

Transcript of BPCA Community Meeting 11.14.17

BJ Jones: Hi everybody, we're gonna get started in about 60 seconds. Take your seats and we'll get started. OK thanks for coming out everybody. My name is BJ Jones, I'm the acting president of the Battery Park City Authority while, um, the search continues for a president. And the timing on that is still TBD. But for at least the next two hours, I'm here, so I'll be guiding us through this presentation. We changed the order just a little bit from what we posted earlier today. The NYPD has an event tonight, and in hopes that they might join us for the security discussion, though that's unlikely, we've moved it to the end. And we'll move forward on the other agenda items first. We're gonna do things a little bit differently today. We have three main buckets that we're going to speak to. And between each segment, we're going to have time for public comment on those particular areas, in hopes of, you know, getting as much feedback as possible from all of you. And also helping with that, we have Francis, one of our new Parks Programming team members, who's in the back, and is equipped with a cordless microphone. So we will-- if you raise your hand-- when it's time for questions, we will let you know. Raise your hand, and we will make our way to you with the cordless microphone, so that you don't have to line up at the front. But if you do feel compelled to come to the front, by all means. So, we've got a bunch of staff members who are here also to hear your-- your feedback. Everybody who works for the Authority and Parks, raise your hand. So, um, it's important to us to continue doing this and hear what you have to say. If you have any questions, you know, after this presentation, you know, continue to stay in touch with us. I did want to point out our newest employee at the Authority. Pam Frederick-- please stand, Pam-- who's our new CFO. (applause) Pam's our new CFO, we're really happy to have her here. It's just in time for our financial-- our annual financial audit, and all of the required state reporting that has to happen. So, Pam is going to be in a great position at our next meeting to give all of you a financial update on the Authority, and-- and talk about our budget, and our financing, and-- bonds and all of that. So, she's already started doing her homework. She started doing it before she got here. So, that's going to be kind of her introduction to the Authority, is to be a headliner at our next public meeting. Um... Just a reminder, as I was saying, that you know, we have these community meetings every few months. But we don't want you to wait to get in touch with us if you have a question or you have an issue that's important to you. You know, this info, email, is our contact address, and the gentleman behind me, Nick Sbordone, who all of you probably know, is also standing by at this telephone number, 212-417-3194. So, in the meantime, if you ever have any questions or concerns, compliments even, uh, please let Nick know and contact us, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. We also participate in as many public meetings as we can in between these sessions too. In addition to our board meetings, Nick attends the community board meetings, the Battery Park City Committee meetings, the, uh, NYPD Security Council First Precinct meetings. And we have provided copies at the front table of our updates to some of those committee meetings that also give you a little bit more detail about what we've been talking about since we've conducted this last session here at Six River Terrace. So, feel free to take any of those materials home with you. If you prefer an electronic copy, email us or call this gentleman here, and he'll send you a copy to you, or point you to the link online where you can get that. So, um... Yeah, oh, we have a-- yeah?

Man: The lighting's a little funny in here. So, that was info@bpca.ny.org? I thought...

BJ Jones: Dot-ny-dot-gov.

Man: Dot-ny?

BJ Jones: Dot-ny-dot-gov, yep, yep. Info.bpc@bpca.ny.gov. Thanks.

Man: Thank you, sir.

BJ Jones: Yeah, no problem. Okay, so we're gonna start with a set of updates on-- on our capital projects, particularly relating to resiliency, but also a few other things that we're going-- we have going on here. So, Gwen's gonna lead us with that, and then we'll take time for questions on this segment. So, take it away, Gwen.

Gwen: Good evening. Can everyone hear me? I'm Gwen Dawson, I'm the Vice President of Real Property at the Authority, and I'm gonna do-- I'm gonna actually take the liberty of jumping ahead a couple of slides, and give you an update of what we've completed first, and then talk about our-- our resiliency updates. One more, there we go. Um, just to... just to update you on some of the things that we've recently completed, or things that are currently underway, we'll run down a quick list. We have new tree plantings in Battery Park City. We have 30 trees already planted with two more to go. We have begun our fit out of the 200 Rector property, the place where we'll have our security outpost, as well as some space for community meetings, and for senior meetings, and some additional auxiliary office space for the Authority and the-- the construction contractors that we have. We have finished the Irish Hunger Memorial, waterproofing and leak remediation, and we're very, very happy about that. We think it looks great. We're very happy with-- with the quality of that work. The Police Memorial Electric Vault construction has been completed. We have moved up all of the electrical equipment that powers the police memorial and a portion of the marina to above the-- to above the 500-year flood plain, so that we will not have damage in the event of a future storm. We have finished the Battery Park City Pile Remediation, Phase Five, the Caisson repair. I say phase five, because this is a multi-year, multi-phase project that is intended to maintain the repair of the piles that support the Esplanade. And we have completed five, and we'll doing phase six this next year. We completed the North Timber Piles Project. We had some-- some... unevenness that was starting to creep into the Esplanade on the North side. We have that repaired now. We have also repainted the North neighborhood crosswalks, which I know is something that some of the community members were concerned about. So, that's been completed. And we've put new padding in at the Battery Park City ball fields. There's some other projects that we've also completed-- the South grid electrical rewiring, the asphalt granite remediation, some of the new planter rails around the tree pits. But this gives you a-- a good sense of what we've been doing this past year. So, if we can go back now. I know that a lot of you are very interested in what we're doing as far as resiliency goes. And we

have been focused on that for some time now, and are now entering into a new phase of our planning for resiliency at Battery Park City. We are in the process of preparing two additional RFPs to go out-- request for proposals for detail, design, and engineering for a couple of different components of our overall resiliency program, the first being the Battery Park City ball fields, which many of you will recall, we had-- we suffered a great deal of damage in Superstorm Sandy at the ball fields. And so, that's one of our priority areas, and we anticipate having a, um... an RFP for that work to create a, essentially, flood wall, a permanent flood wall that has some deployable elements in it as well to protect the ball fields in the face of any future storms or flooding. That should be on the street by the end of this year. And shortly after that, we will be looking to release an RFP for the resiliency component that addresses the Northern part of Battery Park City, which is one of our most vulnerable parts, and that is the area adjacent to and behind Stuyvesant High School, and that's where a lot of the-- the weakness we have here, and the damage that we suffered here was from waters that came in that area and down West Street. We are looking to also release an RFP to design protection in that area around the end of this year or early part of next year.

Man: You ready?

Gwen Dawson: Yes. We have already issued an RFP for the Southern Neighborhood Resiliency Plan, and that covers the area from the Museum of Jewish Heritage, east across the Pier A Plaza, Wagner Park, and over to the intersection of State and Battery Place. So, we have-- we've received proposals. We're now in the process of evaluating the proposals. We will anticipate beginning that work, that design work, early-- in the early part of 2018. And, um, we would be looking to-- to complete that in, um... late 2018 to early part of 2019, then looking at construction to start sometime mid to late 2019, if all goes well. And then, at the end, last but not least, we-- we do have an area that runs from the west side of Stuyvesant down the western perimeter of Battery Park City to the Museum of Jewish Heritage. And if any of you have seen any of the prop-- the presentations that we've previously done about the Resiliency Plan, you know that that component relies heavily on the garden walls, the park walls, and modifying those or enhancing those to create a flood barrier for that part of Battery Park City. We don't have a date yet in mind for when that will be released, but it will be coming in the next few months as well. So, we want to keep these kind of coming back to back, so that we-- we put ourselves in a good position to have an overall strategy in place as quickly as possible.

BJ Jones: Okay, thank you, Gwen. There we are. So now, we'll go to our first feedback session. So, if you have any comments or suggestions, or ideas related to Resiliency or the projects you've heard about, if you have questions to the extent-- we'll answer them to the extent we can, and if we can't, we'll-- we'll take them down and certainly get back to you. But, Francis, are you teed up with the microphone? So, if anybody has questions about this section, would you please raise your hand? We have Marianne in the front.

Marianne: Just quickly, the Police Memorial Electrical Vault?

BJ Jones: Right.

Marianne: We all know that people walk up to it thinking it's a restroom. It might be a good idea to put some kind of signage there directing them to where there are restrooms.

Gwen Dawson: We've talked about that, and we recognize that we want to make sure that we identify what-- what the area is, what's inside, so that they're not tempted to go try to open the door. In terms of signage directing them to other restrooms, are we looking at that as well?

BJ Jones: We should, yeah.

Gwen Dawson: Yeah.

Nick Sbordone: Right, we're in the process as-- Nick Sbordone, by the way, good evening, everyone. We're in the process, as I am-- as I am want to mention at every community board meeting, of doing a comprehensive kind of wayfinding initiative throughout the neighborhood. That's a little bit longer term, but in terms of directing people to other bathrooms, I think it's something we can take a look at. I think it's a question of, do we wanna instruct people what it's not, or what it is? So, maybe as a first step, it's, hey, this is electrical equipment, don't open it up. And then maybe there's a way to direct folks appropriately to the nearest washroom.

BJ Jones: Thanks, Marianne. Anybody else have a question for this section?

Bill McDuffy: I have a...

BJ Jones: Or a comment?

Bill McDuffy: I... I have a question slightly off base, and you can tell me to address it later. But while we're talking about barriers and flooding, with all that's happened in recent events...

Woman: Excuse me, if you don't use the microphone, it won't be recorded, and then if people view this later, you'll be missing.

BJ Jones: And please state your name, please. What your name.

Bill McDuffy: I'm-- I'm Bill McDuffy, I'm a resident, a father, and you know, a concerned person in the community.

Nick Sbordone: Hi, Bill.

Bill McDuffy: While we're on the topic of barriers, I understand we're on a topic of flood barriers. But you know, barriers have been put in place recently for obvious reasons. One of the concerns, and the Battery Park City Authority was actually somewhat helpful, according

the principle of 276. You had some extra materials lying around for granite blocks that you donated back to the school, and um... you know, it's very helpful that you did that. I don't know if you have any others lying around, but what was put there is not quite ad-- adequate. You know, it-- it protects about five feet of the sidewalk instead of the bigger problem. And somebody that has a car in the city, which is a rather large car, I can still fit my car between that and anything that would, you know, prevent what we're trying to prevent. So, one, I would ask that maybe, you know, we get together with yourselves and the Battery Park City Authority, find out what materials you have lying around that can be donated to the schools for that-- for that, and is there anything in place to, uh, consider barriers along? While you're trying to get these RFPs for the flooding, it's-- it's an appropriate, you know, it might be an appropriate time to ask for that to be incorporated into the proposal.

