



**Queens
Community Board 13**
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District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 31, 2016

**BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE, BELLEROSE, NY**

Attendance

Present:

Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangel Moore; Michael O'Keeffe; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Peter Richards; Ashok Safkalmi; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson

Absent:

Angela Augugliaro; Terence Banks; Alain Berrouet; Jacqueline Campbell; Daisy Carew; Tanya Cruz; Terry Ebony DeMendonca; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Robert Glover; Davon Lomax; Marcia O'Brien; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Anup Ramnauth; Wilson Thomas; Derrick Warmington; Jerry Wind

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Board Chair speaks fondly of his memories of Eddie.

A moment of silence for Board Member Edward Harap, who passed away on Friday, October 21, 2016.

A motion was made to approve the June 2016 Meeting Minutes, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Board Chair reads a letter written to the family of Eddie Harap from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

Roll call.

Acknowledgement of elected officials and/or their representatives.

The Chairman's Report

The Board Chair reported on the events he had attended since the previous month's General Board meeting.

A motion was made to accept the Board Chair's Report; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Board Chair wishes everyone a Happy Diwali!

District Manager's Report

The DM stated his written report was included in The Sentinel package. He also went through the package of enclosures document-by-document and noted the Board Members who are featured in the various pictures.

A motion was made to accept the DM's Report, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Presentations

Alex Kipp from the **New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB)** gave a presentation on some of the potential conflicts Board Members may encounter during the course of serving on the Board. He states the most important thing is the telephone number on the handout.

When is a Board Member prohibited from participating in the discussion? Never. You may have to refrain from voting on the issue if there is a conflict indicated by a "direct benefit".

The 3 "D's": Disclose, Discuss, and Do not vote on the issue. (Mr. Kipp gives some examples.)

Direct benefit to the Board Member is the key consideration.

Tabulating votes...need a quorum which equals 50% +1. Voting members have 3 options: yes, no, abstain. A quorum is maintained when everyone [present] is part of the discussion.

BM Corey Bearak: if a conflict, can one abstain. Conflicted members should be called "disqualified." Kipp says to check with BP Counsel on this. "Abstain" vote is like a "no" vote.

One cannot Chair a Committee if as a Board Member you must abstain all of the time.

Gifts: One cannot take a gift worth \$50.00 or more if offered because of one's position at the Community Board.

If a professional and a client comes before the Board, consult with the COIB if you want your firm to have the business.

When leaving the Community Board, there is a 1-year hiatus before you can appear before the Community Board on behalf of a client.

BM Clive Williams: Should one consider an abstention a "no" vote? Answer: Yes.

Inspector Jeff Schiff, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct

- Crime down 15% for the month, 9% for the year. The precinct is on the cusp of having the best crime year since CompStat began. Commends his officers and the cooperation from the community.
- He cites a shooting of a person who was shot twice in the same year at separate incidents.
- General crime problems:

Personal property in vehicles. 90% of the time the vehicles were not secured.

Tires and rims, usually from midnight to 6:00 am, from the Glen Oaks to Rosedale.

- Grand larceny (scams):

Cell phones, purses, neck chains

Craig's List has been a problem with crime; suggests meeting at a secure location (on the corner of the precinct) because you may be carrying valuable property or carrying a lot of cash. Inspector gives examples...Con Ed phone scam where one is requested to purchase a debit card.

BM Fay Hill: What is story about the body found in Idlewild Park? Answer: This was a homicide that he is confident that did not occur at that location. The investigation is ongoing. Since it was located there, it counts against the 105 Precinct.

BM Jonathan Logan: Is there a form that officers fill out when there are altercations between officers and the public? Answer: You are confused; you are talking about the contact cards when one is stopped which gives the name of the officer and location. An altercation is different. Statistics on them require a FOIL request.

Board Chair: When are [we] getting the NCOs? Answer: Neighborhood Coordinating Officers are like old-fashioned Neighborhood Policing. It is only in the high crime precincts now; but Commissioner O'Neal is planning to implement it citywide by the end of 2017/early 2018. They will be very accessible to members of the community.

BM Kyle Bragg: How many will be dedicated to the 105 Precinct? Answer: That will be determined by the "experts" at One Police Plaza.

Vision Zero

BM Kangela Moore introduces the video presentation. According to DOT, the majority of pedestrian fatalities involve seniors. [DOT video shown on the video screens.]

BM Felice Hannah: The countdown and those visually impaired...sound would be helpful...

BM Bonnie Huie: Is the countdown enough time? Answer: Ask DOT to do a study if you feel the time is not enough.

