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Brooklyn Community Board 15



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LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

January 31, 2023 -Webex Conference

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

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:

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

Community Resident, Stanley Kaplan, spoke about the concerns for motorized bikes terrorizing the neighborhoods, riding on sidewalks, on the Belt Parkway and not yielding to lights or pedestrians. He pondered how the media is not fully reporting on more incidents in our communities. He understands it is many of the restaurants delivering food, but this has become an out of control and dangerous proposition. These vehicles are running over 50 MPH, have no license plates or insurance and can cause serious bodily injury. He asked for our local electeds to legislate measures to stop this dangerous practice.

Troy Olson representing Councilmember Inna Vernikov, stated he echoes Stanley's concerns. He stated Councilmember Vernikov was looking to introduce legislation regarding this issue but another Councilmember Holden, he believed, beat her to the punch. He is hopeful the Council will act sooner than later to impede these motorized vehicles.

Troy continued by reporting on 2 issues the Councilmember is working on. Starting yesterday January 30, 2023 through April 30, 2023, the Department of Environmental Conservation is offering amnesty on interest for customers with a seriously delinquent water bill balance of more than \$1000 for over a year. This offer allows for three amnesty options: If 100 percent of the principal bill is paid 100 percent of the interest will be forgiven; If 50 percent

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of the principal bill is paid, 75 percent of the interest will be forgiven; or If 25 percent of the bill is paid, 50 percent of the interest will be forgiven. Customers who owe less than \$1,000 are still eligible to receive amnesty on 100 percent of their interest if the pay their total bill.

The Councilmember in conjunction with the local 61st Precinct targeted 2 areas in the neighborhood with illegal overnight parking and issued tickets and there are two more areas they will be targeting.

Community members spoke about areas they would like to see targeted and Troy asked them to email him directly with those locations and placed his information in the chat Tolson@council.nyc.gov 718 368-9176 ext., 105.

Nancy Lulu sent greetings from Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez. She shared that the DA continues to make sure violent crime is down and that public safety improves. During 2022 homicides declined by 8% and shootings decreased by 13% compared to 2021. The District Attorney's Office in partnership with the NYPD continues to target the most violent individuals in our communities who are responsible for the majority of gun violence. Over the past year, the Brooklyn DA's office has continued to extend and expand its engagement efforts across Brooklyn communities as an important part of the District Attorney's goal of strengthening community trust in the legal system. If you have any matters, you would like addressed, please call the DA's Action Center at 718 250-2340.

Sharon Fuchs representing Senator Simcha Felder's office sent greetings from the Senator and the Senator strongly agrees that there is a motorized bike issue that needs addressing.

Stephannia Cleaton, Government Relations Manager for Kingsborough Community College, sent greetings from the President Dr. Claudia Schrader. Nothing to report but if anyone had any questions for KCC please contact her at Stephannia.Cleaton@kbcc.cuny.edu or call (718) 368-6768.

Ayanna Williams representing Councilman Ari Kagan stated she had several updates to share: Councilman Kagan sends greeting for a Happy Lunar New Year and has attended many events commemorating the holiday. He has introduced legislation to suspend parking meters during the holiday. He has been working with the 61st Precinct to ticket and tow vehicles with fake and improper paper plates throughout the district. His office has been targeting the building supply company on West 9th and Avenue U with fines from various agencies, for illegally taking up streets and sidewalks in the community. In fact, so much so, that the company turned to the Councilmember's office for help with sorting out their fines. The

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Councilmember worked with Chris Greif to clear up confusion and accessibility at the entrance of South Brooklyn Health. Councilmember Kagan recently spoke to NY 1 on the alarming rise in antisemitic crimes and addressed the issue in that he would like to see more consequences for perpetrators of hate crimes. Lastly, another free ice-skating event for children at Abe Stark skating rink is being planned for 2/21/23 from 10:00am to noon. She placed her contact information in the chat: email AWilliams@council.nyc.gov or call 718 307-7151.

