



Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428
718.464.9700
Fax: 718.254.2739
qcb13.org



Melinda Katz
Borough President

Vicky Morales-Casella
Director of
Community Boards

Clive Williams
Chairman

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2018

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

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Jacqueline Campbell; Mizanur Choudhury; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangela Moore; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Celeste Powers; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Sanu Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Terence Banks; Alain Berrouet; Kyle Bragg; Barbara Clements; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Felice Hannah; Vernal Holder; Franck Joseph; Curlene Nelson; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Nagassar Ramgarib; Mathew Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia (E)

The Board Chairman Clive Williams called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BM Jonathan Logan and recited by all in attendance.

The Board Chairman introduces special guest speakers.

The Board Chair opens floor for Public Speaking.

Public Speaking

Bob Friedrich – Congestion Pricing

- Opposition Statement.
- Wants Resolution for opposition from QCB13.

BM Brian Block – Late Mail

- Emanuel Coughlin – President Postal of Advisory Council
 - Wants letters from civic and block associations to give to Congressman Meeks for submittal to the Postmaster General.

BM James Delany: Mail is no longer sorted in College Point, now in Brooklyn. It's often late coming in from Brooklyn sorting station.

Bobby Scherr: Today we received no mail. There are new people on routes.

BM Jonathan Logan – Courage from MLK Panel

- Look someone in the face with an opposing opinion.
- Have meaningful dialogue.
- Come to a rightful conclusion with respect.
 - "What side of history will you be on?"
 - Spoke about the 6 principles of non-violence.

Chairman thanks BM Jonathan Logan.

Assistant Chief David Barrere -

- Thanks to community for a great year.
- PBQS needs [community] partnership:
 - 750 fewer victims.
 - 54 fewer people shot.
 - Open dialogue, NYPD tries to get it right.
 - 116 Precinct has everything to do with the people.
 - Fought for 40 years to get the precinct.
 - 375 miles of roadway in Board 13.
 - Acknowledges CM Donovan Richards' hard work to get the precinct.

BM Michael O'Keefe: Talk about community policing plans...

A: Rolling out NCO (Neighborhood Police Officers) in April.

- Broken down into 5 sectors.
- NCO...same police in the same neighborhoods.

- This requires more officers.
 - On patrol 1/3 of their time (off the air- radio time)
- NCO (2) in every sector.

BM Jonathan Logan: What is the criteria of being an NCO? Do they have to be from the area? It's important that they are familiar with the culture.

A: Great question. A woman at another rollout stated they do not reflect my neighborhood. [These NCOs are the] Cream of the crop: public speaking, investigative skills, etc. He will select officers that reflect the community.

BM Marcia O'Brien: Representing Rosedale Civic... Thanks Inspector Schiff for the Command Post. It is now being reserved for another location.

Bob Friedrich: Thanks Inspector Schiff. He is not concerned about officers looking like him. He wants the best officers. States Inspector Schiff is the best CO 105 Precinct has ever had! [With] 2 years coming, can there be a commitment for another 2 years?

A: Thanks for Schiff. It is a big department. He has the same experience as a CO. No plans presently.

BM Bryan Block: We really enjoy, respect and love Inspector Schiff. He is hands on and reaches out to him. You cannot move him. Keep him to the 4th year.

Frank Toner: timing of NCO rollout...

A: Beginning in April.

CM Donovan Richards speaks about:

- Property taxes.
- Grocery stores in Rosedale.
- Vacancy tax.
- Infrastructure project (physically raising Snake Road).
- Southeast Queens Tracking Bill (online).
- UPK coming to District 29.
- Passed bill on BSA reform (for transparency).
- Introduced legislation to clear every median in NYC (directed at DOT and Parks).
- Met with NYPD Police Commissioner James O'Neill and had a great conversation about Inspector Schiff.
 - Dedicated unit addressing trucking and van issues around JFK.
- Happy about 116 Precinct; gives the Mayor credit.

Chairman asks BM Bess DeBetham to stand and get acknowledged.

BM Bess DeBetham: Thank you for the accolades, but it was all of the communities involved from the North to the South.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: How can anyone justify why we pay more taxes?

A: That's why we filed the lawsuit.

BM Steven Taylor: Is the Property Tax lawsuit before a judge?

A: Yes.

Q: Procedurally, where is the case?

A: Prior to trial. Judge might have recommendation to work it out...

BM Lourdes Villanueva – Hartrick: Multiple listings have various tax rates even within this Community Board. How are you going to fix this?

A: Presently in flux; a big job. Resources will come from Department of Finance through tax assessments.

Bob Friedrich: What is your position on congestion pricing?

A: Supports congestion pricing. Feds and MTA will get more money. In concept but will go to specifics.

Q: Please reconsider.

A: He is firm in his position.

Council Member I. Daneek Miller

- Hopefully NYC provided adequate services during the snow storm.
- Tax reform:
 - 2/3 of the people in NYC rent.
 - [We] "settled" for "Veterans and Seniors tax credit."
 - A start for the most vulnerable.
 - Top of the City Council agenda.
 - Southeast Queens delivered lion's share of votes for Mayor de Blasio.
- Downzoning:
 - When a home is sold [a neighbor] can do something the neighborhood may not want -> sell to investors.
 - [Problem of] Over-developing.

➤ Transportation

- No congestion pricing until real transportation options to East/Southeast Queens.
- Needs:
 - New Jamaica Bus Depot.
 - Improvements to Queens Village Bus Depot.
 - Funding for the "Freedom Ticket."
 - Need a comprehensive study for Queens transportation issues.
- Introduced a Resolution to raise the fines on trucks violating the law.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: Called two complaints and NYPD visited him. He wants to remain anonymous.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: Takes express buses from Bellerose to NYC five days a week. Need a priority in getting bus stops cleaned after snowstorms.

A: His office uses *Wildcat* to shovel bus stops.

ULURP 116 Precinct

Land Use Chair:

- Introduces 116 Precinct PowerPoint Presentation.
- This ULURP item is being "fast tracked."
- It goes to Borough President on February 1, 2018.
 - 2 things
 - Approve rezoning.
 - BSA must approve local law to build in a mapped street.

Phillip Heller, Director of NYPD Capital Projects presents 116 Precinct PowerPoint.

BM James Delaney: The entrance is welcoming...any bollards?

A: Yes. There will be defensive measures, but away from the building...bollards on the sidewalk, the windows bullet resistant.

BM Tanya Cruz: Certification?

A: LEED Certified at Silver, it could be Gold. Problem with new buildings is training maintenance staff.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: Will the building have a sound buffer from LIRR?

BM Peter Richards: What are the parameters of the 116 Precinct?

A: 116 Precinct will be the southern portion of 105. Francis Lewis Boulevard and everything south (tentatively).

Earlene Sealy: All glass in NYPD precincts bullet proof?

A: Yes. Bullet resistant.

Public Statements:

BM Bess DeBetham: I support the development of the 116 Precinct. Those who disagree want it (appropriated city dollars) put toward education. We have fought too long and it will save lives. This means both the north and the south will have equal protection.

[Whether in order or not] BM Bess DeBetham: makes motion for the Board to support [approving this item].

BM Jonathan Logan: A 1976 Bill Moyers documentary on "Rosedale: The Way It Is." I am against the 116 Precinct. Speaks about no positive interaction between police and community. Against for many reasons. Deeper conversations about what prevents police and community from coming together. He will be voting

BM Charles Farrugia: Will the response time be less?

A: Yes.

Q: More C-POP officers?

A: Yes.

Q: Biggest complaints are response times. Ask [Assistant Chief] Barrere if he feels comfortable with the design.

Chief Barrere: I am not an architect, but yes.

Motion to close Public Hearing. Approved.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: At the January Land Use Committee meeting, a concern was police parking of private vehicles. The community will rely on precinct that officers park in the proper places. Land Use Committee voted unanimously for [to approve] this project.

BM Bess DeBetham: Motion to support the development of the 116 Precinct. ("Yes" vote if in favor.)

Roll Call vote: Yes, 34. No, 1. Abstentions, 0.

Motion passes.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: Thank you to the two Council Members present, Congressman Gregory Meeks and Mayor de Blasio.

Public Hearing Closed.

Nicole Garcia - Queens Borough Commissioner, Department of Transportation

- 2017 spectacular, fewest traffic fatalities since records kept in 1910.
 - Queens has fewest fatalities, all thanks to "Vision Zero."
 - DOT could not do without partnerships with Community Boards and Civic Associations.
- Sidewalks:
 - City shares responsibility with 1-3 family homes.
 - City wants sidewalks in good repair for everyone's safety.
 - *Notices of Violation* property owners receive generated by 311 complaints.
 - Sometimes when inspectors go out, they inspect the whole block.
 - No fine but, lien on the property (from a sketch).
 - Tree root, utilities and curbs.
 - Repairs done through Community Board "Sidewalk Repair Contract."
 - "X" in a box (and curb) - repair will be done by the City.
 - A challenge to a violation must be reported by calling "311" within 45 days [of issue].
 - [Homeowner] may get re-inspection by another inspector who has not seen the other report.
 - All re-inspections are final.
 - If the City owns the curb, why can't it just be fixed?
 - If the curb is repaired, they must inspect the sidewalk
 - DOT sidewalk contracts have been in Community Board 13 the past 2 summers.
 - Contractors will be returning in the spring.
- Medians:
 - Repaired during a Capital Project.
 - There is a crew for "critical safety needs" (e.g., rebar sticking out from the concrete).
 - Take a picture, report to 311 and call Community Board or DOT office.
- DOT has been operating without "curb only repair contract" for the past 20 years.

BM Fay Hill: Tree roots are elevating my curb. Inspection gave me number 67. What does that mean?

A: Parks rating system. Parallel program with DOT where they deal with tree root raising sidewalk and curbs.

A: She will take a look at her property.

BM Jerry Wind: Milling caused damage. DOT inspection said it could be fixed in 3 months.

A: DDC runs the milling contract.

BM Jackie Campbell: Had to change a car tire because of rebar. Is the reimbursement available?

A: Advise: Take a picture and send it to the Comptroller.

John Biancaniello: 256 and 257 Streets on Livingston Avenue, all sidewalks are sinking. Markings on them...

A: There could be something happening underneath.

BM James Delany: Little Neck Parkway and Jericho Turnpike. Concern over entry and exit.

A: Spoke about it at the staff level and DOB does not expect peak volumes. She will talk with her engineers. Will look at some sort of signal.

Corey Ince: Damage from resurfacing and curb height...

A: DDC manages resurfacing but takes pictures before the milling. Any evidence should be sent to the Comptroller's office.

BM Lourdes Villanueva- Hartrick: Hillside exit off Cross Island Parkway has a lot more traffic. Traffic light too short (20 seconds). Not enough time to make a turn. Can we extend the timing of that light?

A: Will look at that situation for possible recalibration.

Q: Markings needed on Cross Island Parkway overpass on Hillside Avenue.

Chairman: Is a study necessary?

A: 2-3 weeks and inspection will come out. Retiming of traffic lights can be done (CM Rory Lancman example). This can take 6 months.

BM Angela Augugliaro: Little Neck Parkway and Jericho...not a shopping center, rather offices and there will be a surge. Wants DOT to look at the project.

- Hillside Avenue and Commonwealth Boulevard westbound.
- Light at entrance at the Little Nek Parkway to synch with Commonwealth Boulevard.

BM Bryan Block: Islanders coming to Belmont. Any traffic study with Nassau County counterpart?

A: A whole team of people who work with the State (like Barclays in Brooklyn). She hasn't seen any EIS yet, but she is sure someone is looking at it.

BM Tanya Cruz: Please double-check on exits on Cross Island Parkway that are presently closed that should be opened. Especially one by Murdock where there was no money previously to open it.

A: That is under the (New York) State's jurisdiction

Q: Bleaching of street signs...

Earlene Sealy: Process for change?

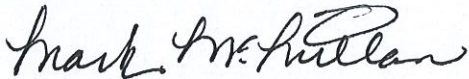
A: Call 311, DOT web form, she gives brief summary of how to...

Meeting minutes for November 2017 and December 2017 approved

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan

District Manager

Queens Community Board 13