Brooklyn Community Board 9 890 Nostrand Ave Brooklyn, New York 11225 Environmental Protection Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023 Meeting ID: 827 2407 4571

Attendance (Board Members): Debbie Timothy, Committee Chair; Rod S. Herbet, Sylveta Hamiton-Gonzales, Theresa Westerdahl

Attendance (Community Resident Members): N/A

Absent (Board Members): N/A

Absent (Community Resident Members): N/A

Guests: James, KC Coryatt, Nicolas Almonor (CB9), Rod Herbert (CB9), Alexandra Cameron

Agency Representatives: Khalid J. Jemmott, Community Associate

I. Call to order:

a. Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by Chair Debbie Timothy

II. Words of Encouragement

a. Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales

III. Acceptance of Minutes of September 7, 2023 & Meeting Agenda for October 16, 2023

IV. Introductions/Roll Call

a. Committee members and guests

V. New Business

- **a.** Infrastructure drainage system capacity is being exceeded! How do we advocate on behalf of our community?
- **b.** Record-setting rain overwhelmed New York City's sewer system Friday, September 29, 2023, sending a surge of floodwater coursing through streets and into basements, schools, subways, and vehicles throughout the nation's most populous city.
- c. The water rose fast and furious, catching some commuters off guard as they slogged through Friday morning's rush hour. First responders jumped into action where needed, plucking people from stranded cars and basements filling them like bathtubs.
- d. More rain fell in a single day at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport nearly 8 inches than any other since 1948. A month's worth of rain fell in Brooklyn in just three hours as it was hit by some of the storm's most intense rainfall rates Friday morning.
- e. Scientists say prolific totals are a symptom of climate change with a warmer atmosphere acting like a massive sponge, able to sop up more water vapor and then

wring it out in intense spurts which can easily overwhelm outdated flood protections.

- i. "Overall, as we know, this changing weather pattern is the result of climate change," Rohit Aggarwal, New York City's Chief Climate Officer said in a Friday morning news conference. "And the sad reality is our climate is changing faster than our infrastructure can respond to our overwhelmed 7,400 miles of pipes that carry storm water and sewage under hard surfaces to treatment plants.
- f. The New York City drainage system exceeded its limitation of 1.75 inches in rainfall per hr. More than 2 inches received across all 5 Boroughs. As a community resource, the Environmental Protection Committee will be working on getting information on our current rainstorm situation to provide community residents with this information ahead of these storms.
- **g.** What form of action can we take to protect our community from the changing weather pattern which is the result of climate change.
 - i. The following are some proposed EP goals:
 - **ii.** Arrange for a presentation from DEP staff to gain knowledge on the status of our current drainage system in Brooklyn. Rod Herbert has contact information for DEP staff, he will make contact.
 - iii. Inquire about NYS/NYC Hydraulic Installation project for storm water.
 - iv. Where are the locations of storm water basins in the community?
 - v. What is the capacity of these basins?
 - vi. Are there plans to increase the capacity given the current of storm water?
 - vii. Inquiry into the Transit Authority piping system
 - viii. Possible installation of storm water pumps in community
 - ix. New York City's communities are affected by hazards in different ways. The Community Risk Assessment Dashboard combines data from historical events with current information to make it easy for users to understand how communities are affected by hazards, as well as provide strategies, programs and resources known as mitigation actions that can reduce a community's potential risk of being affected in the future
- h. Below are some helpful links for residents pertaining to NYC current flooding crisis.
 - i. Brooklyn CD9 Crown Heights South, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate Mitigation Actions: https://nychazardmitigation.com/cradashboard/
 - ii. Coastal Storms & Hurricanes: Know Your Zone https://www.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/coastal-storms-hurricanes.page
 - iii. Weather Emergencies: Extreme Weather and Flooding

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/

iv. NYC Flood Hazard Mapper:

https://dcp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1c37d271fba14163bbb520517153d6d5

- VI. To learn more about the City's long-term plan to prepare for increased rainfall, read the <u>NYC Stormwater Resiliency Plan</u> at <u>nyc.gov/resiliency</u>.
 - a. The conclusion is our drainage system is in dire need of billions of dollars in upgrades, NYS/NYC government agencies must stop waiting for the storm to happen but have an immediate plan in place and be sure that all residents are kept updated.

b. Water ponding throughout our community is still an ongoing issue in various areas throughout the community. See DOT Brooklyn Milling and Street Paving Schedule 10/15/2023 – 1-/21/2023 below.

https://nycstreets.net/PavementWorks/Project/WeeklyResurfacingSchedule/B

- VII. Prospect Park Zoo remains closed due to zoning/flooding issues.
- VIII. Zip cars parked on street in community Khalid will follow up on protocol and get back to EP Committee.
- IX. Commercial vehicles parked on streets in the community Rod Herbert has been in contact with 311. He currently has 95 tickets; his goal is 250 before inquiring further about next steps. Tractor Trailer parked on Winthrop Street, the owner lives in Bushwick, Brooklyn.
- X. Alternate side parking remains an issue as parked cars remain on the streets without moving or being issued a summons. Enforcement is necessary as this poses a problem when the sweeper is scheduled.
- XI. Mr. Herbert will bring up safety concerns at the next 71st Precinct Safety Committee meeting.
- XII. Theresa Westerdahl expressed concerns about some developments in the community (Bedford Avenue btw. (Sullivan & Empire Blvd.) that are non-union regulated.
- XIII. Recent shooting at Major Owens Housing Complex; two people shot. No further information was disclosed.
- XIV. **DSNY Compost Giveback Event** Ronald McNair Park Eastern Parkway between Washington Avenue and Classon Avenue< Brooklyn, NY 11238
 - a. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dsny-compost-giveback-event-ronald-mcnairpark-tickets-695551702867?aff=oddtdtcreator
- XV. Old Business
 CB9 Environmental protection Committee will continue to steer on those issues which directly and indirectly impact our community.
- XVI. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted by Khalid J. Jemmott