

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

April 26, 2022 -Webex Conference

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chair Scavo called upon Council Member Ari Kagan to speak: Councilman Kagan spoke about a recent meeting he co-chaired at the City Council. A joint public hearing of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Waterfronts and Resiliency Committee (which he Chairs). They discussed federal funds for infrastructure projects citywide. He advocated for significant funding to fix and renovate the Coney Island Boardwalk, investments into outdated sewers and water basins in Southern Brooklyn. NYC will receive billions of dollars in federal funding for infrastructure and we can't miss this unique opportunity to use this money to improve quality of life for our Sandy impacted community. He is looking into a program that will benefit our community by helping remove abandoned boats. He recently attended a Mayoral event where Eric Adams expressed his support for the NYPD. He stated that the Mayor expressed his support of funding the police and getting more enforcement out on our streets and in our train system. It was a sentiment that resonated with him and gives him hope. This Monday he will be teaming up with Council Member Inna Vernikov to explore Rockaway Beach's boardwalk to see how they were able to repair their boardwalk after Superstorm Sandy to the community's satisfaction to gage some ideas for our community. He placed his contact information in the chat. His office number is 718 383-9673 and email District47@council.nyc.gov

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 from the Agenda:

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BSA 2022-14-BZ / 1961 East 21st Street
East side of East 21st Street between Avenue R and Avenue S

This application is filed pursuant to Section 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.

The Board received 1 letter of support and 0 in opposition.

Questions about fitting into the character of the neighborhood were asked. The attorney stated that when the home is completed it will fit in and be quite similar to others on the block.

A motion was made to approve by Allen Popper and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

A Committee Vote was taken, 13 yes, 0 no and 0 abstention. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place in Executive Session.

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:

Ms. Nancy Lulu sent greetings from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. She sent her condolences to the FDNY on the loss of a firefighter early this week in Canarsie. Ms. Lulu spoke about DA Gonzalez's internship program as a great way for young people interested in the legal system to get hands on experience. She stated to please reach out to her or the Board for more information. She encouraged everyone to please visit the DA's website to see what he is working on. Ms. Lulu also shared the DA's action center's number 718-250-2412.

Stanley Kaplan as a follow up to his concern for eliminating Day Light Saving s Time, at a previous meeting. stated that the Senate has now voted to support the eliminating of Day Light Savings Time. He suggested everyone reach out their Congressional Reps to stop this. An experiment to do this in the past, failed miserably and we shouldn't go through another one.

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Kim Robinson, Director of Community Engagement from the office of Council Member Mercedes Narcisse sent greetings from the Council Member. She offered her condolences to the family and loved ones of the FDNY firefighter who was killed in the line of duty in Canarsie this week. She stated April 12, marked 100 days in office for Council Member Narcisse. She passed her first resolution in support of expanding eligibility requirements for crime victims getting compensated and it is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. The Council Member sponsored a successful mammogram van event this past March and hopes to bring it back again to the community this June. She has also worked on food distributions to assist those in need. Should you need her office, please call 718 241-9330.

Ms. Anastasia Yaskova, Brooklyn Borough Director, CAU Office of the Mayor stated that Mayor Adams stated that the Mayor joined former Mayor Michael Bloomberg to announce the launch of "Summer Boost NYC" a new Bloomberg Philanthropies program that will support summer learning at public charter schools in New York City for approximately 25,000 K through 8th grade students who have fallen behind and face significant learning gaps exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. It's a \$50 million initiative. The Mayor along with Chancellor Banks are adding 100 kindergarten seats and 1000 third grade seats through the expansion of the city's Gifted and Talented program's admission policy, which for the first time will serve every community city-wide. Applications for the program open May 31st.

She also added in an historic and unprecedented initiative in funding, Mayor Adams has allocated \$175 million to a new campaign to bring New York City's homeless off the subways and into safe shelter space. She shared her contact information in chat (929) 273-9543 and email AYaskova@cityhall.nyc.gov

Tova Chatzinoff, Chief of Staff for Council Member Inna Vernikov, stated the Council Member has been working with Manhattan Beach to remove commercial vehicles parked on residential blocks. She has been working with the 61st Pct., to help with unruly children terrorizing people at Homecrest Park. The Council Member proposed legislation to allow city workers terminated for not complying with the vaccine mandate to be reinstated. She felt it is hypocrisy to allow sports figures in NYC to return to work unvaccinated, but not our city workers. If you need assistance from Council Member Vernikov's office, please call 718 368-9176.

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Chris Greif from the NYC Transit Rider's Council stated that the reduced fair cards for the MTA will be transitioning over to the OMNY Card this year. He sent the applications via email to the Community Board, which they will share with anyone interested in applying. He stated that wearing a mask on the subways is still mandated, to please do so until you exit the station.

Sergey Chuprik representing Comptroller Brad Lander stated the Comptroller is planning to host some Town Halls throughout the City and when the details become available, he will share that information with the community. He shared his email information in chat: schupri@comptroller.nyc.gov

Ed Jaworski, Executive Vice President of the Madison-Marine-Homecrest Civic Association stated how filthy the neighborhoods has become and that with every special permit granted a homeowner they also be given a trash can, a broom, and a set of sanitation regulations to maintain their property. He announced that the Madison-Meeting Marine-Homecrest Association will be meeting on Thursday April 28, 2022, at 7:00pm at the Carmine Carro Community Center located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue.

Board Member Joe Dorinson spoke about his dismay at Councilwoman Vernikov's proposal to allow unvaccinated city workers back on the job. As a retired school teacher, he witnessed many colleagues and friends succumb to Covid and feels that this a detrimental proposal. He echoed Board Member Ed Jaworski's concern for the trash that has been accumulating near our businesses and in our streets and that something needs to be done.

Anthony Besada stated he is experiencing quite a bit of quality of life issues with local businesses not taking care of their property or following the law. He had a truck with expired tags abandoned outside his dad's home for months and was able with the 61st Precinct's help to finally get it removed. He states the area is constantly filthy and businesses are not doing the right thing in maintaining their properties and some serious measures need to be taken.

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 March 22, 2022, minutes with a correction on the Public Safety Committee Report regarding dates and figures was made by Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by Ed Chalom.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

APRIL 2022 LIQUOR LICENSES:

Renewal Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Sheepshead Apple, LLC
d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
2501-2525 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Brooklyn Yacht Club, Inc.
3147 Voorhies Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Mint Vegan
535 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Opera Café Lounge Inc.
2255 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal Wine, Beer & Cider

2317 OMIYA SUSHI INC
2317 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11229

New Application Liquor, Wine & Cider

Lokum & Terracotta Inc.
2027 Emmons Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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.

Commemorative Street Co-Naming Committee:

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Judy Baron, Chairing the Committee stated they met earlier in the day to discuss two proposed street co-naming requests before the Board. The first being that of “Lou’s Deli Way”, for Louis Jerome a well respected businessman whose life acted as a bridge for growth for 4 generations of the Jewish-Syrian-Sephardic Community of Brooklyn. He volunteered to serve in the Navy during World War II at the tender age of 16. He then went on to establish a deli on Kings Highway which was one of the first established local community small businesses which he ran for nearly 50 years. His grandson spoke about his merits and shared with the committee how important this honor would be for his family. The Committee voted unanimously to support this request.

Several Board Members spoke highly of Lou and how much his business meant to the community.

A motion to approve was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Edmond Dweck. The Board voted unanimously with 41 votes in favor. The application was approved.

The second Street Co-Naming request was for a long-standing Board Member, Rabbi Melvin I. Burg. Rabbi Burg was a community leader who treated the synagogue like a second home, establishing programs for both young and old to serve his community. Rabbi Burg was an active member of Community Board 15, the 61st Precinct Police Council and Neighborhood Advisory Board where he advocated tirelessly for his community. He is a well-known member of this community and is deserving of this honor. The Committee voted unanimously to support this request.

A motion was made to by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Robert Gevertzman. The vote was 40 votes in favor with 1 abstention for cause. The application was approved.

Public Safety Report:

Our monthly Public Safety Committee meeting was held via Webex on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. In attendance from 61st Community Affairs office was Detective Sam Shaya and Police Officer Lauren Au. I opened our meeting by commending the members of our Public Safety Committee for being the “extended eyes and ears” of our local police concerning among other matters, our targeted, quality-of-life issues. It’s one of our roles when Community Boards were created back in 1963, as boards were added into City Charter.

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The Commanding Officer then informed us of a unique citywide problem of theft taking place, that of the use of street jacks in the quick stealing of catalytic converters in certain models of vehicles. These devices (catalytic converters) contain the precious metals of platinum, palladium and rhodium, whose value has risen dramatically.

Here now presented is the CompStat Report of the 61st based on the seven (7) major crime categories. Year-to-date comparisons through April 17, 2022, with 2021. Overall, the 61st was up 66.31%. In particular, we've had no recorded murders, rapes, down 80%; robberies, up 27.8%; felony assaults, up 16.7%; burglaries, up 31.4%; grand larceny up 110.9%; grand larceny auto up 165%. Note, that the report of April 4, through April 10, 2022, given to our committee somehow could not be retrieved. Hence, the stats of the following week were given.

A question from the floor asked if the precinct could break down and distinguish home burglaries from commercial burglaries. That is not how central does its breakdowns, but Chair Pallotta said he would inquire. Another question asked if Hate Crime stats would be added to the 7 major crime categories for the CompStat report. Not at this time, but an inquiry will also be made.

Zoning Committee:

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A motion to approve was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Mitchell Shpelfogel. The vote was 40 Yes and 1 No.
The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Scavo announced the Formation of the Nominating Committee. She stated from the votes received from the Board the following people will comprise the Nominating Committee: The Chair will be Edmond Dweck, the members are Morris Dweck, Robert Gevertzman, Francis Chick

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Pallotta, and Pearl Siegelman. The alternates are Mitchell Shpelfogel and Al Smaldone.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Popper and seconded by Robert Gevertzman. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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