



Queens Community Board 13

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GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE, BELLEROSE, NY

Attendance

Present:

Verdell Boncoeur; Angela Augugliaro; Terrance Banks; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Jacqueline Campbell; Daisy Carew; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Samuel Elliott; Seymour Finkelstein; Richard Hellenbrecht; Lloyd Hicks; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Konter; Kangela Moore; Marcia O'Brien; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Nagassar Ramgarib; Ashok Satkalmi; Sanu Thomas; Clive Williams; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Isa Avery; Kyle Bragg; Tanya Cruz; Bruno DeFrancheschi; Charles Farruggia; Robert Glover; Anthony Greene; Edward Harap; Bonnie Huie; Antony Kuncheria; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Mathew Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Derrick Warmington; Jackie Wilson

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Chair then recognized City Councilman-elect Barry Grodenchik who spoke:

- Spoke about when he would assume office
- He came to say hello to the community at-large and to those who resided in boards in the district he now represented
- He would be partnering with Councilman I. Deenek Miller to push DOT to improve the roadway on Jamaica Avenue
- His office would be the same office that former Councilman Mark Weprin housed
- His public Swearing-In Ceremony would be held at Martin Van Buren High School on Sunday, November 29, 2015

Board Chair's Report

The Chair spoke to the Board members about a glitch in the Community Board's computer that caused confusion over the date of tonight's meeting.

The Chair next gave his report listing all of the events he had attended since the last General Board Meeting.

He also explained why at the previous Board Meeting he recognized the President of the Cambria Heights Civic Association before a Board member had an opportunity to speak. The explanation was that the Ohel Chabad issue was a "hot" issue, and Steven Taylor, the Civic Association President, had to leave urgently because of a family emergency. The Chair felt it was very important for the full Board to hear the perspective of the Civic that represented the community before he had to leave and the vote on the item was taken.

The Chair then presented a plaque to Board member Lloyd Hicks for his 35 years of service on Community Board 13. Mr. Hicks came to the podium and received the award, and thanked the Board for recognizing his service.

Guest Speakers

NYPD

Lieutenant Michael Lauterborn of NYPD 105 Precinct Special Operations, spoke of how crime was trending downward (2%). There has been a spike in car thefts near the GCP; NYPD set up some cameras for surveillance. A number of tire rims have been stolen in the southern part of the precinct, including off the car of one of our board members.

Jim Delaney complained about a Hookah Lounge on Hillside Avenue – cars are blocking driveways; they are serving alcohol to under-aged kids. The Lieutenant said he would deploy the Midnight Conditions Unit to monitor the location.

Seymour Finkelstein spoke about trucks double-parking in traffic lanes to unload, creating a traffic condition, and not getting violations at Hillside Avenue and 260th Street, the APNA Supermarket.

Kangela Moore lodged a complaint about a shooting at an alleged illegal drug dealing location in Rosedale.

Alain Berrouet spoke about the importance of community outreach for the Police Department so the community will feel like partners with the police. He also wanted to know the status of gang activity. Lieutenant Lauterborn responded that the 105 Precinct has tremendous cooperation from the community, and that most of the gang activity was located within the 113 Precinct.

Bess DeBetham spoke about the Family Dollar delivery truck taking up a full lane on Francis Lewis Boulevard & Merrick Boulevard. The Lieutenant responded that the summonses they get are viewed as a cost of doing business. She also complained of trucks parking overnight on the North Conduit where the drivers actually sleep. She said it appears that one actually lives in a camper. The Lieutenant responded that unfortunately the 105 has only 1 “boot” for trucks in the command. Yet, he will still send out the traffic team to take a look at the situation.

Marcia O’Brien thanked Detective Cooper and the 105 Precinct for all of the help and attention after she discovered her car on blocks in her driveway with the tires and rims stolen in the middle of the night.

Lieutenant Lauterborn pointed out that car thieves are targeting rims on Honda Accords in particular.

Clive Williams expressed gratitude to Detective Cooper and her team with their close interaction with the Board and the community. He requested that, if possible, they breakout the CompStat numbers by “communities” in their future reports.

Mike Augugliaro asked if lug locks work. The answer was no, but they can act as a deterrent.

Terrance Banks asked about NYPD Youth programs...the 105 Precinct has an Explorer Program, PAL Program and the Cadet Corp.

The Lieutenant reported that [yesterday’s] stabbing was domestic violence.

Lloyd Hicks asked if there would be more visibility of police during the holidays...there is a citywide initiative in new policing where cadets are now attending community meetings which will be similar to the former “C-Pop” policing...and the 105 Precinct is getting 25 new officers in January, 2016.

Vernal Holder asked about the training of new recruits for “cultural sensitivity”...the new training involves gray shirt training where even while in the Police Academy recruits attend community meetings...under the new police protocol, officers are being assigned to a particular area and will be known to members of that community.

Seymour Finkelstein complained about the 25 mph speed limit on Hillside Avenue – even when there was no traffic!

Mohamood Ishmael asked if the police were “under-policing”...the emphatic answer was no which is backed up by response times to crimes.

There were some new recruits at the meeting that were introduced by Detective Cooper. Each recruit made a statement about where they grew up and their feelings about becoming a police officer.

DDC

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) made a presentation on Project ID RWQ009 – rehabilitation of a Cross Island Parkway Retaining Wall on the southbound side of the parkway near Belmont Racetrack. (The PowerPoint presentation was included in each Board member’s packet).

Clive Williams asked for new guardrails at this location.

Jim Delaney asked for an update on all DDC Projects in CB 13.

Sam Elliott asked if this project will be finished in 2017...Yes.

Terrance Banks asked if any community people will be working on this project...DDC replied that they will be complying with both MWBE and prevailing wage requirements in the DDC design and procurement process.

No lanes will be closed during the project; installation of the guard rail will require one lane closed on weekends.

Mohamood Ishmael wanted assurances that the traffic flow would not be disrupted.

Alain Berrouet inquired about internships...DDC replied there are some for engineering students only.

Nagassar Ramgarib asked about any DDC projects on Jamaica Avenue...

The Board Chair took Roll Call.

District Manger's Report

The District Manager stated his report was included in the Board member's packets. He first asked that each board member identify the best mode of communication – email or “snail mail” – so there is certainty in getting out board information.

He also asked that they write down their correct email address so there is no further confusion on this detail.

He spoke about punctuality and curtesy with respect to time and attendance at committee meetings; and that they should call or email if they were going to either miss or be late for the meeting.

He then spoke of the need for all board members to participate in specific community board committees, and that a sign-up sheet was then being circulated for each member to pick up and couple of committees to join.

He closed by announcing the December dates of all committee meetings and the next General Board meeting.

Seniors, Special Needs

Kangela Moore and Jerry Wind, co-Chairs, gave awards to two Community Board members who are senior citizens (Lloyd Hicks and Seymour Finkelstein); two people with developmental disabilities (Joseph Wind and Christopher White); and two seniors from the community (Joyce Lawrence and Ann English).

Public Speaking Time

Kangela Moore, a Board member who is a School Safety Agent, spoke about how women were paid less than men. On October 21, 2015, New York State Women's Equality legislation was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. In addition, Mayor de Blasio settled a lawsuit with the School Safety agents.

Land Use

Co-Chair Eddie Harap reported about hotels being built in M1 zoning. The Mayor has an initiative that would require developers to get special permits to build, which would protect communities as there are presently too many hotels in Queens.

Committee Jerry Wind is going through all BSA applications to track expiration of variances in the district. He will then notify the applicant/attorney [of record]/owner so they may go through the process to renew.

Transportation

Chair Bess DeBetham reported on a car service that came to the committee meeting that was tentatively approved pending presentation to the committee of a signed lease.

Ms. Barbara Clements is asking to have a street in Cambria Heights named after her late husband. CB 13 passed a resolution on street co-naming requiring letters of support from the affected civic association and Council member, which she [at that point] did not have.

The Committee Chair reported on the DOT approval of a number of speed bumps in the district.

She also was awaiting the results of a Federal Transportation Study on Queens Village, Cambria Heights and Laurelton.

The Committee Chair also attended a meeting with the NYC DOT Metropolitan Transportation Council on Springfield Gardens. A bike path on 147th Avenue was one of the items discussed.

Also, concern was expressed about young people walking on Brookville Boulevard in the area locals refer to as "Snake Road." It is very dangerous (no sidewalks, bordered on both sides by wetlands) and some cautionary signage needs to be installed as a warning.

Youth & Education

Committee Co-Chair Rhonda Konter reported that they were planning a "Youth Summit" to be held at the Eagle Academy on the second weekend of May, 2016. They are planning to partner with city agencies, with them attempting to get three Council members as co-sponsors: Miller, Richards and Grodenchik. The proposed format is job readiness skills taught in the morning session, internship interviews/opportunities in the afternoon.

Health

Co-Chair Dr. Ashok Satkalmi reported that the committee planned to have presentations from guest speakers from hospitals and health insurers at upcoming meetings.

Vernal Holder suggested that they have a speaker on patient advocacy to help community members understand their rights as patients.

Public Safety

Chair Clive Williams initially commends NYPD on their CompStat presentation.

The Committee Chair next explained the committee's process on deliberations for liquor license approval recommendations, and distinguished between those applicants in JFK International Airport Terminals and every other applicant in the district.

Jim Delaney requested a monthly report on crime delineated by each distinct sector (neighborhood) in the 105 Precinct. Alain Berrouet requested that the 105 Gang Unit report to the Board. The Committee Chair invited both of these board members to attend a committee meeting.

Economic Development

Committee Chair Clive Williams issued an open invitation for all to attend these committee meetings.

The Committee Chair commended Bess DeBetham as a collaborator and mentor on how committee members are dealt with. He also commended Tameka Pierre-Louis on putting together a report on bettering the community with the District Needs Statement.

A motion was made to adjourn, and was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager