

Next issue:
Mar. 3-4

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Together again for the first time. After a February 10 meeting on self-governance legislation in which they displayed a strongly cooperative working relationship, Assemblymember Pete Grannis and Senator Olga Mendez embraced. The Island's two legislators have not always seen eye-to-eye in the past. More photo coverage and a transcript of a portion of the meeting on *Website NYC10044*, www.nyc10044.com.

First Southtown Court Dates Soon in Actions Against RIOC

Two court actions seeking to alter plans for Southtown are pending. One, filed by attorney Robert Chira, a Rivercross resident, has a scheduled court date next Friday. A second, brought by Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD), has a mid-March court date. The RIRSD action names the City and the developers, as well. In both cases, the so-called "return dates" are largely formalities. While RIOC may attempt to secure a dismissal on one or more legal technicalities during the initial court appearances, delay for preparation of cases is one usual outcome in such situations, according to attorneys knowledgeable about such proceedings. RIOC is said to be hiring outside counsel – lawyers who will have to be brought up to speed on the case.

The legal actions are costly, and likely to be lengthy, with months passing between court dates. And whatever the outcome in a first round, appeal is likely. With a view to the coming expense, RIRSD is preparing to launch a new fund-raising effort. In the meantime, contributions to its effort are being accepted at Montauk Credit Union. RIRSD cites a number of causes of action in its legal brief, but its efforts are focused on requiring RIOC to observe the provisions of the Island's General Development Plan (GDP), and to preserving the existing soccer/baseball field just north of the Nurses Residence. RIRSD also has demanded that monies originally earmarked for creation of Octagon Park not be diverted to building the infrastructure for Southtown.

Grannis and Mendez Fine-Tuning a New Version of Self-Governance Plan

Pete Grannis and Olga Mendez are apparently off to a fresh and friendly start in forging self-governance legislation for Roosevelt Island. The effort involves input from the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) and the Maple Tree Group (MTG). The goal – to get something politically viable before each house of the State Legislature during its current session. Political viability means a bill on which the State's Republican Governor, the Republican-controlled Senate, and the Democrat-controlled Assembly can all agree. Mendez and Grannis met February 10 with members of MTG and RIRA President Patrick Stewart and Vice President Joan Christianson, in a jammed conference room at the offices of Community Board 8, to go over a series of talking points on the latest draft (published in the last issue of *The WIRE* and available on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com). The talking points were developed after two RIRA Common Council meetings that took straw votes on several provisions of the bill, as well as at the weekly Monday night meetings of MTG.

In the meetings, there was agreement or near-agreement on a number of key changes to the Grannis bill:

- Two-year terms for members of the "RIOC2" Board of Directors. Grannis expressed concern that a necessary but unpopular decision by the Board might lead to a "renegade slate" of candidates defeating all the elected members of the Board, saying he felt that "would be a disaster for the Island." The RIRA Common Council had voted for two-year terms, primarily out of concern that a four-year commitment might keep highly qualified candidates from running for Board seats.

- Holding elections for seven elected resident Board members in even-numbered major election years, rather than odd-numbered years. Because non-citizens will vote for the RIOC2 Board, a way must be found to avoid confusion as to who is eligible to vote in the citizen-voter-only elections.
- Using stricter City building codes for future Island construction.

More important considerations that could become sticking points include:

- Capital funding.
- Size of the RIOC2 Board and the method of electing residents to its seats.

Funding

The Island has lived without capital funding from the State of New York for several years, leading to a worry – expressed prominently by RIRA President Stewart – that a new governing entity will be left with a physical entity that is on the verge of collapse. In the meeting with Grannis and Mendez, Stewart listed several areas of concern, citing the latest figures available: Tramway Station, \$2 million; Motorgate, \$45,000; Seawall construction and repair, \$3-8 million; repairs to Chapel of the Good Shepherd and its plaza, \$250,000 to \$2.5 million; brick sidewalk repairs, \$500,000; \$1.5 million to rehabilitate the minischools; \$700,000 to bring the Tramway into the Metrocard system; and a variety of other one-time

or ongoing budget items. Senator Mendez told an October Town Meeting on self-governance that she had reached an agreement with the Governor for a kind of "deductible" plan in which the State budget would cover any expenses over \$500,000, which is judged to be the maximum amount the Island's operating budget can carry in capital expense. Under the scheme, capital expenditures to recover from neglect of infrastructure during the three-year RIOC Administration of Dr. Jerome Blue would be backed by the State, for the first three years of self-governance – possibly more – if they exceed \$500,000. Related to the capital cost questions is a call, in the current version of the legislation, for a complete fiscal and physical audit of the Island as part of a turnover from the existing Governor-appointed RIOC Board to a mostly-elected Board (RIOC2). MTG has voiced a concern that a complete audit would be both costly and lengthy, and has urged using existing studies (such as a Corps of Engineers study of the seawall, just being released this month) as part of such an audit to avoid expense and accomplish the audits more quickly.

