



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

Spring in Astoria! Keeping it Safe!

April 11, 2021

Winter is over, and not only are flowers blooming, but also our streets and restaurants are coming alive as Pandemic restrictions ease!

Everyone remembers the chaos on our street last spring, and we should be proactive in trying to avoid a repeat this year. (We are already hearing complaints about motorcycle stunts on Steinway).

OANA, and the 30th Avenue Business Association have a proposal to close 30th avenue to traffic (Open Streets Open Restaurants) from 34th Street to Steinway. We also advise extending this to Steinway Street, especially if trouble starts. Our original proposal last year was for Friday and Saturday nights (To accommodate retail), and all-day Sunday (Brunch). As required, a 15 ft service lane would be maintained during closure. However, at the last minute it was turned down. Opposition primarily felt closure would cause more trouble. We respectfully disagree and believe the opposite:

1. The partiers are “vehicle driven”. This is a similar crowd to what we have had for years on Shore Blvd. If you eliminate their vehicles, they do not come! This was proven last year when Shore Blvd, and other roads around Astoria Park were closed to traffic. Once closed, there was no longer any partying issues. They need a space to do their “Wheelies” and “Donuts”, and create chaos.
2. By eliminating vehicles, you eliminate the possibility of cars striking outdoor seating areas. This has happened at least 5 times citywide, and it is only luck that has kept us from serious injury or death.
3. You reduce pollution from idling cars, especially next to seated patrons trying to eat dinner.
4. Most of these “Partiers” would bring their own food and drink. They did not necessarily help the income of local business. And business would additionally suffer, as the Partiers scared away families and local patrons.

Another issue for the denial was the closure of 31st avenue. (12 hours a day, 7 days a week). Closing 2 avenues next to each other could cause traffic issues. We would hope that the 31st avenue sponsors would consider sharing the time so both could enjoy this great program. Last year they denied us.

For this year we have proposed closing 30 Avenue on Thursdays, creating “Thursdays on 30th”, complete with an Arts Walk. However, this was denied because the MTA will not reroute buses Monday-Thursday.

We are considering Sundays for the closure, Arts Walk. However opposition continues to exist.


We would appreciate the public’s reaction to our proposals, so we can decide whether to create an application for this year. If we can show strong public support, perhaps the application will be approved.

Please comment at Feedback@oana-ny.org

We look forward to hearing from everyone, and trust everyone has a healthy, safe spring and summer in Astoria.

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