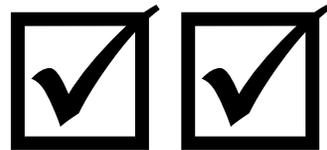

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Luis Román◆

The Annual Club Elections



Thursday, January 21st

Meeting starts at 8:00 PM

Bank Street College

610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Luis Román ◆

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January 2016

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Presidential and Congressional Endorsement Meetings: Vote!

Broadway Democrats will be endorsing for President at our February 11th meeting and for US Senate and Congress (the Schumer, Nadler and Rangel seats) at our March 10th meeting.

To be eligible to vote you must meet the club's other residency etc. requirements, pay your dues by the night of the meeting, and have attended at least one of the previous nine club meetings. NOTE: The January 21st meeting is thus your last chance to establish eligibility to vote for President in February, and the February 11th meeting is your last chance to establish eligibility to vote for Senator/Congress Member in March.

Here are my current thoughts on these races. For Congress in the 10th District, I enthusiastically endorse **Jerry Nadler**, and know that the club will give him the overwhelming vote of confidence he so deserves. Jerry will likely face a challenge from the extremist, religious right, the same people who gave us the disastrous Iraq war which cost billions, killed many thousands, destabilized the region, and paved the way for ISIS. We are to believe these chicken hawks again, and listen to them rather than our President and every major world leader on the question of the Iran treaty? And, Jerry brings his passionate intelligence to so many other issues: economic, social, international.

For U.S. Senate, while I am disappointed by his vote on the Iran treaty and his waffling on accepting (very limited numbers) of Syrian refugees, our country, our city, and yes our club has strongly benefited by the service of the brilliant and indefatigable **Chuck Schumer**. We might want to consider a resolution expressing our disagreements with Senator Schumer, but there is no question that we should endorse the likely next Senate Minority—and hopefully Majority!—leader.

For President, I still believe that when voters settle down and make their hard choices in November, Hillary Clinton is likely to be a much stronger nominee than Bernie Sanders. I also think that she displayed more familiarity with issues, and more verbal dexterity, in the debates. But here's the rub: if Hillary does so well in debates, why did her campaign insist that they be few and far between, and held on Saturday nights when few people are watching? While better than eight years ago, her campaign is still too secretive, too corporate, too cautious. And I love the issues Bernie is raising and the way he's been conducting himself. In every way, he's a mensch. So I'm still uncommitted. The most important thing is that we all come out and vote at the February 11th meeting. Be open-minded, be prepared to ask tough questions, but mostly, be there!

I will talk about the race to succeed Charlie Rangel next month.



Steering Committee

Dan Zweig

PROPOSED AMSTERDAM BIKE LANE: An essay asking, "Is it a benefit or a burden", and offering an alternative solution.

DOT is presenting to the Community Board 7 Transportation Committee on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 an update to their plan for a redesign of Amsterdam Avenue from W72nd St to W110th St, including a protected bicycle lane. If approved by the Transportation Committee, the proposal will be taken up by the Full Community Board 7 membership, probably on Tuesday, February 2 for a final Community Board decision.

Amsterdam Avenue is the only northbound timed signal route and truck route on the Westside. Its traffic flow, which often jams and grinds to a halt, is badly in need of improvement. Moreover, the addition of increased safety measures to help make pedestrian crossings safer would greatly benefit Westside residents.

Adding a protected northbound bicycle lane on the Westside makes sense. The separation of large motor vehicles from lightweight cycling vehicles makes sense. A protected northbound bicycle lane on Amsterdam Ave would make riding safer for the 600 cyclists per day who travel this route, provided they use the bike lane. Note that on Columbus Avenue more than a third of cyclists do not ride in the protected bicycle lane.

Redesigning traffic and flow patterns on Amsterdam Ave also makes sense to better guide traffic and to provide safer (shorter) crossings for pedestrians.

So it would seem that a protected bicycle lane on Amsterdam Avenue should be a slam dunk benefit. Shorten the pedestrian crossings and separate the cyclist and motor vehicular traffic. And if you look no further, it's a great idea.

So what else comes with the Amsterdam bicycle lane proposal?

No improvement in traffic flow—The design and signaling constraints needed to accommodate the bicycle lane cancel out any improvements which could be made by a redesign not including a bicycle lane. In fact, if any factor falls short of DOT's predictions, traffic will become a nightmare for the thousands of people who use this corridor.

Loss of 25% (about 150+) 24-hour parking spaces in the neighborhood (in addition to the 150+ parking spaces already taken away for Citibike stations and another 150+ spaces taken for the Columbus Ave bicycle lane)—The elimination of parking spaces is required to create mixing zones and specially signaled turning zones to allow motor vehicles to turn left across the bicycle lane. A good, safe street design without a bike lane would not have this loss of parking.

Loss of up to 300 additional metered parking spaces for any vehicles other than commercial vehicles for most of each day.

Increased pollution—In a dense urban environment like New York City, upwards of 30% of local vehicular traffic consists of cruising vehicles looking for parking. On the Westside, current and proposed future plans to repurpose garages are eliminating (and will eliminate) hundreds of off-street parking spaces that currently function as alternatives to street parking. The continued loss of available off-street parking adds to the time it takes to find on-street parking, thereby escalating both the traffic volume and the pollution caused by the increased motor vehicle cruising activity in our neighborhoods—all as a result of losing parking spots.

So what can we do? How can we provide safety improvement on Amsterdam and provide a northbound route on the Westside for cyclists?

First we can redesign Amsterdam Ave for traffic calming and pedestrian safety WITHOUT a bike lane. DOT has pledged to take this action if the plan with the bike lane is rejected. Shortened and SAFER pedestrian crossings along with improved traffic guidance can be provided while improving the traffic flow. We do not have to accept the status quo, or worse. And we can accomplish these changes without a massive loss of parking (parking desperately needed in our neighborhood), a loss which would burden those who need to use motor vehicles and all of us who would like to avoid the pollution caused by the increased cruising that the loss of parking would create.

And we can still have a northbound cycling route! DOT has shown an alternative to the Amsterdam bike lane: make the existing Columbus Avenue protected lane a two way cycling lane. The current and future cycling traffic could easily be accommodated on the existing path. Cyclists would have a protected northbound route, without further burdening the rest of the community outside the small number of cyclists who use those avenues each day.

We should ask the Community Board to reject the current plan. And we should ask DOT for both a redesign of Amsterdam without a bicycle lane and for a redesign of Columbus with a two-way bicycle lane.



Balloting Procedures

To be eligible to vote, you must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues.

Votes may be cast in person or by proxy, limit one proxy per voting member. A proxy must be written. The proxy giver must state the name of the proxy holder (i.e., the name can't be filled in later by the proxy holder). The proxy must be signed or verifiable, as by electronic transmission stating the person's name.

As per the club constitution, there will be only one ballot. The winner will be selected by "Instant Runoff Voting"; "no endorsement" is still a ballot option.

Please build in time to sign in, pay your dues, and allow us to determine your eligibility to vote.

Elections

It's January, time to elect the Broadway Democrats' officers for the next year. Individuals nominated thus far are listed below. **Further nominations may be made from the floor.**

Officers:

President: Pat Almonrode
Vice President: Lizabeth Sostre
Treasurer: Dan Zweig
Secretary: OPEN

Steering Committee (totaling 12):

Willie Mae Anderson
Gretchen Borges
Susan Crawford
Carlton Davis*
Katie Hanner
Norm Levine
Sarah Martin
Amy Porter
Luis Román
Linda Sayre
Eliana Shneyer
Richard Siegel
Barbara Trelstead*
Zoila Marte*

*nomination acceptance not confirmed

SAVE THE DATES:
Endorsement Meetings

February 11th:
Endorsement for **President**

March 10th:
Endorsement for **Senate and
Congress**

Membership

In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$20; senior dues are \$5.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

The Broadway Democrats
P.O. Box 1099
Cathedral Station
New York, NY 10025

FIRST
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Luis Román
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Club Elections

Thursday, January 21st 8:00 p.m.

Bank Street College of Education

(610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive))