



**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 13**  
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**ANTONIO REYNOSO**  
 Borough President

**JEFF SANOFF**  
 Chairperson

**EDDIE MARK**  
 District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 13  
 BOARD MEETING  
 MINUTES**

**Date:** Wed., Nov. 20, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Loc.:** South Bklyn Health

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lakeisha Bowers  
 Charlene Davis  
 Olga Fort  
 Ronald Greenberg  
 Jenny Hernandez  
 Mark Mernyk  
 Nodira Pirmukhamedova  
 Leonard Maurice Robertson  
 Fran Schwartz  
 Michael Silverman  
 Annette Wesley

Patricia Brown  
 Lucy Mujica Diaz  
 Taj Graham  
 Erum Hanif  
 Yuriy Krasner  
 Maria Montalvo  
 Milagros Quiles  
 Michael Russo  
 Tatyana Segal  
 Jack Suben  
 Svetlana Zelinskaya

Deborah Carter  
 Lolita Divilova  
 Selina Grant  
 Linda Harrison  
 Minnie Mankita  
 Allen Newman  
 Sam Rinkovsky  
 Jeffrey Sanoff  
 Pervez Siddiqui  
 Joann Weiss

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Anthony Batista  
 Marion Cleaver(exc.)  
 Mohamed Elnaggar  
 Angela Kravtchenko  
 Pat Singer(exc.)  
 Dennis Vourderis

Anitrius Bleau  
 Joe Corace(exc.)  
 Susan Flaschenberg(exc.)  
 Yelena Makhnin  
 Sheila Smalls(exc.)  
 Sidra Zafar

Gabriel Blinder  
 Jennifer Dublin(exc.)  
 Amarilys Herrera  
 Pat O'Brien  
 Vladislav Spektor

**GUESTS:**

Tolulope Arasanyin, Edwin Cosme, Christopher D. Grief, Ida Sanoff, Kididiatti Ouedraogo, Maggierosi Melito, Gail Cohen, Connie Jones(UNS), Olga Fiore(SS Spanton), Zunera Ahmed(CM Brannan), Alex Movshovich(CHI), Thomas Hoefel Obtlin Lyons, Sima Saduleha, Hassaan Chaudhary(BBP), Sergei Chuprik(Comptroller's Office)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eddie Mark, District Manager, Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator

Chairperson Jeff Sanoff opened the November General Board meeting at 7:05 p.m. He thanked South Brooklyn Health for allowing us to use the auditorium. We met in this venue for many years, before the construction. We are happy to be back here.

District Manager, Eddie Mark reminded everyone that this meeting is being recorded and anything that is said in the chat room can be FOILed, in the future.

Jeff asked board member Michael Silverman to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff announced a Moment of Silence for Debbie Murphy, sister of board

**PRESENTATION:**

NHS Coney Island Office – 1923 Surf Avenue – Presentation of housing services offered at their new location – **Laura Mckenna** – NHS Representative

NHS is a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency, committed to providing quality services to home buyers, homeowners, tenants, and small landlords. They encourage the preservation and growth of healthy, stable, and diverse neighborhoods in Brooklyn. The office in Coney Island is their third office in Brooklyn. They have an office in East Flatbush – 2801 Church Avenue, an office in Canarsie-9701 Ave. L. There are several upcoming events at the Coney Island office and some events are webinars and must be registered for. Check the website [www.nhsbrooklyn.org](http://www.nhsbrooklyn.org). They have many programs that can be helpful to homeowners and renters. They also work with health and mental hygiene workers in the community to keep residents out of the hospital emergency departments and refer them to Trauma Recovery Center.

Board member Lucy Mujica Diaz thanked Laura for helping her get the elevation certificate without charge.

**Stephen Johnson** – Department of City Planning

Mr. Johnson thanked Eddie for inviting him to discuss the ULURP process, which will be needed if C.B. 13 is approved for a casino.

