

**COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 20, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**

Rosamond Alvaranga  
Felina Backer  
Barbara Bieber  
Greg Borruso  
Roosevelt Boursiquot  
Andrenia Burgis  
Eugene Burshtein  
Jamaal Carryl  
Paul Curiale  
Gil Cygler  
Marie Delus  
Maria Garrett  
Denise Gordon  
Denise Gourdine  
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.

Aryanna Holder  
Roy Holder  
Naomi Hopkins  
Michael Ien  
Jibreel Jalloh  
Keny Jean Baptiste  
Aleah Laforce  
Omeil Morgan  
Doodley Plaisival  
David Price  
Viole Roberty  
Michelle Sealey  
Frank Seddio  
Victoria Stennett  
Jerry Toussaint

Nancy Walby  
Valerie Woodford

**GUESTS:**

Ted Anastasio  
Rachel Cheung  
Sharon Gadboos  
Jabari Edwards  
Hon. Roxanne Persaud  
Michael Benjamin  
Rob Muzeuchin  
Mark Partnow  
Maria Lewis  
Janney Harvell  
Lester Harvell  
Ernest Borno  
Dr. Jacky Cody  
Leyla Arcasoy  
P.O. Samuel Maria  
Cheryl Markowitz  
Al Markowitz  
A. Sinesi  
Carla Lacrove  
Daphney Stephen  
Rudy Pierre  
Kevin Pierre  
Jean Lobban  
James Ellis  
Su Sanni  
Taji Morris  
Brit Byrd  
Det. Ronette Benjamin  
Socrates Jean Gilles

Area Resident  
Pacific Palms Group LLC  
SBA Disaster Recovery  
Warzone Entertainment LLC  
State Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
Marine Park Community Association  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
69<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Mill Island Civic Association  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Dollaride  
Dollaride  
Dollaride  
Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct  
Create World Change

Christine Delius	Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19 <sup>th</sup> S.D.
Naomi Hipp	Area Resident
Sabrina Dieujuste	Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45 <sup>th</sup> Council District
Yolette Toussaint	Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41 <sup>st</sup> A.D.
Cathy Davis	Area Resident
Antonette McVian	Area Resident
David Phillip	Area Resident
Floyd Jarvis	Canarsie Alliance/BMCC
Andrew Zibell	VOAGNY Legacy Family Residence
Naomi Lehrer	Area Resident
Keisha Sydney	Sesame Flyers
Charlon Foster	Area Resident
Hon. Mercedes Narcisse	Council Member, 46 <sup>th</sup> C.D.
Hon. Jaime Williams	Assembly Member, 59 <sup>th</sup> A.D.
Orlando Ross	Representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, 9 <sup>th</sup> C.D.

**7:04 P.M.**

Board Member Tomas Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**7:08 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Secretary Barbara Bieber called the roll. A quorum was present to begin the meeting.

**7:11 P.M.**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He introduced the Executive Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Maria Garrett, Treasurer David Price, Secretary Barbara Bieber, and introduced the staff, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, Assistant District Manager Dorothy Paul, and Community Assistant Gail Fazio.

**7:15 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso introduced Su Sanni the CEO of Dollaride who provided information on his new proposed service van, Dollaride Inc. He is exploring the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to bring the largest fleet of EV dollar vans to the Community Board 18 area with a \$10 million grant. Council Member Mercedes Narcisse greeted everyone and asked for more information on Dollaride since she wasn't familiar with the company. Assembly Member Jaime Williams questioned Dollaride about providing their drivers with insurance when the Assembly just passed this in the budget for this year. She indicated that Bill, 5294 is before our Governor to sign to assist existing dollar van drivers with loans to operate legally because they can't afford insurance. She said replacing existing companies would not be fair. NYSERDA is probably behind this, and they are the reason why this bill is being held up at the Governor's office. Assembly Member Williams felt that money is not going to trickle down to the people that need to operate legal van service. Leroy Morrison of Alexis Van Lines explained that Dollaride is trying to get rid of all the commuter van companies that have been around for 32 years. We service NYC when they're in crisis and we can't get insurance. It's \$50,000 a year now and Dollaride is trying to take the \$62 million on top of the electric money to get rid of the commuter van lines in NYC. Su Sanni stated he must clarify; we're talking about two different things. He stated that the program we just discussed is completely different money and programming. The legislation that they are speaking about has to do with insurance. All dollar van drivers are eligible for that program but what they just presented today is a different program called C Tap that's funded by NYSERDA. It's not combined or associated with the insurance related bill that the Assembly Member just spoke about. There is no conflict between the two programs. All drivers are eligible for both at their

