



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
COMMUNITY BOARD 12**

**5910 13th Ave.nue  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219**  
Phone: (718) 851-0800 • Fax: (718) 851-4140  
Email: [bk12@CommunityBoard.NYC.gov](mailto:bk12@CommunityBoard.NYC.gov)



**Antonio Reynoso**  
Borough President

**Yidel Perlstein**  
Chairperson

**Barry Spitzer**  
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12  
FEBRUARY MINUTES**

**HELD ON  
TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

**VIA ZOOM  
& IN-PERSON  
AT AMICO SENIOR CENTER  
5901 13<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
BROOKLYN, NY 11219**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

AAMNAH KHAN  
ANA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
BERNARD FREILICH  
BETH SLEPIAN  
CHAIM SCHNEIDER  
CHESKY BLAU  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
EDGAR GLUCK  
ELLIE KASTEL  
ELLIOT SIDDIQUI  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACOB HASS  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JOSEPH GROSS  
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LOUIE LIU  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MARIA ARETTINES  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
MOSHE FRIDMAN  
NICK BERGHALL  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
SOL WAHBA  
WIL FISHER  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YONAH MOSES

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

ADRIANA VINK  
ALAN DUBROW  
ALEXI SHALOM  
ARTURO ENAMORADO III  
DANIEL KERADNAM  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
ROMINA FERNANDEZ  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BP REYNOSO  
MALCOLM MCDANIEL, REP. MAYOR ADAMS  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER  
JACK PLUSHNICK, REP. CONGRESSMAN DAN  
GOLDMAN  
ELI SLAVIN, REP. CONGRESSWOMAN  
YVETTE CLARKE  
MUS LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF  
ROSLYN JOINVIL, REP. CM RITA JOSEPH  
EMMET TERAN, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES  
SHLOMIE RIEGER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN  
CHAIM SCHNEIDER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN  
KEN LAZAR, REP. DEPARTMENT OF  
BUILDINGS

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 15 RESIDENTS PRESENT

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## ATTENDANCE

## ADOPTION OF JANUARY MINUTES

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

#### **Delivered by Chairman Yidel Perlstein**

- Congratulations to Yonah Moses.
- Congratulations to Commanding Officer Richie Taylor on his promotion.
- All members should have received their 2024 committee assignment. Members do not get to vote on assignments. As a reminder it is up to the chairman of the committees to call meetings. Committees usually meet as needed, usually when the city requests it.
- The chairman reported on a trip he took to Poland with Ben Schapiro and members of the European Union. There was a tour of the concentration camps in Auschwitz.
- The next board meeting will be March 26.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

#### **Delivered by Board Member Moshe Fridman, Nominating Committee Chair**

- The Committee met on February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the nomination of a slate to serve as officers for the upcoming term. The committee voted unanimously to reappoint the current slate for another 1-year term: Yidel Perlstein as Chairman, Yakov Kaplan as First Vice Chair, Yeruchim Silber as Second Vice Chair, and Ana Cali as Secretary.
- Mr. Fridman opened the floor to nominations.
- Wil Fisher nominated Aamnah Khan for First Vice Chair. Maria Arettines seconded.
- Aamnah Khan nominated Beth Slepian for Second Vice Chair. Maria Arettines seconded.
- Chesky Blau nominated Mamnunul Haq for secretary. Avrohom Wolfson seconded.
- Since there were no nominations for the position of Chairman, per Article 8 Section 3, the chairman directed one vote to be cast.
- The remainder of positions will be voted on next month.
- Mr. Friedman thanked the members of the committee for their service.

### DSNY PRESENTATION ON COMMERCIAL CONTAINERIZATION

#### **Delivered by Stephen Caruso**

- The commercial containerization requirement goes into effect on March 1<sup>st</sup> when all businesses will be required to use containers for their trash. This is to get the garbage off the streets and help minimize rats.
- All garbage must be put into containers, which can be put out 1 hour before closing time.
- Cardboard is an exception and can be put into bags, but only placed out after 5 pm.
- He opened the floor to questions.
- **Soya Radin, representing AM Lester Chang:** Asked how the DSNY will know when 1 hour before closing is if businesses don't have their hours posted. And what happens when businesses close early for whatever reason. Some businesses don't have their hours posted, sometimes businesses close early.
- Additionally, how will DSNY know how to differentiate between commercial and residential trash in mixed use area.
- **Stephen Caruso- DSNY:** Businesses will be required to post hours, which officers will look for. More information will be available when the Department of Law provides guidance. The DSNY will be providing some grace period while the new rules are implemented.

- **Barry Spitzer- District Manager:** He discussed this matter prior to the meeting, but for the benefit of board members asked publicly what the rule with storefronts would be, like on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, that have no alleys or area in front to store containers during the day. There is not enough space for merchandise and requiring this new containerization will create a major hardship on our mall businesses.
- **Stephen Caruso- DSNY:** The DSNY will have to work with the stores. And will always be willing to answer any question that you have.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Anthony Loum -Branch Manager of the Mapleton Library**

- While the branch is currently closed for renovation, there continues to be programs available at select libraries throughout the city that he shared with the board members.

### **Debbie Herdon-Resident**

- She was checking in on a matter she spoke about a few months ago requesting safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. She has been working in her current place in Boro Park for 7 months and there is deep vehicle traffic congestion, except during Shabbat. And drivers lean in on their horns, largely due to double parking.
- She also noticed a lot of illegal license plates on vehicles.
- There were over 1,500 crashes between January 2022 and middle of January 2023 in Community Board 12, that is roughly 3.6 crashes a day in Boro Park.
- It is a dangerous situation regardless of whether you're biking or walking. She wanted to know what Community Board 12 can do about this situation.

**Yidel Perlstein- Chairman-** Said he would look into it. He also said that someone from the Boro President's office is at the meeting, and she might take it up with his office.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

### **Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer**

The District Manager had a few items to mention:

- The office was getting a lot of complaints about sidewalk tickets, so he gave some information on how to navigate NOV's for cracked sidewalk tickets. The main thing is to look at the diagrams that are usually included on the ticket. They map out with flags which squares need to be repaired and if there is an X on a box that means the homeowner will not be charged for the specific squares. There is a number on the squares that need to be repaired and there is an explanation of what the damage is for.  
The city gives you the option of having your own licensed contractor repair it or letting the city do the repairs. We usually recommend letting the city do it, because sometimes if you hire your own contractor the city will do their reinspection and say it needs to be repaired again. And then it will cost twice as much. If the city does it, it will be repaired according to their specs. Sometimes trees are involved, usually they are marked with an X meaning the city will pay, sometimes it isn't. If you see a square that looks like it should be marked with an X because of tree related damage, call us and we can look into it.
- Another thing, there was a snowstorm on Saturday and a lot of residents got tickets for not clearing the snow before they even had a chance to clean their sidewalks because of Shabbos. We are in contact with DSNY that this should not happen again. They know it's Shabbos and that prevents residents from cleaning up until after.
- The Community Board had a meeting with Councilwoman Shahana Hanif's office and Brooklyn Square neighbors and business owners. It was a productive meeting with the DOT where the topic was regarding the street situation, which is in dire need of reconstruction. We talked about

a few ideas. The councilmember is working on a capital project, but that is in the future. So, we spoke about what we can do on an interim basis and hope we will see something soon.

- There is a construction project that took out an after-hour variance to work Saturday morning after they were already working there a few mornings without a permit. They took out the permit only after the DOB put a stop to their work because they were working without an after-hour variance. The work was disturbing the entire neighborhood, so we reached out to DOB. I want to thank our liaison Ken Lazar who went to the commissioner and the entire location was put on hold and they won't be able to get any after hour variances anymore.
- **Chairman Yidel Perlstein** wished Rabbi Fleisher a mazel tov for his grandson.

## **REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES**

- **Jacob Eisdorfer, representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso.**
- **Malcolm McDaniel representing Mayor Eric Adams.**
  - He introduced himself as the Director of Constituent Services for the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, whose mandate is to make sure there is transparency with what city agencies do.
  - He advised that the mayor's office is here for the board and provided his contact information: The main number is 212-788-7418, his email is mmcdaniel@cityhall.nyc.gov
- **Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander.**
- **Mus Lamia, representing Councilmember Shahana Hanif.**
  - As Barry mentioned, there was a roundtable with businesses in Brooklyn Square, and they will follow up with DOT.
  - They are in the process of finding a new office. Because of redistricting, the old office is no longer in the district, so they are working remotely. But feel free to continue to reach out to us.
  - This will be her last community board meeting, but other staff will be in attendance.
- **Emet Teran, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.**
  - They are working hard with the policy director on putting together a timeline on the mayor's City of Yes program because they recognize and have heard about how confusing it can be. There is a timeline on their website of where we are on the 3 text amendments. They also put together an FAQ on the details. This is not an endorsement from the Councilmember, it is only informational.
  - Their office is providing free tax prep to working- and middle-class residents in South Brooklyn. We teamed up with Brooklyn Grow to provide free support to residents.
  - They will host a DFTA event in their office for older adults on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - They also reported that there has been a lot of movement on the Economic Development Corporation with warehouse in sunset park. They will have a meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sunset Park Library.
- **Roslyn Joinvil, representing Councilwoman Rita Joseph.**
  - She thanked anyone who attended the Councilwoman's State of the District and swearing in ceremony.
  - They kicked off a satellite office program where the councilwoman held office hours at the Crown Heights Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.
  - The councilwoman will hold satellite office hours at the Kensington Branch on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The office of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke will also be there then.
  - The Monthly NYLAG van providing legal consultation will be at their offices on March 12<sup>th</sup>, call the office to set up an appointment.

- They will host the annual mammogram van on March 17, visits are free of charge and by appointment. Their phone number is 718-287-8762.
- **Chaim Schneider, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.**
  - Mentioned that the Assemblymember's office, along with other offices, were glad they were able to help alleviate some of the tickets that a lot of people got on Shabbos and Motzei Shabbos because of snow that was not cleared.
  - He reminded everyone that Youth Corp applications close this week.
- **Shloime Rieger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.**
- **Soya Radin, representing Assemblymember Lester Chang.**
- **Ken Lazar, representing the NYC Department of Buildings.**
  - He is happy that he was helpful with the after-hour variance after this weekend. The Department will not be issuing them anymore weekend work variances for Saturday.
- **Jack Plushnick, representing Congressman Dan Goldman**
  - He wished everyone a happy and healthy month, and a Happy and Healthy Purim.
  - The Congressman was in the district this week at Maimonides hospital. He was instrumental in making sure they get the funding they need and provide the best services.
  - He left pamphlets with updates.
  - He reminded everyone that their office is always happy to help.
- **Eli Slavin, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.**
  - He reminded the members that their office deals with federal issues and is happy to help with matters such as Passports, visas, immigration, and Veteran's Affairs.
  - Their office is located at 222 Lenox Road.
  - The congresswoman also has a satellite office at Assemblyman Eichenstein every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 10:30 to 2:30, by appointment.
  - He wished all a safe and healthy evening.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Beth Slepian- Board Member:**

- She thanked the chairman for distributing the committee assignments.
- She let the board know that she had a chat with the chairman before meeting about next steps for committees. She wanted to advocate for increased communication and transparency amongst board members and in general because she did not know that there was a committee meeting.
- She would also like to have more committee meetings in general.

**Yidel Perlstein-Chairman:** They can continue the sidebar after the meeting, but he reiterated that committees meet when needed at the discretion of their respective Chairs, usually when the city requests. She can always request a meeting from the Chairs.

We had issues in the past, so we stopped publicizing private information. We require getting an ok before sharing a phone number.

- He personally made sure that the nominating committee, which was announced at last month's meeting, was posted on the website. The board posts everything on the website so members should be sure to look there for information.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday, March 26

**New Business:** No New Business

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete