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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

Environment & Sanitation Committee Tuesday, May 14, 2013 Lenox Hill Neighborhood Center 331 E. 70th Street Auditorium 6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Debbie Teitelbaum, Dave Kleckner, Michele Birnbaum, Roy Carlin, Corey Evans, Ed Hartzog, Larry Hockert, Lowell Barton

Number of Attendees: 40+ (sign-in sheet attached)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm.

TOPIC – PROPOSED E. 91ST STREET MARINE TRANSFER STATION (MTS).

Pledge 2 Protect (P2P), a new coalition formed in opposition to the MTS, came to present reasons for opposing the MTS, their mission and strategic plan, and how individuals and organizations can become involved and assist the campaign.

Speakers from P2P were as follows: Kelly Nimmo-Guenther, President, P2P; Jeff Dorn, Chief Operating Officer, Asphalt Green; Andy Lachman, Executive VP, P2P.

PUBLIC TURN-OUT AT THE MEETING

We were prepared for a larger turn-out, and although the turn-out was good (attendance sheets attached) there were reasons that may explain why more residents did not attend the meeting.

- A flyer was created and eblasted to CB8's 7,000+ mailing list and posted on the monthly calendar.
- The flyer was eblasted by Residents for Sane Trash to their extensive mailing list.
- Flyers were posted on lamp posts in the vicinity of the meeting location and distributed to Lenox Hill Neighborhood Center to post in their buildings and to large residential buildings near the meeting location.
- We were unaware that the meeting was the same night as an MTA-sponsored 2nd Ave subway "ask-the-experts" meeting that may have drawn some of the potential attendees away from the MTS meeting.
- P2P had just held a kick-off meeting the prior week attended by 400+ people, so those residents were not in attendance.

OPPOSITION TO THE MTS

At the start of the meeting, attendees were informed that CB8 had passed several resolutions in unanimous opposition to the MTS. P2P speakers then discussed reasons for opposition to the MTS, including the results of new studies (e.g., a World Health Organization report reclassified toxic diesel fumes as carcinogenic, which is notable since more than 500 trucks per day would drive through the UES and pass adjacent to an Asphalt Green playground and their iconic sports field to dump trash at the facility). The attached handout highlights just a few of the concerns including major traffic congestion, safety issues, flooding, and costs. The E. 91st Street MTS would be within ¹/₄ mile of more than 22,000 residents, which is 25% more people and more than 30% more children, than all of the other six MTSs combined. More detailed information is included in the attached 2-page information sheet that was distributed at the meeting.

THE PLEDGE AND P2P's CAMPAIGN

P2P's focus is to obtain at least 20,000 signatures for a pledge by voters to support only those politicians who publicly oppose the E. 91st Street MTS. During the first phase of the campaign (through the end of May), P2P is focusing on obtaining pledge signatures. During June and July P2P, armed with the pledge signatures, will focus on communication and candidate persuasion in context of the Mayoral campaigns of all the various candidates. Then during August and September, leading up to the Sept 10th Primary Day, P2P will focus on accountability and voter turn-out in publicizing where the candidates stand on this issue.

WHAT CAN P2P SUPPORTERS DO?

People and organizations can get involved in the following ways:

<u>Activities</u>. Sponsor or attend activities and special events, including helping obtain pledges. "Like" P2P on Facebook (<u>www.facebook.com/Pledge2Protect</u>)

<u>Building campaigns</u>. Such as by spreading awareness and obtaining pledges in one's own residential building.

<u>Coalition building</u>. Enlist organizations that one belongs to in supporting and assisting the campaign.

<u>Data entry</u>. Help type information into P2P's data base. <u>Education</u>. Including through the schools.

Field work. Canvassing for pledge signatures at subway stations, bus stops, street fairs, etc.

<u>Other</u>: Take the pledge, volunteer, donate, commit (e.g., get 5 friends to take the pledge). The pledge can be completed on-line at <u>http://pledge2protectnyc.org/take-action/</u>

Meeting adjourned at ~8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Kleckner and Debbie Teitelbaum Co-chairs Environment and Sanitation Committee

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