discretion. State Senator Roxanne Persaud stated that she would like to know who Dollaride is speaking with. She said that the conversations in Albany were to normalize the existing dollar vans and move them to electric vehicles and there was another program for insurance. The companies that were giving the insurance went belly up and now the Department of Finance has taken over to fund the program to make sure the vans have insurance. Again, she wanted to know who he spoke with in Albany because the NYSERDA Program was not intended for a new company to come in and take over existing companies. Su Sanni stated that as a member of the commuter van industry he's talked to several elected officials. State Senator Persaud stated that she's never had a conversation with Su Sanni. Su Sanni stated that again they're misconstruing two different issues and programs. There is the NYSERDA funded program called CTAP which is the Clean Transit Access program about electric vehicles and charging infrastructure for any commuter van driver who is interested. Then there is a separate and different program called the Commuter Van Stabilization Program. Senator Persaud clarified that the commuter vans and NYSERDA Program want to get rid of the current diesel vehicles and make sure the vehicles go electric. The commuter van industries as it stands cannot receive the funding because of the insurance issue and you can't operate a vehicle without insurance. It is two separate pieces of legislation but it's one issue, drivers cannot receive funding or apply because they are not eligible for it, and they can't afford \$36,000 dollars in insurance. That is why they are in limbo. State Senator Persaud asked who is covering the insurance for the NYSERDA vans that you're purchasing. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso expressed that there are too many intertwined elements and that we should table the discussion and vote when we have more information. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked if these license plates are going to be registered like TLC and adhere to the same rules and regulations. Su Sanni responded yes, and their drivers will have both a CDL and TLC license. Su Sanni explained that the TLC requires that you renew your license every two years. You also get your vehicle inspected by the NYC DOT once a year. Board Member Felina Backer inquired about the \$10 million dollars in grant money. Su Sanni responded that it's \$10 million that's assigned to them, but they must do the work to get the \$10 million and put it into the community. She agrees with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso that we need to table this. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso stated that this item was on the agenda for a vote, but we need more information. He's going to make a motion to table this vote until we can sit down with our elected officials. James Ellis Representing Dollaride stated that what's being presented today is a base license application, so he doesn't know if there's more clarity needed. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso expressed that the elected officials that represent us need to clarify how this funding works. This is a big issue, we don't like dollar vans, but they do service our community. If done properly with licensing and insurance, they're our friends. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso made a motion that the board table the new proposed service van authority Dollaride Inc. which is exploring the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and bringing EV dollar vans to Community Board 18. Board Member Felina Backer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7:53 P.M.**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Frank Seddio, Chair

Chair Frank Seddio thanked the members of the Nominating Committee and presented the nominees for the Slate of Officers for Community Board 18 for the calendar year 2024:

Chairperson – Naomi Hopkins  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson – Greg Borruso  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson – Maria Garrett  
Secretary – Barbara Bieber  
Treasurer – David Price

Chairperson Seddio asked for a motion to close and accept the nominations for the slate of Officers for Community Board 18 for the calendar year 2024. Board Member Michelle Sealey made the motion to close the nominations. Board Member Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed with 25 Yes Votes. Chairperson Seddio announced that the Election of Officers for 2024 will take place at a Special Meeting on January 17, 2024, for Board Members only prior to our regularly scheduled January Meeting. He also wanted to thank a great guy, Michael Ien, for his 35 years of service to CB 18. He was effective and thanked him for the great job that he has done in these last few years as our Chairperson. He knows it wasn't

an easy job and there were some tough times but his dedication to our community is greatly appreciated. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso thanked Frank Seddio and stated that he sits next to Mike at every meeting and that this is not an easy thing to do, and he needs to be commended.

**8:00 P.M.**

Assembly Member Jaime Williams, Representing the 59<sup>th</sup> A.D., greeted everyone and expressed that she wanted to bring the Board Members and community up to date on the conditions at Floyd Bennett Field. After rain and high winds on Sunday night, Runway 19 was covered in water from end to end. Some of the families tried to leave. It's a very dangerous and sad situation. She went on to speak about the City of Yes. She has an online petition saying No to the City of Yes and reminded everyone that we must preserve our community. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso stated that if you don't know about the City of Yes, they came before the Board last month making everything sound like roses and candy. It will destroy the middle class and the work we have put in our homes and community. If you haven't already signed the petition, please do so. You need to be here to vote against this, because it's not going to work for us.

**8:09 P.M.**

State Senator Roxanne Persaud, Representing the 19<sup>th</sup> S.D. greeted everyone and thanked everyone for their participation in all her community events and programs. Senator Persaud explained about an important piece of legislation that they are waiting for the Governor to sign. They are working with the insurance industry, American Cancer Society, and several other organizations to ensure that if you need Bio Marker Testing to pinpoint specific treatments for cancer, it should be available through insurance coverage. No one should die because an insurance company refuses to pay. There have been some amendments to the legislation which the American Cancer Society and Oncology Society can work with. We are hoping the bill will be signed soon and that everyone who is eligible for Bio Marker Testing will be able to have it paid for by their insurance company. She also advised the community to call 311, if they see yellow school buses on residential blocks.

**8:13 P.M.**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 15, 2023. Board Member David Price made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Board Member Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8:17 P.M.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairperson Paul Curiale began his report with greetings from Board Member Jim Buchanan and former board Member zSylvia Whiteside and asked that we keep them in our prayers.

**SLA/CANNABIS COMMITTEE** – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

1. New York State Office of Cannabis Management Application Received – Vote

**NEW APPLICATION FOR AN ADULT- USE RETAIL DISPENSARY PREMISES LICENSE**

- Seth Green, Green World 1739 LLC, 1739 Flatbush Avenue – 11234
- Larry Gershman, Kosher Cannabis LLC., 2346 Flatbush Avenue – 11210
- Rachel Cheung, Pacific Palms Group LLC, 9611 Glenwood Road – 11236

Chairperson Paul Curiale stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> Police Precincts about the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Premises License Applications received from Seth Green, Green World 1739 LLC, 1739 Flatbush Avenue, 11234, Larry Gershman, Kosher Cannabis LLC., 2346 Flatbush Avenue, 11210, and Rachel

Cheung, Pacific Palms Group LLC, 9611 Glenwood Road, 11236 and no objections were received. He explained that the Committee met with only one of the applicants. He stated that the Cannabis Committee wishes to recommend approval of the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Premises License Applications received from Rachel Cheung, Pacific Palms Group LLC, 9611 Glenwood Road, 11236. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso asked what the Committee looks at to approve or deny an application. Board Member Jamaal Carryl explained that the Committee, in addition to finding out the background of the applicants asks if they have a partner and what their connection is to the community. We ask if they have any experience dealing with cannabis, running a business, if they plan to make improvements on the property such as lighting and product display. The Committee asks about security to prevent theft, loitering and criminality. Board Member Barbara Bieber asked why the Board Members are not privy to that information and the ultimate outcome. Chairperson Paul Curiale explained that there's an SLA/Cannabis Committee to interview, ask questions and bring our recommendation to the Board for a vote. Board Member Jamaal Carryl explained they are coming for basically a preliminary ability to proceed, but before they can fully open the business, they do need to come back. Board Member David Price stated that based on his understanding after we vote everyone that we've approved thus far, they're coming back. Board Member Carryl responded that is correct. Board Member Price asked what happens if they don't come back. Board Member Carryl explained that they need to come back with the full plan as part of the application. Board Member Price asked when will the applicant have to come back and is there a policy on that. Board Member Carryl stated that he would have to clarify but it would be before the business is able to proceed forward with the actual opening. Board Member Price suggested that it would make sense for the committee to have a policy. Chairperson Curiale thanked the Board Members for their input and reminded everyone that the Board is strictly advisory. Board Member Rosamond Alvaranga stated that Board Member Carryl explained that this is a preliminary so that they can continue with the process and that they will come back with the floor and security plans etc. What happens if we vote tonight and we're not satisfied with those plans when they come back in 30, or 60 days. We've already given them the green light. Board Member Naomi Hopkins explained that all these applications that are coming in right now are part of one state request for proposals. We've given a lot of approvals thus far but not all of them are going to be granted licenses. Based off the one-page application that Chairperson Curiale showed us and the questions about how people got into Cannabis and trying to figure out if they are passionate about this or are these folks just trying to make money grabs. OCM ultimately makes that decision and the applicants come back before us. She just wanted to make sure that everyone understood that part. Chairperson Michael Ien asked what's the difference between Kosher Cannabis and regular Cannabis. Chairperson Curiale explained that the Kosher Cannabis is fertilized with natural, more organic products. Chairperson Paul Curiale made a motion to approve the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Premises License Applications received from Rachel Cheung, Pacific Palms Group LLC, 9611 Glenwood Road, 11236. Board Member Jamaal Carryl seconded the motion. The motion passed with 16 Yes, 8 No, and 1 Abstention Votes. He then introduced the applicant and Rachel Cheung, Pacific Palms Group LLC, 9611 Glenwood Road, 11236. She answered all the questions that were asked.

Chairperson Paul Curiale asked for a motion to table the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Premises License Applications received from Seth Green, Green World 1739 LLC, 1739 Flatbush Avenue, 11234, and Larry Gershman, Kosher Cannabis LLC., 2346 Flatbush Avenue, 11210. Board Member Michelle Sealey made a motion. Board Member Tomas Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed with 27 Yes, 1 No Votes.

## 2. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

### **NEW APPLICATION AND TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- War Zone Entertainment LLC, N/A, 2182-2184 Flatbush Avenue, 11234

### **RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge Inc., Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge, 1810 Flatbush Avenue, 11210

Chairperson Paul Curiale stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local

ected officials, civic associations, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct about the SLA New and Renewal Applications received from War Zone Entertainment LLC, N/A, 2182-2184 Flatbush Avenue, 11234, and Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge Inc., Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge, 1810 Flatbush Avenue, 11210 and no objections were received. Chairperson Curiale introduced Jabari Edwards, Representing Warzone Entertainment LLC. Chairperson Curiale asked for a motion to approve the SLA New and Temporary Retail Permit Application received from War Zone Entertainment LLC, N/A, 2182-2184 Flatbush Avenue, 11234. Board Member Michelle Sealey made the motion. Board Member Eugene Burshtein seconded the motion. The motion passed with 22 Yes, 1 No and 1 Abstention Votes.

Chairperson Curiale then asked for a motion to approve the SLA Renewal Application received from Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge Inc., Ochos Rios Seafood and Lounge, 1810 Flatbush Avenue, 11210. Board Member Eugene Burshtein made the motion. Board Member Maria Garrett seconded the motion. The motion passed with 23 Yes, 1 No and 1 Abstention Votes.

### **8:46 P.M.**

#### **PARKS COMMITTEE** – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

##### **Activities and volunteer opportunities in our Parks:**

**Aside from the NY Road Runner’s Open Run on the weekends, here are some other FREE activities in our parks during this holiday season that you and your family may find fun and interesting:**

1. **Festival of Lights: Winter Solstice Astronomy**, Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30pm, at the Carmine Carro Community Center in Marine Park (3000 Fillmore Avenue). Observe the December moon and constellations with the Urban Park Rangers and learn how the winter solstice this week will turn our Northern hemisphere toward longer days.
2. **Birding: Winter Birds**, Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 – 2:00pm, at the Salt Marsh Nature Center in Marine Park (Avenue U & East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street). Birding programs led by the Urban Park Rangers are appropriate for all skill levels and beginners are welcome. Please bring your own binoculars.
3. **Kids Week: Winter Scavenger Hunt**, Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:00pm, at the Salt Marsh Nature Center. The Winter season is unpredictable, but animals and plants adapt to the changes. Join the Urban Park Rangers and find some of these adaptations on a scavenger hunt along the trail.
4. **Marine Park Alliance Presents: Festival of Lights – Kwanzaa**, Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 5:00pm, at the Carmine Carro Community Center. Join the Marine Park Alliance for Kwanzaa, a New Year’s celebration of African community values, and light a Kinara. The presentation will be led by Brooklyn College Professor Simanique Moody.
5. **Kids Week: Seal Exploration**, Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:00pm, at Lemon Creek Park in Staten Island (Sharrott Avenue and Hylan Boulevard). Join the Urban Park Rangers as they walk along the beach in search of seals! They will show you how to use binoculars and spotting scopes along the beach to search for seals and will share information about this magnificent marine animal. Please bring your own binoculars.

