

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**

**February 22, 2022 -Webex Conference**

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

Chairperson Scavo, called upon presenter Angelica Ramdhari from Solar One, who discussed their plans to place a solar roof top canopy and energy storage unit at the Brooklyn Public Library, Gerritsen Beach Branch located at 2808 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11229. The unit is to provide emergency back up to the library and community at large for small appliances, such as cell phone charging, in the event of a power outage. The solar panels will provide the library with a source of energy throughout the year and the batteries will be used in an emergency situations and stored away in locked boxes. Questions from the floor asked where the funding for this project came from? The funding was allocated after Superstorm Sandy by the Governor's Office of Storm Resiliency for the batteries and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) provided the funding for the solar canopy to enhance their goal of making municipal buildings more green and environmentally efficient. Another question asked if this project can be done in another storm impacted community, such as a beach community to assist its' residents? The answer was yes if the property would pass the regulations set forth by the NYC Fire Department and NYC Department of Buildings, however all funding for this project has been allocated and no additional funding is available at this time. The cost of the project was asked, the answer was \$201,000. Someone asked if that money would be better allocated in providing the community with individual generators? It was pointed out how gas was hard to come by in powering a generator during storm events. Another question asked how they planned to organize in assisting the community during a disaster, with their power needs, anticipating a large number of residents seeking help with a limited amount of power outlets available. A mention of using extension cords and a need to implement a proper plan by the library to have a safe and equitable distribution approach in working with the community would have to be put in place. A question about the library's roof being replaced was asked. The roof

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

is being replaced and they have incorporated that in their placement of the structure. Lastly, a Gerritsen Beach resident cautioned them in installing the canopy and batteries to make sure they are vandal proof. They assured that they have a vandal proof design in their plans with locked boxes.

### **GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:**

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

Council Member, Ari Kagan, stated that he was the only Council Member in his Committee to oppose the Open Streets permanent program for restaurants. He has heard first hand from residents their opposition to the open street's restaurant structures, the hazards they cause, the ADA issues in blocking access to streets, the garbage they collect attracting rodents and the homeless who sleep in them. He agrees that to have the Department of Transportation (DOT) overseeing their enforcement is ridiculous when DOT struggles to manage pothole repairs and installations of speedbumps in a timely fashion, taking over 3 years in which to do so. He was elected to express his constituents concerns and he will continue to oppose this program unless an equitable solution can be found. He stated he recently met with the Sheriff's office, and they discussed the influx of abandoned cars and cars with temporary paper license plates throughout the district. They discussed the lack of towing capabilities and the shortage of places in Southern Brooklyn to store towed vehicles. The Sheriff's office stated they could help and agreed to work with the local precincts to operate once a month in investigating and assisting in removing these cars off our streets. He added he recently attended a meeting with Mayor Adams and the Department of Education (DOE) to address the alarming rise in anti-Semitic attacks up 300% in the city over the last 6 weeks. Besides prosecuting these hate crimes, they are working with the DOE to address and educate our young people in an effort to prevent these crimes from occurring through education. Lastly, he met with the new Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, Rohit T. Aggarwala, to discuss the sewer and backup issues that plague the district during storm and heavy rain events. He asked if they could conduct inspections below ground to further examine these storm drains to see why flooding and backups are occurring and seek a solution to resolve them. He stated he will try to attend every meeting, but when he can't his staff member Zoya Shpigelman, who he reintroduced would attend. Her email is [zshpigelman@council.nyc.gov](mailto:zshpigelman@council.nyc.gov)

The Councilman shared in the chat his contact information: 718 373-9673 or email [District47@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District47@council.nyc.gov)

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

Reeves Eisen representing Senator Andrew Gounardes' office stated the Senator is now heading up the Finance and Budget Committee and is busy in Albany trying to have the budget ready by the end of March. He is also working on other legislation. Tomorrow night February 23, 2022, at 6:30pm the Senator is sponsoring a Homeowners Benefit Information Session on Zoom. You can learn how to lower your property taxes, learn about benefits programs for your home and about your annual property value. Call their office for more information and to register to attend at 718 238-6044.

Stephannia Cleaton, Government Relations Manager from Kingsborough Community College sent greetings from the President Dr. Claudia Schrader. She stated winter session is nearly over with students now taking finals and their spring session will begin on March 5, 2022. Her contact information in chat 718-490-1208 and [Stephannia.Cleaton@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Stephannia.Cleaton@kbcc.cuny.edu) She introduced her colleague Brandy Barber, Director of CUNY EDGE. Ms. Barber explained that CUNY EDGE provides social workers and academic advisors to students on public assistance to empower them with the resources they need to successfully navigate and succeed throughout their academic experience to graduation. It was formerly called the HOPE program and she was disheartened to hear from quite a few people they were unfamiliar with the program. She encouraged everyone to share her information to those who may be eligible. Her email is [Brandy.Barber@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Brandy.Barber@kbcc.cuny.edu) and 718 368-4661.