Tyler Reynolds, Construction Liaison for the Manhattan Beach Sewer project, stating they are making good progress. They have had frequent water shut downs at Ocean Avenue to the dead end streets but that's nearing completion and those residents should be seeing an improvement in water pressure soon. When questioned how residents are notified to water shutdowns Tyler answered they place at least 2 notices the day before a shutdown on the resident's doors and neighbors who signed up for notifications are also emailed in advanced. If you have any question or concerns, his contact information is in the chat bed819ccl@gmail.com

Katherine Belka from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) announced that starting April 1, 2023, DSNY is changing the regulations for placing garbage out curbside. If you have a container with a tight lid, rodent proof, it should be place out no earlier than 6:00pm, otherwise garbage bags should be placed out by 8:00pm. Commercial Businesses should place their garbage out by 8:00pm no earlier to deter rats or otherwise place it out curbside an hour before closing. The commercial garbage must be picked up before 6:00am. They will be promoting these new timeline regulations everywhere to make sure that community members are aware. Concerns about Sabbath observers were brought up and Troy Olson from Councilmember Inna Vernikov's office e stated she has already wrote to sanitation to request exemptions for Sabbath observers. Another question asked if fines would be issued and Katherine said yes fines will be put in place for those who are caught not following the new regulations after April 1st. She assured again that notices will go out all over social media and campaign blitzes to make sure residents and commercial establishments are made aware of these upcoming changes. You can contact her with any questions. She placed her information in chat email kbelka@dsny.nyc.gov or call 646 885-4503.

Board Member, Raisa Chernina, wanted to know when will the unused restaurant sheds in Sheepshead Bay come down? and what agency is responsible? She was told they need to be reported to DOT and to provide the Board Office with the specific locations she is referring to, so that we can call them in for inspection and subsequent disposal.

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Resident Allen Rosen spoke about the upcoming proposed changes to the bus lines , B1, B68 and B49, which would negatively impact on the community. In Manhattan Beach where he resides, they are proposing to remove bus stops, relocate others and in some instances stopping bus service all together making commuting to nearby Sheepshead Bay ridiculously long, now requiring 2 buses as opposed to the 1 convenient bus they use now. He spoke how it would also negatively impact on Kingsborough Community College students and hopes the Community Board will attend the hearings and stand with the community in writing a letter against these proposed changes.

In chat: Flore E. Baptiste-Adrien wrote, I am the community coordinator for the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence. We provide free services for victims of intimate partner violence, elder-abuse, sex-trafficking and gender-based violence. We also have free workshops on domestic violence, financial abuse, elder abuse and sex trafficking in different languages. We may be reached at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/about/about-endgbv.page> and my direct contact info is fbaptiste@endgbv.nyc.gov or call 917 588-6351.

In chat: from Nina Joung Brooklyn Public Library Adult Learning Center, Good Evening. I'm here as part of the Brooklyn Public Library's Adult Learning Center located at Kings Highway. We offer free English courses, High School Equivalency (HSE) courses, and job certification programs to help individuals with job readiness (including job courses for individuals whose first language is not English!). You can learn more about our classes here: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/adult-learning> We would love to connect with individuals in need. Please reach out to us using the contact information below. For English related-courses email esol@bklynlibrary.org or call/text 201 899-4919. For HSE/GED + job certification courses, email prehse@bklynlibrary.org or call 718 622-4460 ext. 5. My direct contact is njoung@bklynlibrary.org

In chat: Leniere Miley from Working in Support of Education (WISE) wanted to discuss the Research Club at James Madison High School. The Research Club is open to high school students within 1 hour travel distance to the school. The program is offered with support of the Department of Youth and Community Development through the Quality of Life INNOVATION Program at Wise. This free program meets Fridays 3:00pm-6:00pm and every other Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm at James Madison High School, 3787 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229. Metro cards and snacks are provided. Students learn how to do college level research and develop

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soft skills like team work and critical thinking, which are important to undergraduate studies and the workforce. Student projects compete for up to \$7,000 in college scholarships. Student Registration:

<https://forms.gle/GX9WvRp2JFy1ayr58> For further information, contact Juliet Tarantino at jtaranino@wise-ny.org or 212 421-2700. Our website is www.wise-ny.org My direct email is lmiley@wise-ny.org

Leniere Miley spoke briefly and referred to the information that was already placed in the chat for further reference.

