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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee
Wednesday, November 30, 2022 - 6:30 PM
This meeting was conducted via Zoom**

Board Members Present : Mohit Agrawal, Vanessa Aronson, Michele Birnbaum, Taína Borrero, Ed Hartzog, Addeson Lehv, John Philips, Judy Schneider, Rami Sigal, Marco Tamayo

1. Status Update about the Knickerbocker Greys' use of space within the Seventh Regiment Armory

- a. Co-Chair Taína Borrero restated the committee's support of the Knickerbocker Greys, citing a [resolution passed at the April 2022 committee](#) meeting (which was subsequently passed by the Full Board at its May meeting) to "urge the State of New York to work with the Conservancy to reach a resolution that allows the Greys to remain in the Armory by providing official documentation supporting the Greys' use of space in the Armory immediately; as well as engaging in a conversation about a longer-term solution, including the possibility of allowing the Greys to enter a long-term lease directly with the State"
- b. Co-Chair Borrero also displayed a [letter dated November 22, 2022](#) from the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs that the Armory forwarded to the committee. Stating that "the Conservancy's 99-year lease is a valid contract enforceable under New York State law...[and] creates no obligation to provide access or space to the Greys."
- c. COL David Menegon, 11th Commandant of the Knickerbocker Greys, gave an update on the situation, including an overview of the eviction lawsuit brought on the Greys by the Conservancy and the news that State Senator Liz Krueger is considering introducing a bill that would revise the armory lease to prevent the conservancy from displacing the Greys. He also shared disappointment in what he perceived to be the Conservancy's unwillingness to negotiate with the Greys, despite the Greys' support from the community and CB8.
- d. COL Menegon also described a series of recent interactions that the Greys had with the Conservancy in which he considered the Conservancy to be acting in a hostile manner, including barring cadets from entering the building during a public event on Memorial Day.
- e. Howard Rogatnick, Knickerbocker Greys Father and Spouse of Adrienne Rogatnick, Knickerbocker Greys Board President, described informal proposals to the Greys from the Conservancy that offered to find alternative space for the Greys, but did not consider any concessions that would maintain any access beyond use for an annual event.
- f. Discussion and Comments from the public and the board related to the below topics
 - i. Questioning the validity of Conservancy claims that the Knickerbocker Greys' eviction is necessary for accessibility or lack of space
 - ii. The presence of the Greys as an asset in maintaining the military character of the building, which is one of the stipulations of the Conservancy's lease with the State.

- iii. Past behavior by the Armory that was perceived as disrespectful and prejudiced toward veteran's groups.
 - iv. Concerns regarding the Conservancy's finances and expenditures.
 - g. A resolution urging that the Greys be formally granted a lease directly with the State to stay at the Armory in perpetuity, the Conservancy be denied any State or City funds, and that the Attorney General conduct an investigation of the Conservancy's restoration expenditures was raised and discussed by board members, but ultimately failed 6-4.
 - h. The co-chairs committed to resend a letter to the Governor's office reaffirming the Board's support for the Knickerbocker Greys.
- 2. Old Business – No old business was raised
 - 3. New Business – No new business was raised
 - 4. The co-chairs made the following announcements about upcoming committee meetings
 - a. December – Meeting will be canceled
 - b. January 25th – The Committee will host a joint meeting with the Women and Families Committee on Council Member Julie Menin's recently passed legislative package on universal childcare.
 - c. February 23d – Meeting will focus on public-private partnerships in CB8 schools.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM

Vanessa Aronson and Taína Borrero, Co-Chairs