

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



**ANTONIO REYNOSO**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**THERESA SCAVO**  
CHAIRPERSON

**OFFICERS**

**RONALD TAWIL**  
FIRST VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**RAISA CHERNINA**  
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**JACK ERDOS, ESQ**  
TREASURER  
**ALLEN POPPER, ESQ**  
SECRETARY



**ERIC ADAMS**  
MAYOR

**LAURA SINGER**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

**Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes**

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday January 30, 2024, 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 for World Peace.

**PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:**

**ZONING COMMITTEE:**

Chairperson Scavo introduced Mr. Stephen A. Johnson, Senior Lead for Special Projects from the Department of City Planning, who would present to the Board, City Planning's Proposal for a Gaming Facility Zoning Text Amendment.

The purpose of the text amendment is to add the Gaming Facility Use (Use Group 8) into the NYC Zoning Resolution for the first time. Gaming facilities, such as casinos and racetracks, are not currently, legally permitted in the city. The text amendment would allow New York City to be considered as a possible location for a Gaming Facility when the State looks to approve up to three casino licenses in the Downstate region (NYC, Long Island and Westchester, Putnam, Rockland Counties).

A discussion ensued with some voicing concerns regarding the infrastructure being able to withstand such a large undertaking, the impact on transportation, concerns for flood zones and evacuations procedures, if there was enough security because our police force is already overburdened and lastly the impact on communities, especially in areas already suffering with addiction concerns.

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

A motion was made to approve the proposed Gaming Facility Zoning Text Amendment by Robert Gevertzman and seconded by Jack Erdos. The original motion was amended by Morris Harary to approve with the condition that such a gaming facility be allowed with the exclusion of the Borough of Brooklyn. That amended motion was seconded by Morris Dweck.

A Zoning Committee Vote was taken, 6 yes, 4 no and 0 abstention. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in the Executive Session.

Chair Scavo introduced the Interim President of Kingsborough Community College, Ms. Suri Duitch. Ms. Duitch stated it was only her 2<sup>nd</sup> Day on the job so bear with her if she is unable to answer any immediate questions regarding the institution. She went on to offer her academic background and her past experience as a Brooklyn resident in working with Kingsborough Community College. She looks forward to becoming reacquainted with the college, getting herself up to speed and working with the community at large.

Chair Scavo then introduced Michael Colacurto, Community Affairs Liaison from the Bureau of Community Affairs for the Department of Sanitation. He announced the new requirements for all businesses to containerize their trash beginning on March 1, 2024, with recycling still being allowed to be placed in bags outside a business an hour before closing or no earlier than 8:00pm. There will a brief grace period to get businesses up to speed on this new procedure before fines are instituted. If you have any concerns or inquiries, you can reach out to 212 291-1220.

### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

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

Martin Gangursky shared his concerns that the post office finally delivered mail that was a Community Board 15 Agenda from 2018 and a letter from the MTA from 2019. He pondered on how many more important documents must get lost. The post office must be held more accountable. Again, he discussed his concerns for busing children out of their neighborhood schools to give those spaces to other children who do not reside in the neighborhood. He questioned the safety of students being transported in from different neighborhoods that are unfamiliar to them. He feels students should be assigned to their local neighborhood schools.

Ed Jaworski, Executive Vice-President of the Madison-Marine-Homecrest Civic Association, spoke about the filthiness of the area and although they appreciate receiving a monthly public safety report, he would like to know

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

what the Community Board's Sanitation Committee is doing to work on getting homeowners and local businesses to comply with sanitation regulations.

Solomiya Momot representing Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated the Senator is back in Albany and very busy as the Chair of both the Homeland Security Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee. The Senator is still excepting budget requests from non-profit organizations, seeking funding, but please have those requests in by the end of the week. Lastly, the Senator is sponsoring a Black History Month Celebration in partnership with Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Councilman Justin Brannan on Thursday February 29, 2024 from 7:00pm-8:30pm at BSC Carey Gardens Community Center 2315 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224. You must RSVP for the event, so please call the office at 718 484-3216.

