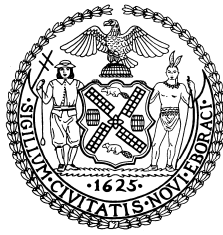


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

**ZONING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 21, 2013- 6:30pm
Lenox Hill Hospital, Robert Carmel Conference Room

Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Michele Birnbaum, Ed Hartzog, Larry Parnes, Marco Tamayo, Teri Slater (Co-Chair), Elaine Walsh (Co-Chair)

1- Report on findings of community survey of illegal signage:

Danielle Dowler, Community Planning Fellow Report on Signage: Report included brief summary of signage violations within the Carnegie Hill/Yorkville neighborhoods. The report included data from the NYC Department of Buildings and mapped the locations where signage violations are current. Concern was raised re: Illuminated signs, signage exceeding the 12" height, over use of space allowed and banners exceeding the 18" regulation from the building. Ms. Dowler will complete the report to include exact locations with names of businesses by doing a walking survey. The report is expected within two weeks.

2-POPS continued discussion: Discussion of Privately owned Public Plazas (POPS)

Melissa Cerezo, NYC, Department of City Planning participated in a discussion with the committee and the public regarding the finds of the POPS survey. Issues raised included process for buildings requesting to have night time closing due to public safety issues. This would have to take into account the need and the barriers that would be put in place to close the POPS. All applications would need to go through the ULURP process and if there was a request for an early closing the building would need to provide an improvement to the site. Each building would be reviewed on a case by case basis and would be presented to the Commissioner. There was discussion as to why given the cost to hire a lawyer and architect. This process is a land use application and thus falls under the ULURP regulations. The public and the committee asked her to explore what other options might be available to help buildings. It was hoped that a simpler process could be possible. Currently POPS are no longer allowed in a residential community due to incompatibility with the residential nature of the area, except for Community Facilities that are requesting additional FAR whether for height or increased floor plate.

Discussion continued regarding the MTA easement in relationship to the POPS –in those areas that they have commandeered for the second avenue subway project. NYS is responsible for returning those sites to a POPS. There will be no review by the community or NYC.

Ms. Cerezo will follow up with the NYC Department of Buildings and if necessary other City agencies to identify if the 20 identified areas identified initially as POPS followed through with their application.

3- Update on Illegal Signage

The NYC Department of Buildings has not informed us of any enforcement actions on the list of illegal signage that they were provided by CB#8 and community groups. Request made to obtain status of enforcement activities by DOB.

4- Old Business—Short Report on Commercial Street Vendors in Residential Districts (discussion had been held at the Street Vendor Committee meeting)

There was concern raised that the proliferation of vendors in residential areas could be incompatible with zoning regulations. Discussion focused zoning envelop and the street line of buildings. Questions were raised regarding building owner responsibility for keeping their sidewalks clean to 18” into the street and for the care and maintenance of the sidewalk. If they have these responsibilities how is it that the vendor can just use space in front of their residences or establishments? There is a question of the definition of zoning districts is adequate – what are the options.

As there was no new business meeting was adjourned.