



Queens Community Board 13

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GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2017

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

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Verdell Boncoeur; Jacqueline Campbell; Mizanur Choudhury; Barbara Clements; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Jonathan Logan; Kangela Moore; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; ; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Terence Banks; Bryan Block; Kyle Bragg; Daisy Carew (R); Tanya Cruz; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Robert Glover; Felice Hannah; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Franck Joseph; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Wilson Thomas (R); Pritpal Singh Walia; Derrick Warmington (R)

Angela Augugliaro, First Vice Chair (FVC) called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Senior Pastor Dominick Cotignola welcomed everyone to his church. He spoke about his background, church members, activities, ministries, and how they give back to the community. He also spoke about the upcoming "Hope Day" as they were racing out to over 2,000 people for this event.

FVC Augugliaro thanked him for allowing the Community Board to use his church for the monthly meetings. She spoke about what a wonderful facility it is and how it allows the community board to do so many things.

A motion was made, and seconded to approve the March 27, 2017 General Board Meeting Minutes.

A newly appointed Board Member, Curlene Nelson, introduces herself to everyone.

The Board Executive Secretary, Jerry Wind, took the roll call.

Public Speaking

Fabrice Armon, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the NYC Department of Corrections:

- DOC is looking to hire 2,000 new officers with a starting salary of \$44,000.
- Within 5 1/2 years, the salary can jump to \$95,000.
- A number of first-time officers can make \$100,000+ because of overtime.
- They are recruiting because there has been a lot of retirements by officers at young age.
- There are opportunities for non-uniform work.
- This is an open competitive position; no civil service title necessary.
- Corrections is doing more volunteer work; they will come out and help.

BM Fay Hill spoke a friend who got a job on Rikers and was very intimidated...but she got over it.

BM Alain Berrouet asked about the rumors of Rikers closing and job security for correction officers.

A: If it did close there would be more borough facilities.

BM Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick asked about morale...

A: COBA (the Corrections Officer's Union) is working to make conditions better. The most important issue is lowering the amount of overtime. Additionally, a new commissioner is being hired because of the large amounts of retirements (as so many correction officers are working doubles and triples). An anonymous survey done that created the "14 Point Plan." More staffing eliminates this problem. With respect to the issue of keeping out contraband, the State legislature is providing funding for metal detectors.

BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges stated she works there. This is the first time money is coming in to the facility.

BM Mohamood Ishmael asks if employees are encouraged to report abuse?

A: Yes. To supervisors, DCAS, the Mayor's Office and COIB. This administration created an opportunity to report anonymously. In addition, the facilities are being upgraded and an Academy is being created.

[Applause.]

Dwayne Moore:

- He observes that not too many present are 25 years old or younger...this is a huge problem – a chasm is created. Young opinions should be valued.
- He states he brought training to Stony Brook for micro-aggressions, and a Black Student Union.
- He will assist anyone who needs help with the college process.

BM Jon Logan thanks him for his pro-action and for making himself available.

Dwayne Moore: It is more important to be pro-active instead of reactive.

BM Clive Williams: Where can we start in bridging this gap?

Dwayne Moore: Listening; branching out into schools. Students do not feel like anyone is looking after them.

BM Clive Williams: Built-in resentments makes younger people defensive? Shouldn't the responsibility to develop rapport go both ways?

Dwayne Moore: The approach should be changed; people feel they are being judged as opposed to being understood.

BM Alain Berrouet: How can the Community Board create space for young people?

Dwayne Moore: When speaking, come from knowledge; not with an opinion. People need to understand the systematic problems...

BM Jackie Campbell: What is your objective? How can the Community Board be helpful?

Dwayne Moore: Bring an awareness of the large disconnect between youth and elders.

[Applause]

BM Jonathan Logan:

- Criminal Justice and Common Policing...approach – the community does not get involved.
- He reads from Elliott Spitzer's Stop & Frisk Report; now Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's.
- He voices displeasure because "we" are a compliance (status quo) society.
- He reads various quotes from the Report.
- He states the conversation is backwards; don't tell us how we should react to the police, we should tell them how we want them to act towards us.

Inspector Schiff, 105 Precinct:

- Crime is up 6% for the month primarily through assaults (domestic violence) and shootings.
- They caught the shooter in Brooklyn who had the murder weapon on him
- Crime is down 8% YTD.
- Change in NYPD Policy on noise complaints...in an emergency where NYPD can go on the property, action can be taken. Otherwise, only a request can be made to be a good neighbor. If an officer goes out the next day, he will make the arrest. That individual will be inconvenienced.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: There was a robbery at 258 Street in Floral Park; 5 different cars involved...

A: Burglary...a pattern going on...plainclothes officers have been deployed.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: Any video on license plates?

A: Cannot say.

BM Charlie Farruggia: Are noise complaints called in to 311 a waste of time?

A: Make the call...it gives stats...my officers will respond...some compliance.

Audience member: My neighbor bought a house to hold cars. I called NYPD about this...Officers do not come out after saying they will...

BM Jim Delaney: Is the burglary on 252 Street part of the pattern?

A: Yes.

BM Jon Logan: The Police Commissioner addresses quotas. If there are no quotas, why did the PC talk about it?

A: I cannot answer; that is my boss. Locally, the 105 has no quota system. But there is a performance standard. My experience tells me when an officer is performing based on the conditions of the precinct.

Dwayne Moore: What is the 105 doing proactively about crime?

A: The police force is the last bastion...[he quotes the Dallas Police Commissioner at the funeral of one of his officers]...NYPD is not in that business...their function is law enforcement...proactive comes with Community Affairs and various programming...check the website...precincts do not make policy.

BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges: I work for law enforcement and that is why I work in schools. Just like the NYPD, I cannot do everything; neither can the schools.

Elected Officials

Queens Borough President

Shurn Anderson speaks about:

- The Building Capacity Information Session (see handout).
- Promotes BP Summer Concert Series.

Congressman Tom Suozzi

Justin Conner speaks:

- Introduces himself; gives address and phone number of Queens office.
- Speaks about the issues the Congressman is focused on (immigration; veteran's issues).
- He is sponsoring a bill for mandatory free mental health care.
- Allocating monies for the rehabilitation of buildings.

Assembly Member Clyde Vanel

Michael Bauduy speaks about:

- Rain barrel giveaway.
- NYS Assembly passed an Amendment removing the requirement explaining why a voter needs an absentee ballot.

Assembly Member David Weprin

Casey Lajszky introduces herself and speaks:

- Assembly Member chairs the Corrections Committee; they receive letters every week on related issues; he will visit every correction facility in New York State.

- Please contact the office for any corrections-related issues.

State Senator Leroy Comrie

Amir Abbady speaks:

- The Senator is the ranking member of the Elections Committee.
- The Republicans have no problem with low voter turnout.
- "Vote Better New York" package.
- There is an "Gently Used Prom Dress Giveaway" partnering with Greater Springfield Community Church – August Martin High School will be the recipients and the boys can get free haircuts.
- There will be Movie Nights on social justice.
- Rain barrel give away.
- Free foreclosure assistance partnering with Brooklyn Legal Services.

Assembly Member Ed Braunstein

Amber Yoon introduces herself.

Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman

Charise Parson speaks about:

- Rain barrel giveaway.
- Prom makeover (girl's makeup) being held on June 7, 2017 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm given by the New York Institute of Beauty
- NYS budget increases foundation budget.

BM Kangel Moore: Was senior funding cut?

A: Will get back to her on this via email later.

- Operation Cleanup in Laurelton in partnership with Deputy Borough President Melva Miller occurring on June 3, 2017. Everyone participating should meet at the Laurelton Library at 8:00 am.

Council Member Barry Grodenchik

Stacy Yearwood speaks about:

- The Anti-Graffiti Initiative.
- Steps to deal with illegal signage.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report is included in the Sentinal. He explains what the Community Board Office tries to do with the Sentinal each month in terms of useful information, upcoming events, etc.

There were 3 committee meetings this month where no one showed up. Asks for a meeting with the Committee Chairs on what can be done better. He also asked for feedback from the Board Members on what they would like to see. Speakers come to the General Board Meetings to get the information out to Board Members and the community.

The FVC Augugliaro spoke about the upcoming Seminar on Opioid Addiction and Mental Health put together by several civic associations. They gave great presentations and had some much information. Unfortunately, the turnout was not terrific.

Committee Reports

Seniors and Special Needs given by Committee Co-Chairs Kangela Moore and Jerry Wind:

- They will be presenting awards to seniors and those with special needs.
- They will be recognizing a young girl with long hair who cut it to donate to cancer patients.
- They will be recognizing some centurions. This will probably happen at the senior center.
- Request nominations from Board Members.

Transportation given by Committee Chair Bess de Betham:

- Report on the DOT Merrick Boulevard Safety Improvements Presentation given at the Board Office.
- Glen Oaks speed hump request – after consultation with a representative from the community, the committee wants a 4-way Stop signs instead. Additionally, there needs to be traffic calming and bike lanes in the area.
- Outlines the process for street co-naming: elected official request...petition from residents on the block...letter of support from the civic association...Community Board Resolution...a form letter developed outlining the requirements and timing.

Public Safety given by Committee Chair Clive Williams:

- Invitation to all Board Members to join the committee and get to know the “nuts and bolts” of the process.
- Spoke about the tragic fire on 208 Street that killed part of a family.
- Liquor license reviews are not the only thing done in this committee; there is initiative to make things safe for the public.
- All liquor license applicants must come to a committee meeting, introduce themselves and speak about their relationship to the surrounding community.

Economic Development given by Committee Chair Clive Williams:

- There has been no Board Member support for this committee.
- This committee need a clear focus.
- A new idea: requesting each civic association leader to join (because of the need for better geographical representation).

Land Use given by Committee Chair Rich Hellenbrecht:

- BSA Item – extension of a variance of a used car lot on 207 – 210 Street on Jamaica Avenue...fencing a problem...parking cars on sidewalk a problem.
- Bellerose – gym item on 245 Street has been supported by the Queens Borough President.
- A demolition at 70-14 267 Street.
- There are large buildings, oversize development in the Floral Park area.
- Department of City Planning came to the Board office and gave a presentation on Flooding Resiliency...it will be a full text amendment.
- Self-Storage Text Amendment coming up...would like to see the same for hotels.
- Demolition at 180-17 145 Avenue.
- The Linden Boulevard car repair shop...Community Board recommendation for landscaping not yet done.

BM Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick: Hillside and 85 Avenue, 247 Street?

A: One house knocked down and sub-divided.

Q: Was the garage knocked down without a permit?

A: Many garages on lots of older homes do not have Certificates of Occupancy.

BM Lorraine Gittens-Bridges: Old house...

BM Kangela Moore: Build-It-Back – her house got lifted...she got a letter reassessing that Rosedale is not in a flood zone. Approval taken away.

BM Bess de Betham: Suggests speaking to her Council Member.

- Auto shop on Linden and 223 Street is conforming to its use via variance.
- BM Clive Williams: Behind 223 Street of Linden Boulevard, there is a lot of machine garbage.

Health given by Committee Co-Chair Ashok Satkalmi:

- Speaks about no-show.
- Citizenship is about participation; without participation there is no change.

Parks and Environment given by Co-Chairs Fay Hill and Peter Richards:

- There was no meeting.
- They want to have events...information will be sent...they need Board Member participation.

Nomination Committee given by Committee Chair Mike O'Keefe:

- Introduces members of the committee present.
- Goal is to make process as open and transparent as possible.
- Set up an independent email address for the committee.
- All those interested in a position needs to respond to the email within a week and enclose a resume or bio.
- The committee may consider people who have not applied.
- Want to have a slate two weeks before the June General Board meeting.

BM Jackie Campbell: Wants to know the process on picking Nomination Committee Chair...

A: (by FVC Augugliaro) The Chair selects the Chairperson of the Nominating committee via the bylaws.

The District Manager requests Committee Chairs to congregate with him before they leave to select a date for the meeting.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan

District Manager

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