

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

December 15, 2020 Webex Conference 6:00pm

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

Chair Scavo asked for a moment of silence to honor all the lives lost to Covid.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING:

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo welcomed:

Doug Luback, from the Gerritsen Beach Homeowners Association, who announced they are still waiting to hear back from the City on its final plans for the infrastructure rebuild taking place in Gerritsen Beach.

Mariyah Markh, Senior Community Liaison from the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs sent Holiday Greetings and discussed all the prep going on ahead of the impending storm. Included in her bullet points, were temporary suspension of outdoor dining, but owners do not have to remove their sheds just any electrical equipment. Covid testing sites will close at 2:00pm tomorrow. Schools are open for remote classes and a Code Blue has been issued for the City's Homeless population to get them inside to shelter.

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, like the "State of the City", so please take a look. He stated the Comptroller issued a report two weeks ago entitled "Making the Grade", a report card of sorts for minority and women owned businesses. The Comptroller is aware of the impact Covid has had on small business owners and non-profits and he would like to see them receive more support during these trying times.

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Reeves Eisen from Senator Gournardes Office sent Holiday Greetings. She reminded everyone if they are to gather, do it small, remain mindful of Covid and stay and healthy.

Steven Williams addressed the Board about Accessible Dispatch which is a taxi service geared to help those who are wheelchair bound. The drivers are trained to handle wheelchair passengers and will assist them with entering and exiting the cabs. The fees are the same as a regular taxi service. You can find them online or download their app for service.

Nancy Lulu from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office sent greetings from the District Attorney. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday. She reminded everyone, that their office is actively hearing cases and prosecuting cases to keep the Community safe. They are also actively seeking donations for their "Toys for Tots" drive. Toys can be mailed or dropped off at their offices located at 350 Jay Street, 19th Floor. She added that the Brooklyn DA's Action Center can be reached at 718 250-2340. Ms. Lulu also provided her email which is Lulun@BrooklynDa.org

Board Member Ed Jaworski wished everyone a Happy Holiday from The Madison Marine Homecrest Association and mentioned two properties that remain troublesome to the Community. District Manager Laura Singer and Chair Theresa Scavo stated they are aware of the issues and have been working with the Department of Buildings to remedy these issues.

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz sent Holiday Greetings from the Assemblyman. As a member of the 41st A.D. Democratic Club he thanked all those who donated to their "Annual Toys for Tots" drive. From the donations received, they will be securing toys this week and next month will report to the Board on the totals.

Ashwini Chhabrah asked to speak on behalf of Voi Electric Scooters a Switzerland based firm. Voi is looking to secure a bid for a scooter pilot program approved by both State and City Legislatures to fill in where CitiBike shortfalls might be throughout the boroughs. The scooters will be available for rent in areas approved for these designated racks, similar to Citibike. These electric scooters are designed to only ride in permitted areas such as bike lanes and through GPS technology will slow and stop functioning in non-designated areas such as parks and sidewalks. The rider would need to return to a permitted path to start the scooter up again. Mr. Chhabrah left before Board Members could ask about the speed of these scooters and their safety. It was mentioned that perhaps a Transportation Committee meeting could be arranged with a full presentation before these scooters are allowed to set up shop to address concerns. Chair Scavo agreed.

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Glenda Silva, Deputy Director from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams' offered Holiday Greetings from the Borough President. His office continues to distribute PPE, and partners with other Community Based Organizations to fill these requests. To follow what the Borough President has been doing, she placed the link to the Borough President's Message of the Month in chat:

<https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/MOTM-2020-12-v7.pdf>

Eileen O' Brien from Councilman Maisel's office sent Holiday Greetings.

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 November 17, 2020.

A motion to adopt the November 17, 2020 minutes was made by Ronald Tawil and seconded by Pearl Siegelman.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

LIQUOR LICENSES- Month of December 2020

Class Change

Liv Rock Restaurant Corp.
Clementes Maryland Crabhouse
3939 Emmons Avenue

Renewal – liquor, wine, beer and cider

Cipura Restaurant
1901 Emmons Avenue

Vanka Vstanka
3810 Nostrand Avenue

Renewal - wine, beer and cider

Kosan Asian Fusion Inc,
1657 Sheepshead Bay Road

Anthony's Place
2812 Ocean Avenue

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Brooklyn Burger Boys LLC
Siena Ristorante
533 Kings Highway

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:

Public Safety Committee:

Committee Chair, Chick Pallotta stated the Committee met online Wednesday December 9, 2020 at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Gaby Celiba, who recently received a promotion in rank to that of Deputy Inspector. In attendance also at the meeting was, Lieutenant Muhammad Ahmed of Special Operations and from Community Affairs, Detective Sam Shaya and Police Officer, Lauren Au. The CompStat report presented to our Committee covered the period of November 30, 2020 through December 2020. Based on the seven major crime complaint categories, the year to date statistics comparing the time periods of 2020 with 2019, the 61st Precinct was up 8.4%. However, tracking our last three months of Committee Reports, improvement trends continue: in October 2020 it was up 12.9%, in November 2020 it went down to 9.8% and now in December 2020 it went down yet again to 8.4%. Challenging year-to-date crime categories continue: Burglaries + 38.6%, and Grand Theft Auto is +154.7%. Regarding vehicle theft, information was shared with the Board via an email from the Board Office about the blocking of the audio signal of the modern keyless “fob”, an acronym for frequency operated button, that criminals exploit. Please spread the word about the availability of this vehicle theft deterrent.

Health Committee Chair, Dr. Alan Ditchek, asked for a few minutes to answer anyone concerns about the new Covid Vaccines coming online. Dr. Ditchek answered questions about people presenting with allergies should they take the vaccine when it becomes available? He stated unless you have an injectable allergy you can take the medication. If in the past you received an injectable and had an allergic reaction to it, then you should consult with your doctor. A question regarding what the difference is between the two vaccines? They are similar. They only differ in storage methods, where one needs to be kept colder than the other. A question about side effects was presented. Right now, the initial vaccines are being given, in a two-step injection process with the second injection being giving 17-21 days later from the first, so unless a reaction occurs from the initial injection those who

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receive the first injection should follow up with the 2nd in the time expressed. Mutations were brought up. Dr. Ditchek stated all these viruses mutate, that's what makes them very transmissible. This particular Covid virus is surrounded with an outer S protein ring, no matter when it mutates it retains that outer S protein and that's what the vaccine is geared to go after to protect the patient. How often will someone need the vaccine, will it be yearly like the flu shot? They don't know for sure right now but it being thought going forward that it will probably be given on a yearly basis. Will Dr. Ditchek have the vaccine in his office? Right now, it requires a fridge than can store the vaccine at -90 degrees, which most independent doctors don't have. So, in regard to these particular vaccines' larger pharmacies, hospitals and urgent cares will probably be disseminating the vaccines because they have the equipment in place for the cold storage it requires. However, other vaccines are in the pipeline that may not require this sort of refrigeration and when they are approved, then perhaps independent doctors' offices can offer them to patients as well. It was asked why they require such refrigeration? Dr. Ditchek answered that was just how these particular vaccines were designed. Again, the newer ones coming out may not require such strict refrigeration guidelines. How long till the vaccines are readily available to the public? Dr. Ditchek thinks starting in February. Can you choose which vaccine you take? Dr. Ditchek answered it is whatever that particular facility has available. Lastly, concerns were expressed about not reaching the 70% of the population being vaccinated to reach herd immunity. Without 2/3rds of the population opting for the vaccine, sadly no, to herd immunity, however Dr. Ditchek remains optimistic stating he believes that when others take it successfully without incident more people will come forward to take it.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: District Manager, Laura Singer, asked if you have changed your email or any of your contact information, please email our office so we can update our records.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Scavo wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and 1st Vice Chair Ronald Tawil echoed those sentiments and wished everyone a safe and better 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pearl Siegelman and seconded by Robert Gevertzman. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44p.m.

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