Electing Resident Board Members

Both Grannis and Mendez, and their aides, Tony Morenzi and Jorge Vidro, argued for election of resident members of the RIOC2 Board by building complexes, treated as election districts. The exception provided for in the proposed legislation would be the President and Vice President of RIRA, serving by virtue of their Island-wide election as top executives of the Residents Association.

Members of the Maple Tree Group have unanimously supported at-large ballots for all elected residents serving on the RIOC2 Board. The RIRA Common Council split, 12-11, in its straw vote, taken for advisory purposes, on the by-building vs at-large plan.

Arguments advanced for the buildings-as-districts election plan respond to concerns for ensuring representation for as diverse a cross-section of Islanders as possible, and are based on the premise that the building complexes each have their own demographic character that should have a voice on the RIOC2 Board.

MTG has argued that the best RIOC2 Board possible is more likely if elections are at-large, since election by buildings would rule out service by more than one resident from some buildings. MTG has also opposed automatic service by the two RIRA officers, seeing the RIRA Common Council as a kind of watchdog over RIOC2, a role they feel would be diluted if RIRA officers also served on the RIOC2 Board. A fear has also been expressed that the unpaid RIRA Presidency is a crushing load already, and that adding a seat on the Board of the Operating Corporation would produce an excessively great workload.

At press time, MTG members were working on compromise alternatives in which some of the elected residents would represent buildings, while others would be elected at large.

Library, Evolving As NYPL Branch, Gets a New Top Librarian

by Debra Mount Cornet

When Lawrence Kapture took the reins of the Roosevelt Island branch of the New York Public Library 18 months ago, he discovered a pleasant surprise: A group of dedicated residents had crafted a real Library, almost from nothing. "It was an impressive achievement," Kapture said. "They had built a solid resource that offered, in some ways, more services than we had." Included in that list of features was the variety of computer games and features already in place. But even with a small but solid foundation, the transition from a small private library that depended upon the kindness of volunteers and contributors did require change. Although the Library did have a fairly extensive collection, additions were needed. "We could

bring the money-intensive items like videos and books on tape. We also increased the number of world languages and large-print books," Kapture told *The WIRE* in a recent interview. Kapture supplemented the entire collection, especially adding recent fiction and non-fiction. The reference section was beefed up as well with particular attention to science and literary criticism. These additions most assist the young people who rely on the branch for research. "At least now," Kapture explained, "we can get answers to questions." The Young Adult section has gotten attention, also. Included are new bound-graphic selections. Being part of NYPL provides a big payoff for Island residents. "The big advantage," Kapture said, "is being hooked into the massive Library system. We can usually get

it or recommend a branch that can." A number of residents have expressed pleasure at being able to request current books and get them in a timely manner. Kapture and his staff have also added new programs for the Library users. "Libraries are now more of a community service," he said. "They are not just a place to come and learn, but to come and meet." With that concept in mind, new programs have included a Book Discussion Group, Family Night, and numerous events for the youth. Last month, Kapture spent two weeks acclimating the new librarian, Sally Speller, and has since left Roosevelt Island. But, before leaving, he said he would take along his philosophy of what it means to be a librarian. "I prefer to help teach someone how to get the informa-



Sally Speller

tion than to just give it to them. It's like teaching a person to fish instead of simply feeding them. The future of libraries is to filter information and to show people how to get stuff." Although there are untapped areas, like the senior citizens, Kapture believes that with the combination of years of effort by Library activists and the advantages provided by the city, he will leave behind a strong resource primed for more expansion. Ms. Speller, who's still getting settled, said she finds the Island to be more subdued than the heavily-trafficked Epiphany Branch she just left. "It's nice to be here in this lovely community. We invite everyone to come by." Speller said that increased circulation would help in her efforts to increase funding for the Roosevelt Island branch.

Pages of Thought and Opinion

A Respectful Dissent

It's not often we have occasion to call upon Assembly-member Pete Grannis and Senator Olga Mendez to change their minds on something. They're so often *right*, just plain *right*, about what's *right* for Roosevelt Island.

Self-governance is *right*. They see that. They're working hard on it.

Alas, we have occasion now to disagree on one point of the self-governance plan currently under consideration. It puts *The WIRE* in disagreement with Patrick Stewart (President of RIRA, the Roosevelt Island Residents Association), as well – and on the losing side of a split (12-11) straw vote in the RIRA Common Council.

The issue is the method of election of members of the RIOC2 Board of Directors, RIOC2 being the shorthand name we've assigned to a Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation managed by a qualified professional and governed by a Board of Directors on which elected residents will have majority control.

Into the legislation that would create RIOC2, Grannis has written a plan for most elected resident Board members to be elected by buildings. The rationale is a preference for district-style representation of supposedly divergent interests, which some feel are most clearly defined by the building complexes that house us. Manhattan Park, the feeling goes, is substantially different from Eastwood, and must be assured its own representative on the RIOC2 Board elected only by Manhattan Park residents.

The differences may be real, but their relevance in the context of an entity managing all the Island's affairs (as opposed to just housing matters) is highly debatable. RIOC manages the Island, not housing. Its involvement in critical housing matters is largely limited to ground rents, where there are decades between consideration of changes.

The trade-off in going for representation by building complexes is that there may be more capable and willing candidates for the Board in one building than in another. Forcing residents to select a lesser candidate merely because s/he happens to live in a particular set of buildings is wasteful of the Island's most valuable resource – its willing and able residents.

A RIOC2 composed of building representatives would mirror RIRA, the Residents Association. But RIRA has trouble rousing enough candidates to run real races in most of the buildings. In the last RIRA election, there were contests in only three of the eight races. We cannot be sure that a RIOC2 would fare better, and that could mean that a highly qualified third Eastwood candidate who received a significantly higher number of votes would lose out to a lonely Manhattan Park candidate who pulled votes only from a handful of neighbors – and claimed a Board seat just because of where s/he lives.

Grannis told those attending a meeting on the matter that he doesn't want to be called in to mediate a "range war" if the RIOC2 Board is forced, say, to increase bus fares, and that arouses the ire of lower-income residents. There's no question there will be tough decisions to be made, and the RIOC2 Board, however it's elected, will have to listen carefully to the concerns of all components of the community.

The WIRE believes, in fact, that RIOC2 Board members elected Island-wide will be more likely to listen to all the Island's voices, and to pay attention to the recommendations of the Common Council of the Residents Association. Imagine it: There's a greater chance of a majority of building-based Board members voting against another member who, on behalf of a

building constituency, deplores a fare increase... a greater chance than if all the Board members are answerable to all Islanders.

Building-based elections emphasize the divisions among us. Island-wide elections are an expression of our unity.

The Maple Tree Group, which has looked at this issue and others in the self-governance arena for a couple of years, is unanimous in its endorsement of an election process that brings the most qualified candidates to the RIOC2 Board, whatever their residences – and avoids excluding a more qualified contestant because one less qualified happens to live in a building where few care to run.

As one participant in the discussions put it, the notion of buildings-as-districts producing greater democracy "is a seductive idea," but upon reflection, it's more seductive than sound.

What is sound, especially given the difficulties of a transition from non-professional management with a Board of political appointees to a mostly-elected, mostly-resident Board whose first job will be to hire a professional to manage the Island... what is sound is the plan that will produce the most qualified Board the Island can muster.

We urge the RIRA Common Council to change its mind – to retake that 12-11 straw vote and see the merits of open, Island-wide elections. We urge Assemblymember Grannis and Senator Mendez to rethink the real nature of the RIOC2 Board. We think the Residents Association Common Council, broadly representative and building-based, is the way to convey building-based concerns, as well as myriad other matters, to the RIOC2 Board. We believe the RIOC2 Board will listen better, be more responsive, and respond more judiciously if all its elected members are elected Island-wide.

But After All...

When all is said and done, though, there is so great a need for control of Roosevelt Island's affairs by elected residents that *The WIRE* applauds Grannis and Mendez for coming together on this legislation, and for their hard work as well as that of their aides in the matter, Tony Morenzi and Jorge Vidro. Whatever the outcome on the question of how elections will be carried out, the legislation in prospect promises an important change for Roosevelt Island – a change in which a Governor's political appointees and hand-picked RIOC President will no longer be benevolent dictators, but will fade away in favor of professional management overseen by a mostly-elected, mostly-resident RIOC2 Board.

DL

From our "Things have come to a sorry state" department... Used to be, a resident who was putting time, thought, and energy into Roosevelt Island would be treated with respect at RIRA Common Council meetings. Even the late Jessie Rademaker, whose positions often diverged starkly from those of the Common Council, was afforded a reasonably dignified environment when she appeared before its meetings to speak her piece. That tradition has now apparently been scrapped, at least by some. The change of behavior was evident at the last RIRA Common

other comments running counter to Stewart's current views. Another Stewart supporter, after later reading the transcript of the Bauer question and Stewart's response, referred to the giggles as "the laugh track."

Indeed, *a laugh track*. It was clear from the timing that there had been some advance agreement to laugh, on cue, at certain points. The trouble is that only good actors can really manage the appearance of genuine spontaneity – and this particular performance had all the finesse of a kindergarten playlet in need of another rehearsal.

To his credit, Stewart took Bauer's question seriously, and confirmed his opposition to the self-governance legislation being considered at that very RIRA Council meeting. To Stewart's discredit, his gavel remained idle when his supporters misbehaved.

What's so sad about this is that where Stewart's arguments against elected-resident control of RIOC might stand on their own merits, those arguments are cheapened and degraded by supporters who fantasize that derision, rather than reason, will be persuasive to others.

