Penn Station, Port Authority, all of the infrastructure that surrounds these two buildings, including as well as know Madison Square Garden. We have a number of things going on in our district including the gateway project, the Port Authority bus terminal, Moynihan and Penn Station. We had a presentation last month, we have had many proposals regarding Penn Station in particular, with Madison Square in the forefront. He had a hearing last month regarding one of those proposals and what we have been looking at are all of the things that go into what we would be looking for. I don't know if all of you know, but in 2013 Board 5 passed a resolution recommending that a special permit that was being requested by the Dolans for Madison Square Garden, which had been given a special permit for 50 years, the Dolans were requesting renewal in perpetuity. We took the lead on that, which we are all very proud of, we recommended that the permit be renewed for 10 years, with the understanding that if Madison Square Garden were to stay on top of Penn Station it was almost impossible to bring it up to scale in terms of what is needed for that horrendous, horrible, whatever it is that goes down in the biles of 34th Street down to 31st Street. We were very fortunate that the City Council agreed with us and voted for a 10-year extension, we are now in the fourth year, so it's down the pike and we are really concerned about what will happen. We are looking for a holistic coordinated planning to make all of the interconnected projects best for the city and region. The reason I am so concerned is because each of us reports on issues that are really impacting us, and these two Penn Station and Port Authority don't just effect Board 5, or Board 4 or the surrounding neighborhoods, it effects not just Manhattan, but The Bronx, and Queens, and Staten Island, all of the boroughs, and New Jersey. We believe this is of the upmost importance because of the overall effect this already has and hopefully will have, if something good should come out of it. We also feel that the planning that should be done is not being done, there is a lot of in-fighting going on between New York and New Jersey and between the heads of the agencies, and it has really been problematic. We talked to Gale about it and she asked for a joint resolution from CB4 and CB5, so we did a resolution which unanimously passed in February. We sent it to CB4 for their consideration, and rather than



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doing a joint letter, we thought we would have CB4 add what they have to say about it or react accordingly. Just very quickly, the resolution siting numerous concerns and problems from Penn Station being unsafe to being claustrophobic, the desperate need to improve capacity, access, and the overall experience. One proposal that we got last month, it can be viewed on our website, we felt covered all the things we looked at that we felt was needed in a very special and important way. So the resolution that we passed asked electeds to please look at the proposal it is by Vens who is proposing that the Garden be moved a half of block West, which is really the same neighborhood, there have been a lot of questions about where it would go and how it would affect other neighborhoods, but this is only half west to the Farley Building. The proposal takes into account all of the issues that we thought would be problematic. We are asking the electeds and the powers that be, that you read and study it, and come to some sort of conclusion on this because time is running out.

We have a new middle school in CB5, it's the Clinton School. We approved for the new middle school at 75 Morton Street. The SCA announced that the school at 75 Morton Street wouldn't open for another year, so we agreed to a one-year co-location with the Clinton School, but only for one year because after that we are going to be at capacity. We supported the closure of 32nd Street, this might affect some of you as well, the sidewalk on W32nd between 6th and 7th, is going to be widened by 2ft, which means that half of it will be a pedestrian only walkway. It was done on a trial basis in 2015, and the study found that the flow along this corridor had minimal impact on vehicular traffic and drastically improved pedestrian flow. If any of you ever have to walk toward or away from Penn Station near 7th Ave around rush hour it's like a salmon swimming upstream, if you are going the wrong way you can be swept right up in it, it's crazy. So that was approved and all the stakeholders in the area were notified and everyone seems to be completely in agreement to the closure of 32nd Street. Also there is going to be a redesign of the NYPD Times Square substation. They need to upgrade to maintain, you know there are 50 Million who come into Times Square annually, and the present facility is outdated and underutilized. So they are going to change the general design, there are going to be big windows, it going to be more open, there will be a kiosk for information, videos monitors to assist their anti-terrorists initiatives and so forth, so that was approved. Last but not least, we have been having an issue with attendance, I've said this before. We had one member who really, we went all out in terms of everything we did to contact this person we sent letters we wrote to Gale, and we never heard from this person. I don't know if all the by-laws say this, but ours say that you can vote out a member at your board meeting, we don't like to do this so we usually sent the member a notice letting we are getting ready to do this, and can they please give us a letter of resignation so that it does not have to be public, but we never heard from him. So, we asked Gale to make sure we were doing everything right, and we actually took a vote at our full board meeting. In the interim I thought it might help the others around the table realize that they too could be voted out. Anyways, I just wanted to mention that was probably the first time we did that.



