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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee**
Wednesday, January 4, 2022 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 2: Placard Abuse (unanimous)

Minutes

Present: Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Paul Krikler, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, John McClement, John Phillips, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Rita Popper, Elizabeth Rose, Judy Schneider, Charles Warren, Peter Borock (public member), Stephanie Reckler (public member)

Absent (Excused): Rebecca Lamorte

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

Item 1: Update from 1536 3rd Avenue Chick-Fil-A

At the December 2021 Transportation Committee meeting, there was an extensive discussion about safety and congestion concerns resulting from double parking and bike delivery activity in front of the Chick-Fil-A restaurant located at 1536 3rd Avenue. Jared Caldwell, who met with the Committee in December 2021 to try to address the issues raised, requested a follow-up discussion in which he provided updates on the situation and actions he took to address the issues that had been occurring.

Mr. Caldwell explained that when he met with the Committee previously, he had been using barricades to try to keep bikes out of the traffic, which he removed earlier this year and believes resulted in a bit more organization into how delivery people picking up food on bikes is taking place. His team worked with the 3rd party food delivery companies to get them to transmit orders more quickly so the food is ready when drivers arrive and they can get in and out quickly, which has produced faster turnaround times. He also indicated that past social distancing procedures included bringing orders out to the sidewalk, but such practices have ended and now require pick-ups to occur inside, which has further reduced activity outside. Mr. Caldwell acknowledged that there is still illegal parking and stopping occurring, and he is focused on trying to reduce this activity. He also noted that NYPD's 19th Precinct has been conducting enforcement at times, but as soon as the area is cleared Mr. Caldwell observes e-commerce trucks illegally parking in that that area and conducting warehousing activity.

Mr. Caldwell indicated that he has submitted a request to NYCDOT for a bike corral; Colleen Chattergoon, NYCDOT Senior Planner and liaison to CB8, stated that NYCDOT is working on the request, but the process has been slow since they have been inundated with requests. Ms. Chattergoon indicated she would discuss making progress on this issue with the appropriate people at DOT.

Item 2: Continuation of Discussion on How to Address Parking Placard Abuse

In November 2022, the Committee began revisiting the issue of Parking Placard Abuse, which it had previously discussed comprehensively in 2019 and 2021. One of the Committee Co-Chairs reviewed the past outcomes of these discussions, which included multiple resolutions. Following the 2019 discussion, there was significant action taken the City Council in 2019, resulting in the following pertinent laws that required the following:

- Creation of a centralized electronic system to track all city-issued parking permits and to record all summonses issued that would allow NYPD to verify in real time the validity of city-issued parking permits (law became effective 12/31/21);
- Automatic revocation of placard permits from individuals guilty of 3 or more violations or unpaid violations (law became effective 4/2/20);
- Semi-annual reporting by NYPD on improper use of city-issued parking permits;
- Development of plans by each NYC agency making use of city-issued parking permits regarding the distribution and use of city-issued parking permits by such agency by December 1, 2020
- Semi-annual reporting by the NYPD on improper use of city-issued permits during the preceding 6 months, starting as of June 30, 2020;
- Issuance of a report by 9/30/20 by NYPD summarizing weekly evaluations of improper placard use in which they would need to assess at least 25 blocks per week over the course of 6 months;
- Ability for the public to submit complaints regarding illegal use of a parking permit, with the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) implementing and allowing this to occur through 311 phone calls and website submittals (law became effective (1/2/20);
- Creation of a standardized application process for city-issued parking permits, and permits only being allowed to be issued by NYCDOT, DOE, and NYPD (law became effective 4/2/20).

In 2021, following little to no measurable progress and subsequent funding cuts to parking placard enforcement, the Committee and CB8M passed a follow-up resolution calling for further action and providing funding to accomplish the following:

1. Assign Traffic Enforcement, as a special division of the NYPD, as the sole parking placard enforcing agency;
2. Restore the \$5.4 million annual budget for the dedicated parking placard enforcement unit that was cut in 2020;
3. Immediately initiate the process of retiring all agency-issued placards and require all holders to reapply for a digital placard with a digital identifier that can be verified by enforcement agents using handheld devices;
4. Assess the number of agency permits and specific reasons for them being issued, and reduce the number of placards that are issued to city agencies, doctors, clergy and the media.

Much of the discussion continued to focus around the lack of enforcement performed by NYPD, the ongoing proliferation of fake placards and the separate need to rid the city of those as opposed to those placards that are issued in an official capacity by NYC, the failure of the City to fulfill the requirements of the laws that went into effect over the past 3 years, and the lack of movement on the recommendations that were put forward in CB8M's 2021 resolution. Colleen Chattergoon said she would ask her intergovernmental colleagues if there has been any movement on any of the initiatives, or if there are other efforts that are being worked on. There was further discussion about the use of self-enforcement zones around police precincts, the policies regarding distributions of placards to teachers, and rules for parking by vehicles with MD or DDS license plates.

The following resolution was then put forward by Community Board 8:

WHEREAS; parking placard abuse continues to be extremely problematic across Community District 8, especially in certain areas such as near hospitals; and

WHEREAS; continued insufficient funding for parking placard enforcement and limited staffing for traffic enforcement to expand their duties limits the extent to which parking placard enforcement activities can occur; and

WHEREAS; New York City passed a package of laws in 2019 intended to address parking placard abuse and illegal use; and

WHEREAS; the laws passed in 2019 regarding parking placards that are now in effect have yielded little to no public benefits due to insufficient funding and delays in accomplishing mandated actions, including the development of electronic databases that would allow tracking and enforcement activities to be easier to be performed;

WHEREAS; city agencies need to do a better job of accomplishing legally mandated requirements in regards to parking placard abuse; and

WHEREAS; deployment of electronic tracking systems would enable parking enforcement agents to perform enforcement of parking placard use as part of their daily duties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on New York City government agencies to put into effect protocols to enforce parking placard laws that already exist using an electronic method of enforcement that is linked to a centralized electronic database of placards that would allow agents to scan a placard and immediately identify whether the placard is legal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that parking enforcement agents that write tickets for parking meter violations be empowered and authorized to lead enforcement of illegal use of parking placards and identification of fake placards.

Yes (13+2): Birnbaum, Bores, Camp, Dangoor, Freeland, Krikler, Lader, Phillips, Pope-Marshall, Popper, Rose, Schneider, Warren, Borock (public member), Reckler (public member)

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Item 3: Request for Additional Traffic Control Agents at Congested Intersections near the Queensboro Bridge

Transportation Committee member Judy Schneider requested that the Committee discuss the need for more traffic control agents to be deployed to various intersections near approaches and exits to the Queensboro Bridge. She described the frequent congestion occurring along 2nd Avenue approaching the bridge, on 3rd Avenue approaching 59th Street, and 62nd and 63rd Streets where inbound upper roadway traffic exits; congestion at the FDR entrance/exits at 62nd and 63rd Street on York Ave., which has been exacerbated by ongoing water main construction, is also largely a result of traffic coming off of the bridge. She noted that there are currently only two traffic control agents assigned that now work on 2nd Ave., but that number is insufficient as traffic has rebounded in the post-pandemic period. It was also noted that there was discussion at Community Board 8's Congestion Pricing Task Force as to how the Environmental Assessment (EA) performed for the Central Business District Tolling Plan indicated that there may be increases in congestion in Community District 8 near the Queensboro Bridge, and that the modeling done for the EA assumed that upper level roadway exits at 62nd and 63rd Street would not be tolled. Such a scenario would potentially contribute to additional traffic in these areas, and to the need for more traffic control agents.

As Colleen Chattergoon noted, that the NYPD is responsible for deploying and assigning traffic control agents; the committee agreed that it would be helpful if NYPD, NYCDOT and CB8M coordinated to discuss the issue. Ms. Chattergoon said she would work to organize such a meeting.

Item 4: Proposed changes to parking regulations at the cul-de-sacs East of East End Avenue from No Parking to No Standing

Following a brief discussion, it was determined that this item should not be discussed without notices of the discussion being posted along the affected blocks. As a result, this item was deferred to February.

Item 5: NYCDOT Updates

Colleen Chattergoon reported that NYCDOT is developing their milling and paving schedule for 2023 and asked that anyone who wishes to submit any requests for streets requiring such work to be provided to Community Board 8 Manhattan District Manager Will Brightbill.

Item 6: Old and New Business

The following old and new business items were brought up by CB8 members:

- A member requested the committee look into regulation of e-bikes/scooters;
- A member thanked Colleen Chattergoon and NYCDOT for their quick action to replace a traffic signal that was damaged at the intersection of 71st Street and 1st Avenue
- A member requested that representatives from Fairway Market at 240 East 86th Street be invited to a future Committee meeting to discuss conditions outside the store as a follow-up to prior discussions held in 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Warren & Craig Lader, Co-Chairs