Negative campaigning is abhorrent on the national scene, just as denial of mutual respect and personal dignity used to be abhorrent on Roosevelt Island. No more, unless the schoolgirls involved can grow up quickly, drop such grade-school behavior, and join in the reasoned discourse that is appropriate to deliberations about residents' serious concerns.

DL

Letters

To the Editor:

I have lived on Roosevelt Island since June, 1989. At the time, my rent for a small one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan Park was \$1195 per month. Over the next 11 years, my rent gradually rose to \$1423 per month. Upon receiving my lease-renewal forms last week, I was shocked to find out that as of June, 2000 my rent will become \$1789 per month on a two-year lease!

Are all of the long-term Manhattan Park tenants being treated in this fashion? I have faxed Mr. Brian Baker, the Manhattan Park Rental Agent. His sole reply: "We're not rent stabilized and we can do whatever we want."

I have also contacted the East Side Tenants Coalition and, at their suggestion, contacted Mr. Tony Morenzi [of Assembly-member Pete Grannis's office]. Mr. Morenzi confirmed that MP is not rent stabilized, but did state that I had the right to attempt to negotiate my rent. He also stated that he was not aware of any Manhattan Park tenants being hit with high rent increases.

I would like to know if other tenants have had this problem and if it is worth the effort to attempt to negotiate with Mr. Baker.

Susan Ashford
c50684@erols.com
10 River Road #10L

To the Editor:

In the February 5 edition of *The WIRE*, in your article, *RIRA Splits On Electing RIOC2 Board Members*, you state: "The split... is at the heart of a disagreement between RIRA President Patrick Stewart and members of the Maple Tree Group (MTG)." The article goes on at some length enumerating differences in "my" positions and those of the Maple Tree Group.

By some oversight, however, you neglect to mention that each of "my" positions is Pete Grannis's position as well, and that my contribution to the evening's discussion was to state that, for myself, I supported Pete Grannis's new bill exactly as he wrote it, with very minor alterations that had also been suggested by others, each one of which was adopted unanimously by the Council.

Given that the self-governance Legislation is authored by Pete Grannis (for which the Island has every reason to be grateful), it is disingenuous at best to suggest that the heart of MTG's disagreement is with me when the only matters that were discussed at the meeting were MTG's positions vs Grannis's own.

Now that Olga Mendez, along with the Common Council, has embraced Grannis's position as well, I am sure you would wish to correct this omission. In fact, you, along with the rest of the dozen or so MTG members, might wish to more closely consider your own positions as well.

Patrick Stewart
President, RIRA

Editor's note: A thorough review of *The WIRE's* recordings of the February 2 RIRA Common Council meeting shows that Stewart made no statement that "supported Pete Grannis's new bill." He is correct that alterations were proposed and adopted unanimously. Stewart further explains his position on page 3. Additional material on self-governance, including a partial transcript of discussions with Grannis and Senator Olga Mendez are available at www.nyc10044.com, on *Website NYC10044*.



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COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland – phone/fax 317-8523

Mon., Feb. 21 (and successive Mondays), usually 7:30 p.m., **Maple Tree Group** meeting, working on self-governance legislation for Roosevelt Island. Information: **308-1366**.

Wed., Feb. 23, 8:00 p.m., **Bridge** with advanced bridge instructor, 546 Main Street.

Fri., Feb. 25 (and successive Fridays), 7:00 p.m., **Roosevelt Island Art Association**, sketch session with live model, 546 Main Street. Information, **421-5939**.

Sat., Feb. 26, all day, **African-American Heritage Month Celebration**, sponsored by Housing Management. Marilyn Engstler of Community Relations, at **838-4747**, is seeking volunteers and ideas for this event, which is to include entertainment, educational workshops, ethnic food, and more.

Mon., Feb. 28, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters**. Information, **687-4010**.

Sat., Mar. 4, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Feb. 25; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Feb. 28; bag materials due Mar. 1. **Future issues:** Mar. 18; Apr. 1, 15, 29; May 13, 27; June 10; July 1 (for July 4); Aug. 26; Sept. 9, 23; generally every two weeks thereafter. Advertisers wishing to be included in unscheduled **EXTRA** editions, without notice at the time, are invited to call **826-9055** to make their interest known. **Phone/fax** for news, (212) **826-9055/755-2540**; urgent/breaking news, 917-353-1647; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) **751-8214/755-2540**; phone/fax to list your Island organization’s event

At the Senior Center

(Closed Monday, February 21 Presidents Day)

Monday

9:15-10:15, **Stay Well** (Exercise)
9:30, **Basic Computer Skills**
10:00-12:00, **English as 2nd Language**
12:45 **Arts & Crafts**
6:30, **Line Dancing**

Tuesday

10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:30, **Games** (RISA)
7:00, **Korean English**

Wednesday

9:15, **Stay Well** (Stretch)
10:00-11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beg)
10:30-11:30, **Creative Arts**
11:00-12:00, **English as 2nd** (intermediate)

