



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

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD**

December 15, 2016

***In Attendance:***

***Presiding:*** Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President; Matthew Washington, Deputy Borough President for Budget and Policy; Jessica Mates, Chief of Staff; Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs; Lucian Reynolds, Urban Planner; Yissely Ortiz, Community Liaison

***Council Members:*** Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez; Jake Spom (representing Hon. Mark Levine); Paul Leonard (representing Hon. Margaret Chin ); Afshan Afshar (representing Hon. Daniel Garodnick); Steven Scandole (representing Hon. Helen Rosenthal);

***Community Boards:*** Anthony Notaro, Jr. (CB 1); Terri Cude (CB 2); Jamie Rogers (CB 3); Clayton Smith (Representing CB 5); Rick Eggers (CB 6); Roberta Semer (CB 7); Jim Clynes (CB 8); John Lynch accompanied by Steven Rosenthal (Representing CB 10); (Representing CB 11); Shahabuddeen Ally accompanied by Gerard Dengel (CB 12)

***Members of the Public:*** Eric Henry, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, DVS; (Department of Veteran Services) Osvaldo Pereira, Manager of Communications and Outreach Specialist, DVS; Marie Winfield

***Minutes:*** Lesly Almanzar, Community Liaison

*Agenda for December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Borough Board – Adopted*  
*Minutes for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Borough Board – Adopted*

**Presentation: Integrated and Coordinated Veterans Services**

*Presenter: Loree Sutton, MD, Brigadier General, US Army (Ret.), Commissioner, New York City Department of Veterans' Services*

NYC Department of Veterans Services (DVS), formerly known as the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) provides services for all who have served or are currently serving as active duty, Reserves or National Guard. In 2015 the agency held an Historic bill-signing ceremony where Mayor de Blasio signed Local Law 113 to authorize the Department of Veterans' Services, the first new City agency dedicated to serving the city's veterans and their families. Currently DVS has a staff



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

of 25 former Veterans including Eric Henry, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Osvaldo Pereira, Manager of Communications and Outreach Specialist. The new office space is located at 1 Centre Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The mission of the agency focuses on three lines of action:

1. Permanent Housing for all 16,000 Veterans in NYC
2. Commitment to invest in veteran mental health as an integral element of ThriveNYC, including program element support for increased outreach, 311 improvements to connect NYC veterans and family members to the Veteran Crisis Line as well as City resources and services; and holistic services across an integrated community health model of care.
  - a. <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>
  - b. <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/>
3. Education/Employment/Entrepreneur (3 E's)
  - a. There are outreach offices opened throughout the City
  - b. Programs and resources being currently provided to Veterans from these satellite offices

Implementing these strategies will yield the robust program development, direct services, and the research, policy and advocacy work needed to strengthen and support the needs of this growing population of approximately 500,000 veterans and family members in New York City.

Ally (CB 12): How does the agency identify Veterans?

Sutton (DVS): Agency does not possess a listing of names and contacts for veterans but , they work with outreach offices and teams to identify veterans in need. NYC is a Veteran's magnet, attracting many vets who currently receive GI Bill which includes \$3,700 monthly housing allowance.

Dengel (CB 12): It is not easy to match Veterans with appropriate volunteers. How can the community volunteer?

Sutton (DVS): The agency is working on improving relationships with service organizations to better help connect people to the more Veteran friendly resources that engage and help them.

Scandole (representing Hon. Rosenthal): Agency should work on eliminating Veteran homelessness and work with SRO's to house them.



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

Sutton (DVS): Establishing more housing opportunities will help to scale the Veteran homelessness issue. Agency will continue to work on improving the quality of life for this population.

Winfield Is the agency involved with any rezoning efforts to provide Veterans with housing opportunities?

Sutton (DVS): Agency is not currently involved with rezoning plans in the City. They are looking into hiring more staff that will begin to work and organize around this issue.

Semer (CB 7): Do you see a significant change in Veterans who return from war/base/deployment?

Sutton (DVS): 25/210 Veterans do not serve directly in combat. This makes them and others feel that they are not real Veterans. Are we coddling the post 9/11 Veterans? We have to recognize each individual's service from all wars. Vietnam Veterans were mistreated and overlooked and haven't been provided services they needed. Currently through the engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is in longest war the country has ever had been in, soldiers have never experienced such a long exposure to war in the past. We are now learning how to live and identify the physical trauma as well as the unseen traumas of war. The agency will continue to work with all Veterans from all wars to help support and provide a model care that is not limited to clinical care.

Washington (DMBPO): Commends the Commissioner on her experience and dedication in the field of mental health services for Veterans.

**Office of Borough President Report**

Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs: Office is currently accepting CB applications by mail and/or email. CB interview process is being revamped and will involve in depth inclusive discussion with all stake holders to identify needs and priorities. The office is collaborating with Food Bank of New York and accepting Holiday donations of diapers for low income families. Diaper donations can be dropped off at the 1 Centre Street office, NMO office and via Amazon.com. We encourage the community to participate in the noble cause. Our office is also coordinating Bystander trainings, dates and times are TBD.



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

Deputy Borough President Washington: Office is currently accepting funding applications for cultural tourism. Applications are due January 13, 2017. Capital funding applications are due February 14, 2017, schools and nonprofits are encouraged to apply.

Clynes (CB 8): Is there funding options for CB's at the moment?

Washington (MBPO): Not at the moment. In 2017 CB's can apply for discretionary funding with the NYC Council.

Reynolds (MBPO): Community Service Corp. is working with MBPO and CB's with data related issues as well as creating and implementing tools to help form by-laws and deliver good context on how to deliver data using social media (open data).

Eggers (CB 6): There needs to be clarity on excused/absence attendance.

Notaro, Jr. (CB 1): CB 1 members voted to remove consistently members. Will MBPO intervene with this decision?

Songhai (MBPO): MBPO calculates % of absences of each member, MBPO reviews on a case by case basis if there is additional concerns with a specific member. The MBP will enforce tougher attendance rules when reviewing renewal applications. Possibility of removal of PIP? Through the community board's bylaws is always the best bet for boards needing to make decisions on members that consistently do not attend meetings.

### **Councilmember's Reports**

**Hon. Rodriguez:** The office has passed 25 new laws regarding transportation reform. Over 4,000 people are victims of vehicular accidents and end up in the hospital yearly. Proposes new legislation that enforces stiffer penalties for hit and run offenders. San Francisco has legislation that allows for monetary rewards to those who report hit and runs. San Francisco sends out hit and run alerts (like amber alerts) immediately after a hit and run incident has been reported. The office hopes to introduce legislation much like the ones in San Francisco in order to help reduce hit and run accidents. Office is meeting with DOT and hopes to host a larger meeting in January 2017 to organize and promoting a Car-Free Day on Earth Day scheduled for April 22, 2017. The goal is to encourage New Yorkers decrease the amount of cars being driven down to 1 million by the year 2030. The office is



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

supporting the installation of Citibike stations in Northern Manhattan as well as leading in an effort to expand Citibike to all five boroughs. Citibike installations are needed in areas where public buses and subway systems are few and far apart.

Semer (CB 7): CB's are not are not receiving data on accidents that occur within the specific CB's, data is sent directly to Albany and not disseminated to neighborhoods.

Hon. Rodriguez: Hearing concerning Vision Zero is scheduled for January 2017, date is TBD. NYPD, DOT will be present to address these concerns. The office is committed to work with all CB's to obtain the information requested as well as produce legislation that will make the Streets of NYC safer.

Lynch (Representing CB 10): There is a coalition proposing to make Broadway Car Free (Broadway top to bottom). DO you support this?

Hon. Rodriguez: The office is in support of listening to advocates about this initiative. Specifically from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Midtown needs to be walkable. I drive my vehicle and park on 92<sup>nd</sup> Street and West End Ave, I take the train from there to my office downtown instead of driving directly there. More studies are needed that reflect the impact of driving vs. not driving in the City. There needs to be a reduction of cars in order to alleviate the environmental impact. What can we each do to be more environmentally friendly? I want to continue to meet with advocates on all sides so that we can come up with a solution that works.

### **Community Board Reports**

**Community Board 1:** CB 1 is currently working on East Side Coastal Resiliency Project. The task force met in December and discussed concerning budget/funding. As well as working closely with EDC and surrounding properties. There is a need to establish a voice between EDC and the Community Boards in order to reconciliation what will work and what will not work in the districts. The Grow NY event was very helpful, a lot of useful information to bring back.

**Community Board 2:** All CB's share Resiliency concerns, including but not limited to; Public transportation/closing of trains lines-are there alternate plans in place for commuters? Possibility of losing open spaces. CB 2 is working on a project which will utilize social media more efficiently, hoping to update the community faster and easier.



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

**Community Board 3:** CB 3 continues to support NYC cultural plans. The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and Hester Street Collaborative have launched the development of New York City's first-ever comprehensive cultural plan. NOCD-NY is excited to be a partner in this process. CB 3 continues to work with the City to include community input in the process. CB 3 continues to work with community stake holders on the 2 Bridges issues. Two new developers have submitted proposals for new 60 ft. towers. These proposed towers will affect the landscape of the neighborhood as well as negatively affect the social economic dynamic of the community. CB 3 Land Use Committee continues to work with EDC to engage City in conversation regarding these issues. CB 3 has experienced another disruptive year of hosting SantaCon, CB does not welcome SantaCon to the community.

