



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 18

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COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING VIA WEBEX WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Eric L. Adams
Borough President
Gardy Brazela
Chairperson
Dorothy Turano
District Manager

MINUTES

7:11 P.M.

Chairperson Gardy Brazela opened the Virtual Board Meeting of Community Board 18.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Gardy Brazela

- He welcomed everyone back and informed the board that although we haven't seen each other in six months due to Covid19 know that the District Manager and her staff have been working for the community.

- He explained:

1. In preparation for the FY 2022 Capital and Expense Budget submissions, Board Members, local Civic Associations, and the community-at-large are invited to submit budget requests for consideration by the Board for inclusion in the Board's Budget submissions for FY'22. Our completed Capital and Expense Budget requests, no more than a total of forty (40) Capital and twenty-five (25) Expense Requests, will be voted on and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for their review and for the Agency Responses to our requests.
2. Ask if anyone has any requests for consideration at this time. They can also email, mail, fax or telephone their requests so that the Board may have them evaluated for consideration.

District Manager Dorothy Turano introduced **Assembly Woman Helene E. Weinstein**

Assembly Woman Helene E. Weinstein greeted everyone and wished everyone who's celebrating the Jewish New Year this weekend a sweet and Happy New Year.

- Her office is open by appointment. They have helped a lot of people with unemployment issues and connecting them with other services. If you know anyone that needs help, please get in touch with her office.

-The MetroCard van started.

- Free Flu Shots will be available. They are working with Mount Sinai and Beth Israel Hospital. One will be along with Council Woman Farah Louis at the Phillip Howard Houses and the other will be in Sheepshead Bay/Marine Park area. Be in touch with her office if you're interested.

District Manager Dorothy Turano introduced **Council Woman Farah Louis**

Council Woman Farah Louis greeted everyone.

- Just want to make sure everyone gets counted. There are several Census Outreach Events happening around the district. September 30th is the Census Deadline.
- Voter Registration Deadline is October 9th as well.
- This weekend she is partnering on a few Back to School and Distribution and School Supplies Events with Assembly Member Helene E. Weinstein and Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group at Sunners Playground at 11:00 AM. She also has a Back to School Distribution Event at the Flatbush Junction from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Just wanted to let everyone know if they need or their neighbors need some extra school supplies for your kids please feel free to stop by.
- She wished those celebrating Rosh Hashanah this weekend a Happy Holiday. She also stated that she looks forward to connecting with everyone again even despite the new normalcy. She's happy to see her colleagues and thanked District Manager Dorothy Turano and Chairperson Gardy Brazela.

District Manager Dorothy Turano introduced **Assembly Woman Jaime Williams**

Assembly Woman Jaime Williams greeted everyone.

- Her office in partnership with Council Member Alan Maisel, State Senator Roxanne Persaud and State Senator Andrew Gounardes has been doing a series of park cleanups for the past few weeks. If you go to her Facebook page you will see that they will be doing a cleanup at Plumb Beach. Plumb Beach has been really filled up with garbage etc. so they will be there this weekend from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM and another from 11:00 PM to 12:30 PM. For more information call her office.
- She informed the board that today she did a Food Pop Up at her office in Collaboration with Council member Alan Maisel and the State Senator Roxanne Persaud which was very successful. This coming Friday they will be doing another one in Canarsie at the 69th Police Precinct. Next week Tuesday there will be another food distribution that's in collaboration with Council Member Alan Maisel, State Senator Roxanne Persaud and Chairperson Gardy Brazela from 12:00 PM until supplies last.
- She stated that although we're going through different times right now with this pandemic she wants to thank her colleagues who have really chipped in. If anyone needs any information they can go to her Facebook page or call her office.

District Manager Dorothy Turano introduced **Captain Robert Conwell of the 69th Police Precinct**

1. - She informed the board that Capt. Robert Conwell was assigned to the 69th Precinct as the Commanding Officer. Capt. Conwell who was the Commanding Officer of the 68th Precinct serving the CB 10 area of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Fort Hamilton, replaced Deputy Inspector Terrell Anderson who was transferred to the 73rd Precinct. Josephine Beckmann, District Manager of CB 10, reached out to DM Turano to praise the leadership qualities and

accomplishments of Capt. Conwell. District Manager Turano congratulated and welcomed Captain Conwell on his assignment to serve the Canarsie community.