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Hon. Mendez: I've taken someone from the board due to poor attendance. I consulted with the Community Board, it was in Community Board 6, but I took the lead and worked with then-Borough President Scott Stringer. We had a meeting with the person, and then took them off.

Community Board 3: Going down the list briefly, in Economic Development, on 14th Street there is a PC Richards, the building is owned by EDC, we had a press conference about this, the City is tearing the building down, PC Richards will move to the basement and there is going to be a tech hub built there. It will take years and years, but we are excited because it is going to be run by an organization called Civic Hall, which tries to create better connections between technology and the public. And we are hoping for some great opportunities for our district which is short on office space and has communities that could really use more access to computer literacy and information. So, I know a lot of you have been working with your boards to decide what to do in response to the change in federal policy, and we were given some resolutions to think about with respect to changes in immigration, I think someone mention having a "sanctuary district", and we have been presented with a resolution to create a "hate-free zone," I think CB4 has as well, our Health and Human Rights committee is looking at that now. If anyone is interested in seeing a draft of the resolution, I am happy to share it. One quick note, I have been doing some research on how to get our videos recorded and up online. I am looking at what the BP does, and CB6 with live-streaming...

Semer (CB7): CB7 does too.

Rogers (CB 3): And CB3 does as well. We don't have a budget for the type of equipment that live-streaming requires nor are some of the spaces we meet in already live-streaming, so what I am going to do is record it on a phone or iPad and then upload it later when I have a WiFi connection. This is my own little experiment, so hopefully it will work and allow more people access to our meetings who cannot other make them. We are going to start with the SLA committee, because everyone cares about that. I have mentioned this at a couple of Borough Boards, we have the two bridges neighborhood which is undergoing some pretty dramatic changes and the BP's Office and Council Member Chin's Office have been great about helping to coordinate our taskforce on the environment impact statement that is going to be submitted with respect to the four large buildings that are being proposed, we had a meeting at our land use committee where two of the developers gave presentations this past month. It was helpful to see what they have envisioned and also make sure the community has a lot of input in the process.

Community Board 2: CB 2 is having our first inaugural meeting of the Future of Pier40 Working Group. Pier 40 affects, mostly the west side, but borough-wide because Pier 40 is used especially on the playing fields, so we will be talking with not only Boards 1 and 4, but whoever any other boards that want to come. That unfortunately got crossed-programmed with the L train shutdown meeting that is being held by the MTA tonight on the West Side,



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there will be one on the East Side on March 9th, so basically the southwest and northwest portion of our district will be very busy tonight. What to do with the L train shut down, how it will impact 14th Street, and the neighboring blocks north and south that will take the additional traffic. Speaking of bus transportation, bus transportation has been badly cut; I know boards 1 through 4 have been suffered from the spilt of the M5 into the M5 and M55. I am sure this is happening in every other district. Really we need help in getting a more responsive MTA. We were promised that this was going to create better reliability; by the way you have half as many buses, but you have better service...but we don't. I don't want to get too far into that, but I think that is something that we are all talking about as far as NYC transit above ground. We passed a resolution in both committee and full board requesting to look at the deficiencies of the City Environment Quality Review, in that it takes into account a building that has one fewer than triggers the need for school seats examination, but might be another four other buildings, each of which would be one apartment less, the formulas don't take the aggregate changes that are going on in our neighborhood into account, and they don't take into account that Manhattan is a great place to raise a kid, you don't go to the suburbs to raise your kids, you put them in public school here. So the formulas are outdated, and we are seeking some help on that.

It has been mention also that Mt. Sinai/Beth Israel is closing. Community Board 2 has no admitting hospital; we have one stand along emergency, and no admitting hospital. The closure very much affects us, and we are trying to get a multi-board push getting a right-size Mt. Sinai/Beth Israel, and by right-size I mean for the population, not the pockets of Mt. Sinai.

