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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

## Environment & Sanitation Committee Monday, February 27, 2012 Asphalt Green 555 E. 90<sup>th</sup> Street, Mazur Hall 6:30 pm

Topic: E. 91<sup>st</sup> Street Marine Transfer Station

Board Members Present: Debbie Teitelbaum, Dave Kleckner, Molly Blayney, Roy Carlin, Ed Hartzog, Mary Pike, Teri Slater, Nicholas Viest.

Number of Attendees: ~250 (please see attached attendance sheet)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

## **Presentation by:**

NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY): Deputy Commissioner Harry Szarpanski; Deputy Commissioner, Legal Affairs, Robert Orlin; Director, Special Projects, Walter Czwartacky (please see attached PowerPoint presentation).

DSNY was requested by CB8 to appear to provide information and answer questions pertaining to plans and cost of proposed E. 91<sup>st</sup> Street Marine Transfer Station (MTS) as much as 1,860 tons per day of garbage.

After repeated follow-up attempts during the course of approximately two weeks, including by Council Member Jessica Lappin, DSNY informed CB8 on a Sunday afternoon the day before the scheduled meeting that they would appear.

Despite the limited lead time for publicizing the meeting, more than 250 people turned out to attend as they overflowed Mazur Hall spilling out into the lobby. Uniformed police officers were on hand to control the crowd.

<u>CB8 District Manager Latha Thompson and her staff were present prior to and</u> <u>throughout the entire meeting to facilitate logistics and were otherwise very helpful,</u> <u>including by signing in attendees and providing copies of CB8's resolutions in</u> <u>opposition to the MTS, which they set out for those in attendance to read</u>.

CB8 Env & Sanitation Committee Co-Chair Debbie Teitelbaum ran the meeting, which included time for presentation and Q/A. After statements by Asphalt Green Executive Director Carol Tweedy who hosted the meeting, NYS Senator Liz Krueger, NYS

Assembly Member Micah Kellner, and NYC Council Member Jessica Lappin, a PowerPoint presentation was then provided by DSNY's Harry Szarpanski (presentation attached). Expected average daily throughout is 720 tons (72 trucks) of DSNY waste and up to 780 tons (71 trucks) of commercial waste. Collection vehicle routes would include trucks driving along E. 86<sup>th</sup> Street and E. 90<sup>th</sup> Street to access the facility, including commercial vehicles that would arrive throughout the night from 8pm to 8am. DSNY has not obtained and continues to seek a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit. USACE has not indicated when a decision will be forthcoming, and DSNY will not award construction contracts without a USACE permit.

Q/A followed DSNY's presentation. During the Q/A, DSNY noted that while the facility is budgeted for \$125.4 million in construction costs, additional funds will be made available if the contractor bids come in at higher costs. Comments, questions and concerns noted by members of the public included that no DSNY MTS is in any other residential neighborhood and should not be in any residential neighborhood, the cost estimate has increased and likely will increase again, DSNY has evaded the City's own rules prohibiting such facilities within 100' of public housing because it is grandfathered as an "existing facility" even though it hasn't operated in more than a dozen years, truck traffic and noise and air pollution and rodents are concerns, although the courts may have ruled that Asphalt Green technically is not a park clearly it is one ethically, and the facility is located in a flood zone and hurricane zone. Some of DSNY's responses included that DSNY is exploring new technologies for managing some of the City's waste, this facility would be located closer to residents than any of the other MTS facilities, the Environmental Review conducted nearly 10 years ago found no unmitigatable impacts, the facility is designed to avoid queuing of garbage trucks, the MTS would be elevated above the 100-yr flood zone at its lowest point and can handle a hurricane surge, there will be a stringent pest/rodent management program in place, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue subway work in the area is expected to be completed prior to opening the facility.

There was media coverage following the meeting. Including at: Fox 5 WNYW: <u>http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/manhattan-waste-transfer-station-meeting-</u> 20120227

WPIX 11:

http://www.wpix.com/news/local/wpix-asphalt-green-station-022812,0,6523921.story

DNAInfo:

http://www.dnainfo.com/20120228/upper-east-side/residents-not-buying-city-claims-ofodorless-dump-at-e-91st-street

Debbie Teitelbaum and Dave Kleckner Co-chairs Environment and Sanitation Committee

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