Captain Robert Conwell of the 69th Police Precinct introduced himself and greeted everyone.

- He informed the board that ideally, he would not wait three months to introduce himself. He assured us that the 73rd Police Precinct is good for Deputy Inspector Anderson's career.
- He informed the board that he's been with the Police Department for 21 years. He started out as a Transit Cop in District 33 in Canarsie on the L Train Line.
- He informed the board that it has been a busy summer in Canarsie. They have had an increase in Felony Assaults, Gun Violence, Break-ins/Grand Larceny Car Thefts. However, they have made quality arrests. They have made more gun arrests this year than last year.
- It was a successful Labor Day Weekend here in Canarsie. The overhead borough command gave them extra resources and addressed some house parties as best as they could this year.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Dorothy Turano

- She greeted everyone and reported the following:

1. The Mill Basin Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library reopened for limited services in their lobby. Masks are required for all patrons over the age of 2 years. Call the Library at 718-241-3973 with any questions or to reserve materials.
2. Kings Plaza Shopping Center Management continues to allow the illegally parking of auto dealers' cars in their parking lot. They have now added to their usual hundreds of illegally stored new cars, numerous 4-sale cars. DOB issue violations to Kings Plaza Management and the dealerships pay the fines. Kings Plaza Management continues to collect the rent.
3. Our office staff has been working with the Department of Information, Technology & Telecommunications (DOITT) and various city agencies for several months to create an effective Community Board Website. By the end of this month we will have a functioning Website. Thank you for your patience.

District Manager Dorothy Turano extended her best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to those observing the Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah. She also extended her best wishes to all to stay well, safe and happy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS COMMITTEE – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

1. The Community Board Parks Committee met via Webex with the Department of Parks and the community for a presentation concerning the Marine Park I.S. 278 Playground schematic plans for reconstruction of the playground. The Committee approved the plans and the representatives from the Department of Parks agreed to address the following concerns and requests:

- Change the configuration of the new main entrance on Fillmore Avenue to allow for a better foot traffic flow in. The current schematic shows a potential bottleneck at the point where the two (2) paths merge inside the playground.
- Add a spout to fill bottles at the water fountains.
- Arrange the tables and benches to encourage social distancing. While it's impossible to control social distancing of the humans using the playground; at the very least the placement of the picnic tables and benches should allow for distancing between family groups.
- Tree planting projects in Marine Park, specifically around the Oval and nearby areas? If not, how would an individual or community group go about requesting the planting of more trees in that area of Marine Park? And, could this request be submitted directly to Parks, or would the request need to be submitted through the Community Board? Since there is no plan to plant any trees as of yet in the oval at Marine Park.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – Sal Calise, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Application Received and Vote for the Following:

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:

- Sylk Cove Cocktail Lounge, Inc., 1370 Rockaway Parkway, 11236
- T Steakhouse, LLC, 3223 Quentin Road – 11234

The Community Board notified the Board Members, the local civic associations and the 63rd and 69th Police Precincts about the SLA Applications. No objections were received.

He asked if any of the Applicants were present for questions and or comments.

- Mary Eizak was present for T Steakhouse LLC

There being no further comments or questions he made the following motion:
Community Board #18 recommends Approval of the New Applications received from the Sylk Cove Cocktail Lounge, Inc., 1370 Rockaway Parkway and the T Steakhouse, 3223 Quentin Road – VOTE

- **Board Member Sal Calise Motioned 1st**
- **Board Member Maria Garrett Motioned 2nd**
- **The vote was unanimous**

OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairperson Gardy Brazela opened the Open Discussion portion of the meeting.

Board Member Judy Newton asked if we received any complaints about the bus stop shelter on the Northeast corner of Avenue U and Stuart Street is too close to the corner. The shelter should've been erected east of where it stands now. Shelter should be moved further away from the intersection.

District Manager Dorothy Turano informed her that we would have the MTA look into it.