BJ Jones: Gwen, you wanna speak to the flood part and...?

Gwen Dawson: We-- we... I'll take your-- your question in several segments. We do and have-- had in our capital plan a, um, a-- a project to look at streetscape security improvements throughout Battery Park City. So, it's something that we've been thinking about for some time. That being said, we-- we do recognize that there is a heightened sense of urgency in getting some things in place right now for the near term while we go through that process. We... I know that we'll-- we're gonna get to a security discussion a little bit later, so I'll try to brief on the answer to your question. But specifically, the question about PS-276, we recognize that-- that it's-- that it's not quite comprehensive now. But what we have done, is we've put things where we-- we had jurisdiction to put things. And I have reached out to New York City DOT, and we have had conversations with NYPD. We're trying to get the okay, everybody to-- to agree as to what additional things that we can put there that-- because we-- we would have to kind of get into the sidewalk in order to achieve that. So, we're working on it, and-- I mean, we're working on it very diligently, and we expect to have a strategy for that in the next few days.

Nick Sbordone: Okay. Thank you, Bill.

BJ Jones: Any other projects related comments? Matt?

Matthew Fenton: While you're taking a look at security barriers, the one at the top of the Liberty Street ramp is, like, universally loathed by everybody who lives there. It's.... oh, I'm sorry. My name is Matthew Fenton, and everybody hates the vehicle barrier at the top of the Liberty Street ramp, which has been there for...

BJ Jones: The clam.

Nick Sbordone: The clam, sure.

Matthew Fenton: Yeah, I mean, closer to 20 years than ten. I'm thinking with all the creative work you're doing on the bike path, the work that's been done around Goldman, the World

Financial Center, or Brookfield, there's gotta be a better solution, and this might be a good time to... to...

Gwen Dawson: Do we want just jump into this? Okay, um, that is part-- that is one of the locations that we are focused in our-- in our security assessment. And we do-- we do want to replace it with something else. We are-- and we will be working on it. I can't-- I can't tell you at the moment exactly what it will be and when it will happen, but I can tell you that we are looking at it, and it is our objective to come up with a better solution there.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you, Matt.

BJ Jones: Okay, let's move on to the next segment, which is, um... programs and community highlights. So Nick, why don't you take it away with some of our efforts in regards to Puerto Rico?

Nick Sbordone: Okay, I will do. So, uh, good evening again, everyone. The first thing we wanted to do is just make sure that we were reemphasizing the fact that we are collecting, still, various goods and donations for the drive to help hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. You'll see on the slide superimposed in the back is a picture of our great BPC Park staff, which late last month made the first delivery of donated goods from BPC residents. So, thank you, Battery Park City, for being so incredibly generous. That, behind our staff there, you can see is a truckload of donated materials that we donated up to the Javits Center for integration with the state's greater efforts to collect goods from all over the state and make sure it gets delivered to the right folks. So, thank you. I draw this to your attention for two reasons. One, to say thanks. Secondly, to let everyone know that there's been a slight change in the drop-off locations. The community center is still the same place and the same hours. Okay, that's Monday through Friday, 7-10 p.m., and the weekends, 1-9. Originally, we were taking also donations at the Rockefeller Park House. That's changed now, that was through the end of October. We're now gonna be taking donations at 75 Battery Place, which is BPC Park's Headquarters. There is a new lobby arrangement there. Someone's sitting in the chair, and they will be able to open up and take donations from 9-5 during the week. Obviously, the following goods are being accepted, that's as-- as dictated by the state. And they want all items to be in their original and unopened packaging. But thank you so much for the generosity, and let's take a moment, especially as we approach Thanksgiving, to recognize how lucky we are to be able to live here, and to be able to help folks who really need it. So, thank you for that. Next thing is-- this was something that had come up at the community board, I know a few times. It was reported on the board sheet as well, and we have been engaged very closely, both with the Battery Park City Committee of Community Board One, and the Battery Park City Seniors Working Group, with which we actually have a meeting tomorrow morning, I think it is, to catch up on various matters of mutual interest. But by way of update for the community here, we wanted to make sure everyone was clear on where we are. Lines of communication, of course, we know we can always improve there, and other updates as we have them. So, the first thing we wanted to let everyone know is that-- my name is coming up a lot tonight-- but I am your liaison for Asphalt Green Community

Programming. Now, say there were some questions about Asphalt Green needing to reserve some space and dedicate some space for community use, which is-- which is true, we've gone through this. And part of the mechanics of making that happen is having Asphalt Green designate a liaison, and having BPCA do one. So, I'm the liaison for Battery Park City Authority. The liaison for Asphalt Green, is a woman named Jennifer Cosia, who is-- who's great, has been working with the seniors on a number of programs. We'll hear about one very shortly. Essentially, the way it works is, there was available time for the community to use at Asphalt Green. And if there are requests or unmet needs that the community feels as though they have, and they want to ask us, "Hey, could we use the community-- can we use Asphalt Green for this particular purpose?" Send them to me, we'll coordinate with Asphalt Green, and we will do our best to accommodate that request. That said, we also wanted to make sure that folks knew that there are a number of programs already underway at Asphalt Green that the community may or may not know about. Um, and this kind of flows down to, again, communication can always be better. So, one of the things we discussed recently with Community Board One last week was how best to communicate some of the many offerings that Asphalt Green is already making available. So we have it, for the seniors in the room, there is free Senior Fitness classes that are now being run out of Asphalt Green. You can see it there, I'm not gonna run down the list. But each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, there are free senior programs through our partnership with Asphalt Green. And there are also, in addition to that, other offers and classes that they make available for the community, including but not limited to, free student swimming lessons, discounted membership to Battery Park City residents. So, if anybody doesn't know, if you live in Battery Park City, you get 10% off membership just for walking in the door. Now, I don't want to take your attention away from the community center at Stuyvesant High School, which is one of BJ's favorites, and one of mine as well, which we'll get to later. But if you're interested in Asphalt Green, there's a built-in discount there as well. Scholarships for local children for summer day camp, and for competitive swimming, basketball and volleyball, and there is also, as you may know, if anyone is involved here, the parent or relative of a Girl Scout, they make spaces available for the local Girl Scout Troop. And I have also personally attended a number of Battery Park City Committee meetings in the spaces at Asphalt Green. So, they are-- they've been our partners in this process, and we look forward to continue working with them. The last thing I'll note is... has a bit of a teaser, our winter calendar. And you'll hear a little bit about that from Craig later on. It usually comes out in about, let's say a month's time, and that will have programming from January through April. As part of that, we are exploring the possibility of having a community partnership with Asphalt Green for food nutrition, food prep, and tasting classes. There's a beautiful kitchen in Asphalt Green, and we are in the process of working through that, both with the Seniors Group, and Abby Ehrlich, who works strategic partnerships direct throughout the Authority, and our partners at Asphalt Green. Paul, who is the Chief Programming Officer from Asphalt Green, I believe was gonna be here. I don't know if he's here yet-- hey, Paul, how are you? So Paul from Asphalt Green is also here.

BJ Jones: Wave, Paul.

Nick Sbordone: That's it. There he is.

Jeff Ward: It's actually Jeff, but that's okay.

Nick Sbordone: Jeff! Why did I say Paul?

BJ Jones: I'm calling you Paul from now on, I hope that's okay.

Jeff Ward: Paul's a membership guy, so you can talk to him as well.

Nick Sbordone: Oh, okay. My mistake, I'm sorry.

Jeff Ward: No problem.

Nick Sbordone: Jeff, thank you. Um, so that was the long and the short of Asphalt Green. I know that there was some particular interest in this, so if there are... Actually, you wanna take questions just now, or go through the rest of it?

BJ Jones: Go through the rest.

Nick Sbordone: Okay, so we're gonna go through the rest of community programming, and then we'll open it up as BJ had laid out, for particular questions on this aspect of the program, and then we'll move on to... on to security. Okay, so... all right, programming highlights.

BJ Jones: Craig Hudon.

Nick Sbordone: And for this, we'll introduce Craig.

Craig Hudon: Good evening, everyone, I'm Craig Hudon, I'm Director of Parks Programming. Just a little brief recap of our fall season. October 31st marked the end of our daily outdoor programming season, and in many ways, the end of our programming year. Just as a recap, Battery Park City Parks Programming offered more than 1,200 programs and events in the past year, and affected over 65,000 participants. So, thanks to many of you who participate in our programs and support Parks Programming. We're busy putting together our winter calendar, as Nick or BJ mentioned, will take effect January 1st. It should arrive in mailboxes the week of December 18th, so keep a look out for that. Some highlights of the winter calendar, we have a winter talk series here at 6 River Terrace. We have adult and senior art programs and fitness classes. And I'm very excited to announce that we will be reducing the rates of many of our indoor programs this winter. So, that includes chess programs, indoor preschool play and art programs, parent and baby yoga classes, all with reduced fees. Most important-- most exciting, there is-- our beloved stories and songs program, we have three sessions on Wednesday morning where children from six months old to three-and-a-half years old experience live music and creative storytelling. And that program will be free this winter. You still have to register, but it will be free to participants, so that's great. As we head into the winter, I just wanna remind people, on December 7th, Thursday evening at 5:45 p.m. in South

Cove, we have our annual Holiday Lights celebrations, which of course, is our tree lighting ceremony. We have carolling led by the fabulous Fezziwigs. We have holiday treats-- candy and cookies, hot chocolate, and hot cider. And kind of most importantly about that event, we collaborate with, um, and organize with community-- Battery Park City community member Rosalie Joseph and an organization that she's involved with called Stockings With Care. Stockings With Care collects new, unwrapped gifts that enable parents to fulfill the wishes of their children, who might need a little help during the holiday season. So, we will be collecting those gifts at Holiday-- at the Holiday Lights celebration. So, if you are able, please bring one, and if not, you can drop by our 75 Battery Place Headquarters, and we'll be collecting them there as well. So, thank you very much.

BJ Jones: Thanks, Craig.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you, Craig. Okay, I'll just take this.

BJ Jones: Mm-hmm.

Nick Sbordone: So, as we move on here, just making sure that we get everyone apprised of other community engagements with which we're involved and which with-- which we hope to see many of you. For those of you who don't know, the Battery Park City Committee of Community Board One-- many of you I know I see there, not all of you-- they usually meet on the first Tuesday of every month. They make the-- make the agenda available usually toward the end of the month prior. So, most often it's the first Tuesday of every month, and they focus on issues of interest to our 92 acres here in Battery Park City. I'm there every month to-- to report. We often times will take some of our senior staff there, including Gwen's been there a number of times with me. Patrick Murphy from Allied Universal is there every month to provide updates about their work in the community. And there was a number of handouts, as you know, on the front table, including our last three recent-- most recent reports to the committee. They're fairly substantial, as far as they go, and as BJ had mentioned, a little more detailed than what we're gonna delve into tonight, because we wanna make sure that we have the chance to get everyone here engaged a little more quickly. But that's there. The full community board usually meets on the last Tuesday of each month-- not always, but usually. All that information is available online as well. Assembly member Deborah Glick, I ran into their staff last week at a Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency meeting, and they had us to make sure that we made everyone aware of a climate change sustainability and development meeting they're conducting next Tuesday-- two Tuesdays from now. That's November 28th at 8:00 at the New School. And finally, upcoming BPCA meetings going here in sequential order. Our next board meeting is gonna be the first Tuesday in December, December 5th. That's at the usual place, 200 Liberty Street, our building, 24th floor at 11:00 a.m. And the BPCA monthly newsletter. Copies are available here, also available online. Please sign up if you haven't already. We'll make sure we get you added to the list that has news and events, BPC people, and features all of sorts of happenings in and around Battery Park City, both at the Authority and with our many partners. So, that's community updates. And the last thing here, very quickly, as we alluded to, the community center at Stuyvesant High School, which as

many of you know, allows us to partner with community with the Stuyvesant High School to have a gym-- gym access, pool-- pool access to pool facilities, and other activities at Stuyvesant High School during the hours at night and on weekends. These are very aggressively reduced rates, thanks to many folks throughout the BPCA, the community as well who weighed in. And BJ in his prior life was Chief Administrative Officer. We greatly reduced the rates about a year ago now, April of 2016, a little bit more than that, and we've seen the membership increase almost by-- by three times over. It's been very, very successful. So again, if you live in Battery Park City, um, it is very cheap. That's \$179 a year, okay? \$199 if you're an adult that doesn't live in Battery Park City-- these are again, annual rates. \$79 a year if you are a youth, senior, or military, and \$59 a year if you're a Battery Park City senior, youth or military. With membership comes access to all sorts of free classes, new equipment that's just in, as detailed up top. More info is available at bottom. And again, please come in. Day passes are also available. You wanna come in for 10 bucks and check out the facilities, no commitment to buy, but you can come in and check it out, it's really a great experience. So, thank you to everyone who makes it so great, and to our staff who really takes a lot of care to make sure the facilities are open every day, and really a great asset and resource to the people who live here.

BJ Jones: Nick, you-- you think you'd get a commission on these memberships, the way you're marketing it.

Nick Sbordone: I live to serve. Okay, so...

BJ Jones: Time for-- Francis, are you ready? So, any feedback or input related to programming or community activities, events, Asphalt Green, that anybody would like to raise for this segment? Matt Fenton in the front.

Matt Fenton: Hi, at the last BPCA board meeting, during the public comment session, the question came up about creating a working group that would include residents to collaborate on decision-making and coming up with creative initiatives that Asphalt Green could partner with the BPCA on, and also about the future of the facility as a whole. And the chairman said at the time that was worth taking a look at. Has there been any-- any movement since then?

BJ Jones: Go ahead.

Nick Sbordone: Yeah, so, yes, I would say. I think it's kind of taking a different form and shape now. Doesn't mean it couldn't evolve into a standing established working group. But I know with the seniors particularly, Joyce, who I think I saw walk in, not to put her on the spot. There she is. Joyce Barackis from our BPC Seniors Group, has actually been working with Abby Ehrlich, who I mentioned before, on that, um, that class. So hopefully-- I don't wanna set expectations unduly here, but to hopefully have a class available in the winter to use that kitchen for free cooking and food prep classes. So, um, we're working to do that, and if it takes a more formal shape going forward, then-- then that'll be great too.

Joyce: Well, I'll say...

Nick Sbordone: Go ahead, please.

Joyce: ...we've really developed a great program, and it's on nutrition for seniors. So, it's gonna be a six-week program, six weeks in a row in the winter. So, I think they've really-- Abby had initiated it with me and asked me-- and it's open for everybody, it's intergenerational. So, but she's-- you know, since we've been meeting and seeing each other around the neighborhood, we thought this would be a great way to start out using the other parts of the Asphalt Green that are available to the community. So, I think it should be a good program, and I think it's gonna be in the newsletter, right? And it's free, um, and there's gonna be... it's health-- centered around health and nutrition, and things that are more relevant to being home, cooking for one, going to a green market, things like that. So, that's my take on, I think a great program and a great outreach from them to do to us, and us working with them.

BJ Jones: Thanks, Joyce.

Nick Sbordone: And thanks again also to our partners at Asphalt Green. Jeff, also known as Paul, thank you. (laughter) Okay.

BJ Jones: Okay, any other comments on this section? Okay, great. So, let's move on to the-- the safety and security piece. The first slide, um... speaks to what Gwen covered a bit earlier in this-- in this presentation, that we have been working with the state DOT and NYPD for us to place those interim barriers up. There's an example in front of the school and on the upper right-hand corner too. And so, that's-- so that's been in effect. And as Gwen alluded to, she has been in contact with NYPD and has done some walk-throughs to figure out where else we can supplement those efforts with interim measures while we pursue a long-term option. And we've been-- we continue to coordinate with NYPD, State DOT, the community board, and our local schools to that end as well. Gwen, is there anything else that you think is, um... we've missed? In mentioning?

Gwen Dawson: No, I think that covers it. I mean, I think I would-- we would welcome if you have specific concerns about specific locations, let us know. Let-- let Nick know later, or when you think of it, or when it may come up. We'd be grateful for any input you have.

BJ Jones: Nick just put out a stack of his business cards up here in the-- in the front. So, there's enough for everybody and their closest family members.

Nick Sbordone: That's right.

BJ Jones: Um, yeah, if you do have-- certainly, if you have ideas, you can bring them up in the question and answer session. But again, also that BPC info email, Nick's phone, don't hesitate to use those as well if you think of other things. So, let's move on to our BPC Ambassador update, featuring the famous Pat Murphy, who's going to talk about the latest efforts of the

Ambassador Team, and his efforts with NYPD since the last community meeting. Take it away, Pat.

Pat Murphy: Excuse my back. Hello, everybody. As you can see from the slide, I've been working with NYPD Parking Enforcement, so they've been around the community. Sorry for anybody's car that got towed, or motorcycle, because they went around, I think for the motorcycles, was last month. All the motor-- they must have taken about ten of 'em out of here just on the North End. NYPD Hercules Unit, Counterterrorism Unit and Port Authority Police have all been throughout the area, especially-- it all started with the summer of Hell on the transportation. So, over here, where the Port Authority has a dock and that, they have their police set up there. Hercules Unit's been all around, everybody knows what they look like, with the helmets and that. NYPD First Precinct's been issuing summonses on the bike-- to the bike riders on the greenway. So, they've been up on Chambers Street, they've been down by Pier A. Some people actually have seen 'em stepping behind walls, and all of a sudden, stepping out and grabbing people, so. The-- our command center contacts Brookfield security desk every tour to find out what's going on in their place, if they have any issues. And we also let them know if we have any issues going on. Life Safety, Brookfield Emergency Alert Notification System, so I'm a member of that. Like, just before this meeting started, 250 had a power outage, and so I got that transmission right away. Emergency residential radio checks performed by the supervisor. This, we like to do, we used to do every Monday. Now, we're doing it on different days of the week. There's radios throughout the property, and we go and make sure that the building managers have 'em on. This actually worked out very well for us on October 31st, because we were able to communicate with the building management team around the incident and do a lockdown, and also let them know when to open up. PS/IS-89 and PS/IS-276, safety ambassadors sign at the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. And this is just to make sure that there's no double parked cars, that the buses can pull up and let the kids out in front of the school, and stuff like that. Okay? Um... And then I have a couple of notes, basically which is on the next slides. Our homeless issue, it's finally starting to decline here in October. That's probably due to the weather change. Pier A ticket sellers, they've been displaced, so we're constantly working at that. This year, we've found that they've been more aggressive type than in the past. We also had to deal with relocating certain legal vendors, and that's like your ice creams trucks, your hot dog vendor, and that stuff. They didn't know what is state property, what's city property. Enforced no-- no dog policy on the ball field, West Thames Park and Rector Park. Basically, what was happening there, is people were bringing their dogs onto the AstroTurf. Uh... I can't-- for me, it doesn't make sense, but you know, when you explain to 'em, hey, the dog can't be on the AstroTurf, you know. That's what we were seeing occurring, and we had to pretty much enforce that going along. Rector Street Lift intercom system, we check that at the command center. So basically, the park's crew, they go to the Rector Lift, they press the intercom system. We have the receiver end on ours, and we talk back and forth to make sure, just in case anybody gets entrapped. Enforcing no drones flying in the park. And we monitor the ball field, Teardrop and 75 Battery Park Place cameras. So, pretty much the camera systems are up, and we do reports on it every shift to make sure that they're working and we can see what's going on. And... that's open to questions.

BJ Jones: So, Pat, we'll, um... I also, um, before we take comments and questions, I also wanted to-- to call out belatedly, I'm sorry, that Catherine McVay Hughes, our board member, is here in the front too. (applause) Who's... even more famous than Pat is. And so, again, it's-- and that's because your comments and feedback are important to us. And so, in regards to safety and security in the wake of the-- the tragic events here, we're definitely interested in your-- your comments and your concerns. You know, as Gwen has said, as I have said, and Nick has said, we're in-- and Pat has said, we're working closely with the NYPD. So, we want to relay your feedback that we hear during this session, as well as take that into account as we continue our efforts to figure out how we can, uh, compliment and supplement the efforts that are already underway with barriers and such. So, Francis, are you ready?

Francis: I am ready.

BJ Jones: Okay. Raise your hand if you have-- okay, we've got one.

