



Community Board 12 - Manhattan
Washington Heights & Inwood
530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032
Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197
Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

April 25, 2014

Hon. Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street 9th Fl.
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, April 22, 2014 Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution by a vote of (28) In Favor, (0) Opposed, (4) Abstain, approving the implementation of Phase 1 of bicycle lane networks in our District and looks forward to safer streets for all users and towards Phase 2 of the proposed bicycle network, with some suggestions.

Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan, requested in 2012 that DOT study the possibility of implementing bike paths in our District, thereby making it accessible and safe for bikers to traverse both east-west and north-south, in addition to prioritizing the ability to access bridges connecting Manhattan to the Bronx and to New Jersey; and

Whereas: Bicycle lanes enhance the safety for all street users, and installing a bicycle network connects our community to those north and south of us and provides additional traffic calming measures; and

Whereas: the NYC Department of Transportation presented "Phase 1" of its proposed bicycle network to the community at the April 7th meeting of CB12M's Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting, addressing the Board's 2012 request and proposing networks of shared lanes, protected bike paths, and bike lanes – depending on feasibility and other traffic factors; and

Whereas: DOT proposed to place bike lanes in each direction Amsterdam Avenue between W. 162nd Street and W. 173rd Street, as well as W. 186th St. to W. 190th Street and change from two lanes in each direction to one lane with a turning lane in order to create a calming effect in addition to adding bike lanes; and

Whereas: Amsterdam Ave. from W. 173rd St. to 186th Sts., an area of high volume traffic, will have a shared bike lane, with the number of traffic lanes remaining the same (i.e., two in each direction); and

Whereas: Amsterdam Ave. from W. 190th St. to Ft. George Hill, will best be suited by the addition of shared bike lanes; and

Whereas: Ft. George Hill, which currently has two traffic lanes in one direction, is proposed to have one traffic lane and to convert the area behind angle parking to a protected bike lane in two directions; and

Whereas: W. 177th St. from Amsterdam Ave. to Ft. Washington Ave. and W. 180th St. from Amsterdam Ave. to Cabrini Blvd. are proposed east-west crossing with shared bike lanes; and

Whereas: The proposed plan is scheduled to be installed in July 2014; and

Whereas: Most traffic lanes will remain intact and repaved where necessary when additional street markings are added for bicycles, the project entails a total loss of 12 parking spots in the vicinity of Ft. George Hill; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M supports the implementation of Phase 1 of bicycle lane networks in our District and looks forward to safer streets for all users and towards Phase 2 of the proposed bicycle network, with the following suggestions:

1. Additional analysis is needed at the skewed intersection of W. 177th St. & Broadway to ensure safety of all users
2. DOT does its best to try to find or create additional parking spots adjacent to Ft. George Hill
3. Appropriate work is done to repair any pot holes on the aforementioned streets addressed by the new proposed bicycle lane network

Sincerely,


George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Margaret Forgiome, Man. Borough Commissioner
Hon. Adriano Espallat, NY State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Gabriela Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydannis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member



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Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, April 22, 2014 Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution by a vote of (19) In Favor, (7) Opposed, (6) Abstain, approves the proposed parking changes on W. 168th Street and Ft. Washington Avenue during the construction period and change of emergency room entrance on W. 168th St. with some provisions.

Whereas: The New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) is in the process of renovating and expanding its emergency department by doubling its size to 45,00 square feet in order to better serve our community; and

Whereas: Construction is expected to last until 2017, with the ED reopening in stages over the next four years; and

Whereas: The primary entrance was relocated from Broadway to W. 168th Street during construction; and

Whereas: NYPH plans to make improvements to its campus by improving pedestrian and vehicle safety, offer additional accessible welcome spaces to pedestrians, better way-finding, safer cross walks, upgrade campus landscape by increasing greenery, and provide "social" spaces for community members and visitors; and

Whereas: A number of traffic safety issues were raised in the area including traffic gridlock on West 168th Street, traffic impeding emergency vehicle and MTA bus access through W. 168th Street & Ft. Washington Ave., high volume of double-parked cars, discharge of passengers in the middle of the street and not at designated locations, congestion spill-overs to adjacent blocks; and

Whereas: Current actions underway at the Medical Center by both the Hospital and Columbia University in order to reduce congestion include: relocating the NYPH and CU shuttles from Ft. Washington Ave. to Broadway, relocating deliveries to other locations or re-scheduling them to off-peak times, opening up the loading dock at earlier hours; and

Whereas: NYPH commissioned a traffic study which was performed by Sam Schwartz Engineering (on three separate days, one on the weekend in order to take vehicle occupancy inventory count) and the major findings include: majority (80%) of parking in the area is related to the medical center; proposed parking

regulations are consistent with other Manhattan hospitals, new analysis shows capacity exists in the adjacent area (1/4 mile radius) to absorb the proposed loss of parking spots; and

Whereas: There were only 9 parking spots available on W. 168th St. during the 2011-2013 construction, there are now 41 spots available overnight, and this proposal would reduce street parking to 17 spots, removing 24 spots, which is still eight spots more than were available last year; and
Whereas: All 18 spots currently available on the east side of Ft. Washington between W. 165th & W. 168th Streets also would be eliminated, for a total reduction of 42 spots overall; and

Whereas: NYPH has parking facilities that they will encourage their employees and visitors to use in order to leave sufficient spots for community residents; and

Whereas: DOT and its commissioner have been in close contact with the Hospital and the University over the planning stages these past 6 months and supports the proposal and has also worked with the hospital in trying to restore a number of parking spots on West 167th Street in order to facilitate additional parking in the area; now therefore be it

Resolved: CB12M approves the proposed parking changes on W. 168th Street and Ft. Washington Avenue during the construction period and change of emergency room entrance on W. 168th St. with the following provisions:

1. Reassess in 2015 to see if traffic is flowing faster on W. 168th Street and Ft. Washington Avenue once parking spots are removed
2. NYPH offer reduced parking rates for residents in hospital parking lots during evening hours
3. NYPH enforces that its vendors deliver at non-peak hours and not double-park on Ft. Washington Avenue
4. A study of W. 165th Street as well be conducted with DOT to survey for congestion
5. Enforcement by NYPD of double parked cars and cars parked in bus stops

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

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