



St. John's Place Community Association

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Media Advisory **Public Community Forum** **With City Leadership and City Representatives** **May 26, 2022, Thursday, 6:30PM (doors open 6PM)** **139 St Johns Pl, Brooklyn, NY, 11217**

Park Slope Residents Meet City Leadership to talk about Safety, Traffic and Construction in Historic Landmark North Slope Neighborhood

The St. Johns Community (SJPCA) is convening a public forum to address the ongoing street construction, BED798, and related issues such as excessive traffic, road accidents, and management of future city upgrades in light of the Gowanus rezoning.

Senior City officials attending to address the community are Hon. Shahana Hanif, Council Member (District 39) - Eric McClure, Co-Chair Transportation CB6 - Jeffrey Margolies, Executive Director Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, NYC DDC - John Douglas Director of Land Use, Brooklyn Borough. Pres. Office - Emily Riquelme-Beaufort Community Liaison DOT Brooklyn. Also reps of NYPD, DSNY, NYC Comptroller Office (TBA).

Over the last eight years, our neighborhood has experienced tremendous distress caused by the current Water Main construction, BED798. The project originally budgeted at \$25.8 million started in 2015, scheduled to last approximately two to three years. However, in 2017, the project was delayed until the summer of 2021. Today, work continues into Spring 2022, and \$102 million has been spent so far. The site is supposed to be completed in the Fall of 2023.

Our association, SJPCA, held an emergency Town Hall Meeting in the Fall of 2019 to discuss with residents, city leadership, representatives of the DDC, the Office of the Mayor, the office of the Brooklyn Borough President as well as District City Council Member 39, Brad Lander. Hundreds of residents attended to voice their concerns regarding sustained damages and other adverse impacts due directly to Triumph throughout the construction site areas.

Since our 2019 Town Hall Meeting, our association, SJPCA, has held dozens of Task Force meetings with DDC and other City agencies, as well as elected officials, to address problems and damages caused by Triumph's construction methods and techniques. Certain adjustments improved oversight, and onsite management helped solve some problems. SJPCA is actively monitoring the remaining phases of the construction, anticipated to conclude in 2023.

Our objective is to ensure that this project is managed safely, with minimum disruptions until its completion and full site restoration recovery. The upcoming Forum's goal, along with our panelists, is to

present the community with BED798 construction updates and discuss related safety issues and concerns. We also need to prepare ourselves for the following years of construction brought by the Gowanus rezoning. We encourage the community to become familiar and stay involved to ensure that our neighborhood is not again overwhelmed by future construction projects that could damage properties, disrupt daily life, and increasingly tear apart the historic fabric of our community. While some local upgrades may be justified, other massive installations may not directly benefit our community.

BED798 Construction has created many issues over the last six years:

- Unprecedented cracks have developed in facades and foundations of homes due to massive vibrations, including ground failures (sinkhole near PS282), cracked sidewalks, including many landmarked bluestones;
- Unprecedented floods in many properties and brownstone basements, power outages, limited water service; gas disruptions;
- Quality of life Interruptions: emergency vehicles and delivery car services blocked without warnings, endangering many, including people with disabilities and at-risk seniors;
- Pruning of more than 100 trees not following ANSI A300 standard leading to the reduction of the canopy of up to 50% of some trees;
- Health hazard issues include poor air quality, open raw-sewage pipes, thunderous noise disrupting children and the elderly (some days as early 5:30 AM); a massive increase of rodents, with a reduction of sanitation pickups as many streets were fenced off during construction work;
- Terrible parking situation (loss of about 50% - 70% of legal parking spots);
- Traffic issues including school-bus accidents, increased road rage leading to accidents, and the death of too many residents, especially in the last two years.

About SJPCA:

The St. Johns Community (SJPCA) is a nonpartisan, secular organization dedicated to the well-being of its residents. It strives to create a flourishing neighborhood by providing advocacy, assistance, or improvements necessary for a safe, healthy, and enjoyable living environment.

More on WWW.SJPCA.ORG