

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting

Bronx Community Board 8

February 16, 2023, 7pm ET

Via Zoom Video and Audio Conference

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Committee Members Present: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Daniel Padernacht and Debra Travis

Committee Members Absent: David Gellman

Opening Remarks

Committee Chair Buford welcomed Committee Members, Elected Officials and the Community. She then outlined the meeting process.

Chair's Report

Ms. Buford informed the Community that the CB8 office receives notice of various closures within the District due to work being performed by city and state agencies as well as local utility companies and indicated information related to the closures are routinely posted to the CB 8 social media platforms and encouraged the Community to check the platforms for projects that may impact their neighborhoods.

Approval Item: Minutes (January 19, 2023 Meeting)

Ms. Buford referred the Committee Members to the draft minutes of the January 19, 2023 Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting for review and approval, which the Committee duly approved.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Christopher Calhoun, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Daniel Padernacht and Debra Travis
Opposed: None
Abstain: None

Approval Item: SAPO Application: Riverdale Y Sunday Market (April 2)

Ms. Shira Silverman presented the request on behalf of the Riverdale Y Sunday Market for a full street closure of Johnson Avenue from 235th to 236th Street for a pop-up farmers market on Sunday, April 2, 2023. This one-day event has historically been supported by KRVC and City Council Member Eric Dinowitz. Nick Fazio (Chair of the CB8 Economic Development Committee) advised that in prior years merchants directly impacted by the event were supportive of the event. The closure will occur from 7am to 3pm, including setup and breakdown.

After discussion an ON MOTION, the Traffic and Transportation Committee adopted the following:

WHEREAS, the Riverdale YMHA presented its intent to operate a one-time pop-up farmers market on Johnson Avenue on Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 7am – 3pm; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will maintain a 15-Foot emergency lane through the center; and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale YMHA held a similar event in May 2022; and

WHEREAS, the pop-up market has received favorable feedback from the community in support of the issuance of a full street closure permit to allow the event to occur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board 8, Bronx, supports the issuance of a permit to the Riverdale Y Sunday Market for the full street closure on Sunday, April 2, 2023 on Johnson Avenue between West 235th Street and West 236th Street for the sole purpose of operating a one-time pop-up farmers market.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Dan Padernacht, Deb Travis

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Approval Item: Request for Street Renaming near 6087 Broadway in Honor of Betty and Lloyd Adams of Lloyd's Carrot Cake Bakery

WHEREAS, Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams have been nominated for the honor of this proposed street naming by the Riverdale Neighborhood House, Riverdale Main Streets Alliance and the Kiwanis Club of Riverdale, which are three community organizations active in Bronx Community District No. 8 that are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams opened Lloyd's Carrot Cake across the street from Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx Community District No. 8 in 1986 and it quickly became a staple in this community; and

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams were vibrant members of our community, often donating their time and money to local charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, Betty Campbell-Adams served on several local boards including the Child Welfare Organizing Project, Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation and Riverdale Main Street Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams were examples of neighborhood business owners who gave back to the community to make it a better place; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 established the Betty Campbell-Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award to honor the many contributions Mrs. Campbell-Adams made to the community; and

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams have benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community District No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, this location has a specific connection to Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams as it is in proximity to Lloyd's Carrot Cake, the business founded by Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams; and

WHEREAS, Betty Campbell-Adams died on December 11, 2020 and Lloyd Adams died on February 1, 2007 and this resolution is brought more than two years after their deaths; and

WHEREAS, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the traffic-light controlled, east-west crosswalk located at 6115 Broadway between West 251st Street and Manhattan College Parkway be named **Betty and Lloyd Adams Way**.

In favor: Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Dan Padernacht, Deb Travis

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Discussion on Proposed Walkway on Independence Avenue at the corner of West 231st Street

Ms. Sura Jeselsohn advised that she contacted Lehman College (the College) about the property located at 681 West 231st Street, which is owned by the New York State Dormitory Authority for use by the College President. She informed that the property wraps around West 231st Street to Independence Avenue and has hedges that are impeding the safe passage of pedestrians, particularly given the recent reroute of city buses to run along Independence Avenue to accommodate the NYS Department of Transportation construction project along Henry Hudson Parkway West between West 231 and West 235 Streets and scheduled to run through the end of 2024. Ms. Jeselsohn indicated that she recommended that the College move the hedges back a few feet to allow for the installation of a walkway to improve pedestrian safety. She noted that she was not seeking Committee involvement at this time as the College appeared receptive to her suggestion and advised that she would keep the Committee apprised. Many Community Members expressed support of Ms. Jeselsohn's recommendations and thanked her for her efforts.

Discussion of Proposed FY 2025 Capital and Expense Requests

Ms. Buford advised that the FY 2024 priorities, including responses from the agencies, were distributed to the Committee. She requested Members to review the agency comments and consider what matters can be resubmitted. She further advised that many of the step-street items were rejected as the agency wanted the Committee to group the items based on geographic location. Ms. Buford informed that a response was submitted to the City advising that the step-streets are unique to the Bronx and connect residents to central shopping districts and transportation hubs and noted failure to repair the conduits poses a danger to residents and subjects the City to unnecessary litigation.

Ms. Buford noted that a couple of the items were joint requests with Parks. Member Travis, who also serves as the Parks Committee Chair, advised that Parks would take the lead on those requests and that the items could be removed from consideration. Member Travis also offered to clean up the list to aid in prioritization.

The Community provided additional items for consideration for FY 2025. Matters included:

- Improved lighting on the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass at West 235th Street;
- Repair aging rebar showing on steps and rusted handrails on step-streets, including the Marble Hill Lane step-street near West 228th Street and Marble Hill Avenue;
- Graffiti on the Riverdale Avenue retaining wall between West 235th Street and Irwin Avenue.

Ms. Buford asked the Committee to come to the March meeting with additional recommendations and advised that the Committee would start the prioritization process at the March meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Buford informed that she was awaiting an update from NYC DOT on the request for additional calming measures at the intersection of Oxford Avenue and West 235th Street following a fatal pedestrian accident in July 2022 and discussed with DOT during the September 2022 Committee Meeting.

Member Travis advised that the intersection at Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West remains unsafe. Delineators installed during the remodel are no longer there as there have been several accidents in recent months. A study of the intersection may be warranted.

A Community Member inquired about the sidewalk along West 254th Street approaching the Riverdale Metro-North Station. Member Travis advised that the project was fully funded as a capital project and indicated community outreach was expected in 2022 and they may be behind.

New Business

Community Committee Member Gibbs advised that it is difficult for pedestrians to cross at the intersection at West 238th Street and Riverdale Avenue near the Chase bank due to speeding and a traffic light may be needed.

Committee Member Calhoun advised that a Chick-Fil-A franchise was coming to West 225th Street at the Shops at Marble Hill. The restaurant is slated to have drive-thru and could result in increased traffic, including traffic leading to the Broadway Bridge and crossing into Inwood.

Next Meeting

Ms. Buford advised that the next meeting was scheduled for March 16, 2023.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.