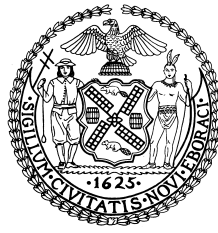


**James G. Clynes**  
Chairman

**Latha Thompson**  
District Manager



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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**

**FULL BOARD MEETING**

**The Ramaz School**  
**125 East 85<sup>th</sup> Street (Lexington-Park)**  
**Heyman Auditorium**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**  
**6:30PM**

**Community Board Members Present:** Elizabeth Ashby, Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Matthew Bondy, Lori Ann Bores, Loraine Brown, Alida Camp, Barbara Chocky, Sarah Chu, James Clynes, Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, A. Scott Falk, Edward Hartzog, Sophia James, Lorraine Johnson, Allison Kopf, Craig Lader, Katherine LaGuardia, David Liston, Jacqueline Ludorf, Zoe Markowitz, David Menegon, Glen Pandolfino, Jane Parshall, Peter Patch, Ellen Polivy, Rita Lee Popper, Margaret Price, Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa, David Rosenstein, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, William Sanchez, M. Barry Schneider, Cos Spagnoletti, Marco Tamayo, Debra Teitelbaum, Carolina Tejo, Elaine Walsh, Charles Warren, Hedi White

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Albert Barrueco, Christina Davis, Andrew Kalloch, Laurence Parnes, Sharon Pope, Nicholas Viest

**Community Board Members (Unexcused):** Jeffrey Escobar, David Helpern

**Total Attendance: 42**

**Chairman James G. Clynes called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.**

**1. Public Session** – Those who wish to speak during the Public Session must register to do so by 6:45 pm

- **Presentation by Brian McCullough on the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board**
- **Presentation by Jessica Fiorillo, the Office of the City Clerk on the Amnesty Program**

**2. Adoption of the Agenda** – Agenda adopted.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes** – October 21, 2015 Full Board meeting minutes adopted.

**4. Committee Reports and Action Items:**

**a. Transportation Committee – A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren, Co-Chairs**

**Re: Discussion of possible elimination of left turn and split signal phase for northbound traffic on York Avenue at 79th Street**

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 wishes to improve safety at the intersection of 79th Street & York Avenue, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 urges the Department of Transportation to eliminate the dedicated left-turn arrow for northbound traffic on York Avenue, and to restore the pedestrian crossing signals at that intersection to typical operation.

**Manhattan Community Board 8 passed the resolution to approve by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**Re: A request for a new Revocable Consent to install a snowmelt system at 785 Madison Avenue.**  
**(Requested by DOT, Division of Franchises, Concessions and Consents)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 approves the request by 785 Madison Trevi LLC for a revocable consent to install a snowmelt system at 785 Madison Avenue.

**Manhattan Community Board 8 passed the resolution to approve by a vote of 35 in favor, 6 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**Re: A request for a new Revocable Consent to install planters at 785 Fifth Avenue. (Requested by DOT, Division of Franchises, Concessions and Consents)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 approves the request by Fifth Avenue and 60th Street Corp. for a revocable consent to install planters at 785 Fifth Avenue.

**Manhattan Community Board 8 passed the resolution to approve by a vote of 38 in favor, 3 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**b. Landmarks Committee – David Helpern and Jane Parshall, Co-Chairs**

**Re: 781 Fifth Avenue (Sherry Netherland Hotel, NE corner 5th Avenue and 59th Street) – Upper East Side Historic District - David C. Acheson, Architect. Application is for installation of planters.**

**WHEREAS** 781 Fifth Avenue is a neo-Romanesque and neo-Gothic apartment hotel designed by Schultze & Weaver with Buchman & Kahn and constructed in 1926-27.

**WHEREAS** the sidewalk in front of the hotel is 22' wide and is a barren space except for clock; a vault under the sidewalk prevents any in ground plantings.

**WHEREAS** to add a modulation of greenway between 5th Avenue and the front elevation of the Sherry Netherland, the applicant proposes 7 removable concrete planters along the sidewalk along the face of the 5th Avenue façade and 4 smaller planters under the existing entrance awning.

**WHEREAS** the streetside planters will be set 1'6" from the curb {the width from the curb to the center of the planter will be approx. 2'} and will measure 30" high x 2'8" wide x 4' long and planted with boxwood [including plantings the overall height of the planters will be approx. 4'6"].

**WHEREAS** the 7 planters will be 3' apart along 5th Avenue to formulate a rhythm along the street.

**WHEREAS** the smaller planters acknowledging the existing entrance awning will be approximately 2 feet square with the other dimensions remaining the same.

**WHEREAS** the planters are contextual and appropriate within the historic district.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this application is approved as presented.

**Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted this recommendation by a vote of 39 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention, and 0 not voting for cause.**

**Re: 125 East 78th Street-between Park and Lexington Avenues)-Upper East Side Historic District -*Stephen Wang, Architect*. Application for a townhouse renovation.**

**This application was considered and voted on in two parts.**

**Part A- Front of the House**

**WHEREAS** 125 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street is to be converted back to a single family residence from two apartments and a shop;

**WHEREAS** the original four stories of the brownstone are to be restored, exclusive of the original stoop but with the original cornice intact;

**WHEREAS** the main entrance on the ground floor is to be maintained and restored, the second door to the former shop is to be replaced with a wood window to match the original ground floor windows, and the existing window is to be replaced with a wood window to match the original ground floor windows;

**WHEREAS** the windows in the three bay arrangement of the second, third, and fourth floors are to be replaced with wood windows to match the original windows;

**WHEREAS** the wood windows are to be painted black;

**WHEREAS** the fifth floor, which was an addition and which is set back from the front façade, is to be extended towards the front façade;

**WHEREAS** the façade of the enlarged fifth floor is to be brick to match the existing brick of the fifth floor facades;

**WHEREAS** the windows on the front of the enlarged fifth floor are to match the new windows on the rear façade;

**WHEREAS** the mechanical equipment on the roof is to be reconfigured and replaced with new equipment that is slightly higher than the existing mechanical equipment;

**WHEREAS** the new elevator will stop on the fourth floor so that the elevator over-run and penthouse will not rise above the top of the stair enclosure to the roof;  
**WHEREAS** the roof is 53'-5" high and the stair bulkhead is 9'-4" above the roof, making the overall height to the top of the bulkhead 62'-9";  
**WHEREAS** the new façade of the fifth floor and the mechanical equipment are not visible from the street;  
**WHEREAS** the front of the house is appropriate and contextual within the historic district;  
**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the front of the house is approved as presented.  
**Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted this recommendation by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.**

### **Part B- Rear of the House**

**WHEREAS** the first four floors of the house will be extended 13'-8" to the rear, leaving a 30 foot deep rear yard in compliance with the Zoning Resolution;  
**WHEREAS** the bay window on the second floor, which is not original, will be demolished;  
**WHEREAS** the top of the fourth floor will become a rear terrace;  
**WHEREAS** the façade of the fifth floor will be restored with brick to match existing;  
**WHEREAS** the rear yard will be lowered to match the level of the rear yard to the east;  
**WHEREAS** the cellar will be extended beyond the rear face of the building to create a light well in which a spiral stair will provide a connection between the cellar and the rear yard;  
**WHEREAS** the four enlarged floors in the rear will be framed with brick piers on either side, with brick spandrel panels on the second and third floors, and a brick fascia on the fourth floor;  
**WHEREAS** the brick will match the original brick of the fifth floor addition;  
**WHEREAS** the house is about 18'-9" wide and the width between the brick piers is about 13 feet;  
**WHEREAS** the windows between the piers are subdivided into four panels of the lift and slide type, each about 39 inches wide;  
**WHEREAS** the windows will have 2 1/8" steel frames with a patinated bronze finish;  
**WHEREAS** the windows on the first and second floors are designed to read as a double height space, with a metal transom above the 7'-6" high windows on the first floor;  
**WHEREAS** the windows on the second floor are 9'-6" high with a glass transom above;  
**WHEREAS** the windows on the third and fourth floors are 9'-0" high;  
**WHEREAS** the window openings are designed as "Juliette Balconies" with clear glass railings directly in front of the lift and slide windows;  
**WHEREAS** the second floor has a cantilevered balcony and stair that leads down to the garden;  
**WHEREAS** the middle window of the fifth floor, rear façade will be converted to a glass door;  
**WHEREAS** the windows on either side of the door will be double hung;  
**WHEREAS** the door and windows will have steel frames with a patinated bronze finish to match the windows below;  
**WHEREAS** the terrace and the roof will have metal railings with vertical bars;  
**WHEREAS** the large glass areas open up the house to the garden;  
**WHEREAS** the rear façade is a modern design with elegant glazing details;  
**WHEREAS** the front and rear facades are seen independently of one another;  
**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the rear of the house is approved as presented.  
**Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted this recommendation by a vote of 24 in favor, 8 opposed, 10 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.**

**Re: 46 East 66th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues) – Upper East Side Historic District – Charles Platt, architect; Rhonda Wist, Wist Preservation Associates, presenting. Application is to install a metal fence.**

**WHEREAS** 46 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street was originally designed in the neo-Grec manner by J. H. Valentine and constructed in 1877-78; in 1919, Mott Schmidt replaced the existing front elevation with a neo-Georgian façade.  
**WHEREAS** the Republic of Senegal purchased the residence in 1983; in 2013 it was sold to a developer. It has now been converted back to a single family house.  
**WHEREAS** all restoration work on the property has been approved at the staff level at the Landmarks Preservation Commission.  
**WHEREAS** the application before us is for a fence to provide separation and a buffer from the street to the house.

