

October 2007

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Next RNA Meeting:
 Tuesday, October 9th
 at 7:30 PM

Location: Harbor
 View Health Care
 Center

1st Floor Cafeteria
 178 Ogden Avenue

Agenda:

- Police Report & Neighborhood Improvement officers

- **BUS SERVICE UPDATE and NEXT STEPS**

- 100 Steps

Membership Dues

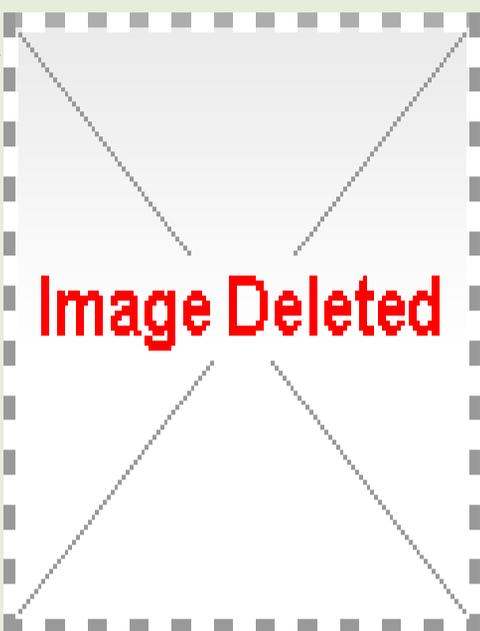
Membership dues and donations help sustain the RNA. Annual dues are \$10 for residents and \$15 for those outside RNA boundaries. Please contribute at an RNA meeting or make checks payable to Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail c/o RNA, 154 Ogden Ave., 3E, Jersey City, NJ 07307.

Dear Becky,

Please join us at this month's RNA meeting, when we will discuss how to restore NYC bus service to Palisade Avenue.

NJ Transit Rejects Bus Proposal for Palisade Avenue

On Thursday, September 27th, representatives from RNA met with NJ Transit, 32nd District Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, Ward D Councilman Bill Gaughan and the Chief of Staff for Mayor Healy, Dominick Pandolfo and others to discuss how to solve the void in NYC bus service along Palisade Avenue caused by Coach USA shifting the 99S/10 lines to Central Avenue.



Despite a huge public outcry and broad political support, NJ Transit believes that extending the 123 bus from Congress St. to Christ Hospital is not feasible. They say it cannot be done because:

- It will cost \$700,000 annually to add the 4-5 buses to the line that they believe are necessary to maintain the current schedule with limited revenue to offset the cost
- there are gate limitations at the Port Authority that will not permit additions to the 123 schedule, and
- the 123 bus is crowded.

RNA disputes NJ Transit's assessment because:

- **the financial analysis is based on ridership numbers provided by Coach USA (50 riders per day, less than 1 rider per bus).** A more realistic revenue projection would enable the line to break-even or make a profit.
- The gate limitations at the Port Authority for the 123 Bus only apply during the peak of rush hour and other options have not been explored
- **the 123 line is very successful and could benefit from the extra capacity from the additional buses. In addition, NJ Transit's "solution" (see below) has our commuters transferring to the 123 despite their belief that extending the line would harm Union City commuters.**

Despite this initial setback, RNA has not given up. We have requested a meeting with our State Senator and **Chair of the Transportation Committee, Nicholas Sacco** and expect it to happen the first week in October. In addition, we will be turning to you to keep the pressure on our elected officials to provide high quality, reliable NYC bus service on Palisade Avenue.

NJ Transit recommends that Palisade Avenue commuters take the 84, 86 or 87 NJ Transit buses to Congress Street and transfer to the 123 bus to Manhattan and do the reverse on the way home (The 123 departs from Gate 406) Monthly passes can be used on these buses (\$78 for unlimited rides) for daily commuters. For all others, two fares must be paid (\$1.35 along Palisade Ave and \$2.55 for the 123 bus). Go to www.njtransit.com for bus schedules.

RNA also discussed with NJ Transit recent complaints of overcrowding on the 87 bus from the Hoboken terminal in the evening. NJ Transit promised to review whether additional buses can be added in the evening hours.

In a baffling move (they say at the behest of NJ Transit), **Coach USA has diverted three 99S/10 buses to Palisade Avenue in the evening coming out of NYC. These are the 6:15PM, 6:45PM and 7:15PM buses only.** RNA believes this is an attempt to undermine our efforts to return bus service to Palisade Avenue by another carrier (as Coach needs to abandon the line for others to step in) and that it will damage ridership on Central Avenue as well. However, we would like to hear from you as to whether having this limited service is helpful to you or not before asking it to be pulled. Please email us at riverviewneighborhood@comcast.net as soon as possible with your views.

We share your frustration that service has not been restored and will continue to work diligently on it with you.

Ogden Avenue Resident Robbed Returning from the 99S bus

On September 20th, a resident of 154 Ogden Avenue was robbed in the building's lobby around 11PM when she was followed into the building after walking home from Congress St/Palisade Ave. This resident had taken the 99S bus and was required to take the longer walk home now that this bus no longer travels down Palisade Avenue.

The assailant entered the building before the door locked behind the victim and grabbed her around the neck from behind. He subdued her and took her purse. While the crime was recorded by surveillance cameras in the lobby, the assailant wore a ski mask. Police have not made an arrest.

Residents are asked to be particularly vigilant in walking home from the bus and, when possible, to walk with neighbors.

United Water Maintenance May Discolor Water

Starting on October 1, United Water will shut down the water supply aqueduct for Jersey City and Hoboken for several weeks for maintenance and inspection in order to inspect the 100-year-old tunnel system that serves the area. Water will be provided by Newark and Passaic Valley Water Commissions during this time.

According to United Water, the water will be safe to drink and no one will lose service. Customers are asked to conserve water and are advised to let the water run clear before drinking it or washing clothes.