



THE TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION

The Neighborhood Association for Manhattan's Turtle Bay,
East Midtown Area, Home of the United Nations

Turtle Bay News, February 2024

NEW YORK CITY'S E-VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE (EVSA) CONTINUES TO GROW AND GET ACTION

By Steve Zaffarano

Since July 26, 2023, when an overflow crowd jammed into the Upper East Side's Darlington Hall to participate in the "Wild West On Our Streets" meeting coordinated by the EVSA, significant progress has been made toward making our streets safer. EVSA has since grown to over 500 members, including more than 50 victims of e-vehicle crashes and gas-powered mopeds.

EVSA has continued to spread the word of their mission and to lobby our elected officials with the goal of reducing the risk to pedestrians and cyclists from collisions, the risk to residents from e-battery fires, and the risk to citizens from the use of unlicensed e-vehicles as unaccountable getaway vehicles.

After connecting with supporters through several Zoom meetings, EVSA sponsored a successful rally at City Hall and has planned a trip to Albany to get backing for the following bills:

- Register and license all e-vehicles, Bob Holden bill (city) or a state bill
- Require moped shops to sell only vehicles WITH license and registration, Brad Hoylman/Alex Bores bill
- Get e-vehicles (currently legal) and all gas mopeds (illegal) OFF subways and buses
- Update Police Reporting Forms to add e-vehicle and moped categories - Alex Bores bill
- Impose stiffer penalties for leaving the scene of bicycle, e-vehicle, or moped crash - Sen. Liz Krueger's bill

At a recent meeting, EVSA discussed losing Holden bill co-sponsors, which reduced the number of co-sponsors

needed for a council hearing. The loss of co-sponsors was due to lobbying efforts by Transportation Alternatives. They pointed out that the companies behind popular apps such as Door Dash, pay the powerful Transportation Alternative lobby.

In spite of the challenges, in an end-of-year email, EVSA highlighted accomplishments that were the result of their volunteers' hard work, such as:

- Holding two successful town hall meetings.
- Increasing the number of co-sponsor's of Bob Holden's bill (0758) for licensing and registering vehicles from fewer than 10 to 33 (34 co-sponsors are needed for a council hearing.)
- Enjoying a strong turnout on December 8 at their City Hall press conference, where Sook Ling Lai spoke beautifully about her dear friend Priscilla Loke, who was killed by a city bike in September.
- Taking actions to improve DOT crash statistics now that moped and e-bike crashes will be reported by NYPD.

Looking to 2024:

The EVSA team will be working on a multiple-victim testimony video that should resonate with our community and elected officials and may rally support.

To find out more about NYC E-Vehicle Safety Alliance and to join the next meeting, send an email to: nyc-evsa@outlook.com

Check out this EVSA video produced in 2023:
<https://vimeo.com/881857690?share=copy>.

The Turtle Bay Association is a current member of EVSA.

CASINO TOWN HALL MEETING UPDATE

The town hall event hosted by Senator Kristen Gonzalez and co-sponsored by Council Member Keith Powers and Senator Liz Krueger was held on Thursday, January 11th at the NYU College of Dentistry with more than 800 people who signed up, and either attended in person or on Zoom. Hundreds of Midtown East residents voiced overwhelming opposition to a plan by the Soloviev Group to build a massive entertainment district that would include a casino, hotel, shops, open space and over 500 units of affordable housing in the location between 38th & 41st Street beside the FDR Drive.

Attendees, during the heated town hall evening, expressed a wide variety of fears about the project, including concerns about the potential impacts on public safety, health, infrastructure, traffic, quality of life, emergency services and

the most important was the close proximity to the United Nations.

The Soloviev Group is among the nine confirmed contenders within New York City vying for one of the three coveted downstate casino licenses when state applications formally open up in late January or early February per State Gaming Commissioner Jerry Skurnik.

The next virtual Town Hall, sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger, will be held on Thursday February 22nd 6:30-8:30pm.

“The Impact of Casinos on Urban Communities”

Register to attend at

<https://tinyurl.com/KruegerCasinoTownHall>

OPENING OF EAST MIDTOWN GREENWAY AND WATERFRONT PARK

By Cindi Buckwalter

A highly anticipated, new section of the East Midtown Greenway and Waterfront Park opened on December 19, stretching from 53rd to 60th Street, complete with a ribbon cutting attended by many local officials and community members.