**WHEREAS** the proposed fence would be 4' high set onto a 2" limestone base and would extend out 3' into the sidewalk. At the corners there would be decorative balls that raise the overall height to 4'2".

**WHEREAS** the fence will be made of bronze; over time the bronze color will turn into a soft gray-green color.

**WHEREAS** the Charles Platt design for the fence, inspired by the Mott Schmidt designed fence at 15 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street, is very simple and doesn't distract from the elegant architecture of the house with its spectacular Georgian entrance.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this application is approved as presented.

**Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted this recommendation by a vote of 34 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.**

## **5. Manhattan Borough President's Report**

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer reported on her latest initiatives. She announced that all Community Board applications were due on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, on January 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a Solid Waste Advisory Board meeting. February 12<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline for capital money for schools, parks, and art institutions. She spoke on the issue of after-hours work permits for construction which is a problem all over Manhattan. She is trying to come up with legislation because there is a concern that the community is losing many grocery stores because of their own constraints and high rents. She is also working on the helicopter issue. The homeless issue is another big concern and they are working towards solutions to get the homeless off the streets. She stated that she will be working with faith-based organizations on the homeless issue. She announced that there will be new phone booth that will be a current device. In terms of the zoning issue, she looks forward to hearing more on Zoning for Quality and Affordability. She spoke on the domain issues for non-profits. She also mentioned that there is a new council for young people that will get youth to participate more fully in community advocacy.

## **6. Elected Officials' Reports**

Laura Atlas, a representative from Public Advocate Letitia James' office, spoke on her latest initiatives.

Shelby Garner, a representative from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's office, spoke on her latest initiatives.

Gregory Meyer, a representative from NYS Senator Jose Serrano's office, spoke on his latest initiatives.

Cali Madia, a representative from Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's office, spoke on her latest initiatives.

Council Member Ben Kallos spoke on his latest initiatives. He invited everyone to attend his first Friday meetings in his office. The meetings offer legal clinics, and act as discussion groups to address issues such as domestic violence as well as serving as a forum to share what's going on with the community. He urged the current board members to reapply for community board membership. He is working on legislation to try to improve the quality of life and to track down affordable housing. He is also working on legislation for automatic benefits that will cut-out the bureaucracy of paperwork when people re-apply for government benefits. He is working on the homeless issue along with Borough President Gale Brewer. He spoke on the Participatory Budget and urged everyone to participate on how the budget is spent. He announced that the upper-east-side is in great need of Pre-K seats. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer spoke on his latest initiatives. He thanked the Community Board for being the voice for the community. He spoke on his audit on homeless shelters which houses so many of our City's children. The audit uncovered that many of these homeless facilities have serious security and building code violations. Since the report and analysis of this information he has gotten the City's leaders to work on addressing these serious issues. The Comptroller is going to continue to monitor the homeless situation and he will visit some of the shelters. He also spoke on the smoke (e-cigarette) shops that are proliferating in our community and are advertising these smoking products to target children. He is also looking at the Second Avenue Subway project and the MTA's high costs of tax payer money for the completion of the project. He is very concerned at the discriminatory way that the MTA has cut-off the Second Avenue Subway construction project funding to the East Harlem community who expected to benefit from this project.

Will Brightbill, a representative from Daniel Garodnick's office, spoke on his latest initiatives.

## **7. District Manager's Report – Latha Thompson**

Latha Thompson did not have anything to report.

## **8. Chair's Report – Jim Clynes**

Chairman Jim Clynes gave his report. He happily announced that board member Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa had a baby boy, named Victor Thomas Figueroa. He also announced the resignation of board member Hedi White and notified the board members that this would be Hedi's last meeting. Hedi served for 35 years as a board member, she also served as a former Chair of Community Board 8, and currently was the Chair of the Rules &

Bylaws Committee and Co-Chair of the Street Fair Committee. Jim thanked Hedi for her many years of service to the board and the community and she was given a big round of applause by the board members and community.

**9. Old Business**

No old business.

**10. New Business**

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

**James G. Clynes, Chairman**