



## Queens Community Board 13

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President

**Bryan J. Block**  
Chairman

**Lawrence T. McClean**  
District Manager

**OCTOBER 27, 2014**  
**BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH**  
**240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE**  
**BELLEROSE NY 11426**

**BOARD MEETING**

Attendance: Present

Angela Augugliaro, Isa Avery, Terence Banks, Alain Berrouet, Bryan Block, Verdell Boncoeur, Kyle Bragg, Daisy Carew, Tanya Cruz, Delroy Dawkins, Bess DeBetham, Bruno DeFranceschi, James Delaney, Terryl Ebony DeMendonca, Sam Elliott, Charles Farruggia, Seymour Finkelstein, Andrea Foy, Jack Friedman, Robert Glover, Richard Hellenbrecht, Lloyd Hicks, Fay Hill, Vernal Holder, Bonnie Huie, Mohamood Ishmael, Rhonda Kontner, Antony Kuncheria, Marcia O'Brien, Nagassar Ramgarib, Anup Ramnauth, Peter Richards, Ashok Satkalmi, Sanu Thomas, Mathew Thomas, Pritpal Singh Walia, Derrick Warmington, Clive Williams, Jackie Wilson, Jerry Wind.

Absent:

Corey Bearak, Jackie Campbell, Anthony Greene, Edward Harap, Kangela Moore.

Elected Officials/Representatives of Elected Officials:

Andy Laine representing Councilman Daneek Miller, Jeffrey Frediani representing Senator Tony Avella, Amker Yan representing Edward Braunstein, Jerry LaMura representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Tri Hinds representing Councilman Donovan Richards, Natalia Kozikowska representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Leroy Manuel State Committee, Jeong-ah Choi representing Borough President Melinda Katz.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

**Chairman's Report –**

On September 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block attended meeting with Captain Gilbert on Vision Zero, she is the twitter person for the 105 Pct. Community Council.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr Block attended meetings of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton, Cambria heights Civic Association, and the Public Safety Community of CB13.

October 14<sup>th</sup>- Chairman Block attended the 103 Precinct Community Council Meeting

October 20<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block attended the 113 Precinct Community Council Meeting.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Block attended NYC DOT meeting concerning the communities surrounding JFK. They will be increasing the length of the trailer trucks, presently the trucks are 48 feet in length. They will have parking accommodations within the compound for these vehicles.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> Mr. Block briefly attended the Sikh Parade, and attended the Eastern Queens Alliance Luncheon.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Block attended a Prayer Vigil organized by the 103 Precinct for the Police Officer that was struck in the head with an ax. Bess DeBetham, Verdell Boncoeur and Robert Glover, also attended the vigil.

10/27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Block attended a Special Borough Board Meeting on the Ebola Virus. The speaker was from the NYC Dept. of Health.

Mr. Block went over the Board Committee List:

Transportation Committee – Co Chairs, Bess DeBetham and Robert Glover

Parks Committee- Co Chairs, Peter Richards and Fay Hill

Youth and Education Committee- Co Chairs, Rhonda Kontner and Terrence Banks

Land Use Committee – Co Chairs, Richard Hellenbrecht and Edward Harap

Public Safety Committee – Chair, Clive Williams.

Technology Community- Chair, Jerry Wind

Health Committee- co Chairs, Bonnie Huie and Dr. Ashok Satkalmi

Economic Development – Chair- Jack Friedman.

Motion was made to accept the Chairman's report by Pritpal Singh Walia and seconded by Verdell Boncoeur.

Rhonda Kontner, Co-Chair of the Education Committee introduced Mr. Sam Sochet, principal of Martin Van Buren High School.. Mr. Sochet has been the Principal for three years. Mr. Sochet stated that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade has been an excellent class this year. They start their classes at 8:30 a.m. so the teens could get more sleep and the attendance is better.

Van Buren High School has an alliance with Syracuse University. "Syracuse University Project Advance". They have teachers that are trained by Syracuse University, they are trained in the courses that the students will be taking. The students get high school credit as well as college credit for these courses. They are the only school in Queens that is doing this program, one more is in the city Murray Bergtraum

They also have a technology initiative, a brand new pc lab, a library,etc. Mr. Sochet explained that the youth of today respond to technology if we like it or not.

They are making a commitment to transfer their curriculum to Common Core. Mr. Sochet stated that Van Buren is going through a cultural change, he came to the Board this evening because he wanted the residents, and members of the Board to understand that.. Van Buren is a very safe school and no one should have any fear of sending their children to this school.

The school also offers a Pre-Med course, pre- engineering and pre-law forensics courses.

There was a brief question and answer period following Mr. Sochet's talk.

Knatasha Hunter spoke on the B-Tech ( Business Technology Early College High School Program,) which is a 6 year program at Martin Van Buren High School in partnership with SAP and Queensborough Community College. . A brochure was given out.. Ms. Hunter explained that at the end of the six year program, the students receive an Associate's Degree in either Computer Information Technology or Internet Technology. Ms Hunter went on to explain the program and how it works. There was a brief question and answer period.

Mr. Block introduced Alexandra Patino, Esq. She is the Executive Director of the NYC Family Justice Center in Queens. Her office is at 126-02 82 Avenue in Kew Gardens. The website is [www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence). Ms. Patino said that they have 4 Centers around the city, with 65,000 client visits. They are seeing approximately 1000 clients a month. This program first came about under Mayor Bloomberg, and now expanding under Mayor DeBlasio. There are many different cases of domestic violence, men against women, women against men, children against their parents, healthcare workers against their patients, they see this entire range of domestic violence at the Family Justice Center. There are many services available for the victims of domestic violence, such as, legal services and immigration, family court, counseling ( one on one )case management. They have workshops to help the client be more independent because most are financially dependent on their abuser. Ms. Patino said that over 50% of their clients are not born in the United States.

They have a children's counseling program for children that have grown up in abusive homes and need help coping with what they witnessed or were victims of themselves. These children also suffer from many gastro-intestinal problems, such as bulimia, anorexia, etc. A question and answer period followed this presentation.

Mr. Block acknowledged the Elected Officials/or their representatives that were present.. Mr. Block called the roll, there was a quorum.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Land Use Committee:**

Mr.Hellenbrecht gave his report as Land Use Co-Chair.  
BSA item # 25-57 BZ, 221-18 Merrick Boulevard.

Mr. Hellenbrecht said that there was a meeting with the Laurelton Civic Association on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This location has been a flea market in the past., the property is partially commercial on residential land. The intentions are to make this a mini strip mall. There will be improvements to parking, trees will be planted, there will be an entrance on Merrick Boulevard and one on 222 Street.. During the meeting it was stated that there were to be no cell phone antennas, and that lighting was not to face the residential area. There was mention of whether the parking lot would be secured in some way, but they are not a 24 hour operation.

Mr. Hellenbrecht stated that the people who attended the meeting felt that this would be an improvement over what is at the location now, Bess DeBetham agreed.

Alain Berrouet asked why this particular property couldn't have been used for a better purpose, such as a Community Center for youth. Mr Hellenbrecht said that he didn't think it would fit the needs for a Community Center, its zoned for retail.

Charlie Farruggia asked who attended this presentation to represent local residents. Mr. Hellenbrecht said that Bess DeBetham and Dwight Johnson were at the meeting. Bess DeBetham said that many members of the Federated Blocks of Laurelton were at this presentation..The owners spoke to Councilman Richards and the proposal is for two or three retail stores, no check cashing etc.

Dwight Johnson, President of the Federated Blocks stated that the site is private property, this is not government owned, and that a Community Center wouldn't bring in any revenue.

Mr. Hellenbrecht said that three quarters of this site is "as of right"..

Seymour Finklestein asked if this item could be laid over until next month. Kyle Bragg said that this site is an eye-sore and a vote should be taken now.

Motion was made by Kyle Bragg and seconded by Vernal Holder to vote on this item. Motion was made to accept the reports by Bess DeBetham and seconded by Charlie Farruggia.

Kyle motioned that it be stated that there be no cell towers or lighting going into the residential area, and that the community will submit a list of what they don't want.

Vote was taken – 36 in favor, 2 abstentions.

It was suggested when there is a BSA item to be heard, if the Board could please list the address as well as the BSA # in the Sentinel..

#### **Public Safety Committee: Chairman Clive Williams**

Mr. Williams spoke on the After Dark Lounge, located at 224-01 Merrick Boulevard. The Federated Blocks of Laurelton and the church, as well as the Councilman were all opposed to a license being issued. The Committee voted to oppose the license. Mr. McClean has sent a letter to the SLA in opposition. .

Keep in mind, the Community Board is only advisory in these matters.

A 30- day waiver had been requested from W.& M restaurant and beer garden at 215-21 Jamaica Avenue.. The committee will deliberate on that.

Alain Berrouet asked on what the Public Safety Committee is doing about terrorism in light of the attack on the police officers on Jamaica Avenue? Mr Williams said that Detective Cooper keeps him informed as much as possible.

The Public Safety Committee report was accepted by the Board.

Mr. Block announced that there would be a 105 Community Council meeting at St. Clare's auditorium in Rosedale, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 8PM.

#### **Health Committee: Co-Chair Bonnie Huie**

Ms.Huie spoke on the Ebola virus. Ebola is not spread through casual contact, air, water, or food grown or legally purchased in the United States. Ebola is spread through body fluids ( blood, vomit, urine, feces, sweat, semen, spit and other fluids). It can also be spread through contaminated objects such as needles and medical equipment. Ms. Huie also spoke on the importance of washing your hands after shaking hands with someone, using bannisters and railings etc, and the use of hand sanitizers.

Motion was made to accept the reports by Richard Hellenbrecht and seconded by Daisy Carew,

### **John Kelly : Motor Parkway East Proposal**

Mr. Kelly spoke about the rehabilitation of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. This parkway is a 100 year old highway that once stretched from Fresh Meadows, Queens to Lake Ronkonkama in Suffolk County.

Today a 3 mile section from St. Francis Prep to Creedmoor is preserved and used as an off-street walking, running and cycling path. It isn't easy to get to this greenway from Glen Oaks, Floral Park or Bellerose. Another greenway is being built along the remaining sections of the Motor Parkway in Nassau County.

The objective of Mr. Kelly's Committee is to ask NYC DOT to build a greenway that connects the existing greenway with the future Nassau County Motor Parkway Greenway. As this progresses there will be updates that the Board will be made aware of.

Mr. Hellenbrecht suggested that the Board write a letter in support of this proposal, along with the Transportation Committee.

Alain Berrouet and Terryl Ebony DeMendonca stated that they did not get the Budget Priorities sent to them in the mail, there were other members at this point that agreed, the new members had no idea how the Budget Priorities were selected. They said that there should be an explanation sent out with the Budget.. Alain Berrouet suggested that he receive these items in an e-mail.

There was a discussion on Budget Priorities.

Mr. Block stated that under the City Charter, the District Manager runs the office items that need to be moved on Budget Priorities will be discussed with Mr. McClean..The District Manager prepares the Budget, which is already past due.

Mr. Bragg suggested that there be a meeting to go through the entire budget.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10pm

Respectfully submitted

Stephanie Rainkie  
Community Coordinator

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