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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolutions to be voted on:
Item 2A: Dalton School Open Street Application
Item 2B: St. David's School Open Street Application (unanimous)
Item 2C: St. Ignatius Loyola School Open Street Application (unanimous)
Item 2D: Allen Stevenson School Open Street Application (unanimous)
Item 2E: Buckley School Open Street Application (unanimous)
Item 2F: Brasil Run Club Open Street Application

Minutes:

Present: Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, DJ Falkson, Miles Fink, Sebastian Hallum Clarke, Paul Krikler, Craig Lader, John McClement, TJ Stein, Charles Warren.

Absent: Valerie Mason, John Philips, Judy Schneider.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 70

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

Item 1: Request to Change Parking Regulations at 356 East 78th Street

Christopher Knack of Lawrence K. Shapiro and Associates presented a request on behalf of building management at 356 East 78th Street to change parking regulations from alternate side parking to a loading zone on the south side of East 78th Street between First and Second Avenues.

Mr. Knack explained that the building was recently completed as a new high-rise with 146 residential units, including about one-third of them being affordable units. The building includes frontage on both First Avenue and East 78th Street, with the building entrance and loading activities on the south side of East 78th Street, just west of First Avenue. The building is seeking to secure this space to allow easier access for frequent deliveries and move-ins/move-outs anticipated for the new building.

Mr. Knack noted that First Avenue is not useful for loading due to the bike lane, floating parking lane, and concrete island. The building was set up to have the loading area on the side street due to these factors. Alternate side parking only allows cars to move a couple of times per week, making it very difficult to move the volume of people into a building of this size without adequate space.

One of the Co-Chairs noted that the Committee has traditionally denied such requests unless there is a special situation, and it was noted that the main concern appears to be the initial move-in period, which the building can coordinate.

The reaction to the proposal was largely against it, as those opposed noted there is already a loading zone mid-block on the same side of East 78th Street, empty space in front of the adjacent synagogue and fire hydrant, metered parking across the street, and a no-standing zone along First Avenue. There were some speakers from the building who expressed support.

No action was taken on this application.

Item 2: Open Street Applications

2A: Dalton School - Dalton School: East 91st Street from Park and Madison Avenues

Start Date: September 9, 2026
End Date: June 11, 2027
Hours: 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM when school is in session

Sloan Warren, Director of Auxiliary Programs at Dalton, and Kristie Guiliano, First Program Assistant Director of Operations, presented on behalf of the school. They stated that they have participated in the Open Street program since Covid, and that the street is used for K-3 recess. Little Dalton has 100 students per grade level (five classes per grade). The school has a rooftop play area and a small rear yard for Pre-K students.

At any given time, typically two classes (approximately 40 students) are out for recess; equipment is brought out and supervised by faculty and security members. The schedule includes multiple play times per day with rotation between the roof, play street, and another roof space, utilizing four play areas across grades K-3. The 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM time slot covers multiple recess periods with variability - some days opening at 10:00 AM, some at 10:30 AM, some at 11:00 AM. Core usage times include 11:30 AM-12:00 PM and 12:15 PM-12:45 PM Monday through Friday. The street is opened and closed as needed based on daily schedules rather than remaining closed for the entire period. The school has 8-10 school buses for drop-off and pick-up.

One Committee member raised concerns about the extent to which the street would be closed.

WHEREAS, The Dalton School has operated an Open Street program on East 91st Street between Park and Madison Avenues for recess periods since Covid and is applying for another year in the program; and

WHEREAS, the program serves hundreds of students with outdoor play opportunities during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the school utilizes multiple play spaces including rooftop areas, but requires additional outdoor space to accommodate all grade levels; and

WHEREAS, there have been no complaints received over the past years in which the open street has been in place;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for the Dalton School on East 91st Street between Park and Madison Avenues from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM when school is in session, from September 9, 2026 through June 11, 2027.