Thursday

10:00-11:00, **T’ai Chi**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday

9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00-11:00, **Citizenship Class**
10:30-11:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**

Saturday

7:30 p.m., **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Call in advance for details: 980-1888

Mon., Feb. 21, **Closed** (Presidents’ Day)

Tue., Feb. 22, 12:30 p.m., **VNS Service**

Fri., Feb. 25, 12:30, **Birthday Party**

Sat, Feb. 26, 10-3, **African-American Bazaar**

Mon., Feb. 28, 11-12:30, **Metrocard Bus**



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

In the early morning fog of February 9, a glided across the backdrop of the Queensboro Bridge.

here (no charge), **317-8523**.

Wed., Mar. 8, 8:00 p.m., **RIRA Common Council Meeting**, Good Shepherd.

Thur., Mar. 9, 11:00 a.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Good Shepherd.

Mon., Mar. 13, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters**. Information, **687-4010**.

Stewart Says He Opposes Self-Governance, Then Clarifies Stand

Residents Association President Patrick Stewart appeared to come out against self-governance for Roosevelt Island at a February 7 meeting of the RIRA Common Council called to consider provisions of a new version of the legislation drafted by Assemblymember Pete Grannis.

Stewart confirmed the substance of a one-on-one conversation the previous Wednesday with David Bauer, who heads the Maple Tree Group (MTG), which has been working for over two years on securing control of the RIOC Board by elected residents.

Stewart responded to a statement by Bauer during the public session of the meeting.

Bauer said, “...Because I was trying to figure out who was going where, after the [February 2] meeting, Patrick and I had a conversation and I said, ‘Patrick, what do you think about self-government?’ and Patrick said – my understanding of what he said – was that it will never pass, and ‘I personally am opposed to it.’ ... I then said, ‘Patrick, what is it that you would like to see in the way of self-gov... in the way of government of the Island?’ And he said, ‘I think that benevolent dictatorship isn’t bad, or the military chain of command.’ Now, I think as we think about these things, we want to consider what the options are, and benevolent dictatorship is what we have at the moment. We’ve been distressed by it in the past, and certainly a military chain of command is a separate or different thing, something that deserves to be considered and then put on the shelf.”

A few minutes later, Stewart responded:

“I did say in my opinion it would never pass, and I did say that I’m not in favor of it. I did not say that I was in favor of benevolent dictators or the military chain of command. What I did say was that there were alternate forms of government such as benevolent dictators, such as the Aristotelian philosopher-kings, and so on, that have worked well in the past. I don’t believe I alluded to the military, but if I did, that works pretty well, also. So lest anyone be... misunderstand what I said, that’s what I said.”

The WIRE later asked Stewart by e-mail for elaboration of his stand, and his response appears on this page.

In a meeting with Grannis and Senator Olga Mendez February 10 to go over provisions of the latest plan, Stewart listed a long series of current or potential financial demands as

one of his reservations about self-governance. Although the State hasn’t provided tax funds for support of the Island in recent years, Stewart and some supporters of his view feel that, without self-governance, the State would be obligated to come to the Island’s rescue if high costs were incurred in a failure of infrastructure, but might not do so under a scheme of elected resident control of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

Stewart abstained in February, 1999, when Grannis’s original version of the self-governance legislation came before the Common Council,

which approved it then by a wide margin. In subsequent Council votes approving various versions, Stewart voted against the plans, though repeatedly affirming that he favored self-governance “in principle.”

Editor’s note: In response to *The WIRE’s* inquiry, Stewart provided the following clarification of his February 7 statement of his position on self-governance.

“I did say that, in my opinion, it would never pass.”

That it will never pass is my personal evaluation. The State, New York or any other, is not notorious for its rush to put State entities into hands other than its own.

The legislation, all three versions, creates an entirely new type of State entity, setting radical new precedents for both the State and the City of New York with complex repercussions for both governments. That being the case, I believe it is likely that it will become imprisoned in various committees in both houses, and will have to be reintroduced each year for years to come.

The state is not in the business of creating new local entities, let alone new local entities within New York City, quite a complex local entity in its own right.

“..and I did say that I’m not in favor of it.”

I am not in favor of this approach to self governance while the inherent overwhelming fiscal problems remain unresolved. The Maple Tree Group (MTG) continues to hide its head in the sand over the realities of the ongoing year to year infrastructure costs, let alone the fiscal realities of RIOC’s \$200 million debt to Empire State Development Corp., the entity that replaced UDC.

The new Grannis-Mendez bill takes the only prudent approach to these problems, but the safeguards he includes, while absolutely essential, will necessarily add to the difficulties of getting the bill passed.

I have not the slightest qualm of conscience saying that in my opinion MTG has been wholly irresponsible in the way that they’ve handled approaching self governance.

