

Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Eugene Yoo, *Secretary*
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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May 24, 2021

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NY State Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building
188 State Street, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins:

At its Full Board meeting May 20, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of Senate Bill S1398 to establish a pilot program to protect bicyclists riding in bike lanes from encroachment by motorists, with additional recommendations.

Whereas each year thousands of cyclists are forced out of bicycle lanes by cars and trucks that park, stand or stop in the bike lanes, blocking the cyclists' way and forcing them out of the lanes into the middle of traffic. This puts cyclists in great danger of being hit and injured by motor vehicles, and in many cases has resulted in fatalities; and

Whereas NY State Senate Bill S1398 would authorize the City of NY to establish a pilot bike lane safety program to enforce restrictions on motorists entering bicycle lanes and protect cyclists from these reckless incursions; and

Whereas this program would hold encroaching motorists accountable for these hazardous and unlawful actions (and help deter their encroachment) through a schedule of fines capped at \$50 per violation and automated camera enforcement; and

Whereas the pilot program would run for five years, and be conducted by the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) at 50 different locations around the city of DOT's choosing (using one camera at each location). DOT would be required to submit a report to the NY State Governor, Senate, and Assembly on the program's efficacy in 2022 and every two years thereafter; and

Whereas the revenues collected by the program will go to the NYC Transportation Assistance Fund; and

Whereas the bill includes strong provisions to protect the privacy of those whose identity might be captured on camera, e.g., by using technology that obscures images and prohibitions on dissemination of information. The photo devices would be limited to the bike lane only; and

Whereas many people in our community are opposed to installing continuously recording surveillance cameras in our district; and

Whereas the pilot would be conducted in protected bike lanes only, although unprotected, painted bike lanes are just as or even more vulnerable to encroachment by motorists and harm to cyclists; and

Whereas it would be difficult to learn how the program would work in the many diverse areas throughout the city; with the pilot being limited to only 50 locations;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) supports NY State Senate Bill S1398 and welcomes its objective to safeguard cyclists from encroachment by motor vehicles on bike paths; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 favors adding provisions that expand the program to include cameras on painted, unprotected bike lanes, e.g., in CB2 on 9th, 10th and Christopher Sts.; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 would like to see more cameras, at least 100, spread across key locations throughout the city; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 requests that the cameras that record the violation take a snapshot of only enough frames to prove a violation, and be recorded without sound, much the way red light cameras and speed cameras work and capturing the area within the bike lane only and no superfluous space beyond; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 asks that provision be made to have DOT consult with community boards (CB2 included) to decide upon camera locations.

Vote: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, NYC City Council
Jacob Priley
Tevin Williams
Sam Vasquez

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May 24, 2021

Hon. Corey Johnson
New York City Council Speaker
224 West 30th St., Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Dear NYC Council Speaker Johnson:

At its Full Board meeting May 20, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of removing the street co-name "Margaret Sanger Square" from the corner of Mott and Bleecker Sts.

Whereas Merle McGee, Chief Equity & Engagement Officer of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York (PPGNY) presented PPGNY's request to remove the street co-name "Margaret Sanger Square" (originally co-named for the organization's founder, Margaret Sanger) and its sign from the southeast corner of Mott and Bleecker Sts.; and

Whereas Chief Equity & Engagement Officer McGee was joined by several other Planned Parenthood representatives in support of the request; and

Whereas it was explained that although Margaret Sanger was "a champion of birth control, which expanded bodily autonomy for many (including women of color)," she "also embraced" ableist elements of eugenic thinking. This, it was stated, "harmed communities of color, the working class, and people with disabilities, because," in the words of sociologist Dorothy E. Roberts, it promoted the idea "that social problems are caused by reproduction of the socially disadvantaged and that their childbearing should therefore be deterred. In a society marked by racial hierarchy, these principles inevitably produced policies designed to reduce Black women's fertility"; and

Whereas it was asserted that Margaret Sanger's actions "continue to be weaponized by anti-abortion extremists and opponents" seen outside the doors of PPGNY's Manhattan Health Center in the Community Board 2 Manhattan (CB2) community who "use this harmful legacy to justify blocking and disrupting healthcare access" to the Center; and

Whereas the desire of PPGNY to remove Margaret Sanger's name from the Mott/Bleecker corner, it was explained, is part of the organization's effort to reckon with their history and work to address historical inequities and become a more inclusive, anti-racist, multicultural organization; and

Whereas a petition in support of removing the Margaret Sanger street co-name and sign at Mott and Bleecker was submitted with some 250 signatures, almost all from people who live and work in the vicinity, many with written comments of approval, along with a street co-naming (in this case, un-naming) request application, information on Margaret Sanger, and the rationale for the street un-naming, fulfilling all the requirements of CB2's Street Co-Naming (Un-Naming in this case) Guidelines; and

Whereas CB2's current Street Co-Naming Guidelines require any person proposed for a co-naming to "have contributed in some extraordinary way to the welfare of the block and/or the community with a consistent voluntary commitment and dedication to improving community conditions.... and who have contributed to the CB2 community alone....," and Margaret Sanger, being a national and international figure, would not meet the current co-naming requirements;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 has no objection to removing the street co-name "Margaret Sanger Square" and its sign from the southeast corner of Mott and Bleecker Sts.

Vote: Passed, with 37 Board Members in favor.

3 Against (C. Dawson, R. Sanz, K. Shea)

2 Abstain (V. De La Rosa, S. Kent)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member