

September 2007

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Next RNA Meeting:

Tuesday, September 11th at 7:30 PM

Location: Harbor View Health Care Center

1st Floor Cafeteria

178 Ogden Avenue

Agenda:

· Police Report & Neighborhood Improvement officers

· Mayor Healy - Presentation of Clean & Green Award

· **99S/10 Bus - Restore service to Palisade Ave.**

· 100 Steps

Membership Dues

Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA.

Annual dues are \$10 for residents and \$15 for those outside RNA boundaries. Please contribute at an RNA meeting or make checks payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail c/o RNA, 154 Ogden Ave., 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.

Dear Becky,
 Please join us at this month's RNA meeting, when Mayor Healy will be our guest!

Mayor Healy to Attend RNA Meeting on September 11th

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy is scheduled to attend this month's RNA meeting to present the association with an award, and **area residents will have an opportunity to question him about the shift of NYC bus service from Palisade Ave to Central Ave.**

The Mayor will present RNA with the first annual Jersey City Clean & Green Project Pride Award. The award is given to the neighborhood association in each Ward (in our case, Ward D) that is most active and caring about the city, the environment and its community.

Scores of e-mails have been sent to the Mayor seeking his support to restore bus service to NYC along Palisade Ave, but the Mayor has yet to comment publicly on area residents' concerns. His appearance at our monthly meeting will give residents a chance (possibly brief) to express their concerns to the Mayor and ask publicly for his support.

Virtually without notice, **the 99S and #10 buses were rerouted to Central Avenue** starting August 27th. **RNA has been working feverishly ever since to inform the community of the change and lobby public officials to restore service.**

RNA has:

- Set up a website (www.citizenspeak.org/node/1133). There, concerned residents can automatically email with one click the following recipients: Coach USA, Mayor Healy, Councilmen Gaughan and Lipski and the at-large council representatives, County Executive Tom DeGise, and 32nd District Assembly representatives Vincent Prieto (head of the Transportation Committee) and Joan Quigley, and State Senator Nicholas Sacco.
 - Over 150 letters have been submitted to date imploring recipients to work to re-establish service (of higher quality)
- Distributed over 500 flyers alerting commuters to the change and providing them with email and phone numbers to use to voice their opinions.
- Met with the Central Ave Special Improvement District to leverage its experience in re-establishing bus service and get its agreement to support our efforts on Palisade Ave.
- Requested meetings with Coach USA, NJ Transit and Assemblyman Prieto.
- Spoken to Ward Councilmen Lipski and Gaughan. Lipski has made several calls to Coach USA requesting a meeting and a delay of the service change, but to no avail. Lipski will meet with the RNA board on Sept. 7.

As of Sept. 5th, only Jim Rutherford of Coach USA has responded to any of the emails that have been sent by scores of residents. His response (reprinted below) is riddled with inaccuracies and demonstrates the failure of Coach USA to understand its customer base:

"The Jitney operators provide a high service frequency along Palisades Ave. 7 days a week. The frequency increases during the rush hour periods. During the midday (2pm), they operate every 2-3 minutes.

Their service has reduced our passengers along Palisades Ave. over the last several years. On average we now transport less than 1 passenger per trip.

The Jitney service and their method of operation results in congestion along Palisades Ave. Typically the Jitney's nose into a bus stop, which then impedes all following traffic. This congestion adds time and cost to the travel along Palisades Ave.

The commuters along Palisades Ave. do have frequent service and have made a choice as to which service they will use.

The # 10/99S will stop at Congress and Palisades Ave. for those Palisades Ave. residents who would chose to use our service.

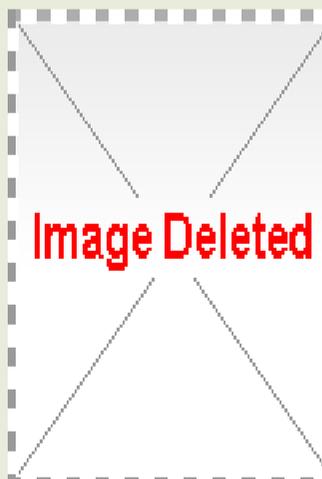
Thank you,

*James J. Rutherford, Jr.
 General Manager
 Olympia, ONE Bus, Independent Bus & Red & Tan"*

Bus service along Palisade Ave to New York City is critical to our community. Jitney service is infrequent, limited mostly to rush hour and daylight hours, and of questionable safety. **Without bus service, property values decline.**

We have a long road ahead to re-establish service. **We need your help. Please come to the RNA meeting with your neighbors on September 11th to stay informed, voice your opinions to Mayor Healy, and create a plan of action.**

100 Steps in Question



As a condition of approval of The Cliffs development project (100 Paterson Ave), the developer agreed to recreate the "100 Steps," a stairway that once led from the top of Mountain Road to Paterson Ave.

Now the Department of Public Works and the Division of Engineering are objecting to the stairway (despite an agreement signed by the City and the Zoning Board several years ago). They claim it will "represent a danger to pedestrians even during fair weather. During rain, ice, snow, and sleet, the stairway will clearly be a threat to life and limb. The stairway will undoubtedly lead to injuries and enormous claims and litigation...Maintenance requirements will exceed the abilities of our Public Works department."

RNA vehemently opposes eliminating the requirement for the developer to provide the "100 Steps." The stairway can be closed during inclement weather but remain available for the majority of the year.

On September 12th, we will meet with City officials and the developer's attorney to discuss this matter. The Steps cannot be removed as a condition of approval without returning to the Zoning Board. Stay tuned.

Mountain Road - Temporary Road Closure

A We've reported this several times before but, eventually, Mountain Road (also known as the bottom of Franklin Street/Hope Street) will close to vehicular traffic for approximately two months to widen the intersection to accommodate The Cliffs development. On September 4, Jeremy Loeb, a representative from The Cliffs, reported that they are waiting for PSE&G to move poles before they can proceed.

Mr. Loeb expects PSE&G to complete the poles during the week of September 10th. Mountain Road will then be closed to vehicles for approximately two months but remain open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Our Condolences

Riverview Neighborhood Association sends its condolences to Tom DeGise and family, on the death of Helene DeGise on Saturday, August 25th.

Helene DeGise is the wife of Heights resident and County Executive Tom DeGise and mother of Linda & Amy DeGise. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Cusack Care Center, 537 Pavonia Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306.