



**FORTH ON FOURTH AVENUE**  
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FOURTH AVENUE

## **Final Report to the Community on “A New Look at Fourth Avenue: Action Planning for a New Administration”**

### **Background**

On January 14, 2014, the Park Slope Civic Council's Forth on Fourth Avenue Committee (FOFA) hosted a public meeting at the Old Stone House to discuss concerns about and suggestions for the stretch of Brooklyn's Fourth Avenue between Pacific Street and the Prospect Expressway. The meeting was preceded by distribution of an on-line survey intended to gauge attitudes about recent changes on Fourth Avenue and identify areas of needed improvement. Seven community organizations (Boerum Hill Association, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Fifth Avenue Committee, Gowanus Alliance, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Park Slope Neighbors, and the Park Slope Safety Partnership) partnered with FOFA to promote the meeting and the survey. City Council members Stephen Levin and Brad Lander, whose districts include part of the stretch of Fourth Avenue under review, were invited to attend and make remarks about Fourth Avenue and the potential for positive changes in a new, self-described “progressive” NYC government.

Over 75 people came to what was a “standing room only” event, favorably described by several attendees as being like “a New England Town Meeting”. They represented the diversity of concerned stakeholders along the avenue: residents, business owners, property owners, representatives from Community Boards 6 and 7, the Department of Transportation, and staffers from the offices of Assembly member Joan Millman, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, and Borough President Eric Adams. Partner community organizations were invited to bring descriptive program material and used the downstairs area of the Old Stone House to engage with interested attendees.

A summary report of survey findings was distributed to all participants. The survey included a section where respondents could address specific questions to Council members - those questions were sent to Council members Levin and Lander prior to the meeting. Both Council members were very generous with their time, both addressing previously submitted questions and staying to answer all of the questions raised at the meeting.

Pedestrian safety, greening efforts and encouragement of an active/welcoming street life were survey- identified leading priorities for future Fourth Avenue work, but significant numbers of survey respondents and meeting attendees expressed concerns about affordable housing, flooding, sanitation, landmarks and preservation, schools, and promoting mixed use development on Fourth Avenue.

### **Summary materials**

At the meeting, FOFA promised to provide a final summary of survey responses (the on-line survey was kept open until the end of January), a summary of topics

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discussed at the meeting (including action items accepted by the Council members), and other data that could be useful to participants. It is our hope that this data will be helpful in program development for us and our partners. While cautioning that the survey was not a “scientific” one, in terms of distribution or cross tabulation of responses, we believe that it is representative of community concerns and encourage the broad use of the event-related reports. All final materials have been submitted to partner organizations and Council members Lander and Levin.

The following summaries are attached and part of this report.

*Final Survey Summary Report*

*List of associations as self-described by survey respondents*

*Summary of Meeting Discussions*

We have also included some photos from the event.

If you are interested in helping to work on any of the issues identified, you’re invited to come to FOFA meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:45am at 621 Degraw Street or to e-mail [fofa@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:fofa@parkslopeciviccouncil.org) to join our e-mail list and stay involved.

We also suggest that you contact our partner organizations for more opportunities to work on specific projects that interest you.

Boerum Hill Association <http://boerumhillassociation.org/>

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce <http://www.ibrooklyn.com/>

Fifth Avenue Committee [www.fifthave.org](http://www.fifthave.org)

Gowanus Alliance [www.gowanusalliance.org](http://www.gowanusalliance.org)

Gowanus Canal Conservancy [www.gowanuscanalconservancy.org](http://www.gowanuscanalconservancy.org)

Park Slope Civic Council [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org)

Park Slope Neighbors [www.parkslopedneighbors.org](http://www.parkslopedneighbors.org)

Park Slope Safety Partnership

<https://www.facebook.com/ParkSlopeStreetSafetyPartnership>

Thanks again to all who helped make this a very successful event, with a special mention to Old Stone House, which provided the perfect venue for the meeting.

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