

86th Street in a Parking Daze

By Craig McGuire
The debate over "No Parking" signs on 86th Street is beginning all over again.

Community Board 11 is forming a task force to revisit a thorny issue that was the subject of intense debate two years ago concerning 86th Street, the major commercial artery that slices through the confines of the community board.

In 1992, following intense public hearings addressing the problems

caused by youths who frequented the strip at night, residents and merchants agreed to trade parking privileges for peace. There is currently no parking on 86th Street from 19th Avenue to Bay Parkway from 10 p.m. until 8 a.m.

"We had kids from literally all over the city and surrounding areas disrupting the neighborhood," said CB 11 District Manager Howard Feuer. "Now many merchants believe that the crowds will not return if the

signs are removed." However, CB 11 leaders are reluctant to start the process all over.

"Before we get everybody up in arms and start public hearings we will form a task force," said CB 11 Chairman William Guarinello.

According to Guarinello, the task force will include representatives from CB 11, local merchants associations, the 62nd Precinct, elected officials, and the Department



Anthony Neglia, president of the 86th Street Board of Trade speaks to residents at the monthly Community Board 11 meeting as CB 11 District Manager Howard Feuer looks on.

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of Transportation.

"We will have a large enough group to provide a broad spectrum of input," said Guarinello. "We hope to bring all the heads together and come to a consensus. If we cannot reach a consensus, then public hearings will be held."

The revitalization of 86th Street was also discussed at the last community board meeting.

Tony Neglia, president of the 86th Street Board of Trade, believes, "We are turning it around."

Neglia added, "We have had several large stores invest heavily into opening up new stores." Recently, both The Gap clothing stores and The Wiz electronics chain have opened large stores on 86th Street.

Neglia emphasized that a strong commercial district

community goes down as well," explained Neglia. "It happened on Pitkin Avenue, it can happen here."

Both community board leaders and merchants agreed that sanitation and sidewalk obstruction problems are developing into major concerns for shoppers and pedestrians.

"We have received more tickets for cleaning than any other commercial area," said Neglia, "but the merchants are out there cleaning."

"Sandwich" signs on

sidewalks, which residents have repeatedly voiced concern over, were also discussed.

"If you see any sign obstructing sidewalk, call me and I will call the merchant," offered Neglia.

Guarinello reminded residents, "These issues are what the community board is here for."

Residents who are having problems can contact Community Board 11 at 266-8800.

Neglia can be reached at 266-9102.

Cropsey Bridge Under Reconstruction

The Cropsey Avenue Bridge will enter the first phase of reconstruction the weekend of Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30 and will continue on

During this work, three lanes will be open to traffic, with two southbound lanes and one northbound lane operating between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30