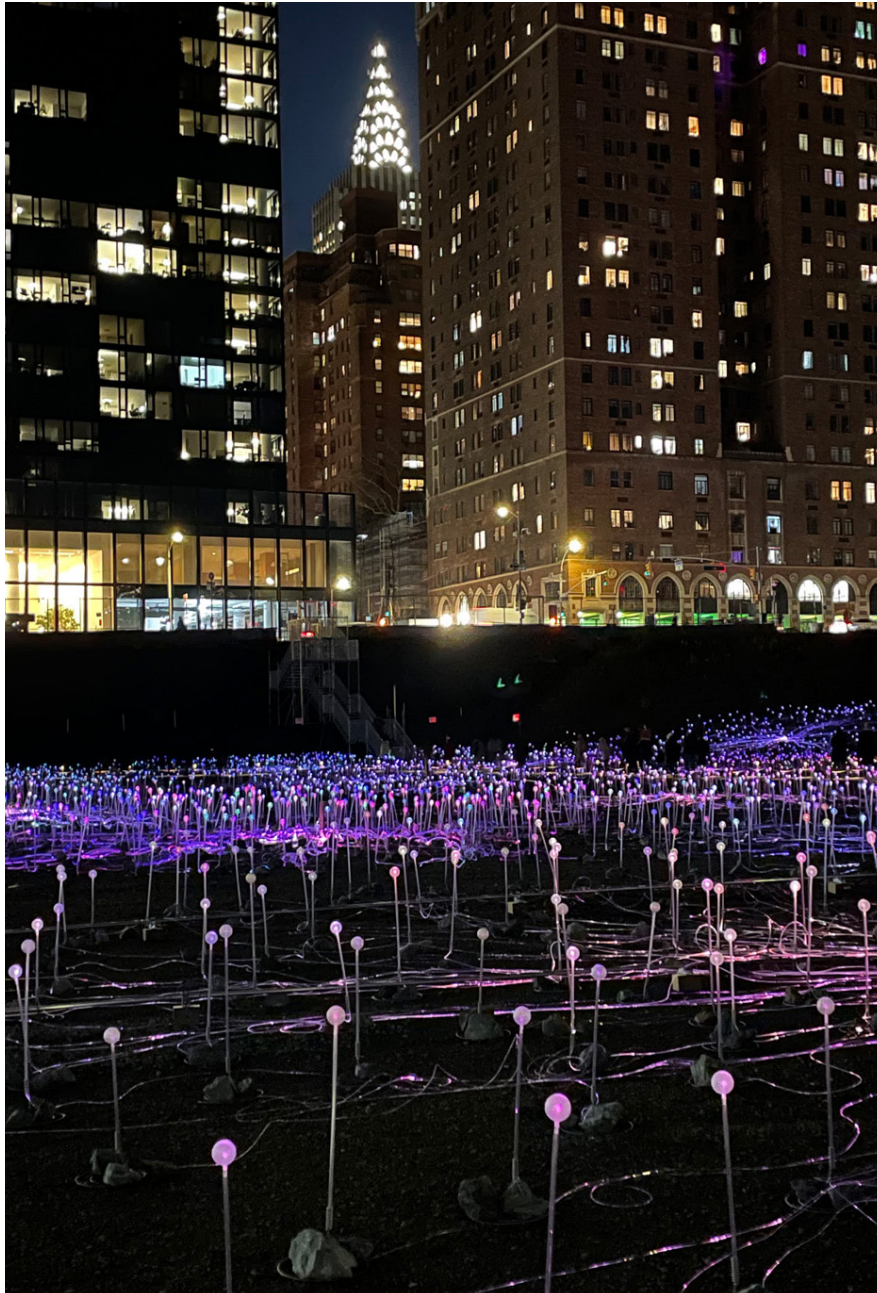
The East Midtown Greenway has transformed the underutilized waterfront into public open space for both recreational and commuting use. The Greenway connects over 1,000 acres of open space for the East Midtown community and the public at large – improving access to the East River, creating new and connected spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists, and providing waterfront amenities.

A 40-foot-wide esplanade extends over the water from 53rd to 60th Streets, parallel to the FDR Drive, allowing pedestrians to experience water on both sides. An ADA-accessible bridge crosses from the Greenway over the FDR Drive to East 54th Street. Andrew Haswell Green Park is a 1.1 acre site between 60th and 62nd Streets and includes a new lawn, landscaping, and other park amenities.

