

Support - City Council Intro 1657 Dyker Heights

It is with this email that I refer to the importance of Intro 1657 initiated by our NYC Councilman Brannan. The six weeks leading up to Christmas and New Year's Day is anything but holy or peaceful in Dyker Heights. The traffic backlog, tourists, noise and litter all destroy the quality of life here for blocks and blocks. We cannot go out. We cannot drive up our own streets. Our driveways are blocked by site seers.

The STREET & TRUCK VENDORS amplify the chaos threefold. Trucks idling create terrible noise and emit diesel engine fumes. The vibrations penetrate the local houses! This continues for every night for 5 to 6 hours ... for 6 weeks. The music, lights, lines, food smells AND not litter - but garbage - all come from these vendors and trucks. These trucks don't even have a permit for winter vending!

Dyker Heights is a RESIDENTIAL neighborhood. This is NOT A COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR. The vendors turn this RESIDENTIAL neighborhood into a six week festival, a carnival!

This must stop. The traffic is dangerous! The vendors cause more disruption, distraction & degradation to this RESIDENTIAL community.

Christmas is beautiful season. We need to restore the spirit of this season to Dyker Heights.

We need support and passage of Intro 1657 which bans vendors now. Then we MUST have our police department enforce restrictions.

Any help you need regarding this matter, please feel free to call upon me.

Barbara Vellucci
Dyker Heights Resident

Int 1657 - In relation to prohibiting street vending on certain streets in Dyker Heights in Brooklyn beginning on Thanksgiving Day until New Year's Day.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a person born and raised in Dyker Heights and continues to have family and vested interests in the neighborhood; I am strongly in favor of the prohibition of vending during the period of time in the holiday season known as Dyker Lights. Dyker Lights is a voluntary collation of neighbors and friends displaying lights for the enjoyment of the community at large. It is not a “festival” or “Feast” or any other formally organized outdoor event or venue that would necessitate, permit or allow outside vendors to come and sell food, toys or other various items. These unregulated, unvetted and unsanctioned vendors create garbage, noise pollution, exhaust pollution and crowd sidewalks. They set up in front of private homes on residential blocks, sometimes using the steps of homes as a station for their goods. They actively take away from the good-natured intention of the lights and peaceful enjoyment of those people looking to come and see them. This is not in spirit with the Holiday Season and a blatant cash grab attempt to take advantage of unknowing tourists and visitors. It is also detrimental to businesses on 13th avenue, 7th avenue and beyond that could legitimately benefit from the influx of people coming during the Dyker Light season. In the end the local Dyker Heights residents bear the toll of the extra noise, crowds, endless garbage and dangerous traffic conditions (tour buses) created. Allowing vendors will only further add to their burden. Dyker Lights is a wonderful Brooklyn tradition, let’s not see it ruined by the addition of vendors.

Submitted respectfully – Anthony Marino

IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1657

Int 1657 - In relation to prohibiting street vending on certain streets in Dyker Heights in Brooklyn beginning on Thanksgiving Day until New Year's Day.

Dear City Council,

As a Dyker resident and a community board member, I am strongly in favor of the prohibition of vending at the Dyker lights.

It creates garbage, exhaust pollution and a carnival atmosphere at an event which is graciously hosted by residents in the spirit of the holiday.

The burden on the residents is enough with the noise, crowds and traffic, without adding the burden of the vending.

PLEASE PROHIBIT!!!

Thanks, Ann

1*** 84th Street

Ann Falutico AIA, LEED AP

Ann Falutico Architect PC

A Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE)

October 3, 2019

Testimony by Doris N Cruz, Member of 10, Brooklyn

**Before the NYC Council committee on Consumer Affairs and
Business Licensing**

I thank the committee for holding this hearing on Intro. No. 1657. And I thank Councilmember Justin Brannon for sponsoring Intro No. 1657.

Dyker Heights, part of Community Board 10, has a long history of celebrating Christmas with lavish lighting displays. A small local tradition from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day has grown astronomically. It has grown from a local event to a city wide phenomenon bringing crowds and tour buses from different parts of the country. It is even recognized as far away as Norway. And with this wide ranging recognition has come very serious crowd control issues.

As Chair of Community Board 10 Brooklyn, from July 2016 through June 2019, I attended **many** interagency meetings on the traffic problems and the influx of food vendors. Solutions are discussed, interagency cooperation is stressed, but come December, the same problems persist. They don't just persist, they worsen every year.

For eleven month of the year, Dyker Heights is a sleepy residential community. District Manager Beckmann has submitted photographs of the conditions in Dyker Heights during December. The photos show blocked intersections, illegally parked ice cream trucks and pretzel vendors. The photos show the Fire Department walking to a call because the fire truck could not get through the intersection.

In addition to blocked intersections and stalled traffic, the recent influx of food vendors has brought dangerous conditions to the residents. Trucks with generators park from mid-afternoon until after midnight and the belching fumes from their generators poison the air of resident's homes. This is unacceptable.

Hopefully this intro will remove the vendors from the prime viewing area of Dyker Lights. Hopefully the proposed restricted area is large enough so that the vendor problem is eliminated, not just moved to other blocks.

Please take this first step to address the problems that occur during Dyker Lights.

As I have stated at several interagency meetings, this issue is not *if a tragedy occurs, but when will it occur*. And because the agencies of the City of New York have not been able to find a solutions to traffic, crowd control and serious pollution, the responsibility of that tragedy lies with the City of New York.

Thank you for your consideration.

Support of Intro 1657

Nick Nikolopoulos
1*** 84th street
Brooklyn, NTY 11228

Re: Int 1657 - In relation to prohibiting street vending on certain streets in Dyker Heights in Brooklyn beginning on Thanksgiving Day until New Year's Day.

I am a resident of this block for the past 20 years and one of the homeowners that ***used*** to do Christmas displays on my home. My family and I are 100% in support of this bill as it is the vendors that have destroyed Christmas for us. This holiday period used to be a few neighbors doing some nice decorations for the neighborhood families until some people decided to be opportunists and create a nightmare environment in our neighborhood. We started to get buses of people, including tourists, that are basically being ripped off to come see a couple of blocks of christmas lights from all across the city. Once this was allowed, another group of opportunists set up shop in front of our homes. These are the vendors. They range from ice cream trucks to popcorn trucks to people selling lights and trinkets from the back of their cars. This also allowed many people to start "raising money" for various "causes" create an environment of hustling tourists and people that come to see the lights. These trucks hold parking spots and **operate with a running diesel engine from 3pm to 1am, 7 days a week from Thanksgiving weekend to New Years Eve (almost a month and a half)**. The constant vibration from the truck engines and diesel fumes penetrates our homes creating a health hazard for us, our elderly and our children. This also creates a hazard by backing up traffic, both by motor vehicles and pedestrians. Ambulances, firetrucks, police and residents cannot enter or exit this normally quiet area without being stuck on a block for half hour or more in many cases. This is a public safety hazard that is only a matter of time until someone dies or, even worse, a terroristic action that can easily impact thousands of people during the Holidays in a small area. Sorry to be this dramatic but this is real! We have many videos and pictures to prove these points valid.

Another issue caused by the vendors is the garbage. Once people eat and drink the products that are bought from these trucks, which in many cases

are operating illegally, there are no garbage cans or public toilets so people throw their garbage on the sidewalks, on our lawns, in the street and wherever else seems to be convenient. They also urinate on our lawns and driveways and many times they ring our bells asking to use the bathroom. These are complete strangers! It is a matter of time until some creep forcibly enters a home during this chaotic period knowing that nobody will notice because of the large amounts of people and noise. Yep, another dramatic statement that is also a very real concern for many of our residents that feel they are imprisoned in their homes during this period.

In closing, our little quite and well manicured area of this part of Brooklyn has become a free for all for a handful of people that seem to think that laws do not apply to them. All of this to squeeze money out of unbeknown visitors. This is not a festival or a block party but these vendors are allowed to make their own rules and create a festival-like environment for 40 days in front of our homes and have the audacity to threaten residents that complain to them or the police. We cannot have people over our homes for the holidays, we fear coming home after work during this period because you can't even get into your driveway, we spend endless hours cleaning up the mess every morning because we love to keep our neighborhood clean, and we even wasted tax dollars on overtime sanitation and police just to control issues that are being caused by vendors operating illegally. It is about time that the tax paying residents have their voices heard also. If the vendors are not allowed to be there, it would create a peaceful, safe and welcoming environment where families come to see the light displays and leave. They will not linger around and hang out, creating the public safety issues and other hazards described above.

Sincerely,

Nick Nikolopoulos

Dyker Lights

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a concerned homeowner in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn. In the next few weeks, my family and I will begin to experience the misery that comes with living in the so-called "Dyker Lights" area. Christmas is supposed to be a wonderful time and it has turned into the worst time of year for us. It's the horrendous season of tour buses, traffic, not being able to access my driveway and worst of all vendors parked in front of houses that pay thousands and thousands for taxes every year!

The vendors fight over parking spaces in front of private homes. Then, once parked they stay idle for hours and hours. The noise from their trucks can be heard throughout my house. The fumes they emit is dangerous to our health, especially for my three children! In addition, they create long lines of people that end up on my lawn and sit on my wall which is my private property. This is a hazard!! These people then come up to my door step to take pictures even after I've put up a rope to keep them out. I do not feel safe in my own home! Not only are people an issue but the garbage they leave behind from buying from the vendors (ice cream, popcorn, hot chocolate etc) is quite frankly disgusting ! I have to have my property cleaned every year at my expense because of the amount of garbage that is around during this season.

Please help with these huge issues and help bring back the true spirit of Christmas to those of us who just want to enjoy the holiday !

Sincerely,
Giacomo Santangelo



Community Board Ten

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JOSEPHINE BECKMANN
District Manager

To: Council Member Justin Brannan
From: Josephine Beckmann, District Manager
Date: October 18, 2019
Re: Dyker Lights Meetings Summary

Set forth below is a chronological outline and brief summary of all public and interagency meetings held to respond to an outpouring of community complaints and concerns stemming from the viewing of Dyker Heights Christmas Light displays in what is now known as the “prime viewing” area bounded by 81st Street to 86th Street and 10th Avenue to 13th Avenues.

2017

January 26, 2017

Community Board Ten held a joint meeting with Dyker Heights Civic Association 7pm at Saint Phillips Episcopal Church 1072 80th Street to discuss community complaints stemming from 2016/17 Dyker Lights viewing season. In response to community complaints, a mailing was sent by Community Board Ten to residents living from 80th Street to 86th Street and 10th Avenue to 14th Avenue. Over 100 residents attended this meeting to speak directly to representatives from Community Board Ten about safety and quality of life concerns throughout the holiday season. Traffic and Transportation Committee members were in attendance.

February 14, 2017

District Manager Josephine Beckmann met with Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) Director Dawn Tolson and CECM Director Michael Carey at Noon. The meeting was held at 253 Broadway on the 6th Floor. At this time, Josephine Beckmann spoke to Ms. Tolson and Mr. Carey who were familiar with Dyker Lights and concerns raised by local residents caused by a boost in tourism and the effects of social media publicity. Ms. Beckmann sought assistance from SAPO and CECM to address the need for a NYPD Traffic Plan,

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illegal vendor enforcement, vendor choke points, amplified sound without permits and lack of order during this organic street event.

February 15, 2017

Josephine Beckmann met with NYPD Captain Joseph Hayward, then Commanding Officer of 68 Precinct regarding the solution proposed by SAPO and CECM. The Community Board would begin to seek public feedback for a SAPO permit – which would formalize this organic event into a permitted street event. The idea of securing a street event permit was to organize the organic event. The hope was to create a committee that would work together with SAPO, CECM and the agencies of the City of New York to address pedestrian safety concerns, vendor-created choke points, illegal vending, recurring street closures and unpermitted amplified sound.

March 29, 2017

The second publicized meeting organized by Community Board Ten and Dyker Heights Civic Association. This meeting was held at Dyker Intermediate School/I.S. 201. Approximately 75 residents attended to meet with Dawn Tolson, SAPO, CECM Director Michael Carey and officials from the 68 Precinct. The community concerns about illegal vending, vendor-created choke points, recurring street closings, traffic congestion and unpermitted amplified sound was raised again. The idea of filing for a Street Event Permit was presented. Josephine Beckmann prepared a Power Point presentation illustrating quality of life and safety concerns during the viewing of the Dyker Lights Christmas Displays during the 2016/17 season. Residents in attendance were receptive but suggested that broad community input be obtained before applying for a street event permit.

April 5, 2017

A planning meeting at the District Office of Community Board Ten was held with Fran Vella-Marrone, President Dyker Heights Civic Association, Community Affairs and Planning Officers of the 68 Precinct including P.O. Michael Panepinto and P.O Thomas Byrne to review the criteria of applying for a SAPO street event permit that could help bring more resources and address safety and quality of life concerns raised by Dyker Heights residents. It was decided that a broad community mailing would be needed to solicit input for residents in the prime viewing area.

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April 26, 2017

Dyker Heights mailing to residents in the prime viewing area asking if they supported or did not support moving forward with filing a SAPO Street Event Permit. A deadline for return was May 10th. The proposal received overwhelming community support.

May 15, 2017

District Manager Josephine Beckmann briefed Community Board Members at the General Meeting of Community Board Ten held at 7:15 pm held at the Norwegian Christian Home. The feedback from Board Members following the Dyker Lights presentation was a request to commit the matter of filing a Street Event SAPO permit to the members of the Traffic and Transportation Committee for review.

June 12, 2017

CB10 Traffic & Transportation Committee reviewed quality of life and safety issues associated with the Dyker Lights viewing event. District Manager summarized outreach efforts and responses of members of the community who overwhelmingly supported the submission of a SAPO permit application. The formation of a volunteer-based community committee to work on the planning of the upcoming 2017/2018 season was also discussed.

June 19, 2017

CB10 General Board meeting held at 7:15 PM at Shore Hill Community Room – 9000 Shore Road reviewed Traffic and Transportation Committee report and voted unanimously in support of filing a SAPO Street Event Permit for Dyker Lights Viewing for the 2017/2018 season. A street event permit was filed shortly thereafter.

October 12, 2017

SAPO called Interagency Meeting with Community Board Ten, Dyker Heights Civic Association, NYPD Operations staff, 68 Precinct representatives and NYPD Legal Bureau representatives. At this meeting Community Board Ten was informed of NYPD disapproval of Street Event Permit . CB10 requested SAPO's assistance to coordinate agency planning in light of denial.

October 23, 2017

A second 975 piece US Post Office Every Door Direct Mailing to Prime Viewing Area of Dyker Lights street event was sent to provide an update to Dyker Heights residents at the November Dyker Heights Civic Association Meeting.

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October 30, 2017

Approximately 100 residents of Dyker Heights attended a special meeting of Community Board with Dyker Heights Civic Association to learn about the disapproval of the SAPO Street Activity Permit. Residents voiced their concerns about pedestrian safety, vendor enforcement, general crowd control and vendor-created choke points directly with NYPD staff in attendance. Details can be found here. <https://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/40/45/br-dyker-lights-debacle-2017-11-10-bk.html>

November 20, 2017

General Meeting of Community Board Ten held at 7:15pm Norwegian Christian Home. Board Members were informed of the NYPD disapproval of the SAPO Street Event permit for Dyker Lights. Following a discussion by many Board Members, Community Board Ten members voted unanimously in support of a motion to contact Mayor deBlasio and the NYPD Police Commissioner to help resolve the quality of life issues associated with Dyker Lights viewing.

2018

January 22, 2018

Community Board 10 General meeting held at 7:00 pm at the Fort Hamilton Senior Center – Board Member Ann Falutico who lives in the prime viewing area of the Dyker Lights reiterates the safety and quality of life issues residents experienced during the 2017/2018 viewing season. She expressed frustration with lack of adequate resources to handle the growing tourism, safety issues caused by vendor trucks, traffic issues and crowds in general. Board Members vote on a motion to conduct a survey of the residents in the prime viewing area regarding the 2017/2018 viewing season.

February 5, 2018

Community Board Ten mailed 975 surveys in a US Post Office EDDM mailing to Carrier Routes bounded by 86th Street to 82nd Street from 11th Avenue to 14th Avenue and several blocks on the outskirts. 151 responses were received by mail or online.

June 2018

The Dyker Lights Report regarding the 2017/18 completed.

October 18, 2018

Interagency Planning Meeting with Community Board Ten Chair Doris Cruz, District Manager Josephine Beckmann, Council Member Justin Brannan, Arlene Rutuelo, State Senator Martin J. Golden

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Office, Fran Vella-Marrone, Dyker Heights Civic Association, Dawn Tolson – SAPO – representatives from NYC Department of Health, Department of Buildings and NYPD 68 Precinct and NYPD Legal Bureau. The meeting was held at 11am at the District Office of Community Board Ten 8119 5 Avenue. The goal of the meeting was to begin planning in advance of 2018/2019 season. District Manager Beckmann provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining community input following last year's season. Dawn Tolson stated at the meeting that the Department of Health went to last year's viewing and all vendors were not supposed to be there and a plan was needed to address traffic control, pedestrian safety, illegal vending and vendor-created choke points both by mobile food ice cream trucks and private homeowner illegal vending. All agencies contributed to the planning discussion.

November 9, 2018

The second planning interagency meeting was held at 2:30 pm at the District Office of Community Board Ten. The meeting was attended to focus on vendors due to the complexity of permits and enforcement. In attendance were Council Member Brannan, District Manager Beckmann, Chair Cruz and representatives from – SAPO – DOH- NYPD-68 Precinct, and DOB

November 14, 2018

Dyker Heights Civic Association Meeting – 8pm at Saint Phillips Episcopal Church 1072 80th Street. The topic of the meeting was a discussion about planning for 2018/2019 Dyker Lights season. Patrol Borough Assistant Chief Charles Scholl answered many questions from Dyker Heights residents about illegal vending, vendor-created choke point tour buses and traffic control.

November 28, 2018

12:30 pm Final Planning Meeting – was held at the District Office of Community Board Ten 8119 5th Avenue. In attendance were City Council Member Justin Brannan, District Manager Josephine Beckmann, representatives from SAPO, DOH, DOB, DSNY, Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, 68 Precinct, Mayor's Community Affairs Office, Kings County DA, NYPD Legal, Dyker Heights Civic Association President Fran Vella-Marrone. A review of community concerns took place and plans for traffic safety, vendor enforcement and crowd control, including counter-terrorism operations, possible street closures were all discussed. A formal request for an interagency task force on illegal vendor enforcement was also made to

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Department of Health (DOH). Illegal vending from private property was also discussed and violation schedule was outlined by Department of Buildings and Department of Health. It was also agreed that Community Board Ten would send out a mailing to Dyker Heights residents in the prime viewing area requesting compliance for those who display and those who come to view the elaborate Dyker Light displays. Captain Conwell, Commanding Officer of the 68th Police Precinct also discussed outreach to all tour bus companies and a plan for creating a drop off/pick up area for passengers on 86th Street would once again be in effect.

November 29, 2018

Community Board Ten quarterly District Cabinet Meeting was held. In attendance were Lt. Krystin Suarez and PO Michael Panepinto 68 Precinct. A review of Dyker Lights viewing season took place. Possible street closures were discussed, and a recap of our interagency meeting was presented to the cabinet members. FDNY Battalion Chief Duffy spoke about the difficulty of fire trucks turning left onto 86th Street due to tour buses parking and double parking along the parkside of 86th Street at 12th Avenue. P.O. Panepinto said they will push the traffic toward 13th Avenue.

2019

February 7, 2019

Following numerous community complaints throughout the Dyker Lights 2018/2019 viewing season specifically about traffic control, illegal vendor enforcement, ice cream trucks idling for 10 to 12 hours per day throughout the 6 week viewing season an interagency meeting was called at the District Office of Community Board Ten by City Council Member Justin Brannan. In attendance were State Senator Andrew Gounardes, officials from SAPO, DOH, NYPD legal, NYPD Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, DEP, 68 Precinct, DOB, CECM and Chair Doris Cruz. Agencies discussed lack of enforcement resources, conflicting information about vendor rules and regulations as well as an overview of traffic congestion including complaints that emergency vehicles were not able to respond to two specific 911 calls. A Power Point presentation was made to all agency officials in attendance with a plea to begin to develop a plan

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to address these recurring issues during the 2019/2020 season. All options were discussed including the possibility of revisiting a street event permit, creation of a vendor free area, a comprehensive traffic plan, tour bus enforcement and possibility of DOT adding No Standing signage for visibility. Members agreed to reconvene in one month.

March 29, 2019

A second interagency meeting was held to continue planning discussion for 2019/2020 season. The meeting was attended by Council Member Brannan, DM Beckmann, CB10 Chair Doris Cruz, DOT, NYPD Legal, Mayor's Office, 68 Precinct, Department of Buildings, Department of Health and NYPD XO Chen and SAPO. At this meeting a second review of possible solutions to quality of life issues identified at prior meetings. Discussion included possible legislation for a vendor free zone to address safety and quality of life issues brought upon by truck exhaust, choke points, illegal parking by vendor trucks in crosswalks, etc.. In addition, No Standing Zone signage was also discussed.

October 1, 2019

CB10 DM Beckmann attended Dyker Civic Association meeting to provide an update on the Vendor Free Zone Legislation introduced by Council Member Justin Brannan. Several residents in attendance reiterated concerns for traffic safety, crowd control, tour buses, and vending during viewing of Dyker Lights 2019/2020 season.

October 3, 2019

City Council Member Justin Brannan called an interagency meeting with SAPO and NYPD to discuss coordination of a future interagency planning meeting in advance of 2019/2020 season. In addition, Council Member Brannan briefed NYPD legal bureau representatives on his pending legislation creating a vendor free zone to help address the multi-jurisdictional agency compliance enforcement challenges and hope to improve safety concerns caused by vendor-created choke points, overwhelming crowds, tour buses and blocked crosswalks.