Another thing that was discussed earlier so I will go quickly, protecting tenants, I think Margaret Chin spoke about this. There is something left out and some developers are using that, it might be exclusive to some of the neighborhoods in CB 2. We have joint living quarters for artists in our manufacturing areas and we have intermediate dwelling (IMD) buildings which are coming into compliance, but there is no incentive for compliance. What happens is that there is a form to complete that asks 'is someone living here,' and either by lying or by finding a loophole, cause joint living quarters for artists is kind of a work thing and this is really a manufacturing this, so no, no one really lives here. So, basically we are trying to find a way to include all the ways in which people live in buildings Manhattan onto these forms so that the developers can't just say no one lives there, and then make life hell for the people who actually do live there. I would like to thank the Manhattan Borough President's Office on the guidance on how to address the national issues. What we have done on Community Board 2 is to look at local issues, for example, what would happen if the NEA was defunded. Community Board 2 is very proud of its Arts communities. Just the other day we passed a resolution in Committee on the Liberty Act, which is going through the State Senate, it was passed by the State Assembly, and basically that creates a sanctuary state. So, what do immigrants mean to our community in CB2, what the threat is at the federal level, and how the state level can impact us. By dealing with super hyper-local issues we can have impact at the larger levels, so I would like to thank the BP's Office for your guidance.



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Community Board 1: We are very happy with the Borough Board budget report. Our major concern was school seats; we are off by about 600 seats right now. This relates to our similar concerns, like the super tall, we have four buildings, one will be as tall as 1 World Trade Center and one will exceed it, going up and there is no plan or no requirement to provide school seats. Put on top of that these buildings are built on the historic street grid, so you have a 500-unit building now putting out residential garage on streets that were built for horse and carriage. All of this becomes our major issue of pedestrian and traffic. Even sitting here talking to Dolores regarding the tourist buses, the 'hop-on hop-off' buses, and all of the tourists attractions which are wonderful for the city, but are massed in a very small area. We are very happy that the city is spending money, but we have projects literally walking distance from here are tearing up streets, Worth Street, Warren Street, Hudson Street, projects going on for like five years, and the work hours are literally 24-hours, and we have that residents are going crazy. So I think we all experience the lack of construction coordination. We have meeting twice a week DDC points at ConEd, and anyway enough of my complaining. The one last thing that I mentioned earlier, I have planned and did a lot of research to reorganize our committees. CB1 had not changed committees, only one, in the last 15 years. Otherwise it was the same stuff we have had for the last 35 years, which was geographically based. We did surveys, presentations, etc, knowing that this kind of change would be tough. I rolled it out at our executive committee last night, we will get rid of the geographic committees, and we like all of you, having more subject matter committees. It was well received, I thought I was going to have to go into the witness protection program, but I guess not, so I will be here next month. Thank you very much!

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Chief of Staff Mates: We are having our Borough Board hearing on East Midtown, and that's on March 2nd, at Guttman Community College on East 40th Street, so we are hoping that people can come out for that. And then at next month's Borough Board meeting we are going to be voting on East Midtown. I want to reiterate that the L-Train shutdown meeting, the first one is tonight at 7pm on the west side, there will be another one on the east side on the 9th. And finally, just picking up on the theme of activism, we had our State of the Borough, we had an activist fair there were a lot of people and a ton of terrific organizations that participated. We are happy to distribute resources so that you can contact these organizations, and we already have some stuff on our website about how to get involved, and what's coming up. One specific thing that is coming out of this office is a series of trainings, and one of them is called By-Standers training. This training will be helpful if you see someone getting harassed on the train, in your neighborhood, at the local store or wherever, these are really good trainings I have been to a few, we worked with Hollaback, and the Public Advocate's Office, and a few others. We are going to do one specifically for community board members; we will provide more information on that, the date will be coming up; we would love to have a big turnout at these trainings. They are just terrific



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trainings that make you feel like you have tools at your disposal should you ever be a bystander.

Deputy Borough President Washington: Community board interviews are ongoing; we started with CB7, and will continue with the remaining 11 boards over the next several weeks. Roberta spoke about her time at the interviews, and I was happy to briefly stop in to observe the applicants. Certainly a huge congratulation to the chairs, and boards in general for helping to generate so much excitement and interest in community board membership; I believe our office received over 1023 applicants for service this year. I believe these are the highest number of applicants ever, and I think these numbers are a testament to the incredible work you all do on the ground, each and every day. So a huge 'thank you' is in order. Richard asked me to mention that CB12 is looking for a Community Assistance. So if anyone knows anyone looking for an employment opportunity, and loves Washington Heights and Inwood, they should apply! Also, it was discussed before, but budget hearings are coming up at the City Council, and I just wanted to let the chairs and everyone know that myself, and the rest of the Budget unit are happy to visit community board meetings and talk about the budget and if questions come up in the budget committee, or any other committee, we are more than happy to visit your community boards to talk about the process, and getting prepared for hearings, because we highly recommend that you get involved and do that.

Borough Board adjourned.