

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2024

Chair: Ethan Norville; Vice Chair: Felice Robertson; Secretary: Paco Abraham

Attendance (Board Members): Ethan Norville; Felice Robertson; Benny Rosenberger;

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Paco Abraham; Calista DeJesus; Valerie Fleming; Andrew Magnus

Absent (Board Members): Raphaella Godoy; Yaakov Pearson

Absent (Community Resident Members): Jeffrey Grannum

Guests: Owner of Taqueria El Patron Mexican Grill, Fred Baptiste (Ex-Officio)

- I. Welcome/Greetings**
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 7:11pm, 9/11/24
- II. Election of committee officers:** Vice Chair and Secretary
 - i. Both running unopposed & both approved by unanimous consent, the 2024-2025 session's Vice Chair will be Felice Robertson and the Secretary will be Paco Abraham
- III. Street Co-Naming — Lubavitcher Rebbe Way**
 - a. Presentation by Yaakov Behrman, longtime CB9 member and resident and a liaison for Chabad Headquarters.
 - i. The Lubavitcher Rebbe lived on President St between NY & Brooklyn Avenues. He passed away in 1994, so to mark the 30th anniversary of his passing this year, many in the community wanted to have his home's street given a co-naming to honor his legacy.
 - ii. 20% of Crown Heights follows Chabad and the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe so this would have strong meaning for many locals. He was also a leader during crown heights riots, so his name is known also by locals that do not follow Chabad teachings.
 - iii. Rabbi Behrman offered letters of support from local elected leaders including CM Hudson, AM Cunningham, BP Reynoso and many local residents.
 - iv. A Co-naming was never presented before as an idea. It is being requested now because the City Council only votes on it twice a year and they'd rather not wait months till the next one and miss the 30th anniversary of his death. Naming multiple streets or a full avenue could be more complicated so the request is a straightforward, single street co-naming for simplicity.

- v. Valerie Fleming asked why not use the Rebbe's actual name? He is known throughout the world as the Lubavitcher Rebbe so that is what Rabbi Behrman proposed.
- vi. Andrew Magnus asked if anything else was named for him in NYC. Rabbi Behrman did not think so but also said it is on DOT to vet.
- vii. Felice Robertson **motions to approve** the application for a co-naming as presented.
 1. Benny Rosenberger seconds the motion
 2. **Motion passes by unanimous consent.**

IV. Unfinished Business

- a. Incorporating Bike Lane Feedback
 - i. Chairman Norville allows a free-flowing discussion on the June presentation by DOT of a bike lane & pedestrian safety plan for Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. Committee weighs in with assorted comments noting both pros (more safety) and cons (parking loss and concerns about greater congestion). He suggested the earliest a DOT plan might be implemented would be spring of 2025. Valerie noted we've had some population loss in NYC and also a swell of new delivery uses, so those numbers ought to be taken into account.
 - ii. Chairman Norville recaps feedback from an online session CB9 held on the proposal, in which people noted...
 1. Kingston corridor congestion
 2. extreme congestion during school times 7-9, 3&5
 3. Commercial deliveries - need street parking availability for that
 4. People want more DOT engagement
 5. overall concern about vehicle parking spaces
- b. Bike Lane Feedback Session Planning
 - i. Chairman Norville suggested the next feedback session will be a walk-in district, likely along Brooklyn/ Kingston or some part of it. He will check holiday calendars before setting a date but perhaps it could be late September or soon thereafter.

V. New Business

- a. Andrew Magnus asked if old topics could become new business... in particular the lack of DOT updates about the Ocean Avenue bike lane slated along the Prospect Park perimeter. He also asked about a redesign of Lincoln Road between Ocean and Flatbush. Chairman Norville suggested we do a walk on that one block stretch as well.
- b. Paco Abraham noted he'd like the committee to focus on pedestrian safety in the new CB year. He pointed out how they are the least discussed in our committee but typically the most injured.
 - i. Since the Transportation committee met last September there have already been 180 injuries because of vehicle collisions reported within CB9. 97%

of those were to pedestrians or cyclists, rather than drivers or vehicle passengers.

- ii. Using the same data source, Paco noted he found records looking as far as back as 2011. In that time, there have been 3003 injuries because of vehicle collisions reported within CB9. 95% of those were to pedestrians or cyclists, rather than drivers or vehicle passengers.

VI. Adjourn

- a. MOTION - Felice Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 8:50p. Calista DeJesus seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous consent**