

The City of New York  
**Brooklyn Community Board 15**



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BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**THERESA SCAVO**  
CHAIRPERSON

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RONALD TAWIL  
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RAISA CHERNINA  
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
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ALLEN POPPER, ESQ  
SECRETARY



**BILL DE BLASIO**  
MAYOR

**LAURA SINGER**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

**Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes**

**April 27, 2021 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 asked everyone to please take a moment to keep Board Members, Rabbi Burg and Jay Lieberman in their thoughts, as they are still recovering for the effects of Covid. If you can send them an email or personal note it would brighten their spirits.

Chairperson Scavo, introduced presenter Julia Muench from Ranked Choice NY. Ms. Muench stated she is there to help educate New Yorkers on Ranked Choice Voting which will debut at the June Primary in New York. Basically, she explained it is an instant run-off election, letting voters rank candidates in numerical order. She provided an example using ice cream flavors, showing that by ranking preferences the one with the broadest possible support emerged the victor. Ranked Choice Voting is in place in other municipalities around the country. It is claimed that Ranked Choice Voting improves representation by race and gender and overall a better reflection of the voting demographics. They further claim Ranked Choice Voting empowers voters and increases voter turnout. The downsides are that results take longer and voter experience "ballot exhaustion" by not filling out all of their options.

Questions from the floor, a request was made to have an easy to understand brochure on this topic sent out to the Board Office to disseminate to the Community. Another statement was made stating they felt Ranked Choice Voting leaves the process vulnerable to corruption and fraud when voters choose not to complete their ballots. An additional observation shared that Ranked Choice Voting was repealed in Burlington Vermont in 2009 because of a phenomenon known as the center squeeze. Julia stated she could not address Vermont's repeal, but added that Alaska and Maine opted in on Ranked Choice Voting. The last question addressed how long it would take now to declare winners. To which Julia responded that New York State Law

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

requires that they not begin to count votes to the polls closed, no early start is allowed.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Chairperson Scavo introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning Committee who would run this part of the meeting:

Mr. Tawil explained the procedure for the Public Hearing and proceeded to call the representative for the first item on the Agenda:

BSA Cal. No. 2021-23-BZ / 2315 Avenue S  
North side of Avenue S between East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and East 24<sup>th</sup> Street

This application is filed pursuant to ZR 73-622 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, as amended, to request a special permit to allow the enlargement of an existing single family residence located in a residential (R3-2) zoning district.

Questions were raised from the floor about the parking side yard, it is currently at 12 feet and will be reduced to 9 feet at its narrowest point. An inquiry about the roof was made, it will need a new roof but not sure how it will be treated.

The Board received 0 letters of objection and 0 letters of support.

A motion was made to approve by Edmond Dweck and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

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

### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Chair Scavo called upon guest speakers:

Eileen O' Brien sent greetings from Councilmember Alan Maisel. She encouraged the Board to stay safe and get vaccinated.

Stephannia Cleaton sent greetings from Kingsborough Community College President, Dr. Claudia V. Schrader. She wished everyone a Happy Spring and also encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. She added they are planning a campus re-opening in September 2021.

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

Stanley Kaplan expressed concerns on the proliferation of non-muscle powered vehicles, such as e-bikes, e-scooters, and gas scooters, none of which require a license. He asked for a clamp down by the City, to clean up the situation. He expressed specific concern over the speed and which he personal clocked one, at over 25 MPH, and also their use in the commission of crimes.

Nancy Lulu from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's office sent greetings from the DA. The DA was vehemently opposed to the recent Anti-Semitic attacks against our synagogues and has zero tolerance for Hate Crimes. To report a Hate Crime 718 250-4949. She also reported that the DA has virtual internships for students available this Summer with a stipend of \$150, deadline to apply is May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Brooklyn DA's Action Center can be reached at 718 250-2340. Ms. Lulu also provided her email which is [Lulun@BrooklynDa.org](mailto:Lulun@BrooklynDa.org)

Senator Andrew Gournardes reported that the State Budget has been adopted and he offered several highlights: It contains, \$1 Billion Dollars in Small Business Relief, it also includes \$2.4 Billion in Rental Assistance Relief and property tax relief, offering a tax credit, that he proposed, to give up to \$350 back to property owners who make upwards of \$200,000 and pay more than 6% of their income in property taxes. He would like to see this credit expanded in the future. Lastly it is the first State Budget that fully funds our CUNY and Public Schools for the next 3 years.

He announced a Bill was passed allowing employees up to 4 hours of paid leave for each vaccination shot they take, in regard to the Covid vaccine.

On January 6, when all eyes were on the Capitol, he was welcoming the birth of his first child, his son Evan. Congratulations were offered by all.

Doug Luback, former President of Gerritsen Beach Homeowners Association, stated they are waiting for the final plans with the Department of Transportation for Gerritsen Beach. He announced they recently held a successful food distribution event.

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz stated the Assemblyman sent Greetings. He highlighted the inclusion of the Rental Assistance Relief in the State Budget.

Jack Plushnick sent Greetings from Councilman Deutsch. As always please reach out to our office should you need assistance 718 368-9176.

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

Sergey Chuprik sent greetings Comptroller Scott Stringer's office. He mentioned the Comptroller's reports can be found on their website. He spoke about food insecurity and praised APNA in Brighton Beach for their food distribution.

Ed Jaworski former President of Madison Marine Homecrest Association proudly announced the organization now has a Facebook page. He reported on East 29<sup>th</sup> and Avenue U behind the Telco Building a tree service operation with chainsaws is operating illegally disturbing the neighbor's quality of life. He has reached out to various agencies including the Department of Building's padlock unit. Neighbors are threatening to move if this issue is not successfully resolved.

Michael Benjamin from Senator Persaud's Office sent Greetings from the Senator and asked everyone to get vaccinated.

### **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 March 23, 2021.

A motion to adopt the March 23, 2021 minutes was made by Ronnie Tawil seconded by Pearl Siegelman.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

#### ***LIQUOR LICENSES- Month of April 2021***

#### **RENEWAL - Wine, Beer & Cider**

Roll-n-Roaster  
2901 Emmons Avenue  
11235

Living Room Restaurant & Lounge, Inc.  
178 Avenue U  
11223

#### **RENEWAL - Beer & Cider**

Brennan and Carr  
3432 Nostrand Avenue  
11229

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

### **NEW APPLICATION – FULL – Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider**

Angel Café & Restaurant LLC  
D/B/A A-Cherry Restaurant Café & Lounge  
2429 Coney Island Avenue  
11229

Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with these establishments, please share those concerns with the Board Office.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Public Safety Committee:**

Committee Chair, Chick Pallotta stated the Committee met online Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 5:00pm. Representing the 61<sup>st</sup> Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. Present from Community Affairs division of the 61<sup>st</sup> Pct. was Detective, Sam Shaya and Police Officer, Lauren Au. The CompStat report presented to our committee covered the period of 4/05/21 through 4/11/21. Based on the (7) major crime complaint categories, comparing 2021 with 2020, year to date statistics, the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct was down 25.7%. Continuing year-to-date comparisons: Robbery down 39.3%, Felony Assault down 23.6%, Grand Larceny down 30.8%, Grand Larceny Auto down 31%, Burglary, up 4.3%. In the category of Burglary Arrests, the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct was up, an impressive 400%!

#### **Street Co-Naming Committee:**

Committee Member, Judy Baron filled in for Committee Chair Rabbi Burg. Ms. Baron stated that under consideration a proposal to co-name the Southwest corner of Bedford Avenue and Avenue X as the Brooklyn/Bedford Park 911 Memorial Way as submitted by the Brooklyn/Bedford Park 9/11 Memorial Committee. The proposal intended to honor the memorial created in Bill Brown Park paying tribute to the first responders and victims of 9/11. She explained that the mural on the handball court wall has become an annual gathering place to commemorate to events of 9/11. She stressed it was not about politics but in support of the grassroots memorial movement. She invited Committee Member Margalit Ewart who shared her experiences on 9/11 and explained that Bill Brown Park was the local park in which she grew up and she regularly attends the memorial. Mariyah Markh asked to speak and attested to the good maintenance of the memorial site. It is clean and beautiful and what makes it special is that it wasn't commissioned but made organically by community members. Judy stated the Committee voted

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

unanimously in support of this co-naming application. Judy Baron made the motion to support this street co-naming and it was seconded by Robert Gevertzman. It was adopted unanimously by the Board.

Chair Scavo called upon, Tina Gray one of the founders of the Brooklyn Bedford Park 9/11 Memorial Committee. She stated she appreciated the Board's support.

### **Zoning Committee:**

Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning Committee proceeded with the BSA item heard earlier for the Full Board vote:

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North side of Avenue S between East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and East 24<sup>th</sup> Street

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A motion was made to approve by Debra Greif and seconded by Judy Baron.

The Vote was taken 38 yes, 1 no. The motion was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Formation of Nominating Committee:

Chair Scavo announced from the submissions received via email from Board Members tabulated earlier, Edmond Dweck would be the Nominating Committee Chair, with Committee Members, Robert Gevertzman, Mitchell Shpelfogel, Pearl Siegelman and Lenny Markh with two alternates, Debra Greif, and Marc Cohen.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Pearl Siegelman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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