- Pre-Certification – City Planning receives the application and all related documents.
- Forwards the application and documents with 5 days to the appropriate community board, Borough President's office and City Council. If the project affects more than one community Board, the packet is also sent to the Borough Board.
- The DCP then certifies the application as complete. There is no specified time limit (after 6 months applicant or BP in some cases, may appeal to CPC (City Planning Commission) for certification.
- Once the community board receives the application and related documents, it has 60 days to notify the public and hold a public hearing.
- After the public hearing, the community board submits recommendations to CPC, Borough President and if necessary, Borough Board. (This process takes up to 60 days).
- Borough President has 30 days to submit his recommendation to CPC or waive the right to do so. (Total of 90 days)
- If the project affects more than one CB, Borough Board may hold a public hearing and submit the recommendation to CPC or waive the right to do so
- Once the Borough President submits the project to the City Planning Commission, they hold a public hearing.
- The CPC can approve, modify, or disapprove the application.
- The CPC files approvals and approvals with modifications with the City Council.
- Disapprovals are final except for zoning map changes, special permits, and urban renewal plans. (This process takes up to 60 days). The entire process can take up to 150 days.

Ida Sanoff asked if there is a State Environmental Quality Review and public hearing, does it happen before the project is certified? Mr. Johnson said "usually no" depends on the application submitted. Most applications do not need EIS. Any scope hearing is on the draft EIS and the EIS is later in the project.

Lucy Mujica Diaz asked if the Borough President can give his opinion on the project before the C.B. gives their opinion. Mr. Johnson said that the public review can last longer and then the Borough President gets more time to give feedback.

Alex Movshovich asked if any upcoming projects in Coney Island will need certification. Mr. Johnson said not as of now.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Patricia Brown – She grew up in Coney Island and when she was in school she had many enrichment courses. To the best of her knowledge, the Coney Island schools have no music programs and no bands. She feels that the student’s minds are being squashed. She wanted to know if the community board could do something to change the situation. Also, she is fed up with all the smoke shops/cannabis shops that have opened in Coney Island. This situation is not conducive to a good quality of life in Coney Island. Board member, Mr. Robertson, who is a music teacher in a high school, suggested they work together to try to bring music into the Coney Island schools that are in need of this.

Christopher D. Greif – Announced that the Borough President’s Office will have an Open House with the MTA, with a date to be announced. He also gave an update on the Omni cards for reduced fare.

Alex Movshovich – CEO, CHI – Since 2016, they have provided primary and specialized care to the community. They are a federally qualified health center. They have asked the community board for a letter of continued support to provide services.

Connie Jones – UNS is located at 1618 Mermaid Avenue. They are a resource center for the community. They have mental health professionals, domestic violence assistance and work with Workforce I.

Leonard Maurice Robertson – He discussed the situation at the September meeting when he asked to be recognized to speak on an issue and the Chair did not recognize him. He has taught Robert’s Rules to his students for many years and is well-versed in them. When a member wants to assert their right to be heard, they need to be recognized and heard to discuss their legitimate dissent. He is a “womb born Jew”. He is not angry and doesn’t want to cause trouble but just wants to be heard.

Tom Hoefel – NIA – he reminded everyone that NIA has taken over Carey Gardens Cornerstone and they will have a food drive this coming Monday. They will also have a multi-cultural holiday event at 5 p.m. on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a tree lighting at Kaiser Park on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Marissa Solomon – She lives in Luna Park. She is concerned that the developers have gone to residents of buildings on the West End to get their feelings on the casino, they have not reached out to the residents of Luna Park, which would be right across the street from where the casino will be located. The Board of Directors of Luna Park have gone on record as being against a casino being built in Coney Island. She would like to speak to anyone who wants more information about the situation.