Frances Mishania: Hello, my name is Frances Mishania. Two quick questions. Has there been any thought about putting life preservers on the rails all along the river, so that if someone does jump in and someone is seeing that, they could throw the life preserver over the fence? Um...

Pat Murphy: Well, that has-- that actually has come up in a community board meeting, and we have seen a picture of what Hudson River Park has on theirs...

Frances Mishania: Yes, the red ones.

Pat Murphy: ...with an alarm. So, right now, it's just being explored.

Frances Mishania: What is there to explore?

Pat Murphy: Well, part-- part of the problem is, do you have anybody that's trained in it, that's number one. Number two, are we supplying everybody in the marina with a life preserver? Because there has to be some way to secure it. And then you have to have, like, almost like a firebox, where you break something, open it. And is it tethered to the rail, that you're throwing it and you're not losing it? You know, that's-- that's some of the issues. Basically, you know, I know that there's reports out there that people have fallen in. Uh, I tend to question them, because I've been there at the one that they said fell in, and she jumped. Okay? And each one of the issues that we dealt with so far has been people that they took off their clothes and they jumped in, okay? So, I-- I know where you're going, but we're still-- we're looking at it. The Authority has to take a look at it and see what's feasible. That's all. I can't answer to that part of it, but...

BJ Jones: Yeah, but that's-- that's accurate. We are-- we are looking into it. We've researched, um, the preservers and the cases. And so, we'll have more news on that.

Frances Mishania: All right, second question.

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Frances Mishania: Sorry to hog the microphone.

BJ Jones: It's okay.

Frances Mishania: Is there a way when you're on the waterfront, that there could be signage to say, I'm on the waterfront at Rector Place, I'm on the waterfront at Third Place, I'm on the waterfront near West Thames? People, when you say the waterfront, it's vague.

Gwen Dawson: Let me, uh...

BJ Jones: Gwen's gonna take that question and talk a little bit about our wayfinding initiative that Nick had mentioned briefly.

Gwen Dawson: We-- we are beginning actually this week, our waterfront wayfinding signage program. And we have a consultant on board, and we're gonna be designing signage, updated signage, a wayfinding program for Battery Park City, and we will be involving the community in the concepts for what's needed. And that's really great feedback. So, we will-- we will be looking at opportunities going forward at meetings such as this and the Battery Park City Committee. Maybe there'll be a special meeting devoted solely to that. But we will be looking for input from the community on our new wayfinding program for Battery Park City, and I think that's a great suggestion.

BJ Jones: Thank you, Frances.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you, Frances.

Howard Grossman: Yeah, hi there, Howard Grossman. In nice weather, the South end of the Esplanade just gets taken over by fishermen. Is there any way to stop fishing?

Pat Murphy: Well, the ac-- the actual location for the fishermen is down in Wagner Park. So, we keep trying to move them down there. Some fishermen don't realize it, we find them fishing up here at Rector Park. We tell them that the only authorized place is Wagner, and they pack up and they move on down. I mean...

Howard Grossman: There gonna be some signage then?

Pat Murphy: Well, like I said, the signage is part of their project.

BJ Jones: And Pat, maybe you can speak to this a little bit. But my understanding too, is part of the problem is, it's commercial fishing is what's not allowed, but that's-- but the way it's regulated by the state is based on the number of poles a fisherman has. And so, they know just the right number of poles to have that-- that just make it more complicated to-- to get them to comply.

Pat Murphy: The standard here is they can't have five poles up. They'll let 'em have three poles up. But you'll also-- but you'll also see that-- somebody from the Fishing and Game Wildlife. Okay, I was walking through the park, and he stuck behind the Jewish Heritage Museum waiting for them. So, I mean, there is enforcement. You know, how often they come down here, I can't speak to that. I don't know. Okay.

Denise Cortovano: Hi, Denise Cortovano. First of all, it's been a couple of, um, sessions since I've been to one of these meetings, and I do appreciate that you're having the con-- the questions immediately following the topic, rather than waiting till the end, so thank you for that.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you.

BJ Jones: Thanks.

Denise Cortovano: My-- I just would like some clarification back about the residential radio checks and emergency. Can you tell me, you mentioned something about, they're in the buildings, you checked with the buildings. What-- yeah, just give me a lot more information.

Pat Murphy: Okay, part-- part of the program, part of Battery Park City Authority's emergency program and that, is that each one of these residence, they have a radio in it, and it's in their building management office, and that it's on and that it's manned. So basically, a supervisor goes around, and he calls to each building, and waits for an answer. If he doesn't get an answer, he goes to that building. So, at the start of this, we would find the radio was in the closet, it was dead, they had to go look for it. It wasn't out on the main, let's say, receptionist desk, where it should be, and plugged in and sitting in the charger. Okay? So, some people were like, it was there but it was turned off. So now, they have it on. So, at the beginning, we started just doing it on Mondays until we got everybody getting the response back, and we do it both in the North End and the South End. And then we started switching up days on 'em, so now that they don't know that it's a constant Monday morning activity. It could be done on a Friday, it could be done on a Wednesday. And you know, every once in a while, we catch somebody off base, and we go, and it's all reported. We do it in the Eponic system. This way, the Authority knows who answered up, who didn't, the reason why, where we found the radio, and that. And I can tell you, after October 31st, everybody's answering up, so.

BJ Jones: And just to add-- add to that, is that the intent to have another communication channel available if, God forbid, we can't make contact through email or our cell phones or landlines. So, that's why we do these tests regularly, so that if we need another outlet to get a

message quickly to buildings, we have that available. We hope not to need to use it, but that's why we've been working very hard to get the managers to follow through-- through on it.

Denise Cortovano: Thank you.

BJ Jones: You're welcome.

Denise Cortovano: And just to follow up, on October 31st, did you call buildings in the North and to the South End neighborhoods? And...

Pat Murphy: We just-- we just dealt with the buildings where the incident went down. We heard it over our radio, okay? And naturally, our supervisors responded out. And as soon as it became contact with the police, it was-- as far as they knew, they were still looking for people. That's when a lockdown was put out over the radio up to this North End. Okay?

Denise Cortovano: Okay, so I have a preschool, Battery Park City Day Nursery, in the South End. I was not there on October 31st, but my people found out about it by a parent who works in Brookfield Place. And she is the one-- my director is the one that went to tell the doorman in South End. They had no idea what was going on. And our building put-- went on the lockdown. And I know that PS-276 in the South End went on a lockdown. So, I would strongly suggest that in a situation like this, you don't just call the immediate residents, that you make it all the radios that you can get ahold of. And another question-- is it the presumption that the building, once you notify the building of an emergency, the presumption is on them to notify the residents in that building? Is that correct, or...?

Pat Murphy: Yeah, yes.

Diane Cortovano: Okay, all right, thank you.

BJ Jones: And-- but to that point, Denise, since, um... because you have that school there, maybe we should talk about how we could notify you directly, if not a radio or... just to-- just to make sure, 'cause the public schools have their own, you know, network, and you are-- we don't want you to slip through the cracks. So, that's a very good point, yeah.

Nick Sbordone: Of course.

BJ Jones: Who-- who else?

Michelle Freese: Hi, I'm Michelle Freese, I'm a parent at PS-89. You had mentioned that there's ambassadors patrolling in the mornings that are outside of PS-89. I haven't seen them. I was wondering where they are, what time, and how many? And just, are there patrols around? I don't see any patrols around that block where the school is in general, so I'm trying to get a sense of what the security situation is there.

Pat Murphy: We don't patrol the school. We were asked. Actually, PS/IS-89 was the first one to come to us when we first started here, and asked, "Can we have a safety ambassador over on the Warren Street side of the ball field dealing with the buses and the kids crossing the street?" Because you guys did not have, and I believe you still don't have a crossing guard in that area. Okay? And it was the president of the Parents Association at the time. So, I contacted Battery Park City Authority. They said, "by all means." So, really, they come out, it's the ambassador that's in the ball field. He comes down from the ball field side, he's on the Warren Street there, and basically, he's to make sure that you don't have the double-parked cars so that bus can come up and, uh, let the people exit the bus, the kids exit the bus that's there. He's also there at lunchtime, or the activity time when your kids come over to the ball field. He's right there.

Michelle Freese: On the ball field side?

Pat Murphy: He's usually on the ball field side. If the kids-- he watches the kids cross over. If he sees that someone's gonna step out in front of a car, he's gonna walk out in the street, he's gonna stop 'em. Remember, he's not a crossing guard, he's not trained as a crossing guard.

Michelle Freese: So, I bring my kids to school in the morning, and I don't see anyone helping with that in the morning. I also volunteer on Fridays at recess-- at recess, and I see them kind of up on top. But I don't see them helping cross-- parents are doing it.

BJ Jones: So Pat, let's make sure that we get, um, your contact inform...

Nick Sbordone: Michelle, right?

BJ Jones: Michelle, is it?

Michelle Freese: Sure, yeah, Michelle Freese.

BJ Jones: Let's get your contact information, and Pat will-- will meet with you. Nick will be in touch, and we'll meet with you, and if there's some other parents here...

Michelle Freese: Okay, I'm the president of the PTA for PS-89, so...

BJ Jones: We'll-- we'll follow up with you and-- to come up with a plan.

Pat Murphy: I could tell you from PS/IS-276, that, uh... actually, Tammy, who's here, has gone over to our staff and said, "Listen, this is where we want you to be," okay? So, a lot-- you know, and that's-- and that's the truth. A lot of times, my staff is not gonna know where you-- where you need them to be. They know that they can't act as a crossing guard because they're not trained as a crossing guard, okay? So, that part... I'll meet with you, and we'll pick a location where the person needs to be.

Michelle Freese: Thanks.

Pat Murphy: Okay? Yeah.

Tammy: Hi, Patrick.

Pat Murphy: Hello, Tammy.

Nick Sbordone: Hi, Tammy.

Tammy: Hi, guys. Sorry. Hey, BJ.

BJ Jones: No problem.

Tammy: Um, I apologize. Justine and I were actually at the Community Board One meeting for youth and education, and what came up that was so intense was from the parents from PS-89, from IS-289, and some concerned parents from Stuyvesant. And the entire conversation was about crossing guards, school safety, and how to be able to leverage what the Battery Park City Authority has, and what you are able to do on a greater level. The concerns that we heard at the meeting from the parents who were there, and they were extraordinarily vocal, was that there's not enough. Even if you have one guy from the ball field, it's not enough to cover the total number of students that are coming across West Street, down Chambers, Warren, and North End. Combined with the fact that there's a very difficult time of traffic enforcement for people stopping at the stop signs and the traffic lights, and everything else that's there, and illegal parkers, that it's become even more prominent now on people's minds since Halloween. So, while at 276, we were fortunate, because we have a crossing guard, and we have allied, as on the other side, what IS-289 and 89 need is just far more bodies around. Not one guy that we pull off the field, but they need guys on each side of the building, because you can't ask-- the DOE is not gonna send people outside. So, we're coming back to the Battery Park City Authority to say you really need to help with that.

BJ Jones: Okay. Was Captain Taylor at your meeting just now?

Tammy: In fact, he was.

BJ Jones: What did he, um... what did he say about their-- the NYPD and education's efforts with the-- with the school crossing?

Tammy: Like everything else...

BJ Jones: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Tammy: ...it's an ongoing process.

BJ Jones: Okay. Okay.

Tammy: But much like what he said at the meeting, you know, he was there to come and speak with us, and the families and the parents, but he had to leave because there was an issue of an envelope received at ACS.

BJ Jones: Ooh.

Tammy: So, there are enforcement issues.

BJ Jones: Yeah, okay, all right.

Tammy: Okay, so while Patrick is one level of that, it doesn't deny the opportunity that we do need to take a look at a peace officer opportunity for Battery Park City.

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Tammy: We need people who can enforce rules, write parking tickets, arrest somebody if they're not in the right place, okay, if they're committing a crime. Things that... you know, I'm not saying we need to hearken back. I'm not saying bring the PEPs, that was our only solution. It's a very smart group of people who are in this neighborhood. Let's work together with the community to find a solution for peace officers that can provide the backup. It is lovely, the First Precinct to send us two officers while Governors Island closes.

BJ Jones: Right.

Tammy: It's amazing to have the extra support in the North neighborhood. But when we need the extra support is when Governor Island will reopen. And so, I challenge the Battery Park City Authority to have some greater plan in place for that, to cover the ball fields, the neighborhood, the schools, Teardrop, every place. Because if we fix the ball fields, then they move over to Teardrop. If we fix Teardrop, then they're gonna move somewhere else. So it really is-- it's chasing rabbits, and I understand that. But we need to take a look at a more comprehensive solution. And I think that the ambassadors have been a great asset, and have tried to work very hard with the community. I've come-- if you ask them where to go at 276, we told them where we want you to stand. And they have been very responsive.

BJ Jones: Okay, good.

Tammy: Some guys better than others, but...

BJ Jones: Right.

Tammy: The nature of humans, right?

BJ Jones: Right.

Tammy: So, that's my challenge back to you guys, is that we have eight months to try and really figure something out again, that's a better solution to add more. Thank you.

BJ Jones: Challenge accepted, let's talk about it. Um... (applause) Yeah, there are a lot of merits to what you say. In the meantime, um, in the very short term, let's also, Nick and Pat, talk more about where else we can put additional ambassadors to-- to help while we figure out something more robust. Who's next, Justine?

Justine: Hi.

Nick Sbordone: Hello.

Justine: Wait-- yeah, it's on. Hi, sorry that I was late and I missed much of everything, but I kind of wanna echo parts of what Tammy was saying, and also just welcome you and say you're doing a great job, BJ, so thank you.

BJ Jones: Oh, thank you. (applause) Thank you.

Justine: Yeah, yeah, no, thank you, and um, you know, we're happy that you're here, we're happy you're doing this, and we're happy for the meetings, so thank you. Thank you, Nick and Gwen also, for being here. Um... and Patrick, and everybody else.

Nick Sbordone: Folks, she's not a plant. I swear, this is genuine.

Justine: No, no, no, I'm serious. I am, because I think that over the years now, it's been... the-- the healing of this community and the relationship with the Battery Park City Authority with Battery Park City have been-- it's an ongoing process, but we have made strides. And every time that I can say something good, I'll say it, because I think it's important to recognize that.

BJ Jones: Thank you.

Justine: So that's step one. In keeping with that, I think part of the way the strides were made were starting with the senior group and the working group with the seniors, and then the bicycle group and the working group with the bicycles. And from-- coming from the, um, Youth and Education Committee, where they were talking about the crossing guards and the schools, and there's just the angst and fear of all the parents there. Maybe another working group would be getting together and talking with Patrick, not-- you know, just to get more information. And I know you're here, but not-- and he comes to every Battery Park City Authority meeting, and there certainly is a lot of communication, but more communication, and more opportunities for people to get together and share ideas, and having-- and coming

to us as things are being done is really important. So, I'm hoping that that's gonna continue, and I'm looking forward to more collaboration.

BJ Jones: Thank you.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you, Justine.

BJ Jones: Here in the front.

Man: Can I try?

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Man: There's an issue I hear coming up over and over again, is essentially about what I'll call highway safety. And so, it makes me think about, what are the kind of general standards of highway safety as we see 'em in the city? When you travel along any interstate in the United States, there's usually a 20-foot-high wall, and then there's a cyclone fence, and then there's a couple of berms, and then there's 50 feet of grass. We're operating here in a major urban area with a major highway, with 60-mile-an-hour vehicles operating, uh, with no more protection than a six-inch curb. And I think a lot of the problems we have here is that if we started to build this now, no one would let us do this. This just kind of eased into place psychologically, because it was there. We took down the FDR and the elevated highway, and now we have the major highway in a major congested urban area that's growing.

BJ Jones: Getting busier, yeah.

Man: So, we're-- what my own experience is, I often walked Ruth Ohman, who many people know, home from lots of meetings, and these things were big problems for her. And we only got halfway across the road, and then we had to wait another cycle. It's a long way for an old person. Last week, right after our disaster, we were in the presence of a principal who said she spends every one of her lunchtimes trying to train kids to go over the bridge instead of crossing the street. So, one thing I've been concerned about for a while-- another additional perspective on this, is I have in my lifetime traveled a lot to Hong Kong, and they would never, ever, ever let there be a highway kind of thing without either an underpass or an overpass. And they have miles of elevated walkways for pedestrians, because they wisely have observed that pedestrian-- large volumes of pedestrians and large volumes of traffic don't mix. And so, I think that's a pretty good lesson. So, I have been protected myself by the Rector Street Bridge for many years, and I've gone over it, and I've limped over it. And we're building a new one, it's true, at West Thames. But no New Yorker goes more than half a block out of a way-- out of the way. I don't know my neighbors on the second floor, or two floors, or one floor above me. I barely know the people on the same floor. So, New Yorkers really don't handle inconvenience very well. So, my view is, since the Rector Street Bridge is aligned with all the major subway lines in-- in the United States of New York, and since we're-- we-- that's a major traffic-- every-- one of the things that Catherine has noticed over the years is the astounding

growth of pedestrian traffic, especially tourists. And I like to stop and give tourists instructions. I have no idea what the hell I'd tell 'em if-- once they get to West Thames, or once they get to underneath that bridge, how the hell can I tell 'em to get to a subway? "Well, you go up a block, and you go underneath, you go through the..." It's not possible. I can say, there's Rector Place, you see it over there? You go up the hill, and then you run across the subway. So, I think just for practicality's sake, for safety's sake, and because we have so much danger crossing the street, and now those very fast-- those very fast bicycles. Having things that even go-- I think we not only have to get over the road now, we have to actually get over the bicycle greenway, because the speeds are going up, and I don't wanna be one of the fatalities.

BJ Jones: Thank you. Who else? I have one over here by the-- oh, there in the back, and then in front of the camera. Okay.

Jeff Chan: My name is Jeff Chan. It's not a security-related question, but traffic-related. So, northbound from West Street over to Battery Park City is a left turn into Liberty Street. There is only one light which lasts five seconds, and many, many times, traffic backed up there all the way to West Street too. It's a risk factor. On the southbound, there is three entrance. On the northbound, there is only one. Why don't you open Albany?

BJ Jones: Mm. That's-- you're gonna talk to DOT?

Gwen Dawson: It's-- it wasn't our decision. I mean, that was something that is within the jurisdiction of State Department of Transportation. I don't like it either. But we don't really have the authority to change that. We can talk to state DOT, and as a matter of fact, we have been in conversations with the city DOT, and they have been in discussions with state DOT about some-- the possibility of some changes to the flow of traffic. But I don't know of any plans to change that particular intersection right now.

Jeff Chan: Do you think it's making sense to open Albany for left turn?

Gwen Dawson: I would like to see it.

Jeff Chan: 'Cause then-- then what does it take? Does it take a petition or... you know, so you guys have--

Gwen Dawson: Well, certainly, I can--

Jeff Chan: You guys have influence, right?

Gwen Dawson: I can pro-- I can provide the feedback. I can provide the feedback that we get from these meetings to the folks that we deal with at state DOT and say there's-- you know, if there is a lot-- if there is a lot of support for that, I can certainly convey that.

Jeff Chan: Well, there are a lot of projects required fundings. We're talking about time. This is no-brainer.

Gwen Dawson: Well, it--

Woman: You're talking southbound left on Albany.

Jeff Chan: Northbound. Northbound making left turn, there's only one entrance right now in Liberty Street.

Gwen Dawson: Certainly, we have to understand what their reasoning is as well. I mean, there may be-- there may be other factors that we're not aware of, so...

Jeff Chan: So the last request is, since we don't have communication with them ourselves, can you give us some feedback from the next meeting or somewhere...

Gwen Dawson: Absolutely, absolutely.

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Jeff Chan: What is the feedback from-- I wanna listen to their reason, right?

Gwen Dawson: Sure.

Jeff Chan: This is huge safety effort-- issue as well.

Gwen Dawson: Be happy to.

BJ Jones: And please, take Nick's card too, so we can get in touch if something comes up in between.

Gwen Dawson: Please, he's been trying to get rid of 'em.

BJ Jones: Please.

Nick Sbordone: Right, in the interim too, yeah, we'll update the...

BJ Jones: If we have other...

Nick Sbordone: Right, the collected group when we get together. But in the interim, if we have an update, certainly we'll-- we'll be back in touch with you.

BJ Jones: We had somebody in the back. Yeah. George Farrelly: Hi, my name is George Farrelly. If we could go back real quick to one of the earlier comments about the ambassador

presence in front of the schools, particularly PS 89. I think it's great that there's an ambassador there, but I wanted to re-- sort of reemphasize the fact that sort of one person's not near enough given the, you know, the hundreds of students, and caregivers, and parents, and strollers that are crowding those really narrow sidewalks. And frankly, I don't know the background or training of the ambassadors. But I suspect that we really need is-- is sort of a police presence there, pickup and drop-off. And I don't know if that's-- this is the right forum or who we need to speak to of that. But I think we really need sort of NYPD officers there in the morning and the-- and the afternoon, at least in front of 89 and...

Woman: That is what we talked about at the community board tonight.

BJ Jones: And also, we can bring up, or the community can bring up to at the Security Council meeting. Nick, can you talk about that?

Nick Sbordone: Right, yeah, so...

George Farrelly: I'd appreciate that.

Nick Sbordone: Yeah, we can-- I can-- we'll switch information. Make sure that you have mine, and I yours, for the benefit of the group here assembled, the last-- roughly the last Thursday of every month is the First Precinct Community Council meeting. So, at the First Precinct House on Erickson Street, it is an open-community forum much like this is, town hall-style. The deputy inspector is there, the executive officer. They're there to provide updates about different sectors in the First Precinct, and also take input from the community about different things. That would be a forum-- we can bring it up as well, but I invite everyone to-- to participate, especially given, you know, the events of the past couple of weeks.

George Farrelly: Great, thanks.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you.

BJ Jones: Okay. Thank you. We have one in the front, behind the projector. Oh... (laughs)

Tammy: It's me. So... this is one of those agency conversations that, no matter how often the resonance of Northern Battery Park City complain about the placard parking, we're not gonna be able to make any progress forward. We did speak with Commander-- Captain Taylor tonight. And the reality is, what DOT said to us at a community board meeting was, "Well, DOT doesn't do enforcement." So, you're asking the police to police the police, which really isn't going to happen. Let's be quite frank here. But as the landlords, and a tenant of your tenant, perhaps a general conversation with the lovely folks who we are happy to have in the neighbourhood a busy street, but unhappy to have them parking in front of the library, in front of all the handicapped access entrances, all around in the no-standing zones. So, we've asked DOT to take a look at the streets, which they said that they were willing to do. But it still doesn't-- there's no way we're gonna get enforcement on this, let's be honest, right? But the

question is, to have an agency-to-agency conversation. Because at the end of the day, you are the ultimate landlord.

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Tammy: And so, I think that we are at that point, that if we can't get the police to police the police, right? And they're in the neighborhood... we just need them to figure out where they park their cars. And if it is in a garage, like any of the other people who live here, or in legal parking, that's great. Or if DOT comes back and says, "you know what, we can make a train of parking here," and they'll pay for metered parking, great. But the parking in front of the bus stops on North End, the library, the handicapped access, is untenable.

BJ Jones: Yeah, okay.

Tammy: So, I ask-- we're trying as much as we can on the community board, so I'm gonna buck it back to you guys for a facilitator.

BJ Jones: Yeah, and that's-- that's fine. We have had some conversations with them about this issue in the past, and we'll-- we'll revisit it with them. Yeah, thank you.

Tammy: More pressing right now as we're going into the winter, because you have issues when it snows, and it will.

BJ Jones: Bruno can't wait.

Tammy: I know. But there are issues for mobility, especially for people with strollers, for people who are handicapped, people-- on anything that's not two boots, basically. Thank you.

BJ Jones: Okay, thank you.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you.

BJ Jones: We have-- oh, and Francis, around the pole here next to Anne.

Nick Sbordone: Betty.

BJ Jones: Yeah, Betty.

Nick Sbordone: Hi, Betty.

Betty: Hi. I'm a resident in the area, and I live in the North End, and I wanna mention something that joins with that. My building manager and some of the other buildings around me are concerned, there's nowhere for the drop-off of students. 'Cause we have a couple of people who are school bus drop-offs. Residents, they'd really like to have a couple of blocked-

off spaces in front of the building that is simply for drop-offs. The delivery of all the Amazon products, the delivery of students coming home, the drop-offs by taxicabs. By allowing parking everywhere, there's nowhere for the residents to do what the majority of people really do in Battery Park City. It's-- so that a couple of people can park their cars, everybody else loses. Some dedicated spaces that is just for drop-offs, and they are not for parking, they are not for standing, they are just for drop-offs, is really essential, and should be considered throughout all Battery Park City, because deliveries from Amazon are reality. And there are a lot of drop-off trucks and other things that have to flow throughout the day to service the people who live-- all the people who live here. Not just the one or two people who get the lucky parking space.

BJ Jones: That's another agency-to-agency conversation it sounds like we need to have, so thank you.

Man: And as you know, in that building we applied to DOT, took about two and a half months, they gave us three spots in front--

BJ Jones: Right, yeah, yeah, so we'd have to, right, ask the DOT about that.

Man: It takes two and a half months.

Nick Sbordone: I'm glad you brought that up. 212 Warren Street--

Man: Sorry, I'm on the board of River and Warren, just up here, it took us about two and a half months. We applied to DOJ, they freed up three spaces, and we now have no-standing delivery room.

BJ Jones: So we'll follow up on that with you, Betty.

Man: Just effort-- sorry, guys.

BJ Jones: That's good. We could talk to him.

Nick Sbordone: Right.

BJ Jones: Okay. In the back.

Bill McDuffy: Hi, Bill McDuffy again. You know, as a few suggestions, because the topic of security and police department and crossing guards keeps coming up. Two things. My daughter is in PS-276. She's a second-grader there, so she hasn't been there very long. The first summer in the school, we went to a meet-and-greet with the principal. And you know, I was informed that the crossing guard at the school, one, you know, thank them when you see them, because it's not an assigned position. And two, the crossing guard that was there previously had been hit by two cars. So, when people come around that back of the Ritz

Carlton, they're moving. So, my suggestion to the board would be-- they put in speed bumps on Little West Street. Maybe we could get a speed bump or better signage that there's a school around the corner, so that somebody doesn't come flying around that corner and clip somebody in the designated crosswalk. The other thing is, you know, I'm looking at PS-89 and what recently happened just outside there. You know, we have these signs up all over the city that between 6:00 and 9:00, you're not allowed to make a right turn on this street, you're not allowed to do this, you're not allowed to do that. Maybe we put orange cones up and block off the street when the kids are being sent to school and when they're being dismissed from school. It's a small little block. It's not gonna affect anybody that much to close it for, I don't know, a half an hour, an hour, just to let our kids go to school safely. I mean, if we're not doing this for the kids, then what are we doing it for?

BJ Jones: Thank you. Okay, um...

Michelle Freese: That just reminded me of one other thing. The crosswalk over by-- on North End Avenue by, I guess it's maybe Teardrop Alley. I don't know if that's the name of the... Cars, and even the buses, the MTA buses, blow through that stop sign quite often. I mean, I find myself and a lot of my neighbors yelling at cars as they just kind of blow through the stop sign. They recently painted the crosswalks again. I'm hoping that helps improves things. But maybe a week of a patrol there or something, and actually ticket some people who do that might get them to stop-- because it's-- it's dangerous. There's lots of kids always crossing, and cars just ignore the stop sign.

BJ Jones: All right. So we'll raise that with NYPD Traffic, Pat, and keep an eye on it too. Okay, thank you.

Howard Grossman: I don't know, you know, not for nothing. I'm sorry, I don't mean to be, you know...or anything, we seem to be dancing around this a lot. You know, by the afternoon of October 31st, the NYPD seemed to find an awful lot of cops that could come down here. Okay? I mean, can we just stop dancing around this? There are thousands of cops and media here in the days that followed, all right?

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Bill McDuffy: You know, I mean, I don't know the staffing issues and who to talk to, and the politics of it all. You know, first of all, I don't want to sound negative, 'cause we live in a great neighborhood, and you guys, you know, do a very good job. But as in anything else, we're New Yorkers, and we think we can do it better, you know? So, you know, at the risk of sounding like a New Yorker, which I am, um... you know, we've had three major terrorist attacks 500 yards from here. If that doesn't warrant a little extra police protection, and obviously, we're a target. I mean, I don't know how much stronger you can make of a statement to the governor, or whoever's in charge of this. But three major terrorist attacks are 500 yards from here. And you know, the community has thrived and come back from a lot, and everything else, and you know, I have one other point, because I sit on the board at 380 Rector Place. And Pat, this is

addressed to you. You know, I assume you're in charge of the ambassador group here and the security for the area. You know, I've had some residential, um... neighbors in the building, mostly women, concerned about things that have gone on in the neighborhood, which you addressed here tonight, and things like that. But one thing that people in this neighborhood don't know, Pat, is how to get in touch with your office. Right? So, the thing that I find-- the thing that I find about Battery Park City, and you as a board, I think that we could do a better job of getting the word out. I pass-- and you have great programs here. I pass a small bulletin board along the waterfront here, I think it's at the end of, um... the end of Albany Street. There's one there and it's-- I see signs in there all the time behind the glass for mommies, Pilates, or you know, this, that, the other thing, which is great. I think it's great. It's-- it's a spot for something to be assigned. My suggestion to you would be, get a poster up, put it in there, ask people to put your number in their cell phone. Because you know what, I don't know how many ambassadors you have. But they can't possibly cover all of this. And if you've got however many residents in Battery Park City with their speed dials, you'll get the phone call from the mother who's got, you know, not the major police issue, but hey, there's something going here, let's... And you know, this meeting tonight, I found out about this by chance. And a lot of that's our fault because we don't check the websites, and a lot of us might not know where to go. But I would suggest putting some posters maybe at the schools. Because things will spread like wildfire through the schools.

BJ Jones: That's a good idea.

Bill McDuffy: The, uh... one of the-- one of the things that was brought up in the security meeting after the-- after October 31st, was that-- all the rumors floating around, right? We had people complaining, "Oh, my kid didn't get let out because we were in a lockdown. The other schools were out." It was all misinformation, it doesn't really matter. But the posters in schools with numbers to contact Pat's department and whoever, you will get what, you know, we advertise, right? If you see something, say something. And maybe it's not important enough to bring it up to the police department. But you know, hey, there are a bunch of people hanging out in this area, it doesn't look like a good thing. You know, could you send an ambassador over there and see what's going on? Anything. But you know what? I sit on the board, I've taken the information. I think I have it in my cell phone, which I don't have on me. But I have no way right now, or any idea of how to contact you. Maybe we get a telephone number that's, you know, Battery Park Security, or some-- something that's catchy, so that everyone can call it.

Pat Murphy: Well, the number that's been put out, and it's also on the website, it's 212-945-7233. And the catchy phrase for the 7233 is "SAFE", S-A-F-E, okay?

Bill McDuffy: My suggestion to you, okay, because people don't walk around and go... My suggestion to you would be people don't walk around and go, "Oh, well, let me pull up the website and get the information."

BJ Jones: Right.

Bill McDuffy: But if you put-- which is, you know, I'm sorry, but it's-- it's a fair comment. But if you put some posters up around the schools, and you put some stuff here, these kids will come home. My daughter-- my daughter comes home-- it's just a suggestion. My daughter comes home and tells me, you know, 12 things that the teacher told her that she has to do one way, and it's like, you know, it can be done another way. But you know, to her, it can't. So, if you turned around and said that the phone number is-- and you said "SAFE" was the last four letters?

Pat Murphy: Right.

Bill McDuffy: If you had BPC-SAFE or something like that, then that-- that number would spread like wildfire, and you know what? It would make your job a lot easier. And by the way, I don't wanna make it sound like I'm beating you up, 'cause you do do a good job with the-- with the resources that you have. But to reiterate someone else here tonight, we do need more police presence, and you know what? If you've got everybody in this neighbourhood looking out for you, you're gonna look like a superstar, and this neighborhood's gonna thrive.

Pat Murphy: I appreciate your comment, and I'll look-- I'll look into spreading that information. We do have, I'll call them mayors of the block, that do constantly call us in the North End and South End. Um, I apologize that your-- your crew does now know it. I have met with the Stuyvesant High School assistant principal. He has my information. He actually called, uh, and asked for a safety ambassador a couple of times 'cause of issues he was dealing with, kids inside the school. He didn't want it to carry on outside. And at the end of October, when they were dealing with the evacuation, and the next day letting kids back in, we ended up creating a hall route for those students to exit, and to the next day, re-enter into the school. Um...

BJ Jones: And Pat, and we'll work-- we'll make those...

Pat Murphy: And we'll work on letting the information out.

BJ Jones: ...we'll make those posters and get 'em in schools. That's like, Catherine-- Catherine's sitting here saying, "Let's just do it." So, we'll do it. And we'll work on-- we've talked about this too. We talked to the building managers about it, but we'll work on something that we can put in building lobbies too. And if you don't-- if you don't see it, tell us, tell Nick.

Nick Sbordone: Right.

BJ Jones: And we'll... we'll get him one, or we'll give you one to tack up in your building too. We can-- we can whip that up pretty quickly.

Nick Sbordone: Yep.

BJ Jones: So we'll... we'll work with you, Tammy, and we'll work with you and figure out how to get these out to schools and the residential buildings, and the-- and the day cares and that. It's a-- it's a great suggestion.

Nick Sbordone: Bill, let's definitely exchange-- and anyone else, obviously-- please, let's exchange information before we leave tonight. We'll make sure we get you on our newsletter, our news blog, all the emails we send out. In the wake of the event, we were sending out emails to the community. And we'll also put physical signs up. I think that communication can always be better, and we wanna try and make sure that we are meeting that requirement.

Bill McDuffy: Thank you, and one other thing that I wanted...

Nick Sbordone: Mm-hmm? Hold on, we gotta get you a microphone.

BJ Jones: Francis is coming.

Bill McDuffy: One-- one last thing, and not to sound like a broken record here.

BJ Jones: That's okay.

Bill McDuffy: You guys brought up the point before, and I think anyone that lived here during 9/11 knows that the communication systems go down, for obvious reasons. One of the things that I learned from the meeting at PS-276, and you know, just for general knowledge here, you know, Google and some of these other companies offer a free app. And, um... again, I don't have my phone with me-- they gave us the app because they could mass text-blast an emergency message. Because what happened on Halloween was most of the parents-- I shouldn't say most-- a lot of parents that were on the emergency email didn't receive it, because either the-- the communication systems were down, or whether it's a security thing where they slowed down the Internet in the area so that communication can't be between the wrong people, whatever it is. But the text blasts used to, you know, be a form to communicate, and maybe that's just like the old, annoying noise on the TV set that used to say "this is a test, and this would follow if this, you know, were an emergency." But you know, it might be an idea to implement something that's free and-- and available.

Catherine McVay Hughes: I'm gonna respond to that, because this community fought really hard for Notify NYC. So I just wanna know, has everyone here signed up for the free Notify NYC? And frankly, on that day, on October 31st, I get so many notifies. I did not get any. So it's actually a communication issue from the top that should actually be addressed as well. But I think everyone in this community should definitely sign up for Notify NYC. They are amazing. They will find you on your cell phone, and there's different levels as well, so you got the bigger picture as well.

BJ Jones: I saw another-- oh, Tammy, you had the microphone. Yeah.

Tammy: I'll wait till we ask...

BJ Jones: In the end? Okay. Here in the...

Nick Sbordone: Do we have anyone who hasn't-- who hasn't asked a question first? Before we go to seconds and thirds? Okay.

Man: I just wanted to start by saying... I've lived in the community since, uh... I've lived in the community since '87, which is amazingly 30 years, and this is the first time I've actually spoken at one of these things. And the reason is that I feel comfortable that you all are actually receptive for the first time in 30 years, so... (applause) And so I especially wanna call out Nick for-- for his omnipresence at every-- I mean, he's kind of second only to Gail Brewer, who actually holds the-- holds the city title for...

BJ Jones: That's a-- that's a good bar.

Nick Sbordone: Any time you're mentioned in the same sentence as Gail Brewer, it's a compliment beyond words, so thank you.

Man: I just wanted to make a-- a kind of philosophical comment about resiliency. And I think it's important that, um... that the Battery Park City Authority is concerned with resiliency, and concerned with planning. But what I find troubling is that, uh... this is a much bigger problem that involves the whole harbor, and the tributaries, and the Long Island Sound, and it's something that requires a large perspective. It-- now, finally, after all this time, the Army Corps of Engineers has a-- has a kind of study underway, supposed to have something out by March. But I was amazed that it took so many years for Battery Park City and downtown to rebuild itself. We're at 16 already, and I'm not sure I'm gonna live to see the whole thing done. And so, from my point of view, World War II was won three times in this-- in the 16 years that, you know. It took us three years to defeat Europe and Japan. And so, it's-- we're 16 years out on 9/11, we're out five years out on the flood. I can't believe that we don't believe in ourselves enough to say, we're gonna go to war and get this thing done. And we-- I think I would like to see Battery Park City more present in the demanding-- not planning for itself, but in the demand side of saying, why can't we figure out something that helps Red Hook, Jersey City, and the-- and the East River where-- I can't believe that we lost all those hospitals, and could even tolerate losses like that as a society. So, if we aren't smart enough to demand that we behave like Americans have in the past, and rise up to demand that things get done, and that we do the best thinking in the world and have the smartest people, and the best engineers, and the most committed populous, and money that flows where it's needed to produce a reasonable future.

BJ Jones: Thank you, yeah.

Gwen Dawson: I think-- I think we are in agreement, and we have been working and been in close contact with LMCR, the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Plan, uh, that is being led by the city, as well as the larger harbor approach of the surge gate concept that is-- is gaining some popularity. And I think we're looking at the possibility of getting a study done on that. And all of these efforts, including the Battery Park City efforts, we look at as being total complimentary, not in competition with each other, and necessary, because if we can get movement on all of them and work in parallel, we'll have a comprehensive system that'll have built-in redundancies and will gain a lot of momentum in terms of protecting Manhattan, by starting with our little efforts here in Battery Park City, and, um... and also joining those and coordinating those with the larger efforts.

BJ Jones: And Catherine, you've been a champion for this too. And so, having you on our board, I think helps that much more, so thank you very much.

Gwen Dawson: Absolutely.

Catherine McVay Hughes: And, um...

Man: Use the mic. (laughter)

Catherine McVay Hughes: And CB-1 also has a resiliency task force, and they had a major meeting last Thursday night. And I can vouch that Gwen and Nick were there. And the entire agenda was devoted to the presentation on the New York Harbor storm surge barrier, and how it could complement all the other activities in Lower Manhattan. So, I just wanna make sure that you know that they are very involved in resiliency.

BJ Jones: Okay, thank you, Catherine.

Nick Sbordone: Thank you, Catherine.

BJ Jones: And Justine? Justine, and then closing comments from Tammy.

Justine: Okay, thanks, sorry. So, okay, putting on my Democracy For BPC hat for a change here. I wanna talk a little bit about affordability in Battery Park City, and talk about-- I know you probably can't answer the questions, but things that, um... I-- I was kind of encouraged at the last board meeting, where one of the new board members, Lou Bevilacqua, talked about, okay, this is all the money that comes in to-- from the Battery Park City through ground rent and PILOT, and everything else. And what he was asking was, why can't more of it? If we're gonna collect this money, why can't more of it be spent here in Battery Park City? And... (applause) Oh, sorry. But, so I mean, that was an amazing position, and it seemed to be un-- at least from-- I've been saying that in some ways. Number one, spend here for the programs that we want. Resiliency, we can put more money towards that.

Woman: Security.

Justine: Security, we can put more money towards that. Saving St. Joseph's Chapel, we can put more money towards that. Um... but you know, pick and choose as the community wants and what they need. But I do think that that is something that the-- that the board should think about. And also, Gateway Plaza and affordability in Gateway Plaza, and keeping this community and this neighborhood affordable for the people who live here, whether they're owners or renters. And part of that is a job that the Battery Park City Authority can get involved in with our ground rent coming up. Reducing the ground rent, figuring out what we can do there, and there's a lot to talk about, 'cause there's a lot of surplus. (Tammy speaks inaudibly) And 15-- you can talk about that, 'cause I don't know what that is. Hold on, and here's Tammy. Thank you.

BJ Jones: Okay.

Tammy: So, I was gonna tag on about the additional moneys.

BJ Jones: Yeah.

Tammy: And we've heard a lot about security. It's a major focus, and resiliency. I urge when-- I know Gwen says that the RFPs are coming out for the northern parts of the neighborhood, the Esplanade, the ball fields. I encourage you to take a look at the extra money, and make sure that when we're looking at resiliency, we protect the assets first where people live, work, and play all the time, like the ball fields. Again, the reporters were safe in Wagner. I understand the long-term viability that something will need to be done there. But a short-term solution does not include a full redevelopment project, when the safety of the people who live in the North neighborhood, over by Chambers, over by Gateway, and all the other places that flooded where there was even loss of life due to flooding, are far more important to stage first, especially, as you know from the meeting, depending on what happens with the gates at the bottom. So I encourage you-- I know you are working on the timing-- but I would be remiss if I didn't say to put the people and the assets before the park.

Gwen Dawson: Let me just-- just respond though, because you-- you did miss that part of the presentation, and we did talk about that. We, um... we are expecting the RFP for the ball field segment to be issued before the end of the year. We had actually started out with the objective of combining the ball fields and the North section into one project, and then thought better of it and decided that we would separate them. So, we're going to be issuing them separately, into two separate RFPs. The ball field will come first, and then the Northern Resiliency Project will come closely on-- on its heels.

Tammy: And where does Wagner fit in there?

Gwen Dawson: Well, Wagner is-- Wagner's a little bit ahead because we issued the RFP and we've gotten proposals. But in reality, the ball field scope of work will be far simpler than the South Resiliency Project will be. And so, likely we'll jump ahead in terms of implementation.

Tammy: I'll comment again on-- on the next opportunity, because again, there's not been a ton of community agreement on Wagner, where I don't-- I haven't heard anyone in the community disagree with protecting the assets and the ball fields first, and protecting all the way down the Esplanade for any of the residential buildings who are gonna get overflow from there, first and foremost. And especially when you're looking at the Ritz, again, it did not get damaged from water that came over the sea wall. It came from West Street.

Nick Sbordone: Up, right.

Gwen Dawson: We understand that's an important component, yeah.

Tammy: So, those-- those components are far more important than a redevelopment project for the park. And the extra moneys that you have-- which was so delightful to hear, let's keep it local-- could be used in that idea for staging, and timing, and things like that, for security, as we were talking about before, and general improvement. Because as our parks are aging, we have a fantastic parks department, they do an amazing job.

Nick Sbordone: Hear, hear.

Tammy: But I guess my question is, when we're taking a look at that, maybe some of that extra money can be boosted in as they're aging, to take a look at those things, 'cause there are cracks in the stones. So, taking that extra money and really keeping it for the infrastructure in Battery Park.

Gwen Dawson: Oh, certainly we are not-- we are not neglecting that. And we have a very robust plan for the infrastructure needs. And again, I mentioned earlier in the presentation that we've finished projects for the asphalt granite remediation repairs. We are working on the Bed A Property Wall Project. So, we are keeping close tabs on those, and those are certainly foremost in our planning projects, is making sure that we are protecting the infrastructure in moving forward.

Tammy: Okay.

BJ Jones: And we have-- thanks, Tammy. We have one more...

Nick Sbordone: Frances.

BJ Jones: One more question, Frances? Frances, Frances? Yeah.

Frances Mishania: Hi, I'm on the board of my building. 72% of our budget goes to PILOT, ground rent, and BPCA facilities. We talk about seniors, and it's very nice. These women do a wonderful job having programs for them and classes for them. And bottom line is, most people that lived here, when they retire have to leave here because they can't afford the maintenance here. The rents are going through the roof. I think that's something that should

be deeply considered, where seniors should have some kind of break on the PILOT, so they could be able to stay in the neighborhood where they lived most of their lives, and worked. Why all the studies? When I mentioned putting a life preserver on a fence, it was a study that was thrown back at me. Go down the block here, they have them all over. Just go there and say, "Gee, I'm sure they did the study. Where did you get them? How much did they cost?" Save us money.

Nick Sbordone: We did that. (overlapping chatter)

Frances Mishania: I mean, why is there a study necessary, please? You know, we spend-- you spend so much money on surveys, useless surveys. Help the senior citizens stay in the neighborhood. We-- at some of the buildings at this point cannot even get a mortgage because of the-- and you're aware of that. You cannot get a 30-year mortgage. And I think this is the biggest issue that should be addressed by the BPCA. You are choking the residents that live here. (applause)

BJ Jones: Thank you. Thank you. Any... yeah?

Jeff Chan: Yeah, I wanna echo what she was saying, right?

BJ Jones: Sure.

Jeff Chan: So, this is a beautiful place we're living, and we love to live here in the long term. But then, the property value is much lower, the rest of the city. Why? Because of a ground strike, but that's historical reasons. I'm constantly struggle, should I sell, should I stay? Right? Because we're walking towards a cliff.

Woman: We are.

Jeff Chan: And we're walking to a cliff. Should I wait until the last minute and sell, then becomes worthless? I really think that you'll do everyone a big favor to address this issue, and to put us at ease. This is a constant, constant struggle.

BJ Jones: Okay, thank you. Yep. (applause) Anybody else? Going once? I sort of feel like the host of an NPR talk show. Does it feel like that, guys? Gwen? Nick?

Gwen Dawson: Good times, good times.

Nick Sbordone: You kinda look like one too.

BJ Jones: We need headphones.

Nick Sbordone: I mean that in the best possible way.

BJ Jones: Would anybody--

Jeff Chan: So to follow, do you have any comments, or actually feedback, from what we've just spoken?

BJ Jones: Yeah, um, the... At this juncture, what I can say is that we-- we've heard this concern before, and I think it's important that you echo it again. And that's why I think it's important that Catherine is here, as a board member, to hear about it. And, uh, we'll... as we get up-- as I get up to speed on it, and as we figure out how to move forward, we'll keep you updated, and, uh, include you along-- along the way. It's the best I can do now.

Jeff Chan: You know, it's not to my liking, obviously.

BJ Jones: Yeah, no, I-- I have no doubt, yeah.

Jeff Chan: It's open-ended. And open-ended things, most likely is not getting resolved, right? So I wanna have some action items, I want some guidance. Even if you don't have a result today, but give us some roadmaps, right? Give us some roadmaps in how soon you expect to get something in place. That's-- that's our livelihood. This is the most important thing that we are consider-- that we are thinking about.

BJ Jones: Okay, so I'll bring that back with Catherine to our board, and we'll figure out what kind of roadmap we could share with you, and um... and keep you posted. In the back?

Nick Sbordone: Hi, Bill.

Bill McDuffy: You know... sorry you all know my name by now. But um... you know, I learned something from your-- your slides here earlier tonight that I did not know.

BJ Jones: Okay?

Bill McDuffy: Battery Park City Authority, or Battery Park City, there was something up there that said you can make donations to Battery Park City.

BJ Jones: For... you can donate goods for the Empire State Puerto Rico Relief Effort.

Bill McDuffy: No, there was-- there was something else. Not-- not related to that, it had to do with the Battery Park City.

BJ Jones: It was Holiday Lights. Oh yeah, for the...

Bill McDuffy: Can you go back one slide? I think it was one slide back.

BJ Jones: It was-- it was this one.

Nick Sbordone: Stockings With Care.

BJ Jones: There were two. There was for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief, or for Stockings With Care.

Bill McDuffy: All right, well, you know, we-- it sounds like we have a revenue problem, right? We-- we feel that-- we feel that the rent keeps going up, and there isn't enough revenue to take care of what we need, right? So, to get everything we want, you have two problems. You need more revenue, which usually comes back to us, right? We-- we have to pay more. But you know, you have other--

Woman: We have 200-million-dollar surplus.

Bill McDuffy: Okay, but you have-- you have other parks in this city-- Central Park. I get, I don't know, three, four letters a month, make a donation to the Central Park Conservancy, right? There are things that can be done down here that would alleviate some of the funding for what you guys would have to get to make everybody happy down here, you know? And you know, I don't know. But there are an awful lot of people that get an awful lot of enjoyment out of this neighborhood that don't live here, you know? There are so many hotels across the street now that I can't even count, you know? You've got tourists walking through here. You know, to say that it's a closed community-- you know, and no one did-- but to say it's a closed community is not really a fair assessment.

BJ Jones: Agreed.

Bill McDuffy: And you know, you have a lot of people here that enjoy things and-- and do things. You know, maybe the people that enjoy it that don't live here, you know, if-- if they had a place to make a donation into, you know, pay for some of this police presence, or some of these shortfalls that we seem to have from-- for whatever reason. You know, it's just another suggestion of an idea that-- that can be taken into account.

BJ Jones: Okay, um, thank you. Okay.

Nick Sbordone: Okay.

BJ Jones: Oh, one more, one more. Just in the nick of time.

Emily: Hi, I'm Emily.

BJ Jones: Hi, Emily.

Emily: I just wanna say this is like a really great turnout, and I'm so happy to see that the community is engaged here. And I would just encourage everyone to stay connected. You know, this doesn't have to be a one-time conversation.

BJ Jones: Right.

Emily: Grab Nick's card, sign up for the newsletter. There's a lot of social media pages that you can follow, Twitter. Like, people will reply if you put a message out. It may not be the answer you want, or it may be that we're still looking for an answer. But that's a really good way to get in touch in between these meetings. So please, stay in touch, stay connected. It's a good way in between these to-- to have your voice heard and make sure that these issues are getting addressed.

BJ Jones: Yeah, so please, on your way out, if you are interested in these materials, please grab some. Nick's card, again, for friends and family this holiday season, we've got so many. Thank you for coming, thank you for your feedback. Oh, we have-- I'm sorry, you-- Sure, one announcement. One announcement, one announcement.

Nick Sbordone: I promise that I would-- I forgot, I'm sorry, go ahead.

BJ Jones: And we forgot. Go ahead.

Kimberly Flynn: All right, so I'm Kimberly Flynn, I'm Director of 9/11 Environmental Action, and I just wanna take a really quick minute to let you know about a very important town hall meeting that's coming up. It's sponsored by us and Gale Brewer. And-- and basically, what you're gonna do if you come to this town hall meeting, is you are gonna get from the horse's mouth what is the World Trade Center Health Program, and who is eligible and how to apply, what is the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, who is eligible and how to apply. We have the directors of both of these programs who are gonna be making presentation. There are flyers on the table. I have flyers. Please, please, come and take one. Thank you very much. (applause)

Nick Sbordone: Thank you. And with that, thank you, everyone, and we will see you soon. Thanks.