

# Boerum Hill Bulletin

THE BOERUM HILL ASSOCIATION IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF RESIDENTS OF BOERUM HILL. WE SEEK TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.BOERUMHILLASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.BOERUMHILLASSOCIATION.ORG)

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(\*non-board member)

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at 7:00pm in the Hopkins Center.

## STREET SAFETY

On February 4th, the Boerum Hill Association held a Street Safety Meeting, chaired by Board Members Dwight Smith and Sid Meyer. Almost 50 local residents attended this meeting at the Belarusian Church.

As a result of a child fatality in Park Slope, local residents Sue Hagedorn, Hope Reeves, Sarah James, Grace Freedman and Hilda Cohen contacted the BHA through Council Member Levin's office to urge the BHA to conduct a forum similar to a Park Slope meeting that was held in reaction to their tragedy.

President Howard Kolins met with the group to discuss BHA traffic initiatives such as Brooklyn's first Neighborhood Slow Zone as well as other actions that DOT has undertaken with us in the past few years. We all agreed there was more work that could be done and the meeting planning began.

Those in attendance included: Council Member Steve Levin, DOT reps: Chris Hrones, Community Liaison and Kim Whiley-Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner for Education, 84th Police Precinct Captain Maximo Tolentino and Transportation Alternatives Senior Director for Campaigns, Caroline Samporaro.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather community feedback on the best ways to improve pedestrian safety in Boerum Hill. This included identifying "hot spots" or the most dangerous locations or activities in the area, discussing the current Boerum Hill slow zone and ideas to improve it, gathering information from parents, families and seniors about their experiences traveling in the neighborhood, and listening to other community concerns about safety.

Breakouts were focused on: Engineering, Enforcement, and Education:

- Engineering – Street Design, Traffic Calming, Speed Limits, etc.
- Enforcement – Hot Spots, "Smart" Enforcement, Resources, etc.
- Education/Encouragement – Messaging, Changing Culture, Peer Pressure, etc.

The objective of the Breakout Sessions:

- Identify Key Issues
- What Actions Can We Take Now?
- What Achievable Interim Goals Can We Work Toward?
- What Long-Term Goals Can We Strive For?

The discussions were lively and positive with many concerns directed at Captain Tolentino. Turn page 3 to see the results of the Breakout Sessions.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**Hoyt Street  
Association  
Plant Sale**

**Saturday, April 26th  
Sunday, April 27th**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I want to apologize for not getting a fall newsletter to you. As always, there's a lot going on so let's get to it.

The BHA has been a litigant in the fight to keep LICH open as a full service hospital. The outcome is unclear but we worked closely with our adjoining neighborhood organizations to give us the best chance at this. I've heard from many of you about your ambivalence toward LICH but we've had over a decade of managerial neglect that should not obscure the need for local emergency and inpatient services. With the increasing affluence of our area we deserve a first-class hospital and our neighbors in Red Hook should not have to travel miles for emergency care. Stay tuned.

In the past few months, crime has made a frightening return. Several street robberies, a pregnant woman robbed and abused, a man clubbed in a "knock-out" event - at different times of the day and by different people or groups. Cause for concern....and action. We reached out directly to Captain Tolentino at the 84th Precinct and the response was immediate. You may have seen additional patrols but you may not notice the additional plainclothes officers.

I ask you to be aware of your surroundings when walking in the neighborhood. Take out the ears and put away the cell phone. If you see suspicious activity, don't wait! Take note of the location and people then call 911 to report it. Please be careful and keep an eye on the street to protect your neighbors.



Residential development continues on every street. A new residence on Pacific Street just west of Smith Street, townhouses and brownstones on State Street, 440 Atlantic, towers in downtown and expect the laundromat at Atlantic and Nevins to give way to new residences. Will anyone build a school?

Lastly, I can't wait for warmer weather and the return of leaves on the trees. I hope the Hoyt Street Plant Sale will bring all of you out to celebrate the changing of the season.

In community,  
Howard Kolins, BHA President

## Hoyt Street Association Plant Sale

Beautify all of Boerum Hill. Colorful annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs will be available for sale on:

Saturday, April 26th 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday, April 27th 11:00am - 4:00pm

110 Hoyt Street garage, at the corner of Hoyt and Pacific Streets

Each year the Boerum Hill Association gives away

FREE bags of mulch and compost

(one to a customer, please!)

Saturday, April 26th at 10:00am

## OUR SUPPORTERS

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Terry Naini, *Town Real Estate*  
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Sahadi's  
Sterling Wines  
Trader Joe  
Zap Wines

## STREET SAFETY

### Engineering Breakout Results

General engineering requests:

- Leading bike intervals wherever there are leading pedestrian intervals
- Fare tolling
- "Next turn" sign
- Curb extensions next to every school
- Better crosswalk maintenance
- Better consistency with stop lines and yield lines
  - Provide visual clues and colors for pavement signage

Specific engineering requests:

- Raised crosswalks at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and Pacific St.
- Raised crosswalks at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Pacific St.
- Red light camera at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Warren St.
- Larger traffic signals at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Atlantic Ave. due to sun in eyes that makes it hard to see
- Add parking on Nevins St. to discourage illegal trucking
- Better slow zone signage (warning sign that you are about to enter the slow zone)
- Protected bike lane on Jay St.
- Bigger loading zone at Central booking at Schermerhorn Street.

- No left turn at Atlantic Ave. and Nevins St.
- Speed bumps on Hoyt St. and Wyckoff St.
- Lose a lane on Atlantic Ave.
- Protected traffic crossings at Atlantic Ave. and Smith St. (signaling LPI's)
- Protected traffic crossings at Atlantic Ave. and Boerum Pl. (signaling LPI's)
- Longer pedestrian crossing times at Boerum Pl. and Fulton St. South
- Court St. and Pacific St needs a light or stop sign

### Enforcement Breakout Results

General enforcement requests:

- Allow traffic Enforcement Agents to write summonses. Allow them to benefit enforcement, not just traffic flow.
- Promote pedestrian safety with Traffic Enforcement Agents.
- Have NYPD support red light and speed cameras. (Capt. Tolentino supports speed cameras, and wants them on Atlantic)
- Increase enforcement for Speeding and Failure to Yield. Captain Tolentino said summonses are the best driver education.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## S T R E E T   S A F E T Y

### Enforcement (continued)

- Increase available speed enforcement equipment, get more radar guns.
- Increase manpower to enforce speed limit and increase number of officers trained in speed enforcement.
- Allow NYPD crash reports to be made public in order to keep NYPD accountable.
- NYPD/DOT to coordinate to write summonses when a speed board is up.
- Address bicyclists that fail to yield to pedestrians.

### Specific enforcement requests:

- Provide crossing guard at Atlantic Ave. and Smith St.
- Failure to yield at Clinton/Pacific
- Traffic goes wrong way at Amity and Dean St.
- Double parking constantly on Jay St.
- Add speed cameras to Atlantic Avenue
- Dean and Boerum Place (2 stop signs where people don't stop, needs more signage, nothing on street)
- Pier 6
- Truck traffic on Hoyt St.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and Baltic St.
- Bond St. and Bergen St

### Education Breakout Results

#### Improve branding/marketing

- Simple signage
- Consistency
- Simple messaging (i.e. jingles)

- Changing culture
- Positive reinforcement
- Common courtesy
- "Back seat driver" (kids tell parents about importance of street safety)

#### Increase awareness of the Slow Zone

- Increase marketing so people understand it exists

#### Traffic safety courses

- DMV should provide courses that are NYC specific
- DOT should provide safe bicycling courses

#### More information for parents

- Better information flow to schools/PTAs/parents
- District-wide meeting where DOT meets with parents (PS 38, PS 32, PS 261, MS 447)

#### Overlay maps

- Overlay slow zones and school zones on Google maps

Some Enforcement actions have been seen already. Crossing guards have been reassigned and ticketing for failure to yield to pedestrians has begun on Atlantic Avenue. Expect the Police to emphasize bicycle safety when the weather warms.

A follow up meeting will take place in the late spring to keep the process moving along.

## R E C E N T   C R I M E

Our neighborhood is never crime free but a recent series of muggings and one "knock-out" type clubbing have received a lot of attention from residents and from the 84th Police Precinct. Additional police patrols and plainclothes officers have been brought to the neighborhood. But please be aware of your surroundings on the street. Put away the cell phone and take out the ear buds. More importantly, call 911 to report suspicious people or activity. Don't wait for a crime to be committed! Keep your eyes open.

## B O E R U M   H I L L   C A M P E R S

Last year we launched our summer camp initiative and sent several neighborhood kids off for two fun-filled weeks at the YMCA's sleep-away camp. the younger kids 6-12 and the teenagers 13-16. We sent kids to both.

The camp is in Huguenot, 90 miles north of the City, set in 1,150 acres of spectacular forest donated by the Rockefeller Family with dedicated campsites for the younger kids 6-12 and the teenagers 13-16. We sent kids to both. For 2014, we are refining the program to be award-based. They will recognize outstanding student performance and are working in concert with our schools to finalize the process.





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**Growing a better Boerum Hill**

## C H E C K I T O U T

### **French Louie at 320 Atlantic Avenue**

The space that housed Hopeland has been renovated to be brighter and more inviting. The owners are not new to the restaurant business having earned a successful run with Buttermilk Channel in Cobble Hill. This is a French bistro with American touches - the menu includes foie gras terrine and a very reasonable \$20 bavette steak frites, but also French-Louisiana dishes like a pan-fried skate with dirty rice and crab bisque, and the escargot "marchand de vin," which pairs an extremely French protein (snails) with two distinctly American ones - grits and bacon. Lunch and brunch will be added.

### **Blue Bottle Coffee, Dean St east of Smith St.**

From Oakland, CA to Brooklyn

### **Konditori, 114 Smith Street**

Coffee, pastries, healthy blender drinks

### **Lunetta at 116 Smith Street**

We were surprised to see this neighborhood mainstay quietly fold its tent. The food was always good and we will miss the meals.

### **Apartment 138 will become White Oak, 138 Smith**

Apartment 138 spent almost nine years on Smith Street and was always a destination for a burger and a beer. No word on what caused the closing and no word on the White Oak menu.

### **Coco Roco, 139 Smith Street**

Seems to be renovating. We look for its good Peruvian food to return.

### **Hanco's now on 134 Smith Street**

Moved from Bergen to Smith, a more visible and welcoming location. Yummy Vietnamese sandwiches, pho and more. Cheap and good!

## **JOIN THE BHA**

Help us advocate for Boerum Hill by becoming a member. Join us on the web at [www.boerumhillassociation.org](http://www.boerumhillassociation.org)