Tyler Reynolds addressed the status of the Manhattan Beach Water Main Project and stated what work was now taking place on West End Avenue. He announced they just put in a new request to amend the hours of their project on West End Avenue to be able to work from 4:00pm to 1:00am to have minimal impact on the schools in that area. They do not want to shut down water while children are at schools and they understand that Saturday work would be unacceptable to the sabbath observant community. This change in time will keep the project moving expeditiously.

Donald Cranston, Community Liaison for Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, sent greetings from the Assembly member, and even though the Assemblymember has a small part of the Community, mostly Gerritsen Beach and the Madison, Marine area, she wants her constituents to know they can reach out to her office for assistance at 718 252-2124. Even if you are out of her district, he offered they are willing to assist if they can.

Mark Caserta from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce shared they are working on an initiative through a grant they receive to assist small businesses as a one stop shop resource called the small business resource network. There is no charge and you do not have to join the chamber to be eligible. He placed information in several languages on the front desk.

Corina Lozada, Special Counsel to the Brooklyn Borough President, spoke about it being Board Member application time, so whether your term is expiring, or you would like to apply to become a Community Board Member, please fill out the application found on the Borough President's website and should you require a paper copy of the form feel free to reach out to their office. Ms. Lozada is also a liaison assigned to Community Board 15, she may be

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

conducting interviews of members and potential members on a case by case basis, so not to be concerned if she reaches out to you. If you need to reach out to her, she informed them to please reach out to the Board Office who can put you in contact with her. Lastly, she invited everyone to attend the Borough President Antonio Reynoso's State of the Borough Address 2024 being held on Tuesday February 13, 2024, doors open at 6:00pm at New York City College of Technology, 275 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Irena Khlenver, Deputy Director of Constituent Services, for Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse, spoke about the many services and event the Councilmember is sponsoring in her office and throughout the community. She provided a booklet of flyers on the front table and welcomed all to partake in the free legal services, free tax services, MTA MetroCard half-fare bus, ESL classes and food giveaways that Councilwoman Narcisse is offering each month. Constituent services are of the utmost importance to the Councilmember and that is why these outreach events are indicative of the kind of assistance and support she wants to bring to the community she serves. Ms. Khlenver was asked how Councilmember Narcisse voted on the Intro 586, that would require police officers detailing information on each encounter. Ms. Khlenver initial stated Councilmember Narcisse initially abstained, but then changed her vote to a yes in favor of the bill.

Sam Eluto representing Public Advocate Jumaane Willams stated they have placed the one hundred worst landlords list for 2023 together, based on HPD complaints and it is accessible through the Advocate's website. To also please avail yourself to the many blogs the Public Advocate has on his website offering a variety of information, form legal outreach resources to rat patrol clinics. Each month the Public Advocate appears on a News 12 segment, and you are all invited to view and call in.

Sergey Chuprik, liaison for Comptroller Brad Lander's office spoke about a recent audit the Comptroller completed on speed cameras. They found it was a good deterrent in the areas they covered, but that many cars had, ghost plates, altered plates and fake temporary plates preventing them from retrieving the hundreds of thousands of dollars in violation monies owed to the city. They are recommending that the NYPD take more actions to address these illegal plates. For more information on this audit and other resources please visit the Comptrollers website.

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

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Treasurer Jack Erdos, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the December 19, 2023, minutes was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Al Smaldone.

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

Chair Scavo stated that as in years past the district needs statement responses are unacceptable. We requested comfort stations and upgrades to our community Parks, and we were met with answers that although Parks agrees with your findings they don't have the budget to address these issues at this time to please reach out to your local Elected officials. Forestry is on a seven year cycle and they don't have the funding to expedite the needs to prune trees on a steady basis. Crossings guards are limited and when one is out an NYPD officer is pulled in to take over that shift. We need funding to better recruit for these positions. Our police force is becoming diminished with attrition, and we don't know when a new class will be assigned, with 5% budget cuts across the board, possibly upwards of 15% we don't know if filling these positions are possible. Chair Scavo asked for a motion to reject these budget requests responses. A motion was made by Oswald Heymann and seconded by Robert Gevertzman. And it was unanimously approved.