Although my attendance at MTG meetings was only intermittent until last July, I have sat in those weekly meeting for eight months now, and I have not once heard the slightest indication that MTG either understands the various versions of the legislation that have been proposed, or that they’ve even done their basic homework on

any of the realities of the obligations they would have the Island assume for itself.

I have said all along that until the Island is no longer encumbered by its fiscal obligations, I believe that the only effective way to reach the self-governance we need is to insure that Island residents hold the majority of the existing board seats, preferably by Island election to those seats. Pragmatically, that revision to the existing law has always seemed to me more obtainable, both legally and politically, than the more sweeping changes MTG seeks.

Once the Common Council voted in favor of the MTG bill Grannis introduced, I stopped putting forth my own position publicly. It may have been the more gentlemanly thing to do, but in retrospect, I was dead wrong.

At the time, I saw the original ballot question and the bill itself as one more stick with which to beat Jerry Blue, and we needed all the sticks we could get. It seems to me now that the “stick” has done as much damage to the Island itself as it could ever have done to Jerry Blue, and that I should have spoken out far more forthrightly much sooner than I did. There are so many crucial issues facing the Island, that any more time wasted on this issue is, to me, a disservice to the Island itself.

Time will tell.

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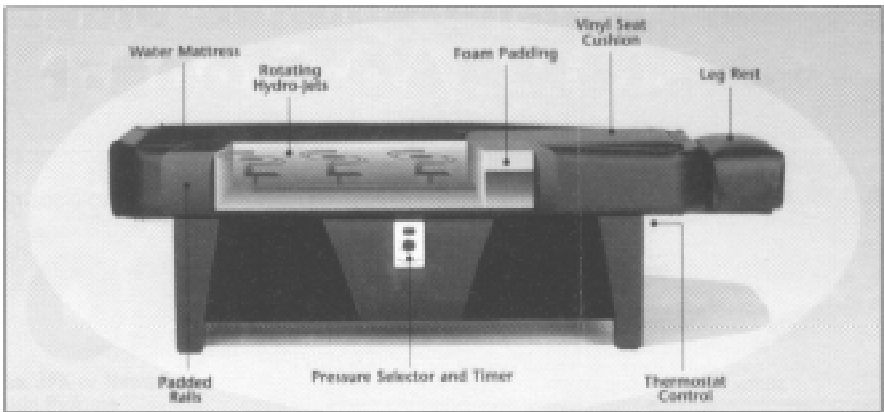
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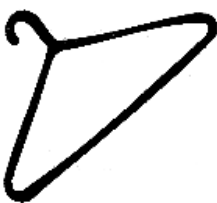
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Public Safety Blotter February 1-15, 2000

2/1, Disorderly Conduct, 250 Main St., Arrest. Non-resident became abusive towards officer for issuing an “A” summons, and was issued two “C” summonses for disorderly conduct and harassment.

2/2, DOA, 700 Main St., Coler Hospital Police notified PSD that they had a male in custody, who informed him that his friend was in a wheelchair dead in a public restroom. PSD responded and observed a male who appeared to be deceased. PSD cordoned off area, notified NYPD. EMS responded and pronounced male DOA. PSD and NYPD conducted investigation. A male was taken into custody by NYPD. Matter is under investigation.

2/2, Harassment, 560 Main St., Resident phoned PSD, said unknown female was harassing her and somehow gained access into her apartment. RIHM service personnel stated that the “hedges” were loose in the lock. NYPD was refused. Victim was advised to contact PSD immediately if incident reoccurred.

2/3, Harassment, 560 Main St., Cross-complaint. Female entered PSD, stated a male stated he would physically harm her – the male made a complaint against female. NYPD responded and prepared report.

2/4, Harassment, 546 Main St., Resident phoned PSD, stated a male and his underage daughter were using profanity towards underage girl. Perp. stated he’d spoken to victim’s mother to no avail, about victim harassing his child. NYPD responded & prepared report.

2/4, Smoke Condition, 510 Main St., Officer responded to smoke condition. Resident was burning paper at scene. Same was extinguished and he was advised it was a fire hazard.

2/5, Criminal Mischief, 684 Main St., Grounds Supervisor advised PSD that lock handle was broken & door could not be secured. Same gives access to inner-secured entrance, bus garage & warehouse. There were no signs of tampering.

2/5, Gas Leak, 580 Main St., Officer responded, confirmed smell of gas. RIHM supervisor responded, opened apartment, turned off gas. No one was in apartment.

2/6, Criminal Mischief, 694 Main St., Officer noticed that parking machine #6 had a putty-like substance inserted in coin slot. Searched area with negative results.

2/6, Criminal Mischief, 500 Main St., Reporter entered PSD, said he saw rear door ajar. Officers responded, confirmed situation, noticed broken water pipe and basement flooded. Tried to shut off pipe with negative results. Officer posted at scene. RIOCC Access Control Assistant and two employees responded to scene.

2/7, Trespassing, 546 Main St., Officers responded to scene for possible dispute, saw four youths in hall, none of whom lived in building. They were brought to PSD, one underage youth issued a youth referral, the other 3 were issued “C” summonses. Matter referred to Y.O.

2/7, Dispute, 510 Main St., Officer responded to dispute between youths who, upon his arrival were not fighting and did not seem to be injured, refusing medical attention and each went their separate way. Attempt to contact youths’ mothers was unsuccessful, messages were left on answering machines. Incident to be referred to Youth Officer.

2/8, Property Damage, 555 Main St., Resident female entered PSD, said her vehicle had inadvertently struck a Cushman, but it did not incur damage. Woman’s car incurred minor damages, but she was not injured.

2/8, Vacate Warrant, 560 Main St., NY State Warrant Squad requested Y.O. to accompany PSD and NYPD officers on scene, regarding escort of 16 year old female to Manhattan Family Court. Warrant will be vacated, youth returned to be released to mother until better placement can be found.

2/8, Verbal Dispute, 300 Main St., Bus driver stated a female had boarded the bus against his advice because it was crowded. Upon her exiting the bus at the Tram, she accidentally caught her shoe on nail, tripped and shoe sustained a small hole. No injuries incurred.

2/8, Eviction, 540 Main St., Officers responded to report of eviction from illegally rented room, male was escorted out of apartment after having removed his belongings.

2/9, Property Damage, 544 Main St., While on patrol, officer noticed that hardware store’s window was shattered. Officers searched area and rear of store, and it was secure. Store will be safeguarded until owner’s arrival.

2/9, Property Damage, 300 Main St., Officer responded to scene and saw NYPD emergency phone box on ground. Apparently a vehicle ran into or backed up into it, 911 notified and stated repair crew would be dispatched. NYPD prepared 61 report, confirmed box was broken. Matter is under investigation.

2/10, Harassment, 30 River Rd., Male entered PSD, registered complaint against female roommate, who had left shouting message on answering machine that if he did not clean eggs out of sink, she was going to throw them in his face and in boss’s face. Man works in restaurant in city and fears she will harass him at restaurant. He refused NYPD report.

2/10, Found Property, 400 Main St., Officer and C. Baker, Grounds, found unclaimed bicycle which had been chained to fence two weeks, which they brought to PSD for safekeeping.

2/10, Harassment, 510 Main St., Female entered PSD, reported harassment by neighbor who stated she was going to strike her son if he threw more snowballs at her daughter, whose name she did not know, as well as son’s name. Reporter refused NYPD, but requested matter be referred to PSD Y.O., which it has.

2/10, Assisted Arrest, 576 Main St., PSD officer noticed perp., who was wanted by 94 Pct. in Brooklyn. NYPD for two past robberies, he contacted NYPD. Detectives responded, requested assistance. PSD and detectives conducted search of area, located perp, detectives placed him in custody, transported him to 94 Pct. where he was placed under arrest.

2/11, Harassment, 560 Main St., Officer saw graffiti at scene, 2 underage youths who informed her about another youth who’d written one of the youth’s phone number on elevator. Matter referred to PSD Y.O. for investigation.

2/12, Harassment, 10 River Rd., Resident phoned PSD, said two unknown females had threatened her over the telephone. Officer referred her to Annoying Call Bureau, advised her to file a NYPD report.

2/12, Investigation, 686 Main St., Gristede’s Mgr. observed resident place several items in her own shopping cart. He stopped her at counter, warned her & asked her not to enter Gristede’s in future. Resident did not remove any items from Gristede’s. NYPD was refused.

2/12, Missing Person, 546 Main St., Non resident guardian entered PSD, stated she had not seen granddaughter since morning and had phoned her at 7:20 PM, informing her she was at friend’s apt. on R.I. All pertinent parties on R.I. were informed, picture of underage youth distributed. Island-wide search was conducted by PSD. Ultimately youth was located in Eastwood. NYPD notified she’d been found, youth escorted home by grandmother.

2/13, Missing Patient, 300 Main St., Coler Hospital detective informed officer that patient was missing, who was subsequently found by detective. PSD officers escorted patient to Coler.

2/13, Missing Property, 40 River Rd., Marymount student phoned PSD, said her apt. (which she shares with five other students, who allowed 3 males to enter apt. and her room) had been trashed. She said after males left, she noticed 27 cd’s, total value of \$369. were missing. Officers responded, did see bedroom in disarray. According to her roommates, they did not see anyone remove any property from room.

2/13, Investigation, 688 Main St., Anonymous male phoned PSD, stated he’d witnessed unk. male hand another male what appeared to have been a sack of narcotics in exchange for money. Officers responded, searched levels 4, 5, 6, 7 and stairs AA, BB with negative results.

2/13, Larceny, 580 Main St., Resident phoned PSD said his son had let in his ex-girl friend, who removed model trains valued at \$300. The latter phoned victim, said she’d return property, but had neglected to do so. NYPD responded, prepared report.

2/14, Investigation, 560 Main St., Officer saw three people leaving scene, area smelled of marijuana, cigar smoke. When officer tried to question them, they fled. Officer searched with negative results.

2/15, Harassment, 580 Main St., Resident entered PSD, accompanied by male friend/witness, said he wanted to report harassment from non resident male with whom had relationship. Stated he did not wish to speak with him, but kept insisting both on phone and in person. Witness intervened and reiterated what victim had told him. Perpetrator finally drove off island.

2/15, Dispute, 4 River Rd., Officers responded to apartment for past dispute with 16 year old son. She did not want NYPD report, wanted PSD to document that her son violates her house rules. He has unwelcome company at apt. and she notices marijuana smell. Matter referred to Y.O. for counseling for youth.

The WIRE publishes this information as received from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, and takes no responsibility for its accuracy or completeness.

SPORTSWIRE

BASKETBALL: The Youth Program’s Basketball League completed its regular season this past weekend. The first round of playoff games will be held on Friday evening, March 3, for the 14-16 Division (at 6:15 and 8:15 p.m.), and on Saturday afternoon, March 4, for the 11-13 Division (at 12:30 and 2:00 p.m.) at the public school gym. The games are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

14-16 Division		11-13 Division	
Celtics (Yellow)	5-1	Bulls (White)	5-1
Lakers (Purple)	4-2	Kings (Black)	3-3
T’wolves (Black)	2-4	Lakers (Yellow)	3-3
Knicks (White)	1-5	Knicks (Purple)	1-5

In the final regular-season games in the 14-16 Division, the Celtics defeated the Knicks by a 75-66 score, while the Lakers upended the Timberwolves 76-71. For the Celtics, Charles McCoy led all scorers with 39 points, while Marcus Moore added 13 and Blas Loor added 9 points. Eugene Woody and Steven Parades had 18 points apiece for the Knicks. For the Lakers, Vernon Jonas was the leading scorer with 29 points, while Kendrick Gibson added 27 points. The Timberwolves were paced by 26 points from Jason Burnette and 16 points from Devon Epps.

BASEBALL: Baseball registration began this week and will continue through March 3rd. There will be a Tee-Ball program for children 6 and 7 years old, Minors for those 8 to 10, Majors for 11-13, and a Senior team for ages 14-16. Registration forms are available at the Youth Center (506 Main Street).

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As part of the ongoing dialogue with residents and businesses in the vicinity of the plant, you are invited to attend a community information briefing which will be held at the

Astoria World Manor
25-22 Astoria Blvd., Astoria, NY
on Tuesday, February 29, 2000
beginning at 7 PM.

At this meeting, KeySpan representatives will discuss the upgrade plans, answer any questions you may have and listen to your comments about the proposed expansion.

If you wish additional information, **please call our Ravenswood Hotline number at (718) 403-2777.**

Residents Rally for Hillary

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

“We should invite Hillary to visit Roosevelt Island and show her probably the only community in the U.S. where self-government does *not* exist,” suggested Sherie Helstien, one of 35 Roosevelt Island residents who attended a “Houseparty for Hillary” at Stu Davis’ apartment in Rivercross Sunday afternoon, Feb. 6.

The event was one of approximately 600 held throughout New York State. Guests watched the First Lady’s televised announcement of her candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat soon to be vacated by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who is retiring.

“Eleanor Roosevelt would have liked you,” Moynihan told Mrs. Clinton during his introduction. It was clear that the houseparty guests agreed with him as they repeatedly clapped whenever the candidate emphasized her commitment to work for New York’s children and families, on issues dealing with healthcare, education and jobs.

“If you put me to work for you, I’ll work to lift people up – not push them down,” she said. City Councilmember Gifford Miller, also a guest at the houseparty, praised Hillary for her pledge.

Islanders interested in campaign buttons, bumper stickers or being on the contact list for future events may call the campaign at (212) 239-2000, or Stu Davis at **935-9705**.

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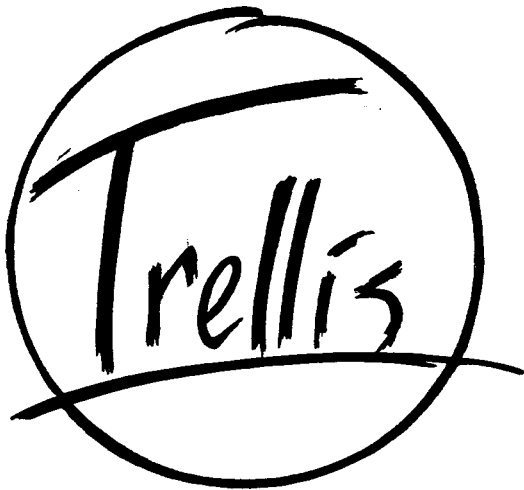
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