District Manager Dorothy Turano introduced **Kimberly Vick, East 59th Street Resident**

Kimberly Vick, East 59th Street Resident informed us that her and her neighbors are trying to start a block association on East 59th Street between Avenue L and Avenue M.

District Manager Dorothy Turano advised her to send us an email of what she's interested in and we will send her contact information for whom to get in contact with. She also advised her to get in contact with her elected officials.

Board Members Maria Garrett asked what block she lives on.

District Manager Dorothy Turano informed **Kimberly Vick** that **Board Member Maria Garrett** has a successful Block Association that she started and that she can put her in contact with her.

Board Member Maria Garrett stated that she would be glad to assist her.

Board Member Barbara Bieber stated that when she looked up the address of the New SLA application for Sylk Cove Cocktail Lounge, Inc at 1370 Rockaway Parkway she couldn't find it and that's not the name that it's under and that they have it as the Bamboo.

Dorothy Paul Community Assistant informed her that that's the name of the previous establishment.

District Manager Dorothy Turano informed her that the previous establishment went out of business and this Application is for new owners.

Chairperson Gardy Brazela introduced **Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office**

Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office greeted everyone.

- He informed the board that the D.A.'s Office in collaboration with the NYPD held a Gun Buy Back in East New York and 34 guns were successfully brought back and as an incentive they received a gift card of \$200.
- Lastly, on August 18th District Attorney Gonzalez announced the creation of the Gun Violence Suppression Bureau. The Gun Violence Suppression Bureau will provide laser like focus on other resources and expertise on the prosecution of gun violence possession crimes. The District Attorney is paying attention to gun violence throughout Brooklyn and they're doing everything they can to suppress gun violence in especially East New York, Canarsie, and just about every community board out there in Brooklyn.
- He provided his cell phone number 917-216-9040 and email address ramjitr@brooklynda.org.

Board Member Tom Hernandez wanted to follow up with **Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office** regarding a young 35 year old Assistant District Attorney by the name of Sarah Pitt who was killed while riding a bike and was struck by a Charter Bus. He sent condolences to her family and wanted to find out what happened and if any charges were brought.

Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office stated that the District attorney will be holding a press conference where he will address those questions. They had a vigil at the site where Sarah Pitt succumbed to her injuries. He spoke about how Sarah Pitt who she was and that she worked in their Appeals Bureau and throughout Covid19 she came and helped out the executives. She was a well-rounded person who loved to help and did a lot of pro bono work. He thanked Board Member Tom Hernandez for his condolences and he'll share them with the D.A.'s Office as well. He couldn't speak too much on it because there's an ongoing investigation.

Board Member Tom Hernandez stated that this is not the first death in NYC this year from bikes. Safety precautions should be made so that incidents like this don't happen again.

District Manager Dorothy Turano stated that the NYC Department Transportation wanted to speak with us tonight but she told them that they couldn't do it and that they're going to have to hold their own Webex or Zoom whichever they prefer. They are going to discuss the problems of the bike paths, and bus lanes and we will have a healthy conversation with them about that and plan on doing that in the future. But you are absolutely right there are a lot of concerns. Something has to be done about the Transportation.

Board Member Denise Gourdine asked if **Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office** how do they pick the areas to do the Gun Buy Back. Because if there's an increase in gun violence in Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Canarsie wouldn't that also be a place to do a Gun Buy Back.

Roopesh Ramjit Public Engagement Associate, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office stated that the Gun Buy Back that took place in East New York is a series of Gun Buy Back Programs that are going to take place throughout the borough of Brooklyn. It's just that they wanted the first one to be on the 75/81 Brooklyn North and they will be working their way to Brooklyn South.

Board Member Denise Gourdine she thanked him because they seem to take place in Harlem and other areas.

Chairperson Gardy Brazela asked if there were any other questions. He wished his Jewish friends a Happy Holiday and hopes to see everyone next month.

Chairperson Gardy Brazela introduced **Assembly Member Nick Perry**

Assembly Member Nick Perry greeted everyone and provided an update of programs and events.

Chairperson Gardy Brazela made a motion to adjourn the board meeting and **Board Member Judy Newton 2nd** the motion. The meeting was adjourned at **8:02 P.M.**

End.....