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Brooklyn Community Board 15



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DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday January 28, 2025, 7:00pm

Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY
11235, Faculty Dining Room U112

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chair Scavo asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence, despite some of our political divide, let's all come together to pray for world peace.

PUBLIC HEARING :

Chairperson Scavo stated each year the Community Board puts together a Community Needs Statement with Capital and Expense requests for items we would like to see funded. As expected, our requests for additional police, a tow pound in Southern Brooklyn, repaving and community sanitation needs were met with a resounding “not recommended for funding with the added caveat of remove this request.”. She explained that some agencies such as the Parks Department suggested we approach our Elected Officials for funding, including the comfort station for Brigham Park, and Homecrest Park and upgrades to Manhattan Beach Park because their budgets were not sufficient enough to make these costly upgrades. She offered the report at the front table for anyone who wanted to go over it in greater detail. She added, needless to say, I am not pleased with their responses and would like with the Board's permission to send a letter of objection for the unacceptable, bordering on rude answers we received. A motion to send a letter of objection was made by Moses Massry and seconded by Janet Guerra. By a show of hands, with a quorum present this was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SESSION:

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Chair Scavo opened the floor and invited Elected Officials, their representatives, agency representatives and community members to speak:

Martin Gangursky stated the MTA is holding hearings next week on Tuesday February 4th and it's important we all attend to state how we want the congestion pricing money and our fare monies spent on improving our subway and bus lines. We should not have to wait 22 minutes for a bus to arrive and our train service is constantly being disrupted for what feels like the same work being performed over and over again. We want better service and more accountability.

Stanley Kaplan stated he is repeating a comment that he made before the Board approximately 20-30 years ago, although he added, I have been attending these meetings for closer to 40 years. He stated he was traveling to work in downtown Brooklyn recently and the weather was rather crummy out and he noticed the car in front of him had Florida license plates. He pondered out loud that we are well into the winter season, why would a person with Florida plates be traveling in Brooklyn? He answered himself, "well I have an idea." He went on to say enough about all of the "out of state" plates on our roads. Are signals on a car now an additional feature? No one seems to have them on their cars. When did streets signs and road rules become optional? It seems no one obeys them. These are the issues he has been pondering as of late that he wanted to share.

Representative Trimeka Crumb and one of the owners from Plum Restaurant and Lounge, located at 3342 Nostrand Avenue, came forward to discuss the reinstatement of their liquor license. The owner stated they are aware of the unhappiness within the community that the establishment has caused, and they want to be good neighbors and correct that. That is why they have hired additional staff and hired a restaurant consultant. They are planning on replacing the dark windows with noise proof windows with less tinting and have security guards outside at closing to see patrons leave in a less disruptive manner late at night.

Chair Scavo shared the 311 and 911 complaints starting from 12/01/2024 thru 1/19/2025 that were called in for Plum Restaurant. She stated there were 36 311 calls, and 3, 911 calls.

Neighbors who reside near the establishment came forward to share the noise issues they have experienced with patrons leaving 3:00am - 4:00am loudly, drunk, talking, fighting, and playing loud stereos when they get to their cars causing their young children to have their sleep disrupted. It's not fair to

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disrupt this quiet residential area at the wee hours of the morning. Another neighbor discussed the lack of garbage receptacles for an establishment of that size, causing filth on the sidewalk and encouraging others to illegally dump upon the already overflowing trash. The owners stated they appreciate the feedback and will make sure security encourages patrons to leave quietly and are adding more receptacles and a designated trash area to better house their garbage and discourage illegal dumping. They ended by stating they want to be good neighbors and will be attending monthly meetings to assure they are addressing community concerns so they can operate with a fully approved liquor license again.

Ed Jaworski from Madison Marine Homecrest Civic Association newly merged with the Marine Park Civic Association requested that during the roll call attendance every Board Member rise and give a brief biography on where they live and what community affiliations they have.

Chair Scavo acknowledged Christopher Greif from the NYC Transit Rider's Council.

Salim Cadet, Constituent Services Representative for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, sent Greetings from the Congress Member. He added that he is the actual person you would call and speak to if you ever had an issue with a federal agency, mail service, social security, passports, or immigration assistance. He stated we are having an upcoming event on Thursday February 6 at 6:30pm to Know Your Rights regardless of immigration status. It will teach you how to respond to police or immigration enforcement. He concluded with please reach out to our office with any concerns.

Tyler Reynolds DDC Liaison for the Manhattan Beach Sewer Project, stated they are still awaiting Con Edison to complete its work so they complete theirs so they are in a holding pattern for now. They were able to do some reconstructive work with painting lines on to the street, but now with the cold weather having set in that work must cease for now. That is the most recent update.

Nancy Lulu sent greetings and a Happy New Year from Brooklyn District Attorney, Eric Gonzalez. She stated she wanted to share a brief end of year press release from her office that categorizes just Brooklyn. The Brooklyn District Attorney announced that in 2024 Brooklyn had the fewest shootings and shooting victims on record, beating pre pandemic lows, murders, and serious crime was down by 6%. Homicides went down by 16%, so homicides significantly dropped in neighborhoods in East New York and East Flatbush and Fort Greene. Total index crime, which represents the most serious felonies

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was down 5.9%. In 2024, comparing to the previous year, there were increases in robberies, burglaries, grand larcenies and GLA rates, and felony assaults. They all ticked up a little bit and all this is based on NYPD crime statistics. If you'd like to learn more about this press release and other press releases, you could visit our website. I also have a few printouts from this press release if you would like one. As always, any concerns please reach out to our Action Center at 718 -250-2340. In conclusion, thank you Community Board 15 for all your advocacy and all you do for the community.

Chair Scavo acknowledged Sayed Joseph, Chief of Staff – Legislative & Budget Director for City Council Member Mercedes Narcisse.

Irena Khlenver, Deputy Director of Constituent Services, for Council Member Mercedes Narcisse spoke about the numerous events the Council Member is sponsoring. There will be a hiring fair on Wednesday February 26, 2025, from 4:00pm-7:00pm in the district office 5827 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Please have a copy of your resume and dress professionally. She discussed the various food giveaways, half-fare bus services, legal consultations, and immigration services they are sponsoring on a monthly basis. They will help you recycle electronic waste; you can drop it at the Council Member's office and they will arrange DSNY to collect it. Constituent Services is most important to the Council Member they will help you fill out property tax senior exemptions. She provided a package of flyers on the front table, with all the information on their upcoming events.

Hunter Rabinowitz representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso sent greetings from the Borough President. He went on to announce that Community Board Applications are now live on their website and deadlines are approaching. We have flyers on the front with more information about how to apply for those that are not on the board already. All New York City residents are eligible, who are at least 16 years old and live, work, or have a significant interest in community service on applying to be a Community Board Member. The application will be live until February 14th at 11 p.m. Please take a flyer, to learn more, tell your friends, tell your family, tell anyone that you know that might be interested in joining. He spoke about the various Events and Constituent Service Mobile Outreach the Borough President is sponsoring and left a plethora of flyers on the front table for those seeking more information.

Solomiya Momot representing Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated I have a few things I'd like to mention. She spoke about the municipal lot in our neighboring Community Board 13 that the Senator's Office is trying to prevent a rate increase and get better policing of illegally parked

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cars and proper signage for. She stated they were meeting with resistance from DOT on all of their proposals. She also mentioned they are hosting two upcoming events. One of them is a forum on NYS Property Tax Exemption Enrollment and Recertification for senior citizen tax exemptions and disability exemptions, along with other exemptions you may be entitled to. We're in partnership with Department of Finance on that and that's going to be at event at the Coney Island Library at 1906 Mermaid Avenue on Thursday February 6, 2025, from 1:00pm-4:00pm. The deadline to file is March 17, so I encourage all those eligible to attend. We are also hosting our Annual Black History Month that's coming up and that's February 28, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Coney Island YMCA, and that's in partnership with Congressman Hakeem Jeffries office.

In terms of constituent services, I really implore you to reach out to our office, whether it's a state or city issue, please reach out. And if we can't help you directly, we will always refer you to someone who can.

Rakisha from the Brooklyn Public Library's Kings Bay Library Branch thanked the Community Board for its advocacy on funding our libraries, allowing them to remain open 6 days a week and supporting library staff. She went on to discuss a litany of programs that the library is offering for all ages and all interests. Even hosting a Karaoke event that she offered to duet on with any people interested in performing. They also have a food and period pantry to support the local community's food and health needs. They are actively seeking donations for both. She discussed a prize contest for any library card holders who visit all 62 branches of the NY Library throughout the 5 boroughs getting a stamp from each that they can present. She encouraged all to visit and utilize their wonderful programs and provided flyers on the front table for further information.

Izzy Weiss representing Council Member Inna Vernikov's office stated it is a pleasure being here. He just wanted to briefly mention an app has been created to address the EBT Scams that have been going on, allowing a person to now freeze their card when they suspect fraud and recommended that users download the app.

Don Cranston representing Assemblywoman Jamie Williams spoke about the high cost of property taxes in NY and that the Assemblywoman who is on the finance committee is working to try to get a fair assessment and cap for homeowners in NYS.

Ari Kagan representing newly elected Senator Steven Chan, wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and spoke about the Senator's military and law

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enforcement background and how important safety is to the Senator and how he wants to work to stop the failing bail reform legislation in NY. Senator Chan also is big on education and wants to see testing for gifted programs remain in place for those who work hard to gain entrance into those schools.

Chair Scavo asked if anyone else would like to speak? With no one coming forward she moved on to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Secretary Allen Popper, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the December 17, 2024, minutes was made by Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by Moses Massry.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo publicly thanked First Vice-Chairperson Ronnie Tawil for accompanying her to testify at Borough Hall Hearing against the 2510 Coney Island Avenue proposal that was before the Board last month. They plan to attend the City Planning Hearing as well, to once again strongly, voice the community's opposition.

Chair Scavo went on to read the Liquor License, Cannabis Licenses and Dining Out requests the Board received for January 2025.

Liquor Licenses January 2025

Renewal, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Sheepshead Bay Yacht Club
3076 Emmons Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Brooklyn Burger Boys LLC
DBA – Siena Ristorante
533 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Costellos Tavern, Inc.
DBA – Claddagh Inn
3042 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11229

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FRG Realty Corp
DBA – Fuji Hana
512 Ave U
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Varuna Boat Club, Inc.
2806 Emmons Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Rai Catering, LLC
DBA – Metropolitan Ballroom
2555 Shell Road
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Renewal, Wine, Beer & Cider

485 Kings Corp
485 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Russian Baths of NY, Inc.
1075 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, NY 11229

L & B Gardens, Inc.
DBA – L & B Spumoni Gardens
2725 86th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit for Wine, Beer & Cider

LMN Food Group Inc
DBA – Sweetfish
1212 Avenue Z
Brooklyn, NY 11235

**New Application and Temporary Retail Permit for Liquor, Wine, Beer
& Cider**

Z Chikirun Inc.
DBA – Chikurin
1702 Avenue Z
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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Corporate Change

Wise Bar & Grill LLC
35 Neptune Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Class Change, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Tacos El Jaguar LLC
DBA – El Jaguar Restaurant and Bar
158 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Cannabis Licenses January 2025

Retail Dispensary

Supply Design LLC
2201 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Dining Out Application

A & I Cake Corporation
1715 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Public Safety Committee:

Chairperson Jack Kishk stated that the Public Safety Committee took place on January 8th, 2025. Representing the 61 was its Commanding Officer, Captain Joseph Antonio. In attendance as well was Community Affairs Detective Lauren Au and Officer Colleen Abbate. He was pleased to report that overall, we have had a statistically better year compared to last year. In fact, crime in our area is down by 4%, which is a positive trend. However, as we all know, every crime—whether major or minor—affects our quality of life, and it's important to address all areas where we see challenges.

There were three shooting incidents. One occurred right after Christmas near Avenue W and Ocean Avenue, where a person was shot in the hand. Unfortunately, this incident was not reported by the victim. Another incident took place near Avenue V and Coyle Street, where four individuals got

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out of a car and began shooting outside a pizzeria. There's also an incident where a carjacker assaulted his drug buddy, pistol-whipped him, then proceeded to jump in a car with a woman, she shuts the car and runs away with her key fob, the car dies, he then car jacked another vehicle. He's also a suspect in a prior incident in the 60th precinct, and while this wasn't reported immediately, it was eventually brought to light after the media coverage.

He added that looking at comparing the numbers for 2023 and 2024:

For the 7 major crimes, in 2023, we had 1527 incidents, and in 2024, we had 1468, which is a decrease. Robbery, unfortunately, continues to be a major concern, especially when elderly or young people are targeted. We saw 175 robberies in 2023, and that number dropped to 141 in 2024, which is encouraging. Burglaries also decreased from 226 in 2023 to 177 in 2024, a 22% drop, which is a significant improvement. Grand larceny was also down, which reflects positively on our efforts to curb those types of crimes. One area that continues to be a problem is road rage. We've seen incidents where drivers stop, get out of their vehicles, and engage in physical altercations, sometimes using weapons like bats. This is something the NYPD are actively addressing, as they want to ensure safer roads for everyone in our community. Another major issue has been car thefts, which saw a noticeable increase. The most frequently targeted vehicles have been Infinity, Toyota Highlanders, and Honda CRVs. In 2023, we had 201 car thefts, and in 2024, that number increased to 280, a concerning 43% rise in some precincts. Specifically, precincts 68, 70, 62, and 66 saw significant increases. Retail crime also continues to be an ongoing concern, with 505 incidents reported in 2024, slightly down from 533 in 2023. While this is a minor decrease, it's clear that we still need to focus on these offenses to help keep our businesses and customers safe.

While we've seen a drop in the total number of crimes, the increase in arrests is notable. In 2024, our precinct made 2507 arrests, compared to 1931 in 2023. This increase in arrests shows that they are taking proactive steps to address crime and hold individuals accountable.

Lastly, moving violations have increased from 5925 in 2023 to 6495 in 2024, which indicates that our officers are actively enforcing traffic laws to ensure public safety on our roads.

Despite the challenges, we are continuing to make progress. Our precinct serves a large community with a population of approximately 170,000 people, and they have a large footprint to manage. Their efforts are yielding

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results, as evidenced by the decrease in overall crime and the increase in arrests. We will continue to monitor these trends closely.

He concluded with thank you for your attention and have a great evening

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Scavo called up the Board Members with 100% Attendance for 2024 to receive a certificate:

Congratulations to: Cliff Bruckenstein, Raisa Chernina, Debra Greif, Naomi Harris, Oswald Heymann, Doug Luback and Theresa Scavo.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Al Smaldone. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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