### **Liquor Licenses for January 2024:**

#### **Renewal Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider**

Friends of Columbus Council Inc.  
3051 Nostrand Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Chateau Seaford Inc.  
Chateau De Captain  
2570 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Marfa Café Inc  
TABU  
2205 Avenue X  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Chateau Seaford Inc.  
Chateau de Captain  
2570 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Milinna's Homemade Food, Inc.  
813 Avenue U

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

Brooklyn, NY 11223

Bianky Food Corp  
Nirvana Restaurant and Lounge  
2340 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Liv Rock Rest Corp  
Clementes Maryland Crabhouse  
3939 Emmons Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Argonne Marine Park Memorial Association  
2414 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

BBKM Associates LLC  
Mirage Diner  
717 Kings Highway  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Goldmaker Inc.  
1824 Avenue U  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

**New Application Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider**

BFFB Inc  
2771D Knapp Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Zona Bar Inc  
263 Avenue X  
Brooklyn, NY 11223

**New Application and Temporary Retail Wine, Beer & Cider – Amendment  
trade name**

Regal Cinemas Inc.  
United Artists  
3907 Shore Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

**New Application and Temporary Retail Wine, Beer & Cider**

Loqma Café Corp  
1509 Voorhies Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

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

X Chikurin Inc  
Dba Chikurin  
1702 Avenue Z  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

### **Corporate Change Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider**

JIZZ BIZZ INC  
Café Gallery  
2801 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Chair Scavo stated a letter of objection was sent to the State Liquor Authority regarding Bianky/Nirvana as they have been a problematic location for many years and the trade name Enigma on their building's signage has not been reflected in any of their paperwork.

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. Chair Scavo went on to announce the new Cannabis licenses the Community Board received for January 2024:

### **Retail Dispensary:**

The Bud Philosophy LLC  
1711 Gravesend Neck Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

SMO-KINGZ  
3822 Nostrand Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

### **Public Safety Report:**

Public Safety Chairperson, Frances Chick Pallotta, stated that the Public Safety Committee meeting was conducted via Webex on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 5:30pm. Representing the 61<sup>st</sup> Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Joseph Antonio. In attendance also was Captain Emanuel Ishhakov, 61's Executive Officer. Present from the 61's Community Affairs Office was Detective Lauren Au, Police Officer Chris Alvarado,

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

and Police Officer Colleen Abbate. Public Safety Committee Members were forwarded the link to the 61<sup>st</sup> Police Precinct CompStat Report, covering the week of 12/25/2023, through 12/31/2023, (Volume 30, Number 52). It reflects the statistics for all of the 2023 calendar year, when comparing year-to-date comparisons with 2022. Based upon the 7 major crime categories, year-to-date, overall, the 61 was down 8.0%. We have had 4 murders thus far in 2023, compared to 4 murders in 2022. We have had 16 rapes, in 2023, compared with 9 rapes in 2022, up 77.8%. Robberies, down 17.8%; 175 robberies in 2023 compared to 213 robberies in 2022; felony assaults, up 0.8%, 256 in 2023 compared to 254 in 2022; burglaries, down 9.3%, 225 in 2023 compared to 248 burglaries in 2022; grand larceny, down 12.8%, 645 crime complaints in this category in 2023, compared to 740 grand larceny complaints in 2022. Grand Larceny Auto, up 8.0%, 202 crimes in 2023, compared to 187 crimes in 2022. In the category listed as “hate crimes”, we had 18 in 2023, compared to 22 in 2022, down 18.2%.

### **Zoning Committee:**

#### **Department of City Planning: Gaming Facility Zoning Text Amendment**

The purpose of the text amendment is to add the Gaming Facility Use (Use Group 8) into the NYC Zoning Resolution for the first time. Gaming facilities, such as casinos and racetracks, are not currently, legally permitted in the city. The text amendment would allow New York City to be considered as a possible location for a Gaming Facility when the State looks to approve up to three casino licenses in the Downstate region (NYC, Long Island and Westchester, Putnam, Rockland Counties).

A motion was made to approve with the condition that the Borough of Brooklyn would be excluded, by Robert Gevertzman and seconded by Al Smaldone.

A Full Board Vote was taken, 20 yes, 14 no and 1 abstention for cause. The conditional motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Al Smaldone. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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