Michael Benjamin, representing Senator Roxanne Persaud stated that the Senator has quite a few events she is sponsoring throughout the district, so it is best to sign up for her newsletter to keep up to date. She has Recycling and Food Distribution and Tax Events coming up to name a few. Please call the office at 718 649-7643 for further information or email [persaud@nysenate.gov](mailto:persaud@nysenate.gov)

Ms. Nancy Lulu sent greetings from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. DA Gonzalez's is working on cracking down on vaccination fraud to investigate and prosecute those who sell, or present fake vaccine credentials or scam taxpayer funded Covid Relief Programs. If you suspect fraud, you can call 718 250-2255 or email [vaxfraud@brooklynda.org](mailto:vaxfraud@brooklynda.org) The DA is sponsoring a virtual Black History Month Event on Monday February 28, 2022, at 6:30pm, honoring those who work tirelessly to promote Black health and wellness in our community, including Dr. Michael Pratts, Psychiatrist, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance and Dr. Robert Gore of Kings Against Violence Initiative-KAVI. She posted the link to register in

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

advance to join in on zoom in the chat;

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/WN\\_Apnsu2GdQCquTgXjHB0Org](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/WN_Apnsu2GdQCquTgXjHB0Org)

Ms. Lulu also shared the DA's action center's number 718-250-2412.

Ms. Glenda Silva, Deputy Director, Programs & Strategic Alliances, for Borough President Antonio Reynoso stated the office is still hiring, expanding, and putting staff in place. Their website is also growing with information so please visit it [Home - Office of the Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso \(brooklyn-usa.org\)](https://www.brooklyn-usa.org)

In chat she shared on 2/23/22 there will be a Virtual Black History Month Celebration: <https://www.weeksvillesociety.org/news-events:1/2022/2/15/black-history-month-virtual-celebration>

She added that the deadline for Board Membership Applications is March 4<sup>th</sup>. You can access the applications online, <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/quick-links-to-applications/community-board-applications-2022/>

In chat she placed her contact information [glenda.silva@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:glenda.silva@brooklynbp.nyc.gov)

Mr. Anthony Drummond, Chief of Staff for Council Member Farah Louis, stated they are also hiring and expanding their office. The deadline for non-profits to apply for discretionary funding is 11:59pm tonight. The Council Member is happy to be of service and their office number is 718 629-2900 or email him at [adrummond@council.nyc.gov](mailto:adrummond@council.nyc.gov)

Ms. Anastasia Yaskova, Brooklyn Borough Director, CAU Office of the Mayor stated that Mayor Adams rolled out his plans to make the subway system safer. Rules of conduct will now be strictly enforced. The Mayor is also providing 100,000 Summer Youth Employment Opportunities. This historic investment will help ensure our young people are given the opportunity to gain the experience and skills needed to secure a successful future. She shared her contact information in chat (929) 273-9543 and email [AYaskova@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:AYaskova@cityhall.nyc.gov)

Kim Robinson, Director of Community Engagement from the office of Council Member Mercedes Narcisse sent greetings from the Council Member. On March 23, 2022, they have arranged for a mammogram van by appointment only, their office number is 718-241-9330. They are also sponsoring food distribution and PPE giveaways to call their office for more details.

Anthony Besada a longtime resident and landlord 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 has a tire firm taking up parking

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

spaces with cars and operating machinery all hours of the night and a club who expanded its' footprint, bringing in more garbage that extends over to his property because they don't maintain it properly. In his community of Marine Park, he recently saw a neighbor's car up on cinder blocks with no tires. He wrote Chair Scavo, who advised him on what to do and he thanked the Community Board for allowing him the opportunity to speak and was happy to see Elected Officials and their Representatives in attendance. He hopes Councilman Ari Kagan will assist him with his issues.

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, stated the Assemblyman is sponsoring a covid test kit and mask give-a-way on Thursday 2/24/22 from 11:00am-1:00pm at the Wave Pharmacy located at 104 West End Avenue. One kit per person will be given out, while supplies last and each kit has 2 tests. Boosters for adults 18 plus and Vaccines will also be made available for children 5 and up. Lastly, if you need any assistance from Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office call us at 718-743-4078. They are open Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm by appointment only.

Chris Greif from the NYC Transit Ride Council stated that the reduced fair cards for the MTA will be transitioning over to the OMNY Card this year and that he will be with Mask Force at the Coney Island Stillwell Avenue station tomorrow February 23, 2022, from 2pm-4pm and 4pm-6pm to assure everyone has a mask,

Sergey Chuprik representing Comptroller Brad Lander stated the Comptroller in a joint partnership with Mayor Eric Adams is focusing on assisting New York's Non-Profits in getting their funding brought down quicker to assist them in doing the good work they do. Presently it takes nearly a year for them to get their funding, severely hampering their ability to operate and perform their missions successfully. They are looking into stream-lining that process. He added to please visit our website for further information.