**Community Board 5:** CB 5 will host a townhall meeting on 1/19/17 7-9pm, location TBD regarding Moving Madison Sq. Garden. Topics to be discussed will include:

- Two Panelists from RPA will lead the conversation
- Economic impact of move on the neighborhood
- Public common space at Penn Station
- Economic benefits of improvements
- What are the best considered alternate options?

CB 5 is working with the City to prevent President-Elect Trump from targeting the IDNYC security database which includes information for undocumented New Yorkers. CB 5 is experiencing attendance issues at meetings. CB 5 requests information on policies that addresses these concerns.

Songhai (MBPO): CB Attendance is a Borough wide issue; the office is restructuring the new CB applicant interviewing process in order to reiterate attendance policy.

**Community Board 6:** Expect that East Midtown Rezoning will be certified by January 3, 2017. There are several issues that still need to be resolved. CB 6 will be working with CB5 on matters of common concern. CB 6 is currently addressing several quality of life concerns, such as:

- Emergency Ventilation Project for the Lexington Ave Line
- East Side Coastal Resiliency Project
- East Midtown Rezoning
- Midtown tunnel construction work
  - Traffic mitigation concerns
  - Noise complaints
  - Illegal parking



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

**Community Board 7:** There are two “super tall” buildings proposed for development on 66<sup>th</sup> Street, approximately 80-100 stories. CB 7 is opposed to this plan and its host of issues. CB will host a public housing forum, date TBD. CB 7 is working with CB 9 regarding overworked caretakers who receive very low wages. CB 7 requests support to partner with other CB’s on connecting issues. CB 7 currently is using live streaming technology and hopes to share this with other CB’s as requested.

**Community Board 8:** CB 8 recently had a member become a US Citizen. CB passed a resolution (in December) regarding absentee voting. CB 8 request additional support from MBPO concerning borough wide policies against bar crawls. CB 8 would like to include stipulations against bar crawls when bars apply for an SLA liquor license. CB 8 has created a technology group to help CB live stream meetings. CB 8 has implemented a membership mentoring policy to guide new members on best CB practices from senior/executive members. CB 8 questions how and when LinkNYC kiosk will allow for public promotion and community advertising from CB given that CB’s experience overlapping issues.

Songhai (MBPO): Currently there is 5% set aside for CBO’s and CB’s to promote and advertise community information on the kiosks.

Reynolds (MBPO): MBPO is working with LinkNYC, they are open to suggestions and this is a good opportunity to discuss borough wide ideas for upgrades and changes to the kiosks.

**Community Board 10:** CB 10 is creating a small business development initiative, that will help businesses in the district with technological assistance as well as provide business with multiple resources such as:

- Register all vacant business spaces in the CB
- Connect Landlords who have vacancies on their properties to business owners looking to lease space
- Link small business to agencies for related resources, including SLA and SBS

CB 10 is currently working with 125<sup>th</sup> Street, Mission Possible and WE WORK on the possibility of free work space. CB 10 is working on a possible resolution to address HPD’s HDPC regulations. CB 10 has implemented new initiative, a monthly Community Service Award given to individuals in the community who are not often recognized for their work. CB 10 has attendance issues as well and was not able to vote at the last meeting due to loss of quorum because members did not remain at



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

the meeting until the end. CB 10 suggests that new members should be immediately made committee Chairs in order to enforce the importance of attendance.

**Community Board 12:** Attendance is also an issue at CB 12 and also agrees with giving new members responsibilities as soon as they come in. Strategizing is needed to help improve attendance on all CB's. On January 6 NYNJ Port Authority will host a walkthrough of the George Washington Bus Terminal with elected officials and community members. CB 12 is co-sponsoring an event (December) regarding development in the neighborhoods. CB 12 will host annual holiday party on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Washington (MBPO): Attendance issue is a borough wide issue, MBPO is happy to share thoughts. Most of the attendance policy is derived from the CB's by-laws, however, MBPO create uniform by-laws, guidelines-yes.

Ally (CB 12): What is the structure to help firm up attendance and enforce it county wide?

Washington (MBPO): Guidelines, meeting management and time management will help alleviate attendance issues throughout CB's.

Semer (CB 7): New members should be assigned a mentor; mentor should be an executive board member who is also in the same committee of interest.

Songhai (MBPO): MBPO encourages CB's to implement new strategies/initiatives and mentoring programs of choosing to help with the attendance issues.

Eggers (CB 6): It is included in the by-laws to hold vice-chairs accountable to mentor other members. It also helps to identify talents of the new members that can benefit the CB. Mentorship process helps CB 6.

Cude (CB 2): CB 2 uses first vice-chair to mentor new members and to answer all inquiries personally.

*Borough Board adjourned.*