Yes (9): Bores, Falkson, Fink, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (0): None

Abstain (1): Birnbaum

2B: Saint David's School: East 89th Street from Fifth and Madison Avenues

Start Date: July 1, 2026
End Date: June 30, 2027
Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Kelly Gruen, Director of Finance and Operations at St. David's School, presented. St. David's has used the outdoor space on 89th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenue for five-plus years since students returned from Covid. The school is seeking access beginning in July because they host a summer program serving populations outside the neighborhood. The school does not have a roof deck for student play. There is a small rear yard accommodating the youngest students (Pre-K program), while all other students from K-8 use the street at various times. During the school year, approximately 440 students are enrolled. The summer program accommodates approximately 120-125 students.

A board member questioned whether the request could be shortened to exclude summer, given the smaller summer population, but Ms. Gruen explained that other summer building maintenance projects heavily impact the maintenance team as they turn facilities around for the upcoming school year.

WHEREAS, St. David's School has operated an Open Street program on East 89th Street between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue for recess periods since Covid and is applying for another year in the program; and

WHEREAS, the program serves hundreds of students with outdoor play opportunities during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the school's small rear yard can't accommodate the recess needs of students; and

WHEREAS, there have been no complaints received over the past years in which the open street has been in place;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for St. David's School on East 89th Street between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday, from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Yes (10): Birnbaum, Bores, Falkson, Fink, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

2C: Saint Ignatius Loyola School: East 84th Street from Madison and Park Avenues

Start Date: September 1, 2026
End Date: June 25, 2027
Hours: Arrival (8:00-8:30 AM), Recess (11:30 AM-1:15 PM), Dismissal (2:30-3:10 PM)

Mary Larkin presented on behalf of St. Ignatius Loyola School. She described the three daily periods in which the open street would be used: the AM time serves over 485 children arriving, and the street is quickly

reopened once completed; three recess periods with teachers and security present, and a 40- minute dismissal period with parent pick-up. The school does not have any other play space on the street. No toys are used on the street - children socialize and get fresh air. No complaints have been received from neighbors. The school has a very small roof space used occasionally during gym time, but it cannot accommodate 180 children at a time.

One member praised the use of the open street concept for arrival and dismissal periods, noting this addresses congestion when hundreds of kids and their parents/caregivers use narrow sidewalk spaces. Another board member noted this is a through street from the East 86th Street Central Park Transverse.

WHEREAS, St. Ignatius Loyola School has operated an Open Street program on East 84th Street between Madison Avenue and Park Avenue and is applying for another year in the program; and

WHEREAS, the program serves hundreds of students with outdoor play opportunities during the school day and during arrival and dismissal periods; and

WHEREAS, the school's small roof space can't accommodate the recess needs of students; and

WHEREAS, there have been no complaints received over the past years in which the open street has been in place;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for St. Ignatius Loyola School on East 84th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenue for arrival (8:00-8:30 AM), recess (11:30 AM-1:15 PM), and dismissal (2:30-3:10 PM) periods, from September 1, 2026 through June 25, 2027.

Yes (9): Birnbaum, Falkson, Fink, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Not Voting for Cause (1): Bores

2D: Allen Stevenson School: East 78th Street from Park and Lexington Avenues

Start Date: September 9, 2026
End Date: June 30, 2027
Hours: Arrival (1 hour in morning), Dismissal (1 hour in afternoon), Outdoor Learning (10:00 AM-2:00 PM, occasional use only)

Chris Acerbo, Director of Security at Allen Stevenson, presented. He emphasized that the outdoor learning component (10:00 AM-2:00 PM) is used only occasionally for events such as Founders Day, Halloween half days, and end-of-year school events. The school communicates with neighbors anytime they consider using the open street during the midday period. He noted that student safety is the main reason for needing the permit, and that nothing new is being requested - these times are currently in effect for this school year.

There were some questions regarding how past concerns raised at CB8M have been addressed, as there were previous issues prior to when the rooftop play space had been completed. This has been resolved - the rooftop is now used for play regularly, the street is opened very occasionally, and the request now focuses primarily on drop-off and pick-up. The school also communicates with the block association president regularly, provides notice if using the street during the 10:00 AM-2:00 PM period and gets approval approximately one week in advance.

One board member testified to the value of the open street from personal experience as a student at Allen Stevenson, particularly during building renovation when the gym could not be used. The school team puts student safety first and ensures students stay within open street boundaries and respect neighbors.

WHEREAS, Allen Stevenson School has operated an Open Street program on East 78th Street between Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue and is applying for another year in the program; and

WHEREAS, the program facilitates student arrival and dismissal periods; and

WHEREAS, the midday period is now rarely used since the school completed the rooftop play area; and

WHEREAS, prior concerns and issues faced by residents and stakeholders on the block have now been addressed, and the school has protocols in place to communicate to its neighbors and to receive approval when a street closure is requested for the midday period;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for Allen Stevenson School on East 78th Street between Park and Lexington Avenue for arrival and dismissal periods and occasional outdoor learning use (10:00 AM-2:00 PM), from September 9, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Yes (10): Birnbaum, Bores, Falkson, Fink, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

2E: Buckley School: East 73rd Street from Lexington and Park Avenues

Start Date: September 1, 2026
End Date: June 30, 2027
Hours: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Terry O'Toole presented on behalf of the Buckley School. The school has used the play street for five years since Covid, closing the street at 9:00 AM and opening it at 2:00 PM.

The school has another building across the street; the open street assists in crossing back and forth between buildings. The school has a very small rooftop used for first graders. The school serves through 9th grade with a total population of 375 students (40 in kindergarten at another building, 40 in first grade, approximately 300 daily). Students have scheduled recess times: a lower grade period, a middle grade period, and an upper grade period. The maximum on the street at one time is four classes (approximately 80 students).

There have been no complaints. There are no garages on the block except for one townhouse, in which the resident is accommodated when needing to exit.

WHEREAS, The Buckley School has operated an Open Street program on East 73rd Street between Lexington Avenue and Park Avenue since Covid and is applying for another year in the program; and

WHEREAS, the program serves hundreds of students with outdoor play opportunities during the school day and facilitates students traveling between buildings on the block; and

WHEREAS, the school's small roof space can't accommodate the recess needs of students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for Allen Stevenson School on East 78th Street between Park and Lexington Avenue for arrival and dismissal periods and occasional outdoor learning use (10:00 AM-2:00 PM), from September 9, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Yes (10): Birnbaum, Bores, Falkson, Fink, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

2F: Brasil Run Club: East 91st Street from Lexington and Third Avenues

Start Date: July 25, 2026
End Date: August 15, 2026
Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Saturdays only

Henrique Alvares, founder of Brasil Run Club, presented. Brasil Run Club is a community-based wellness group in New York City proposing a small stationary daytime community wellness event in a contained setup focusing on health and community. The event is alcohol-free, open to all ages, and centered around low-impact activities such as stretching, recovery, and yoga. Very low volume ambient music will be played and can be shut down upon request if neighbors complain. Mr. Alvares explained that set-up is minimal with small massage beds from physical therapists giving free massages. Mr. Alvares indicated that he is a resident of the same street, so materials are stored locally and removed immediately after events; he noted that the organization has hosted similar events previously with an approach focused on keeping things organized, being respectful of residents, and fully aligning with city guidelines.

Mr. Alvares said events would occur only on Saturdays from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, with immediate street reopening afterward. An emergency lane for emergency vehicles would be maintained with volunteers at each end monitoring for emergency vehicles. There are no other commercial uses on the street besides the church and a small ski shop, both of which were notified and said they are in favor of the request. CVS is on the corner, but the entrance is on Third Avenue.

One member inquired about whether Brasil Run Club is a for-profit business. The presenter explained that it is registered as an LLC out of Orlando, Florida, for fixed address purposes, but operates out of New York City. The organization pays taxes when sponsors fund events, though this particular event would seek Open Streets grant funding with no commercial activity. The organization does free Sunday runs regularly.

A committee co-chair questioned why this is considered an Open Street application versus a street fair application, given that it appears to be a three-Saturday event (10:00 AM-2:00 PM) rather than ongoing programming.

Rafael Escano, NYCDOT liaison to CB8M, confirmed this is more appropriate for the Open Streets program, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) clarified that all Open Street applicants are fully vetted and most are nonprofits.

WHEREAS, Brasil Run Club is applying to the NYCDOT Open Street program on Saturdays from July 25, 2026 to August 15, 2026 on East 91st Street between Third Avenue and Lexington Avenue between 10:00AM and 2:00PM; and

WHEREAS, the open street would be used for a wellness event open to all ages, centered around low-impact activities such as stretching, recovery, and yoga; and

WHEREAS, the neighbors on the block have expressed support for the open street; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is the founder of the organization and lives on the block;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Open Street application for Brasil Run Club on East 91st Street between Lexington and Third Avenue on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, from July 25, 2026 through August 15, 2026.

Yes (8): Bores, Falkson, Hallum Clarke, Krikler, Lader, McClement, Stein, Warren

No (1): Birnbaum

Abstain (0): None

Item 3: Grand Army Plaza Pedestrian Improvements Discussion

The committee requested a presentation on pedestrian improvements at Grand Army Plaza, most of which are in Community Board 5 Manhattan's jurisdiction, with a small portion in CD8.

Mr. Escano explained that DOT sent a courtesy notification letter to CB8M for information that this is happening, but this is under Community Board 5's jurisdiction. DOT did not intend the letter to motivate a presentation request. The committee co-chairs believed someone from DOT would present. Mr. Escano clarified that he had sent an email to the board office explaining why a presentation is not necessary since this is CB5M's jurisdiction.

A board member clarified that CB8M is involved because anything touching Central Park or its sidewalks is relevant to any surrounding community board.

The committee will follow up to arrange a presentation.

Item 4: NYCDOT Updates

Rafael Escano, NYCDOT liaison to CB8M, provided the following updates:

- The Citi Bike station previously relocated from First Avenue and 78th Street to 400 East 77th Street due to construction, and is returning to its original location in approximately 2-3 weeks.
- As previously reported, changes suggested by a committee co-chair have been implemented. The parking regulation on 62nd Street between the Queensboro Bridge exit and First Avenue was changed from "No Standing 7 AM to Midnight except Sundays" to "No Standing Anytime."
- The project to reconfigure the East 63rd Street and Second Avenue has been entirely implemented with the completion of the pavement markings denoting the new configuration. NYCDOT was reminded that CB8M passed a resolution calling on DOT to make two out of three lanes through traffic lanes to speed up traffic and minimize horn-honking.

Item 5: Old and New Business

- A public attendee requested information about whether red light cameras exist or are planned for Queensboro Bridge intersections, given the dangerous traffic with cars regularly running red lights. Mr. Escano will investigate and report back.

- A public attendee requested updates on 15 MPH signal timing on Third Avenue. Mr. Escano confirmed this is a permanent policy that has been widely understood in the community.

- A public attendee asked about raised pedestrian islands planned for Third Avenue. Mr. Escano confirmed that some will be constructed this summer season and said that anyone with specific suggestions should be directed to him. It was suggested by the speaker to consider prioritizing islands where turn lanes were present.
- A public member raised concerns about bollards being knocked down repeatedly, particularly larger bollards at turn lanes like East 84th Street/Second Avenue, and questioned their resilience. Mr. Escano noted that if specific problem locations are identified via email, they will be replaced.
- A public member asked about alternate-side parking for street sweeping on the east side of Lexington Avenue between East 60th-96th Streets. No update was provided.
- A public member attendee stated that she learned through a newsletter from Council Member Gale Brewer that NYCDOT identified West 72nd Street between Riverside and York Avenue as a candidate for redesign, including protected bike lanes and pedestrian islands, and that it was being presented at CB7M this month; she questioned when CB8M would receive the presentation. The Committee Co-Chairs indicated that CB8M Chair Valerie Mason was in contact with NYCDOT Commissioner Danielle Zuckerman, who said that they are continuing to perform planning for the impending East Side proposal, and that the earliest it would be presented to the CB8M Transportation Committee will be in June.
- A public attendee raised concerns about the NYCDOT Summer Streets program and described how her car was towed despite signage stating the hours of parking restrictions had yet to begin. She also suggested not running the program from the Battery to Inwood. Mr. Escano indicated that if this happened, it was likely an isolated incident and that he would forward the concerns. A board member followed up and also expressed opposition to Summer Streets, emphasizing the disruption it causes to residents living on Park Avenue and adjacent blocks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Warren & Craig Lader, Co-Chairs