The greenway provides a wonderful respite very close to Turtle Bay. In addition to the walking and biking paths, there is seating throughout. The best way to experience

this welcome addition to Midtown East is to see it in person! You can enter the Greenway from 54th Street and Sutton Place South. As you walk back to the southern end, there is a beautiful view of One World Trade Center to the right of the U.N.

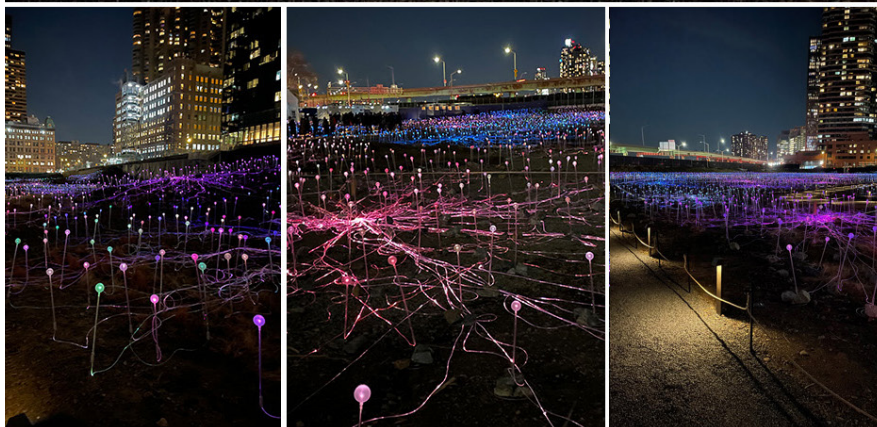




FIELD OF LIGHT AT FREEDOM PLAZA

Field of Light at Freedom Plaza, by artist Bruce Munro, consists of over 18,500 lowlight, fiber-optic stemmed spheres that illuminate with a range of colors. Spanning more than six acres on Manhattan's East Side from 38th to 41st Street east of First Avenue, the light display is open Thursday – Saturday from 5-9pm for the winter season.

You can book online at the website fieldoflightnyc.com for free tickets.



TBA 37th ANNUAL TOY DRIVE HOLIDAY PARTY

By Phyllis Gitomer

The TBA's Annual Toy Drive Holiday Party, was held on December 5th at Parnell's Restaurant. Old and new friends arrived with many toys, games, and winter clothing to benefit The Single Parent Resource Center. City Council Member Keith Powers and Assem-

blymember Alex Bores were among the guests who attended the successful event.

Special thanks to Republic Bank, a TBA business member, for having a drop off box at their location. It was overflowing with gifts from their loyal customers and our neighbors.



NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Highlights From the Community Board 6 Public Safety Committee Meeting

By Cindi Buckwalter

The last Community Board 6 Public Safety Committee Meeting was held on January 18th and included updates from the 17th Precinct's Commanding Officer Captain Maggie Clamp. Below are key highlights:

The 17th Precinct has some newly assigned police officers who have assisted in reducing crime and addressing a number of quality-of-life issues. Their police unit on bikes is expected to be expanded this year.

The Precinct continues to focus on moped and bike issues, including enforcement of illegal e-bikes that are not registered or are being driven recklessly.

CO Clamp provided some important safety reminders for the community:

Be aware of your surroundings, especially at corners and when crossing the street. In the evening, if you are wearing dark colored clothing, it may be difficult for drivers and bicyclists to see you. Crosswalks also provide an increased opportunity for theft of personal items – headsets, chains and other jewelry, phones, etc., and items can be stolen by those riding by on mopeds. Criminals often steal things from those who appear to be “easy marks” – people who are immersed in their phones or appear to be distracted.

Treat your cell phone like your wallet – do not give your phone to anyone you don't know for any reason, as there have been recent cases of people handing their phone to someone for an alleged donation or to share contact information, and then the person ran off with the phone. If you are a member of a gym, avoid putting expensive watches, jewelry, or other valuables into your locker, as there have been recent thefts from gym lockers. IF you do need to put something of value into your locker, be sure to completely cover the keypad or combination when you are entering the code.

