

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**Traffic and Transportation Committee
Kingsbridge Center of Israel
3115 Corlear Avenue**

Minutes of December 15, 2015 Meeting

Committee Attendance:

M. Heller, Committee Chair
S. Alexander, Committee member
A. Creaney, Committee member
D. Fuchs, Committee member
J. O'Brien, Committee member
G. Santiago, Committee member
S. Sarao, Committee member
H. Young, Committee member
M. Joyce Community Committee member

Absent: R. Press

Board Member:

D. Padernacht, Chairman
A.J. Robateau

Guests:

R. Padillo, International Leadership Charter School
T. Brown, International Leadership Charter School
S. Brenner, community resident
D. Ranells, Transportation Alternatives
J. Torres, community resident
T. Collins, community resident
E. Bell, community resident
K. Castillo, Tin Marin restaurant
H. Gonzalez, Tin Marin restaurant
C. Berman, community resident
A. Sandler, office of Councilman Cohen
C. Lang, office of Senator Klein
J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chair M. Heller, who introduced community board members and special guests. A quorum was present and the minutes of the November meeting were approved 7-0-0, with committee members M. Heller, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and Community Committee Member M. Joyce in favor.

Mr. M. Heller announced the Farmer's Market application was withdrawn.

Sidewalk Café Renewal for Tin Marin Restaurant, 3708 Riverdale Avenue - Tania Castillo, owner of the restaurant spoke on behalf of the approval. No objections were expressed. The following motion was offered by the chair:

Be It Resolved, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the renewal of an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café Application for Tin Marin Bar and Lounge, 3708 Riverdale Avenue.

Unanimously approved: 8 – 0 – 0, with committee members M. Heller, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, H. Young, and Community Committee Member M. Joyce in favor.

Public Hearing: Proposed modification of bus stops in the vicinity of Riverdale Avenue and West 231 Street affecting Bx1, Bx7, Bx10 and Bx20 routes.

Mr. M. Heller opened the hearing with a discussion of the overall situation with respect to the current placement of bus stops serving southbound and eastbound routes in the area. He described heavy foot traffic at the stop between Riverdale Avenue and Tibbett Avenue during school dismissal times of students heading to east and south Bronx on the Bx1 and Bx10 primarily when JFK schools dismiss. Some the store owners on 231 Street between Riverdale Avenue and Tibbett Avenue feel overwhelmed by the large number of students. The plan is to move the stop one block east, between Tibbett Avenue and Corlear Avenue, and eliminate the next stop which is between Corlear Avenue and Kingsbridge Avenue as two stops cannot be one block away from each other. The other proposal under consideration is elimination of the Bx1 stop in front of the new school on Riverdale Avenue, combining it with the new stop one block away. However the MTA has dismissed consideration of this proposal. He also mentioned that proposals by Councilman A. Cohen and Assemblyman J. Dinowitz to run special trips to pick up students closer to the school had been dismissed by the MTA, and split routes travelling down West 230 Street had also been rejected. We are a bit deadlocked at this point.

Assemblyman J. Dinowitz offered additional information about crowding in the area, including how students from the new charter school will exacerbate the problem. The kids "hang out" by the stop creating unpleasant conditions for the store owners and regular pedestrians during this time in the afternoon. People avoid walking the streets during this time. He offered comments on how the different routes should be segmented at the new stop, with the Bx20 and Bx7 further east. It is acknowledged that those headed to the #1 subway will have a longer walk, and those coming through Ewen Park will have a longer walk to the new bus stop. He also mentioned that the existing stop between Corlear Avenue and Kingsbridge Avenue is problematic in that the sidewalk is narrow and parking garage curb cut conflicts with the bus stop.

Committee members expressed their opinions. Herb Young likes the proposal and said it should move forward. M. Heller explained the MTA is willing to move the bus stop if the community board so recommends. Andrew Sander discussed Councilman A. Cohen's position. Myra Joyce expressed her support. S. Sarao wants to make sure we have considered every possible option. Ms. S. Alexander asked if a dedicated spot would be created for special education school buses – there was discussion of the viability of this proposal.

Various audience members expressed their opinions. Ms. Brown of the new charter school offered some clarity as to the number of children who will populate her school. In her opinion the Bx1 should be moved around the corner. Eric Bell supported the proposal and reminded all that the #1 subway stop is accessible and that should be kept in mind. Ms. Flores inquired about whether or not a crossing guard would be assigned to the new school, a question to be

answered. Mention was made of the need of a left turn arrow at the intersection for southbound Riverdale Avenue and West 231 Street, which DOT rejected.

Mr. M. Heller said some publicity was done about the proposal, but perhaps not enough. He agreed to hand out flyers one morning to make sure public notice is given so less people are caught unaware of the proposed change.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 19, 2016, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heller, Chair, Traffic and Transportation Committee