**Remember to check out all the other fun activities and programs in our NYC Parks by calling 311 or going online to [www.nyc.gov/park](http://www.nyc.gov/park).**

### **8:55 P.M.**

#### **DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT** – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening.

**TIS THE SEASON TO BE EVERYWHERE. I WAS HAPPY TO JOIN OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & REPRESENT CB18 AT THE FOLLOWING**

69<sup>TH</sup> Pct - Thanksgiving Dinner & Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association Thanksgiving lunch. Thank you, Presidents Gardy Brazela & Norine Medas.

Thank you, Assembly Member Jaime Williams, for a pop-up Turkey distribution

Senator Roxanne Persaud's Shredding Event – thank you

Canarsie Lions Thanksgiving Brotherhood Program – thank you President Jean Joseph & all of the Lions.

The Bernard Catcher Ecumenical Service- thank you St. Bernard's Church & Temple Sholom

Small Business Saturday supports the Mom & Pop stores along Rockaway Parkway – thank you Norine Medas for your dedication to the Rockaway Parkway Merchants

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse & Assembly Member Jaime Williams each hosted informational meeting on the City of Yes

Tree lightings at the Lott House, Amersfort Park, Marine Park, Sunner's Playground, Fox Playground & Millennium Dev. – Thank you Greg Borruso, Council Member Farah Louis, Paul Curiale and Assembly Member Jaime Williams

Meeting about Canarsie's flooding and settling issues – thank you Assembly Member Jaime Williams

Thank you, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse for distributing warm coats and winter items to those in need

Holiday Parties with our local organizations -- 69<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council, Mill Basin Civic, Bridge Multi-cultural and Marine Park Civic

**COMMUNITY BOARD 18 DECEMBER CABINET MEETING**

**SANITATION** – Composting is ongoing. Mock snow drill training

**63<sup>rd</sup> Pct.** – Continuing to tow derelict vehicles, averaging 40 a month. Increasing patrols during the Holiday season.

**69<sup>th</sup> Pct.** – Toy distribution information.

**DDC** – B82 Select Bus Service work in progress along Kings Highway.

**DOB** – Representatives will be setting up hours for community residents who would like to meet with them in both local elected officials' offices & Community Boards offices.

**BROOKLDALE HOSPITAL** – 500 hundred Thanksgiving baskets and 50 Turkeys were distributed throughout the community. Dr. Sandra Scott has been appointed CEO of One Brooklyn Health.

**FDNY**- Winter is fire season due to cooking, candles, lithium batteries and decorations, visit FDNY smart for safety tips.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT**- Spoke about budget cuts.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** – Virtual access to mental health for 13-17year old's at talkspace.com through chat or videoconferencing.

**Sabrina Dieujuste**, representing **Councilmember Farah Louis**, **Donald Cranston** representing **Assembly Member Jaime Williams**, **Sheri Toiv** representing **State Senator Simcha Felder** announced upcoming community events.

**IN & AROUND CB 18**

DOT approved traffic lights at the intersection of Avenue M & East 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Avenue U & E. 61<sup>st</sup> St.

All way stop signs were installed at the intersection of Veterans Ave. & E. 66<sup>th</sup> St.

The ripped POW flag above the Community Board building is being replaced.

DOT will be removing a political banner that was hung above a tree on Coleman St.

Beginning Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> you can drop your Christmas tree off at a Mulchfest site. Call 311 for the nearest drop-off site.

The DOT will be installing lockers as part of the LOCKER NYC pilot program. These lockers are free and will cut down on package thefts. This pilot program will run for 12 months, is free of charge and available 24/7. The Lockers will be located at 1380 Rockaway Parkway (Ideal Food Basket Supermarket). As soon as they are up and running, the Community Board will send out notification.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

Hope everyone that celebrated Chanukah had a Happy & Healthy Holiday

Peace & Joy to everyone getting ready to celebrate Christmas

A wish for a bright & meaningful Kwanzaa

Let's ring in 2024 with good cheer, good food, good health and the very best the New Year has to offer.