BM Kyle Bragg: Is Vision Zero using cameras? Answer: Yes, especially around schools.

BM Clive Williams: Is there anything technology can do if a senior is stuck in the middle?

BM Seymour Finkelstein: Hillside Avenue is wide...many years ago there was a strip in the middle...it was safer then because there was a place to rest. All of the new supermarkets on Hillside Avenue have trucks double-parked making things more dangerous.

BM Kangela Moore: Thank you for your suggestions and we will bring them to DOT.

Public Speaking Time

Leroy Gadsen, from the NAACP:

Make sure you are on the list to vote from the Board of Elections.

If you see any crime, irregularities, or intimidation, call the NAACP Office (718.723.3623) or 911. He cites some of the things that cannot be done in or around the polls.

The NAACP has a program to help applicants taking the NYPD exam. Professionals will give test-taking tips so you can score in the top 5-10%.

Body cameras are coming...the issue is how to store all of that data; how to protect privacy when going into someone's home, and when children are involved.

Jessica Douglas, Queens Borough Director, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit:

Get Well NYC- Mental Health Hotline available 24/7/365 1.888.NYC.WELL

Text: Well 65173; Chat: nyc.gov/nycwell

Flyers on a meeting on the Future of Healthcare in NYC being held November 29, 2016 at the Queens Central Library

Tanagra Bledman from State Senator James Sanders Office:

She is the new community liaison for Springfield Gardens and Rosedale.

The "Missing Persons Bill" sponsored by Senator Sanders was signed by Governor Cuomo.

Amir Abbady from State Senator Leroy Comrie's Office:

A Health Fair is being held at Alpha Phi Alpha on November 11, 2016.

Spencer Nelson from Council Member Barry Grodenchik's Office:

A Mass Transit Forum will be held on November 14, 2016 at MS 172.

Shurn Anderson from the Queens Borough President's Office:

A Veterans' Day event being held at Queens Borough Hall, November, 9, 2016.

Budget Priorities

DM stated how all of the committee meetings had the same agenda to focus on this issues.

He thanks Community Coordinator Maxine Brannon and Community Associate Corey Ince as partners.

The DM cites the three colored sheets of paper: Blue - capital, pink - expense, beige - continuing support.

DM's role is to make recommendations, Board Member's role is to vote. There should be vigorous discussion.

The specifics from the committee meetings and the Borough Consultations were included, and the final lists were put together with the DM's knowledge of the district and the Board Chair's experience.

DM explains to BM Jim Delaney that the Bellerose Park is moved to continuing support because of meetings he has attended indicating it is already funded.

BM Corey Bearak: Speaks of his experience working in the Council and how the Parks Department works.

DM speaks of aspirational and "real" requests.

Board Chair talks of his discussion with the DM on the aspirational and other types of requests. He also speaks about the 116 Precinct; and that until a location is found and a shovel is put in the ground, it is important to keep it as the top request.

BM Felice Hannah: I do not see the important request on the left-turn signal on the Grand Central Service Road. DM: It is the first request on the blue sheet (expense).

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: Explain the "yes" or "no". Answer: Yes if for a specific location, no, for the community in general.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: I agree with what the Chairman said about the precinct. We have been requesting it for thirty years.

[Discussion on moving items.]

DM: We tried to make sure to cover priorities in every community.

BM Bonnie Huie: This a very large form that has stipulations; sometimes you give one sentence, other times it can open up.

BM Kangela Moore: I would like to move (blue sheet) expense item #6 to #2.

[She expands on the importance of addressing mental illness. It is important to put money into people.]

BM Felice Hannah: It is important to save lives.

BM Kyle Bragg: The sanitation issue of signs on poles is important.

Board Chair: I hear the signs on lamp posts as a big issue in every civic.

BM Kyle Bragg: I Agree with Kangela.

BM Felice Hannah: There are already funding for these mental health issues. It is even an initiative of our Mayor. Staying at #6 does not diminish its importance.

BM Kangela Moore: I respectfully disagree. We need to deal with this as a community issue.

BM Clive Williams: I agree with Kangela. It might not be a priority at civic meetings, but it is an issue in our communities. I am not saying where it should be on the list.

BM Jim Delaney: I read about this from the Mayor's wife all the time, it is getting plenty of attention already.

Board Chair asks Jessica Douglas to comment: Is this a high priority for the Mayor?
Jessica: Yes.

BM Mohamood Ishmael: If there is graffiti in front of us, it should be moved up.

BM Bonnie Huie: Board members want to move it up, shouldn't we take a vote?

BM Ashok Satkalmi: I think it should be moved up to if not #1, maybe #2.

DM: It was placed where it is because of the standpoint of funding.

BM Kyle Bragg moves to have #6 moved to #2.

BM Peter Richards: I disagree. I think the sanitation issue should stay at #2.

BM Kyle Bragg: I move to vote on the recommendation from #6 to #2. BM Rich Hellenbecht seconds the motion.

- Vote tally: #6 moves to #2 and everything else moves down one number in priority.

Board Chair: Anything else?

DM: Any other changes for the expense side?

BM Fay Hill: The Q77 is of paramount importance. Can this be moved up? It is presently at #48.

DM: The issue is the bus turnaround...Councilmember Richards is working on it...where do you want to put it?

BM Corey Bearak: Transit items are plentiful...how are we going to show our needs?

DM: With this form you can only do one item at a time. Specifics are important for the agencies to look at it.

BM Fay Hill: The Q77 is for people in Rosedale, Far Rockaway at the corner of 147 Avenue. The gives access to three other bus lines. I would like to move it up to #13.

BM Bonnie Huie: #13 is also a transit item.

BM Clive Williams: Could this be amalgamated with the existing #13? DM: No. Each issue has to be individual.

BM Bess DeBetham: Simone Price [from MTA NYC Transit] was at The Federated Blocks of Laurelton Meeting last month. The Q5 (#13) is an item of priority – taking from one area of priority and replacing it with another. Her concern is that CM Richards already working on this, how does it affect this?

DM: It looks good when the Council Member (CM) and the Community Board are asking for the same thing.

BM Kyle Bragg: What is the impact of this Board's priority to that of CB12 priorities?

DM: All we can do is advocate for what the priorities are for the citizens of Board 13.

BM Felice Hannah: If this is moved up, #25 becomes "AR" because there is no other number.

BM Clive Williams: This thing is weighted because the CM is working on it. I think it should stay where it is because it has the attention of the CM.

The Board Chair agrees with Clive and has been at meetings where it has been discussed.

BM Kangela Moore: On the yellow sheet – a lot our homes in Southeast Queens...move #14 to #5 thereby moving #5 to #6. The issue of abandoned homes being bought by developers and Group Homes is big. We need to have low-income homes available for families.

BM Jonathan Logan: It is up to [civics] to police their areas and activate their communities to address this issue. This should be taken care of at a "grassroots" level. I am ok with where it is at.

BM Rhonda Kontner: We spoke about this item so this could be utilized by the school and the community in general. Campus Magnet needs a lot of things.

DM: The difference between the two: the item you are supporting is general and the other item is specific.

BM Jim Delaney: On the expense side, item #47 (facilities for seniors at SNAP) moved to...

BM Jonathan Logan: It's general...

BM Kyle Bragg: Is there a specific location?

BM Jim Delaney: They have 2 locations...one a few blocks from here and another in the south end...it is specific

BM Felice Hannah: They get serious funding from DFTA.

BM Kangela Moore: Their funding is being cut this year.

BM Felice Hannah: They are referring more to SNAP Winchester the SNAP Rosedale.

BM Jim Delaney: Give SNAP a recommendation for increased funding.

BM Mike O'Keeffe: There are some issues that are dropping off...I would vote to drop #24 (a citywide issue).

BM Jonathan Logan: If we want to move things, can we make a motion to move it?

BM Jim Delaney: Can we move it to anywhere in the top 20.

DM: I need a number...

BM Jim Delaney: To #19.

Board Chair: Do they want to move the SNAP program?

BM Clive Williams: I want to move nothing more.

Board Chair: A motion was made.

➤ A vote...the motion does not carry.

BM Clive Williams: Let us work with what we have and let us see how the process works over the next fiscal year.

Board Chair: Do we want to leave everything else in place.

BM Clive Williams makes the motion [to leave everything else in place], BM Pritpal Walia seconds the motion.

BM Rhonda Kontner: When meeting in committee, there is no idea where an item will end up on the list. Can it be made any clearer?

BM Clive Williams: We do not have to spend the time in the process. Give the office credit for going through the process.

DM: After going through each committee meeting, I have no idea where anything is going to land. Geography, need, and an overall feel for the Board goes into this.

Board Chair: He also has the benefit of the Borough Consultations.

BM Jim Delaney: A motion that future Board Meeting there is more advance notice on the priorities.

DM: Next year you will have it with more advanced notice.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13