Ed Jaworski, Executive Vice President of the Madison-Marine-Homecrest Civic Association stated he hopes Senator Gournardes as the Chair of the Budget Committee and Council Kagan with the Sheriff's office will help go after the billions of dollars on the books uncollected and owed to the City in unpaid DOB fines and violations. He announced that the Madison-Meeting Marine-Homecrest Association will be meeting on Thursday March 21, 2022, at 7:00pm at the Carmine Carro Community Center located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue.

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

Kerri Malave Community Director representing Assemblymember Jaime Williams of the 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, stated the Assemblymember is busy working up in Albany, but she is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday March 1, 2022, from 11:00am to 5:00pm at 2750 Gerritsen Avenue. She placed in chat her email information: [Malavek@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Malavek@nyassembly.gov) and her phone number is 718 252-2124.

Shani L. Audain, Community & Government Affairs Liaison for LIVEOnNY. They are a nonprofit organization committed to helping New York live on through organ and tissue donation. They were the agency instrumental in helping navigate Officer Wilbert Mora's family through the donation process to save other lives. She is happy to participate in any joint efforts the community is engaging in, including Assembly Member Williams upcoming Blood Drive.

Zara O' Brien from One Drive will be partnering with Camba's Sheepshead Bay Houses for a Community Swap Event. They will be accepting donations of gently used items that residents can claim free of charge. This event keeps useable items out of our landfills, 200,000 pounds so far, and gives residents an opportunity to receive items free of charge they can utilize. The event will take place on Saturday March 5, 2022, from 12pm-3pm at 3679 Nostrand Avenue. She place a flyer in the chat.

Tova Chatz, Chief of Staff for Council Member Inna Vernikov, stated the Council Member has been working with DSNY to keep our streets clean, especially by the under passes and MTA's properties. If you know of any locations needing attention, please contact their office. Recently, there was a tragic death of a young student, who was hit and killed by a school bus, outside of Madison High School. Her friends created a make-shift memorial which was recently vandalized and destroyed with swastikas. The Council Member took immediate action and had the police looking into this horrible act to find the perpetrators. Tova added that when the Open Streets Restaurant permanent legislation comes before the full Council, Council Member Vernikov has also heard the complaints of constituents and plans to vote it down. They can be reached at 718 368-9176.

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

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Chair Scavo, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the January 25, 2022, minutes was made by Robert Gevertzman and seconded by Doug Luback.

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

Chairperson Scavo stated that this is the time of year when we reply to the all the responses, we receive on our budget requests. As expected, our requests for additional police, sanitation pick-ups and community park's needs were met with a resounding "no" answers. Needless to say, I am not pleased with their responses and would like with the Board's permission to send a letter of objection for the unacceptable answers we received. A motion to send a letter of objection was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Ronnie Tawil.

Chair Scavo then stated the office recently received a request for a letter of support from a bottle and can redemption firm looking to open shop at 2493 McDonald Avenue. She reminded the Board that when a similar business opened up on Avenue U, the mess it created attracted vermin and roaches to the area and as a nearby homeowner that would be unfair to visit on the neighborhood. This area is commercial, but like Avenue U there are homes nearby. A motion to reject a letter of support was made by Al Smaldone and seconded by Ronnie Tawil. By a show of hands, the Board unanimously voted against sending a letter of support. When asked if anyone was in favor? No hands were raised. No letter of support will be issued.

### **FEBRUARY 2022 LIQUOR LICENSES:**

#### **RENEWALS FOR WINE, BEER AND CIDER LICENSE:**

Knights of Baron Dekalb Inc.  
3000 Emmons Avenue  
11235

Mirage Diner  
717 Kings Highway  
11223

Argonne Marine Park  
Memorial Association  
2414 Gerritsen Avenue  
11229

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

**RENEWALS FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER AND CIDER LICENSE:**

Fucianna  
Mitoushi Sushi  
2478 Coney Island Avenue  
11223

**Upgrade to Full LIQUOR LICENSE:**

Sushi Tokyo  
627 Kings Highway  
11223

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:**

Chair Scavo announced the Public Safety meeting for February 8, 2022, was cancelled due to a meeting conflict for NYPD. There will be no report this month.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A question regarding the status of the Sheepshead Bay Post Office: Bay Station which had a fire a year ago still remains unoperational to this day. Chair Scavo stated she has received numerous complaints on this issue but has heard no word as to the status. Lenny Markh from Assemblyman Cymbrowitz's office stated although they are not a Federal Office, they have been looking into it and the USPS and the property owner are working to make the necessary repairs, in the interim a temporary post office retail location will open at Avenue X and East 18<sup>th</sup> Street. When his office has more details, they will be happy to share that with the Community Board Office. Someone asked about the PO Boxes inside, will they be at the new location? Lenny stated he did not have an answer on that but will look in to it further.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**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.\*