### **9:02 P.M.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Michael Ien

Chair Michael Ien took a moment to let everyone know that he's stepping down as Chairperson of Community Board 18. He said, there comes a time when being just a member, is a welcome relief and went on to thank some long time members & friends that have made serving as Chairperson of this Community Board a pleasure - Paul Curiale, Jim Buchanan, Sallie Bennett, Tom Hernandez, Frank Seddio, his predecessor Gardy Brazela, Michelle Sealey, Nancy Walby, Barbara Bieber, Bob Tracey, Sal Calise, Valerie Woodford, Greg Borruso, Maria Garrett, and Violine Roberty. He also thanked Sue Ann for all her support and guidance, and Dorothy & Gail for all their help. Next meeting, he's out in the audience with all his fellow members. Board Member Tomas Hernandez Jr. expressed that he's been a board member for 15 years and he'd like to thank Chairperson Michael Ien for his outstanding leadership from the bottom of his heart. He also stated that change is good and welcomed our new chairperson extending the best of luck to her. Board Member Barbara Bieber expressed how Michael and she are more like family and remembers how he stayed with her when her mother passed away. District Manager Sue Ann Partnow expressed that on behalf of the staff, it's been an absolute pleasure working with Michael these last two and half years and she knows that there are times that we didn't get along because he's a Boston Red Sox fan and she's a Yankees fan, that was our only problem, otherwise we worked great together. DM Partnow thanked Michael for doing a great job and on behalf of Dot and Gail, she wished Michael all the best. To the incoming Executive Board, she knows some of our seasoned members will remain in their respective positions and we're always happy to work with all of you. She wished Naomi Hopkins the very best of luck as she takes on her new position as Chair of Community Board 18. We look forward to an exciting year. We thank the Executive Board in advance for the work we know that you're going to do. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso expressed that he knows what it's like to be a Community Board Member, and it's not a paid position for us. We do it because we love our community. Remember one thing, as a Board Member or a member of the community, we're all here for the same reason to preserve our neighborhoods. Mike, thank you for your dedicated service. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Maria Garrett expressed that she and Mike go back a long way as neighbors and he's a member of her civic. She thanked Mike for the service that he did here at the Community Board, she knows that it was hard work.

### **9:10 P.M.**

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso introduced Orlando Ross, Representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, 9<sup>th</sup> C.D. who greeted everyone, thanked Chairman Michael Ien for his service and welcomed incoming Chair Naomi Hopkins. He briefly discussed flooding issues and the resources that the SBA can provide. He introduced the SBA Disaster Team who spoke briefly about the flooding that took place on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and discussed federal programs. Orlando Ross then continued with information on upcoming programs, events, and contact information.



Sabrina Dieujuste, Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45<sup>th</sup> C.D., extended holiday greetings and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

Michael Benjamin brought greetings from State Senator Kevin Parker, 21<sup>st</sup> S.D. He spoke with the Senator this afternoon and he asked him to please let the community know that he is saying No to the City of Yes.

Yolette Toussaint, Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41<sup>st</sup> A.D., extended holiday greetings and provided information on programs, and upcoming community events.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Jibreel Jalloh spoke about gun violence and the two people that were shot in our community earlier this year. A letter was sent to the elected officials from the Board Members last year asking that they act more urgently on gun violence. He would like to see a follow-up letter sent out. Board Member Jibreel Jalloh cares a lot about gun violence and will be holding a rally as President of the Flossy Org. on Saturday at 2 PM at the L train. Board Member David Price asked if he wanted to bring that up for a vote for next month and list it in New Business. Board Member Jibreel Jalloh made a motion for the board to send a third follow up letter to our elected officials demanding an adequate response to the epidemic of gun violence in our community and that we demand a response by the following board meeting from our elected representatives.

P.O. Samuel, 69<sup>th</sup> Pct., greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meeting info, and event updates.

Brit Byrd, Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, greeted everyone and informed the members that Community Board applications are available on the Borough President's website until February 19th. All members with expiring terms should have received notification informing them to reapply. Members who do not respond within the said window will not be reappointed.

Board Member David Price stated that in his last report he spoke about the excess funds at Community Board 18. He will be meeting with the Budget Committee prior to next month's meeting to discuss the best ways to spend the monies. We will review estimates obtained by the Community Board staff and vote on them for the remainder of the fiscal year. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso reminded him about the party he promised. Board Member Price stated that light meals and refreshments for Board Members are on the list.

Keisha Sydney, from Sesame Flyers, greeted everyone and shared information on upcoming programs and events.

Chairperson Ien wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business or discussion, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Greg Borruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Barbara Bieber seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

*End....*