Tolulope Arasanyin – BCS – They are an enrichment center in Coney Island. They will host a Town Hall meeting at Carey Gardens on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ed Cosme – He is a business owner in Coney Island who is opposed to BID coming into Coney Island. However, he has not seen the new proposal. He wants to know what it will cost the business owners, if it’s passed, and what supplemental services will be included. He thinks the businesses will pass the expense from the BID to the customers. Allen Newman said that homeowners will pay \$1.00 and business owners will be by square footage (between \$11,000-12,000). Allen said he would meet with Ed to discuss the proposal fully.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES:**

Sergei Chuprik – Comptroller’s Office - The office created a dashboard about climate change. All the information is on the website. Please send complaints about bikes and e-bikes to 311. Everyone should be connected to NYC Alerts.

Zunera Ahmed – representing CM Justin Brannan – The CM did a walk-through with DOT and other city agencies in our area. He is concerned about all the double parking. His office is working on the double parking situation. He has allocated 10 million to update Kaiser Park. His office will notify the community board when the comment period opens. He also allocated \$750,000 for Mark Twain Intermediate School to update the science lab. He and other elected officials will be giving out 500 turkeys this coming week. He, Congressman Jeffries, State Senator Spanton and AM Brook-Krasny will be sponsoring free ice skating on two mornings during the December recess. On Dec, 5<sup>th</sup> the CM will participate with NIA in a multi-cultural celebration. They will open their office in Coney Island in several weeks. It is located at 1915 Mermaid Avenue.

Hassaan Chaudhary - representing BP Reynoso – MTA Open House at Borough Hall 4-7 p.m. to discuss Capital Plan 2025-2029. Christopher Grief reminded everyone to include Accessibility/Capital Plan.

Olga Fiore – representing State Senator Scarcella-Spanton – On behalf of the Senator, Olga thanked everyone who donated to the turkey give away, and/or came to help. There will be another turkey give away on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Senator’s office 1906 Mermaid Avenue. The Senator is working with

city agencies to resolve the problem at the Brighton Municipal Lot. The Senator has rallied bi-partisan support against congestion pricing.

**MINUTES:**

There were several corrections to the minutes from the October 30, 2024 Board meeting. Mark Merynk said his name was spelling incorrectly. Fran Schwartz said her name was spelled with es, not is. Joann Weiss said that when she made the motion to move the police item up in the budget requests, she made a statement as to why she did it, but the statement was omitted. We will try to find the exact statement. Motion made by Mark Merynk, seconded by Joann Weiss to approve the minutes with corrections.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Jeff Sanoff, Chairperson

Jeff welcomed back Barbara after her brief medical leave. He thanked past Chairperson, Lucy Mujica Diaz for helping tonight. He also thanked the members of the 60<sup>th</sup> Pct Community Affairs for attending tonight's meeting.

Jeff extended the board's condolences to Pat Singer on the loss of her sister, Debra Murphy and to Eric Castagliola, retired 60<sup>th</sup> Pct Community Affairs Officer on the loss of his father, retired Officer Jerry Castagliola.

Jeff explained that for almost 20 years, C.B. 13 used this auditorium for their monthly Board meetings and other large community meetings. We left when construction began several years ago. We thanked South Brooklyn Health for inviting us to return.

Reminder - the only people who can represent Community Board 13 are the District Manager and the Chairperson. If anyone else says they represent C.B. 13, please advise the District Manager.

He and Milagros Quiles attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Pct Breaking Bread event where residents from different parts of the community discussed how to continue to make the area a better place to live. It was a very productive meeting.

Jeff explained that there will possibly be a ULURP associated with the possible casino in Coney Island. This is the standard procedure for a project like this and the community board will have a role in the process. We will find out once the ULURP is certified, which should be after December 16<sup>th</sup>. Every board member will have to vote on this, which is why we had the presentation this evening by Mr. Stephen Johnson from City Planning.

The final roll call tonight will also be a vote for a letter of support for CHI which has been a medical facility in our community for many years.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Eddie Mark, District Manager

Eddie welcomed Barbara back. He reported on the meeting he attended with Chris McCreigh from CM Brannan's office, and DOT members to review ongoing problems with collision shops at Cropsey Avenue and Neptune Avenue. The decision was to try and get Road Tow to come to the area more frequently and tow cars. The Chancellor will hold a Town Hall meeting at the Lafayette Campus on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMUNICATION:** Milagros Quiles, Secretary

- Holiday Caroling – Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> PSA1 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St. & Neptune Avenue 5 p.m.
- Holiday Caroling – Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 60<sup>th</sup> Pct. to TD 34 (Stillwell Terminal) 5 p.m.

**LICENSE COMMITTEE** Olga Fort/Yelena Makhnin, Co-Chairs

License Renewals: Sirena Restaurant, Inc., dba Gargiulos Restaurant 2907-2915 W. 15th St. Bklyn, NY  
Totunno's Pizzeria, Inc. 1524 Neptune Avenue, Bklyn, N..  
Z Restaurant Diner & Lounge, Inc. 2939 Cropsey Avenue, Bklyn, N.Y.

These are renewals and do not need a board vote. Letters have been sent to NYSLA as per procedure.

## **GOOD & WELFARE:**

Milagros Quiles – On Dec. 27th from 4-6 P.M. at 2102 Mermaid Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor there will be a community dinner. She is concerned that a supermarket in Coney Island was overcharging on turkeys. One of her parishioners paid \$42.00 for a turkey. This needs to be checked out.

Leonard Maurice Robertson – He wants to clarify; he doesn't want to always be interrupted. He came to the Precinct Council meeting last night and saw four white people at the dais. Lucy stated that both she, a Latino woman, and Lakeisha Bowers an African American woman were also members of the Council's Executive Board. He wants to get young people, Latinos, African Americans, Russians on the board, like the Borough President wishes. He also would like the Borough President's office to hold a workshop on Robert's Rules, as the BP said they would do, he wants to make sure the people have the right to speak their mind. Joann questioned why, if the Borough President wanted young people on the community board, did he not reappoint the young lady who just graduated high school and had been on the board for only one year? Lucy added that at that time, as Chair, she wrote a letter to the BP asking for the reappointment and basically the answer was "no". Michael Silverman stated that members are appointed by either the CM or the BP and if a CM wishes to appoint a person, the BP can over-ride the appointment.

Michael Russo – There will be a Community Thanksgiving Lunch sponsored by the Alliance on Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 p.m. at Gargulios. All are invited to attend. He stated that the Alliance sponsors the Christmas Lights and the added sanitation.

Michael Silverman – He attended a meeting of the Coney Island Beautification Project at Education Hall where resiliency was discussed. Michael asked Eddie to put the link to Flood Net in the C.B. 13 newsletter.

Lucy Mujica Diaz – She takes offense at what Mr. Robertson stated about "four white people sitting on the dais". She is a Latina who has been on the Council for about 8 years; and Lakeisha Bowers is an African American who has been on the Council for at least 6 years.

Pervez Siddiqui – He reported that trash cans have been removed from Brighton 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Neptune Avenue. He wants them to be returned. The office will contact Sanitation for the next steps.

Allen Newman – He stated he is Co-Chair of the Alliance Steering Committee for the C.I. BID. He would happily meet with Ed Cosme to explain where the Alliance is in the BID process and to give Mr. Cosme the facts. There will also be a meeting on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to update on the BID situation.

Jeff Sanoff – He was on a Zoom mtg of the Brooklyn Advisory Committee, if there are any mitigation issues, please email them to him and he will include them on the Google Report.

Joann Weiss – She attended a Round Table with BP Reynoso. He wanted to know what major problems and issues our community had. She said that our community needs a Community Center.

Jeff stated that he appreciated the respect shown by the board members at tonight's meeting. He respects everyone's viewpoint. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Motion to send support letter for CHI made by Leonard Maurice Robertson, seconded by Joann Weiss. This was also considered the final roll call.

VOTE: In Favor: 30                      Opposed: 0                      Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. Office

**This is not a verbatim account of the meeting, but a synopsis of the main points**

Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator