

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

October 27, 2020 Webex Conference 6:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson Scavo thanked everyone who responded and submitted budget requests for our upcoming Community Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2022. As you know, it has been a devastating year for our City and nearly every City Agency has felt the budgetary impacts. We plan to continue to advocate for funding for our Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Parks.

A motion to approve our Community District Needs Statement for FY 2022 was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Dr. Alan Ditchek.

Chairperson Scavo, introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, Mr. Tawil explained the procedure for the meeting.

ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. Tawil called upon a representative for the first item on the Agenda:

PUBLIC HEARING:

BSA Cal. No. 2020-44-BZ / 2228 Gerritsen Avenue (Southwest corner of Avenue U)

This instant application is filed pursuant to ZR Section 73-211 for an existing automotive service station with accessory uses (Use Group 16) currently located in an R4/C2-2 zoning district.

Questions from the floor: Were the grounds inspected and checked for any oil leakage? The answer from the representative was yes.

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A motion to approve was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Ed Chalom.

A committee vote was taken 8 yes and 0 no. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place later in the Executive Session.

BSA Cal. No.2020-42-BZ / 155 Girard Street (located between Oriental Boulevard and Hampton Avenue)

Special permit pursuant to ZR 73-622 to enlarge an existing one family home contrary to the FAR (ZR 23-142); open space; lot coverage and rear yard requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

A question was asked as to why cinder blocks were piled up outside of the residence and what kind of work was currently taking place at the location? The representative said they could only file permits for interior work and work on the garage and those are the only areas where work is being performed.

A motion to approve was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Eli Zami.

A committee vote was taken 11 yes and 0 no. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place later in the Executive Session.

BSA Cal. No. 2020-70-BZ / 1903 Homecrest Avenue (a.k/a 1218-1228 Avenue S) Southeast corner of Homecrest Avenue and Avenue S

This application is filed pursuant to 73-622 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request a special permit to allow an enlargement and conversion of an existing two family residence to a one family residence in a residential (R4-1) zoning district.

A question concerning the use of a third floor was brought up and it was answered by the representative that it was for an 894 square foot attic. The representative stated the home would not exceed its allowable height of 35 feet.

A motion to approve was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Ed Chalom.

A committee vote was taken 11 yes and 0 no. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place later in the Executive Session.

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GENERAL BOARD MEETING:

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo welcomed Brad Reid, District Leader for the 41st Assembly District. Mr. Reid stated he was present to request and support the application before the Board for the proposed Street Co-Naming for the corner of 2952 Avenue R (southwest corner of Avenue R and Haring Street) to Lewis A. Fidler Way. He spoke about all the outstanding work Lewis Fidler did in the community and his tireless advocacy. He could think of no greater or more deserving person for this honor than Lewis Fidler and hoped the Board would review it favorably.

Glenda Silva from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' office spoke stating the Borough President was seeking nominations for outstanding Covid Heroes to honor. Ms. Silva placed the information and the deadline 10/30/20 in the chat. She added that the Borough President will be sponsoring some upcoming Thanksgiving food distributions and for the upcoming holidays a Pajama and Book distribution, details are still being worked on. She hopes to provide more information at our next Board Meeting.

Lenny Markh from Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office stated the Board of Elections has announced they have extended early voting hours, from 7:00am-5:00pm on Saturday and 7:00pm-4:00pm on Sunday. Exercise your right to vote.

Mariyah Markh stated on a personal note she hopes the Board will support the Street Co-Naming request for Lewis Fidler who she looked upon as a second dad. He was always active in our community as an Elected Official and at our meetings with his last position being the Board's liaison for the Borough President. Putting on a 2nd hat, Ms. Markh as our representative for the Mayor's Office stated translators will be available in the buildings on Election Day. Corona Virus Zones are posted online, and you could look up Red Zones and Yellow zones by address to see what zone you are in. Also, Covid testing is being made available at various location so please look up the most accessible one for you to get tested.

Sergey "Sam" Chuprik representing Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office stated the Comptroller's website has fiscal reports and newsletters available online to let you know what the Comptroller is working on, please take a look and if you have any questions to please let him know. His email is schupri@comptroller.nyc.gov

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Frank Kopylov wanted to address the Board about a candidate running for office in the District but was told by Chair Scavo that campaigning was strictly prohibited at Community Boards. He stated it was his first meeting and he is learning procedure. He went on to discuss an alleged incident of a child being tasered in a park and the police did not respond, but Chair Scavo stated that a child being injured would most definitely have a response and the story didn't seem to be correct.

Ronnie Tawil, 1st Vice-Chairperson asked to speak. He was alarmed at the recent anti-Semitic defacing of a store in the Community on Avenue P. The words used in the defacing he said were too ugly to share. He feels the Jewish Community is being unfairly targeted as the cause of the uptick in Covid numbers in our Community and that is causing the rise in anti-Semitic attacks. He said many Orthodox Jews and Jewish owned businesses are wearing masks and abiding by the current pandemic regulations. Our Communities are comprised of a multitude of people and condemning one group over another, targeting them is just wrong and he feels that the actual cause of the Covid uptick is not being fairly reported.

Reeves Eisen from Senator Gournardes' Office said the Senator was hosting a Press Conference with other local Elected Officials, such as Councilman Chaim Deutsch and Councilman Kalman Yeger, to name a few, tomorrow Wednesday October 28th at 10:00am in front of 420 Avenue P (in which this anti-Semitic incident took place) to condemn this vile and hateful act. If anyone wants to attend to join in solidarity to please do so. On Thursday outside of the Gerritsen Beach Library from 2:00pm-4:00pm the Senator is hosting a socially distant pumpkin giveaway for children. Everyone will be wearing masks, but he wanted to bring a bit of normalcy to the kids for Halloween. On a personal note she wanted to echo her support of the Street Co-Naming request of Avenue R for Lewis Fidler. He served as Councilman for 12 years and he loved serving his community. In those years she had the privilege to help him support Street Co-Naming's for many victims of the 9/11 tragedy. She could think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Stephannia Cleaton, Government Liaison for Kingsborough Community College sent greetings from College President, Claudia Schrader. She stated that classes are conducted predominantly remotely and will remain that way through Spring 2021 until they are told by CUNY officials otherwise. Their priority is safety for their students, staff and the community at large. On a personal note she added she had the privilege of knowing Councilman Lew Fidler when in her prior career she worked for another Councilman and Colleague of Mr. Fidler's. Lewis Fidler was a great man, pleasant and an

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outstanding individual, she was sorry to learn of his passing and is supportive of seeing the corner of Avenue R and Haring Street Co-Named Lewis A. Fidler Way.

Doug Luback, President of Gerritsen Beach Homeowners Association stated they are still waiting for an update from the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection on plans on how they are going to move forward with restoring parking in the Gerritsen Beach area after the sewer and sidewalk upgrade project.

Board Member Marc Cohen asked to speak as a Community Business Owner outraged by the bombardment of inspectors at his door, disrupting his already struggling restaurant business because of Covid. Many without the experience or knowledge of the Covid compliance restrictions. He stated he stopped these inspectors from a multitude of agencies from issuing unwarranted summonses on several occasions because as a business owner struggling through Covid he has studied these restrictions backwards and forwards to comply. Those inspectors he spoke to were on the job for only 4 days and are unaware of the laws, that he had to educate them on, taking valuable time away from his business. Across the street they are free to open inside for dining, so five feet outside his storefront is Covid free? How are they determining these guidelines and drawing these zones? He wants the Board to take a stand and write a letter to the Mayor on behalf of struggling businesses who are already hurting because of Covid. He closed by stating this administration is adding salt to the injury from all this unnecessary enforcement fees and it needs to stop.

Mariyah Markh from the Mayor's office said they are working to get a better understanding from the Governor on how these Red Zones are being determined even though they are supposed to be based on testing in the area. She said an email or letter from the Board questioning this overwhelming unfair enforcement, she would gladly pass on to a supervisor to look into. In the interim if a business does receive a summons, they feel is unjust to send it to her so she can expedite the matter and get it dismissed without a hearing, if it was in fact given incorrectly.

Board Member Ed Jaworski stated if Department of Buildings collected the outstanding \$1 Billion Dollars in ECB violations the City is owed, they would not need to pick on our small business owners for revenue.

Nancy Lulu from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office sent greetings from the District Attorney. Their office is hearing cases. They just sponsored a food distribution in Coney Island at Surfside Gardens this

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evening. She stated October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, if you know of anyone vulnerable and in need of help please have them call the DA's Domestic Violence Hotline (718) 250-3300 and to file a complaint the DA's Action Line is (718) 250-2340. Ms. Lulu also provided her email which is Lulun@BrooklynDa.org

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Chair Scavo; with a Quorum present, Chair Scavo asked for the adoption of the Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020.

A motion to adopt the September 22, 2020 minutes was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Vincent Nocella.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

LIQUOR LICENSES- Month of October 2020

Renewal - wine, beer and cider

Knapp Street Pizza
2153 Knapp Street, 11229

Renewal - liquor, wine, beer and cider

Rocca Cafe
2712 Emmons Avenue, 11235

Kouros Restaurant Corp
3861 Nostrand Avenue, 11235

Tap Beer
1781 Sheepshead Bay Road, 11235

Cipura Restaurant
1901 Emmons Avenue, 11235

Baku Palace
2001 Emmons Avenue, 11235

Alteration

Signature Falada
2007-2011 Emmons Avenue, 11235

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Chair Scavo stated if you know of a problematic location please reach out to our office to let us know, so that we may contact the proper authorities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commemorative Co-Street Naming Committee:

Committee Chair, Rabbi Burg stated the Committee met and fully support the Street Co-Naming of the corner of 2952 Avenue R (southwest corner of Avenue R and Haring Street, Lewis A. Fidler Way. A motion to approve was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Howard Katz. The vote was 40 in favor, 0 no. The motion passed.

Health Committee:

Committee Chair, Dr. Alan Ditchek stated that 350 Million Women are Breast Cancer survivors. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, please get a mammogram. Early detection is key. It's the 2nd most common cause of death in woman next to lung cancer. Flu shots are imperative to get, especially this year. It's extremely important. Suppliers are running low, but they are available so please get one. Lastly, wear a mask. Regardless of who you are please wear your masks. It's the #1 way of preventing Covid.

Public Safety Committee:

Committee Chair, Chick Pallotta stated the Committee met online Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 3:00pm in attendance was the 61st Precinct Captain, Gaby Celiba, 61st Precinct Executive Officer, Krystin Suarez, Community Affairs Detective, Sam Shaya and Police Officer, Lauren Au. The CompStat report presented covers the seven major crime complaint categories, the year to date statistics comparing the time periods of 2020 with 2019. The 61st Precinct was up 12.9%. Continuing with the year to date statistics, improvement categories were: Murder was down 33.3%, Rape was down 31.2%, and Grand Larceny was down 6.4%. However, four crime categories remain challenging: Robbery is up 2.9%, Felony Assault is up 23.4%, Burglary is up 27.3% and Grand Larceny Auto is up 177.5%. I again linked the "Bail Reform Law" of 2020 to the "spikes" in crime. Regarding the wearing of masks enforcement it is strictly discretionary. There are no available statistics on summonses issued.

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Zoning Committee Report:

Zoning Committee Chair, Ronnie Tawil

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A motion to approve was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Allen Popper. The vote was 40 Yes and 0 No.
The motion was approved.

BSA Cal. No.2020-42-BZ / 155 Girard Street (located between Oriental Boulevard and Hampton Avenue)

Special permit pursuant to ZR 73-622 to enlarge an existing one family home contrary to the FAR (ZR 23-142); open space; lot coverage and rear yard requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

A motion to approve was made by Ronnie Tawil seconded by Allen Popper. The vote was 40 Yes and 0 No.
The motion was approved

BSA Cal. No. 2020-70-BZ / 1903 Homecrest Avenue (a.k/a 1218-1228 Avenue S) Southeast corner of Homecrest Avenue and Avenue S

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A motion to approve was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Allen Popper. The vote was 37 Yes and 1 No and 2 Abstentions for Cause.
The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: First Vice-Chair Ronnie Tawil said he missed seeing everyone in person. Chair Scavo countered, but safety first.

NEW BUSINESS: Board Member Morris Harary asked Public Safety Chairperson, Chick Pallotta, to please look into why there is no longer any

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police enforcement with the plethora of out of state plates in our community. It seems every car has a Pennsylvania plate to save on insurance. What can be done to crack down on this?

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Debra Greif. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20p.m.

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