

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN
2006 REPORT TO MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT SCOTT STRINGER**

During 2006, Community Board 7 was truly proactive in addressing the needs and issues affecting the life of our community. With an effective and energetic staff, the leadership and expertise of veteran board members, the infusion of several new and dynamic board members and the Borough President's emphasis on community board reform and training, Community Board 7 was poised for an extraordinary year. And it was.

Each committee set goals for the year, and worked towards achieving them. At the same time issues and applications sent our way were given the attention and scrutiny they deserved.

CB7's meetings attracted the public in numbers unseen in recent years. We believe that this was due to our taking up of the issues of greatest concern to our community and our being respectful and open to community input.

Finally, our collaborations with our elected officials and community based organizations were unprecedented. Together, we were able to achieve great successes that we all look back to with pride.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVES IN 2006

1. The rezoning of West 97th Street – West 110th Street

The Chairman established a task force to study and make recommendations for the rezoning of West 97th Street to West 110th Street. In an unprecedented move, the Chairman appointed four leaders of the community organizations to serve directly on the task force.

Under the leadership of the Task Force Chair, Ethel Shaffer, the task force conducted numerous public hearings, including one that attracted 800 residents of the community.

Throughout, the Rezoning Task Force worked with the staff of the Department of City Planning, the Borough President's Land Use experts and the local elected officials to achieve a rare consensus on a Rezoning Plan that is now in ULURP.

2. Community Board 7's CERT Team

The Chairman established a new Board Committee – the Public Safety and Environment Committee. Together with the committee's chair, John Howell, an authority on emergency management, the Chairman established a Community Emergency Response Team for the CB7 district. A diverse group of over 40 community residents participated in a 12 week certification training. CB7 now has the largest CERT Team of any community board in New York City.

3. Appropriate permanent housing for the homeless in Community Board 7

The Chairman led CB7's efforts to establish appropriate permanent housing for people who are homeless in our community. When the Department of Homeless Services attempted to place adult homeless families in a clearly inappropriate setting on a "temporary basis" on West 94th Street (The Mount Royal), the Chairman led the Board's effort to stop the placements, to improve conditions once the placements were made and then to have all of the adult homeless families relocated by the DHS. The Chairman, working with the elected officials, was able to achieve the closing of the Mount Royal as a temporary facility for homeless people.

The Chairman has followed up by taking an active role in working with the Board's Land Use, Housing and Health & Human Services Committees to encourage permanent, affordable housing opportunities in the CB7 district.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S GOALS FOR 2007

1. To complete the ULURP for the Rezoning of West 97th Street to West 110th Street with a unanimous vote of Community Board 7 and a broad consensus of the community.
2. To secure funding for and to enable the activation of Community Board 7's Upper West Side CERT Team.
3. To establish a Greener, Safer and Sustainable Upper West Side Committee as a standing committee of Community Board 7.

CB7 COMMITTEES' 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2007 GOALS

Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Jeff Bank and George Zeppenfeldt Cestero, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Met with DCA and NYPD about delivery/messenger bike riders and how to educate the local community businesses and enforce bicycle safety rules.
- Set up rules, regulations and guidelines for review of new full-liquor licenses applications in CD7 and of problematic renewals, utilizing information from SLA seminar sponsored by the Manhattan Borough President's Office.
- Participated in public review process of siting of new Off Track Betting parlor on West 72nd Street.

2007

- Continue review of new and renewal applications to the State Liquor Authority and resolution of community concerns related to these.
- Review plans and operations, and possible expansion, of CD7 business improvement districts.

Health and Human Services Committee

Madge Rosenberg and Barbara Van Buren, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Continued focus on naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC's), and on those older individuals in the community not reached by existing agencies due to lack of outreach funds.
- Followed up on placement by Department of Homeless Services of homeless adult families in a commercial SRO without appropriate planning.
- Worked with new housing provider in community, the Lantern Group, met with tenants Lantern and HPD to insure tenant needs were being met.
- Met with health and social service agencies in CD7 to look at District Needs.

2007

- Continue activity on NORCs. Meet with groups who are working on developing their own programs and with agencies and individuals to share where they have all come since last year.
- Continue efforts to have DHS more responsive to clients and community.
- Continue work with Lantern Group to insure responsiveness to community and tenants.

Housing Committee

Victor Gonzalez and Charles Simon, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Worked with residents of Douglass Houses, a New York Housing Authority development, on building-wide safety, community services, law enforcement/criminal justice, apartment maintenance/repairs), and establishment of an improved CB7/NYCHA residents relationship.
- Worked with HPD on the future of SRO's/residential hotels.
- With HPD and the SRO Law Project, hosted a forum for 50 SRO residents on their rights and responsibilities, and services available to them.

2007

- Expand work with NYCHA developments to Amsterdam Houses and Wise Towers.
- Increase and monitor required levels of affordable housing, in particular through the proposed new 421-A program.
- Consider new models of affordable housing.

Land Use

Richard Asche & Page Cowley, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Completed public review of the West 61st Street Rezoning and Citywide General Large-Scale Development Text Amendment.
- Considered the need for public and accessory garages in public reviews of 15 Central Park West, a 162-space public parking garage; 27 West 72nd Street, a 14-space accessory garage; and 555 West 59th Street, a 190-space, public and accessory, parking garage.
- Considered the role of the inclusionary housing bonus in public review of applications, including 210 West 102nd Street, a supportive housing program for formerly homeless families.

2007

- Public review (ULURP) of City Planning's application for rezoning of West 97th-110th Streets, Central Park West-Riverside Drive.
- Fordham University proposal for development of their Lincoln Center Campus.
- Leader House, 100 West 93rd Street, proposed amendment to Zoning Resolution to change space allocated under the expired West Side Urban Renewal Area Plan (WSURA) as community/residential space, which would affect other sites along Columbus Avenue.

Parks & Preservation Committee

Klari Neuwelt and Lenore Norman, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Worked with Landmarks Preservation Commission on documentation of the proposed Manhattan Avenue Historic District, leading to its designation in 2007.
- Developed presentation guidelines for applicants seeking certificate of appropriateness from LPC.
- Working with the urban fellow from the Manhattan Borough President's Office, developed a list of undesignated buildings that may be endangered and merit consideration for designation, which will be studied in future months.
- Reviewed 52 certificates of appropriateness applications to the LPC, including 12 on Parks properties and designation of the Dakota Stables.

2007

- Greater coordination with LPC on appropriateness applications.
- Participate in the development and operations of Riverside Park South, 59th-72nd Streets.
- Convince Department of Parks & Recreation to recycle in major parks, such as Riverside and Central.

Strategy & Budget Committee

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

2006

- Developed FY08 District Needs Statement and Priorities for the NYC Capital and Expense Budget, in consultation with CB7 standing committees.
- Participated in budget consultations with city agencies and testified on budget issues at the City Council.

- Advocated for CB7 priorities with elected officials.

2007

- Develop FY09 District Needs Statement and Priorities for the NYC Capital and Expense Budget, in consultation with CB7 standing committees.
- Participate in budget consultations with city agencies and testified on budget issues at the City Council.
- Advocate for CB7 priorities with elected officials.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Major traffic studies and recommendations - bow-tie, Lincoln Center area/96th Street corridor including Henry Hudson Pkwy interchange.
- 96th Street/Broadway intersection traffic changes - left turn lanes, pedestrian striping, and pedestrian intervals on lights.
- Finalization of traffic plan/design for 96th Street/Broadway IRT station, including sidewalk treatments, park (in mall), relocation of newsstands, turning lanes.
- Reviewed 36 sidewalk cafes.

2007

- Participation in DOT's West Side Traffic Study from West 57th-86th Streets.
- Discussions/meetings on congestion pricing.
- Monitoring of the reconstruction of the West 96th Street IRT station and adjacent streetscapes.

Youth, Education & Libraries

Alberto Cruz and Luis Reyes, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Outreach to Community District 3/Region 10 school officials (Regional Supt. Gale Reeves; Supt. Judi Aronson; D.J. Sheppard, D3 Parent Support Coordinator; Ceilia Blewer of the D3 Presidents Council; and D3 Community Education Council).
- Lead Sponsor of Community Forum on the Kindergarten Lottery for District 3 on April 6, 2006 at Joan of Arc school complex (154 W. 93rd St) along with District 3/Region 10 and the Center for Immigrant Families. The Forum was attended by more than 100 parents and community members along with City Council member Gale Brewer and Assemblyperson Linda Rosenthal. Provided simultaneous translation and child care in collaboration with Region 10 and the Center for Immigrant Families
- Presented Resolution to the Full Board of CB 7 on Public Use of School Yards after school hours, as originally proposed by City Council member Gale Brewer that was approved unanimously by the full Board.

2007

- Develop and distribute Survey of the implementation of the new HIV/AIDS curriculum in District 3 schools to School principals, jointly with Health and Human services Committee. Met with District 3 Superintendent R. Salavert re. the feasibility of District 3 cooperation on the Survey.
- Sponsor a Community Forum (along with CEC 3 and District 3's Presidents Council on the Reorganization of the Department of Education and its impact on District 3 public schools.
- Collaborate with New York Public Library branch officials and District 2 leaders to expand programming to meet the needs of immigrant/non-English speaking community members (both school-age children and adults), including GED and ESL services.

Board Development Committee (Established in the Fall of 2006)

Barbara Adler and Robert Herrmann, Co-Chairpersons

2006

- Organized a Board get together in December, with 30 members participating.
- Provided questionnaire at meetings to determine whether or not we are meeting the needs of the community.
- Developed a plan to enhance the effectiveness of CB7, including streamlining meetings, how to write resolutions and minutes.

2007

- Orientation and support for new Board members, including arranging for Board advisors and hosting a new member reception.
- Continuing work on enhancing Board effectiveness.
- Planning underway for future events to enhance effectiveness of Board and collegiality among members.

Greener and Safer UWS Committee (In formation)

Melanie Wymore, Chairperson

2007

- Explore issues in PlaNYC 2030, including air, water and energy, and creating a greener NYC, and coordinating with committees that will address other parts of the plan;
- Follow up on implementation of Solid Waste Management Plan and recycling, including coordination with team SWMP, Charles Simon, Chairperson.
- Continue development of emergency response capability in CD7, including coordination with CB's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Sheldon J. Fine, Chairman.

West 97th-110th Street Task Force

Ethel Sheffer, Chairperson

2006

- Consulted with Department of City Planning, elected officials, and community leaders on zoning concerns and recommendations.
- Conducted extensive community meetings, including one with 800 people present, on proposed rezoning of West 97th-110th Streets, Central Park West-Riverside Drive.
- Drafted and presented rezoning proposal to the Full Board. Adopted in June 2006 and sent to Department of City Planning.

West 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force

Melanie Wymore, Chairperson

2006

- Participated in Phase 1 design, including new annex.
- Advocated for public funding for Phase 1.
- Facilitated private funding for open space.

2007

- Construction is expected to begin in September.

MCB7 2006 ULURPS

March

27 West 72nd Street, The Olcott Hotel ULURP N050489ZAM

With a vote of 17 In Favor, 19 Against and 2 Abstentions, the Full Board did not adopt the resolution to approve the development of a 15-space accessory parking garage with the entrance and new curb cut on West 73rd Street. Concerns were that the garage might be rented out on a transient basis without seeking a modification of the permit for an accessory garage and the number of spaces might be more than 15.

May

1991 Broadway, Bel Canto #M 790651 (E) ZSM

Approved application to allow installation of glass wall, new tables and chairs, plantings, and improved signage in an existing covered plaza.

October

Re: West 61st Street Rezoning and Citywide General Large-Scale Development Text Amendment. Applications #C060104ZMM, #C060105ZSM, and #C060106ZSM.

A) Zoning Text Amendment

Disapproved the proposed amendment to Zoning Resolution Section 23-142, which would permit the maximum floor area ratio, without regard to the height factor or the open space ratio, upon a finding that the landscaping being provided is "superior"; and

Resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan would, subject to detailed review of precisely crafted language, favorably consider an amendment which would, permit waiver of height factor and open space requirements upon a finding by the Community Board and the City Planning Commission, that the proposal presents, in combination, architectural features, design and configuration, and open space planning, including the provision of open space accessible to the public for passive recreational use, superior to the optimum design permissible as of right.

B) Zoning Map Amendment

Approved the rezoning of the western half of the block bordered by West End Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue, 60th and 61st Streets as follows: the area within 100 feet of West End Ave., from M1-6 to C4-7, and the remainder from M1-6 to C6-2.

C) Zoning Special Permit

Disapproved the application for special permits modifying height and setback and rear yard requirements without prejudice to renewal upon agreement on the text of a Zoning Resolution Amendment affecting large scale developments.

D) Garage Permit

Disapproved the application by the Developers for a zoning special permit for a Public Parking Garage for 200 spaces, including 121 accessory spaces without prejudice to renewal upon agreement on the text of a Zoning Resolution Amendment affecting large scale developments.

**44-48 West 63rd Street, Empire Hotel, dba P.J. Clark's (Columbus Avenue.) ULURP
#N060554ECM**

Disapproved the enclosed sidewalk café and questioned whether the current enclosed café, which had been vacant for over six (6) years, is still “grandfathered” under the Lincoln Square Special District zoning, which does not permit new enclosed sidewalk cafes.

CB7 DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET 2006 AGENDAS

January

1. Welcome to Council Members Melissa Mark Viverito and Inez Dickens and staff and introduction of new staff in Riverside Park and Riverside Park South
2. **NYPD School Safety/20 Precinct Youth Officer**
 - Data on incidents in and around IS 44, Columbus Avenue and West 77th Street, and Brandeis High School, West 84th Street, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues
 - General report on operations in CD7 and how NYPD reorganization will affect School Safety
3. **SROs:**
 - Reports on inter-agency inspections and violations
 - YTD 311 and 911 calls to NYPD and FDNY for the Kent, 155 West 83rd Street, Park Royal, 258 West 97th Street, Yale, 316 West 97th Street; the Frant, 211 West 101st Street, and the Broadway, 230 West 101st Street
4. Rodent infestation and DOHMH and DSNY responses
5. Enforcement of parking regulations for coach buses at Central Park West and West 72nd Street
6. Department of Consumer Affairs and 20 and 24 Precincts enforcement of general street vendor rules
7. Agency updates and announcements

February

1. Welcome to Captain Keith Spadaro, Commander, 20th Precinct.
2. Presentation by Herman Schaffer, OEM, on the formation of a local community emergency response team (CERT.) OEM has asked each community board to organize a CERT for their district. Part of the responsibilities of the team, once training is completed, is to contact local first responders and establish communications and working relationships.
3. Updates:
 - Data on incidents in and around IS 44, Columbus Avenue and West 77th Street; Brandeis High School, West 84th Street, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues; and MS54, West 108th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.
 - SROs: Kent, 155 West 83rd Street, Park Royal, 258 West 97th Street, Yale, 316 West 97th Street; the Frant, 211 West 101st Street, and the Broadway, 230 West 101st Street.
 - Rodent infestation and DOHMH and DSNY responses.
 - Homeless and graffiti conditions in Parks.
4. Agency updates and announcements.

April

1. Redeployment of PSA#6 officers to the 20th Precinct to cover Amsterdam Houses and Addition.
2. Follow-up on interest of first responders to work with a CB7 CERT.
3. Updates and Agency Reports:
 - **DOB:**
 - Apple Bank Signage, 2112 Broadway
 - Illegal conversions at 244 West 64th Street and 235, 239 West 63rd Street. Residential R8 zoned buildings converted to hotels.
 - Illegal conversion of 154 West 70th Street. Owner has not complied with stop work orders. C of O is contrary to use. Residential apartments converted to hotel and offices.
 - Legality of garbage dumpster built under window of resident at 203 West 108th Street.

331 West 87th Street, backyard deck built contrary to amended plans.

- Data on incidents in and around IS 44, Columbus Avenue and West 77th Street; Brandeis High School, West 84th Street, Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues; and MS54, West 108th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.
- SROs: Park Royal, 258 West 97th Street, Yale, 316 West 97th Street; and the Broadway, 230 West 101st Street.
- Rodent infestation and DOHMH and DSNY responses: 230 West 101st Street.
- Conditions in Riverside Park: Graffiti: 96th Street, 99th Street, Skate Park and Basketball Courts, 72nd and 79th Street tunnels.

Homeless:

- Behind W.71st Street handball courts near storage container and Amtrack/DOT fenced property under highway.
- On top of the grates that are adjacent to west side of the Parkway
- Rotunda Cafe at 79th Street Boat Basin.
- Arch above entrance to 79th Street Boat Basin Garage.
- Inside Boat Basin Garage (Salt bag stacks and other underground areas).
- 78th & 79th Street tunnels and stairs east of the Parkway
- Mount Tom at 83rd Street
- 91st Street at River's Edge (closed path) west of Parkway
- Underneath Riverside Drive at 96th Street overpass
- Firemen's Island between 100th and 103rd Streets.

May

1. Discussion with DOT:

- Problem intersections: WEA and 70th Street; Broadway and 96th Street; Freedom Place, 66th-70th Streets; CPW and 81st Street.
- Street conditions: Amsterdam and 103rd Street, ponding condition; WEA and 66th Street pothole (DM2006128016); speed bump on West 77th Street, Columbus-Amsterdam;
- DOT's speed bump policy
- Spring/Summer Milling Resurfacing Schedule: 96th Street, 100th Street, Amsterdam Ave 60th – 90th Street.
- Planning study for West 57th-86th Streets.

2. Reports on MTA reconstruction of 59th Street IRT station and 70th Street and West End Avenue

3. NYPD Traffic: Bus enforcement on 72nd and 73rd Streets & CPW, especially on weekends.

4. NYPD 24th Pct. Patrol – Dusk to late night basketball games at PS 95, W. 96th Street and Riverside Drive, schoolyard

5. Follow up:

Mayor's Office/CAU, FDNY, NYPD, DOH:

- Inspections and request for second inter-agency inspection at 230 West 101st Street, Broadway Studio Hotel

DOB, NYFD, DSNY:

- Illegal of apartments as hotel units at 241 West 63rd Street. New hotel uses: 240 West 73rd Street, 307 West 79th Street, 306 West 94th Street, 465 Central Park West. 237 West 107th Street, 850 West End Avenue, 207 West 87th Street

DOB:

- Illegal conversion of residential apartments into hotel and offices at 154 West 70th Street
NYPD School Safety – DA's Office:

- Businesses are holding student's cell phones for \$1 - DA's office looking into legality of this

- Conditions around Brandeis High School

DOHMH/DSNY:

- Rat problem in tree pits on 317, 319, and 321 W. 77th Street and 304 W. 75 St – Coming from dog run in Riverside Park
6. Agency reports

June

1. Spring/Summer Milling Resurfacing Schedule: West 100th Street on June 25
2. Ponding condition on Riverside Drive, West 108th-110th Streets
3. Basketball permits for district playgrounds and plans for summer maintenance and enforcement, especially at Bennerson Playground
4. Report on gangs in the 20 and 24, and the deployment of additional officers to address
5. Septuagesimo Uno Park, 256 West 71st Street – Reports of pot smoking and alcohol consumption
6. Safety concerns around Park West Village, West 97th-100th Streets, Amsterdam-Columbus Avenues
7. DOH/DEP: Rats on WEA & West 102nd – 103rd Streets; tree pits at 317, 319, and 321 W. 77th Street and 304 W. 75 St – May be coming from dog run in Riverside Park
8. Homeless conditions at SWC 72nd Street & Broadway and West 102nd Street & Broadway, near Starbucks; West 73rd Street, near Starbucks
9. Noise conditions in the backyard of Homer's, 487 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd-84th Streets); bars on Amsterdam Avenue between West 108th and 109th Streets
10. Sidewalk cafes and street vendors
11. Follow-up with district schools, DOE and DSNY on garbage, esp. West 77th Street
12. Updates and Agency Reports:
 - 20th Pct: new police deployment at Amsterdam Houses; bus enforcement on West 72nd and 73rd Streets & CPW, especially on weekends
 - 24th Pct – Starbucks and skimmer devices; late night basketball games in playground at PS 95
 - DEP – noise complaints doubled in CD7; broken/uneven sidewalks around hydrants – DEP requested locations and will look into repair as necessary

Problem buildings:

- 230 West 101st Street, Broadway\Studio Hotel; 211 West 101st Street, The Frant
- Illegal use of apartments as hotel units at 241 West 63rd Street. New hotel uses: 240 West 73rd Street, 307 West 79th Street, 306 West 94th Street, 465 Central Park West. 237 West 107th Street, 850 West End Avenue, 207 West 87th Street
- DOB: Illegal conversion of residential apartments into hotel and offices at 154 West 70th Street

NYPD School Safety – DA's Office:

- Businesses are holding student's cell phones for \$1 - DA's office looking into legality of this
- Conditions around Brandeis High School: School safety officers give warning to students

Problem intersections:

- WEA and 70th Street: south bound left-turn arrow signal and school crossing guard
- CPW and 81st Street: Requested "No Honking" signs have not been installed. Need update from DOT

September

1. Discussion and planning with the Bowery Residences' Committee outreach program and the Department of Homeless regarding homeless issues in CD7

Locations include:

- Harmony Atrium
- West 73rd Street & Broadway, near Starbucks
- West 86th Street and West End Avenue
- West 96th Street & Broadway/WEA
- West 104th Street and Amsterdam Avenue
- Broadway at West 108th – 110th Streets
- All of our CD7 parks, the Broadway Malls, and Riverside Park
- Panhandlers

2. Updates:

- SROs: 315 West 95th Street (Montroyal) and 211 West 101st Street (Frant)
- OTB pursuing new location on 143 West 72nd Street
- CERT
- Construction highlights: 59th Street subway crane operation; 200 West 72nd Street demolition; safety concerns on West 59th-61st Streets, Amsterdam-West End Avenue; Park West Village, West 97th-100th Streets, Amsterdam-Columbus

3. Agency reports and updates, including:

24 Precinct:

- 110th Street, C/B subway scam update
- West 109th Street bars and noise
- O'Connell's Pub, 108th Street & Broadway

20th Precinct:

- Evelyn's Bar, 78th Street & Columbus Avenue
- Columbus 72 opening October 21 (formerly Star Night Club)

DDC/DOT:

Fredrick Douglass Circle traffic problems and noise

DOT:

- Status of traffic study between West 57th and West 86th Streets
- Amsterdam and West 103rd Street ponding condition
- Amsterdam Avenue and West 110th Street signage
- WEA and West 66th Street pothole (DM2006128016)
- Freedom Place, West 66th-70th Streets "daylighting"
- Speed bump on West 77th Street, Columbus-Amsterdam
- Central Park will close to traffic 6/5. Preliminary studies are in progress to assess traffic impact on Community Boards 7, 8, and 10. DOT and CAU will give the study parameters

October

1. Discussion with Dean McCann, Mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting, on filming in CD7

2. Update on Homelessness:

Outreach efforts and outcomes

Priority locations including:

- Harmony Atrium
- West 73rd Street & Columbus, near Starbucks
- West 86th Street and West End Avenue
- West 96th Street & Broadway/WEA
- West 104th Street and Amsterdam Avenue
- Broadway at West 108th – 110th Streets

- All CD7 parks, the Broadway Malls, and Riverside Park
- Religious institutions
- Panhandlers

3. Update on SROs: 315 West 94th Street (Montroyal) and 211 West 101st Street (Frant)

4. Agency reports and updates, including:

20 and 24 Precincts

High accident locations for three months, and recommendations to DOT for mitigations

DOT

Amsterdam Avenue milling & resurfacing

November/December

1. Update on homeless locations and conditions in CD7 and Riverside Park, approaches being used by each organization/group, and results
2. Coordination of information, resources and outreach
3. Other organizations that work with the homeless
4. Ways to include the community
5. Plan of action