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 Chair Scavo, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the December 20, 2022, minutes was made by Morris Missry and seconded by Ronald Tawil.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo announced it's that time of year again when we review the responses from the various city agencies to our District Needs Statement. Many of the items on our list, such as a comfort station, at Lew Fidler Park, an isolated area and requests for new equipment for other park's properties like Pallotta, Mellet, Kelly throughout our district were met with the answers that there is no available funding for these requests. Our requests for additional NYPD officers for the 61 pct was answered that they plan to make do with their existing resources. I would like to make a motion we reject these responses because we find them unacceptable, and we will continue to advocate for our community's needs. A motion to send the letter of objection was made by Judy Baron and seconded by Ed Chalom.

Chair Scavo spoke about the letters and complaints the Board has been receiving regarding Emmons Avenue's new designated bicycle lane, and traffic issues from the narrowing of the travel lane down from 2 lanes to one lane. She stated she wanted to incorporate all the concerns shared with the Board Office and place them into one letter to the Commissioner of DOT to be addressed. She asked for a motion to support this request. The motion was approved by Debra Greif and seconded by Ronnie Tawil. A letter will be sent to DOT regarding the community's concerns for the narrowing of Emmons Avenue impeding traffic, generated by the dedicated two-way bicycle lane.

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JANUARY 31, 2023 / LIQUOR LICENSES

New Application , Wine, Beer & Cider

EGET Restaurant Corp
New Three Star
1811 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11229

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit Wine, Beer & Cider

Regal Cinemas Inc
Sheepshead Stadium 14 IMAX & RPX
3907 Shore Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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

Cork on Emmons Inc.
3202 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal Application Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

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

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

Tamaqua Bar & Grill
84 Ebony Ct
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Ashurov Inc
DBA Vanka Vstanka
3810 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Liv Rock Rest Corp.

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DBA Clementes Crabhouse
3939 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Knights of Baron Dekalb
3000 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Michaels of Brooklyn Inc
2929 Avenue R
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Renewal Application Wine, Beer & Cider

485 Kings Corp
485 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11223

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

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

EDO Asian Fusion Inc
EDO Asian Fusion
2087 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Renewal Application Beer & Cider

City Ice Sports Inc
760 Oriental Blvd.
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Alteration, Wine, Beer & Cider

Taquitos Mexico Restaurant Corp.
2223 Avenue X
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with any of these establishments, please let the office know so that we can reach out to the State Liquor Authority.

Public Safety Report:

Our Public Safety Committee meeting was conducted via Webex on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. Present from the Community Affairs Office was Detective Lauren Au, who was recently elevated to the rank of detective. Also in attendance was Police Officer Christopher Alvarado. Captain St. Fort said that recently assigned executive officer, Captain Mohamed Eltony. was reassigned and the new executive officer for the 61 is Captain Gregory Rivera. Our Public Safety Committee members were forwarded the link to the 61st Police Precinct CompStat Report covering the week of January 2, 2023 through January 8, 2023. Based on the seven major crime categories, year-to-date comparisons with 2022, the 61 was up 50%. However, crime complaints within the 61 is on a downward trend. Tracking the next 3 weeks of January 2023: January 9-15, 2023 year-to-date it was up 38.18%; covering the week January 16-22, 2023 it was up 31.71%; and the most recent week, January 23-29, 2023 the CompStat Report was up 20.87%. Year-to-date comparisons through January 29, 2023, we've had 1 murder and 1 rape. Robberies up 25%; Felony Assaults down 9.5%, Burglaries up 52.9%; Grand Larceny up 25%; and Grand Larceny Auto down 15.4%. Year-to-date we had 1 hate crime. Quality-of-life issues have seen general improvement. Our committee members continue to monitor, and report matters that arise.

A discussion of the reported crime statistics and numbers was discussed. Some feel the numbers don't jive with the actual reported crimes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronald Tawil and seconded by Al Smaldone. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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