CO Clamp also offered some security tips for businesses:

She encourages store owners to NOT use lockboxes for keys. Criminals have been breaking some of the lockboxes at night to gain entry. Consider using a “key card” security system where each employee has an electronic card for access, which can be turned off if the employee no longer works there.

She recommends that businesses request a meeting with a patrol officer from the 17th Precinct. The officers can provide general safety advice and best practices if a crime does occur, in which case the business owner/employee should call 911 immediately, and then follow up with a call to the officer's cell phone.

The Public Safety Committee of Community Board 6 will discuss shoplifting at their next meeting on Thursday, February 15 at 6:30 pm. You can attend the meeting on Zoom or in person. See the Community Board 6 website for more details: www.cbsix.org

The 17th Precinct Community Council meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Sutton Place Synagogue at 225 East 51st Street beginning at 6:30 pm. We encourage you to attend so that you can hear the latest safety updates from CO Maggie Clamp and her fellow officers, along with Community Board 6 Public Safety Chair Matt Roberts. This is also a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Below are the dates of the next few meetings, with additional information at this website: <http://www.17thprecinctcc.org>

Tuesday, February 27

Tuesday, March 26

Tuesday, April 30

An Upcoming Pedestrian Accessibility Improvement Project on Lexington Avenue

CB6 has learned that there is an upcoming pedestrian accessibility improvement project on Lexington Avenue, between East 41st and East 49th Streets as well as on East 49th Street, between Lexington and 3rd Avenues.

This project will involve:

The construction of seven curb and sidewalk extensions along the east side of Lexington Avenue between East 41st and East 48th Streets (near Grand Central Terminal). Upgrading all pedestrian ramps at all five intersections receiving safety improvements.

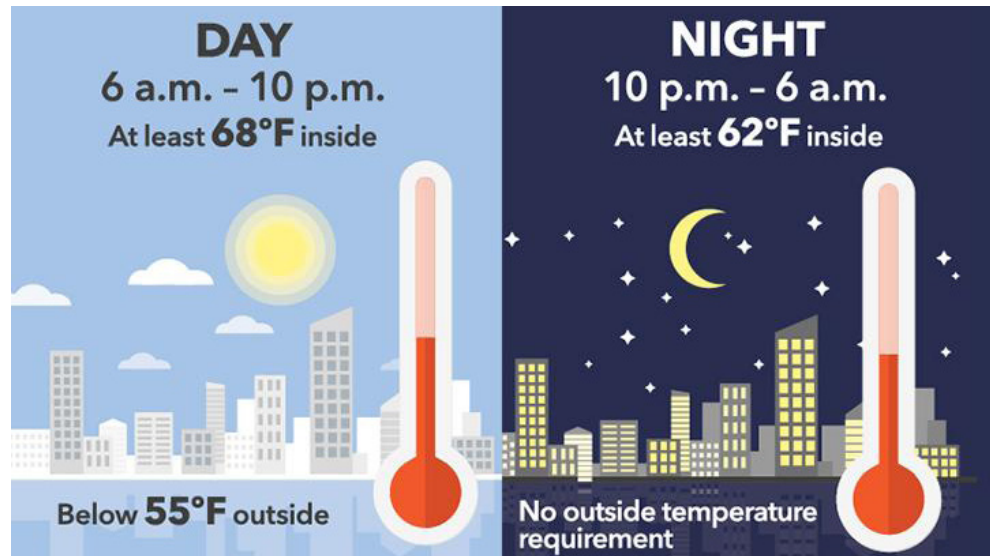
Watermain replacement on Lexington Avenue from East 45th Street to East 49th Street on the east side of the roadway and an additional watermain replacement on 49th Street between Lexington Avenue and 3rd Avenue.

Utility and watermain construction is supposed to start in June 2024. The sidewalk and roadway construction is supposed to start in early 2025. This project has a projected Substantial Completion Date of October 2026.

It's Heat Season. Here are Some Helpful Reminders from the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Heat season is underway.

What this means is that your landlord has requirements on how warm to keep your building.



SAVE THE DATES

BECOME A TBA VOLUNTEER

Thursday, February 15th 6-8pm
Vanderbilt YMCA

TBA BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Friday, March 22 8:30-10:30am
Copinette Restaurant

MEET & GREET U.S. CONGRESSMAN JERROLD "JERRY" NADLER

Thursday, April 4th 8:30-10:30am
Copinette Restaurant



HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL

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