

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Michelle Akyempong ab
Arguello, Tatiana
Berksteiner, Dora
Berksteiner, Doreen
Joseph Bird
Allison Brown ex
Telee Brown ab
Christopher Campbell
Loretta Cauldwell
Andre Ciprut
Kathleen Coen
Christopher Corbo ab
Anthony Cosentino
Claudette Duff
Samir Farag
Timothy Forsyth
Selina Grey
John Guzzo
Robert Holst
Linda Huff ab
Sunny Jain
Linda Juarbe ex

Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Ali Lula ab
David McGoy ab
Nicole Meyers ab
Mohan Radhakrishna
Alina Nevradakis ab
Friday Ogbewe
Ernest Paige ab
Francine Reali
Joshua Renta
Cindy Salzillo
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari ab
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil
Nicholas Siclari
Jaclyn Tacoronte ex
George Turner
Steven Williams

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President Vito Fossella's office, Mike Arvenitis of Councilmember Kamillah Hanks, Jennifer Larsen & Nadia Fabozzi, On Your Mark, Jenna Blakeman, Jessie Cohen, Chris DiPietro, Downtown Staten Island Wayfinding Project, Janet Dugo, SI Chamber of Commerce, Agnes McBeth & Brianna Joerger of DA McMahon's office, Nicole Brooks, Mario Buonviaggio, Cathleen Kenny, Jeanne Raleigh, Patrick Timoney, Pablo Hidalgo, Bruce Lauria, Rosemary Algerio, Vincent Atkinson, Charlie Olsen, Linda Urbanski, Samantha Bright, Diane & Marshall Duberstein, Neil Anastasio, Prince Cobbina, Terry Troia, Andrew Dorman, Anayansi Clarke, Lindy Peter Crescitelli

6:31 PM Meeting called to order by Chair, Nick Siclari with the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Session - Friday Ogbewe

Agnes McBeth from DA McMahon's office – Introducing Brianna Joerger – On Staten Island, crime remains lower than other boroughs. There is a problem with the stealing of Treasury checks. When you file your income tax, please try to use Direct Deposit. If you are using checks to pay your bills, we are finding a trend with "check washing". Our office has special Gel Pens which are harder to wash off. I brought some today. I also brought panic alarms. We are in Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This past Saturday we hosted our Third Annual Walk/Roll Against Domestic Violence. Over 800 Staten Islanders participated. Our office received a \$500,000 Grant from the DOJ for Cold Cases. It also opens a Cold Case Unit for Staten Island. We received \$700,000 for a Program for Children whose parents experience substance abuse. Over the years, this program has serviced over 100 kids. This program will continue over the next three years. On the Prosecutorial front, guilty verdict for Shaheem Chavis. He

entered a Park Hill apartment on September 21, 2022, murdered a 61 year old grandmother, shot her to death and then murdered another individual. He was recently sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Brianna Joerger – Assistant District Attorney for about a year in Criminal Court with Domestic Violence cases.

Nicole Brooks, NYC Parks Department – October 24th Vital Parks for All, 5:30PM – 7:30PM, SI Borough Hall, 10 Richmond Terrace. Investing in NYC's Living Infrastructure. NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue and BP Vito Fossella invite you to RSVP.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – Mario acknowledges Ms. Cusack, Ms. Maffeo and Selina Grey for an outstanding job they have done thus far. I have worked with them closely throughout the summer. We are monitoring an ongoing issue at a housing complex, 1544 Castleton Avenue. Over 300 calls to 911, public safety and health issues and is now categorized as the most dangerous address in Port Richmond. NYS Office of Cannabis Management, 1350 Forest Avenue is opening up with a large opposition from the Elected Officials, Port Richmond, CB1 and DA's office. Signatures from residents of Veltman Avenue opposing this site and 1350 Forest Avenue was allowed to open. Damian Fagon, OCM Chief Equity Officer is on administrative leave amid allegations of retaliation and selective enforcement. New agency that is falling on their feet with serious integrity issues. Our elected officials need to speak in Albany about stopping these applications on a main commercial corridor which are being "rubber stamped" and ignoring the residents of SI. These should open in an industrial or manufacturing zoning location.

Cathleen Kenny from Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office – Coordinating along with BP Vito Fossella, Hurricane Relief Drive for Hurricane Helene victims and upcoming Hurricane Milton in Florida. We will be using 2090 Victory Blvd as a drop-off station, Monday through Friday from 10AM to 4PM. Free shredding event on October 16th from 9AM-12PM at the SI Mall Parking Lot next to Krispy Kreme, Richmond Avenue. Please limit yourselves to two to three bags of shredding material. On October 26th, teaming up with Assemblyman Reilly & Tannousis with the American Red Cross for a Violence Safety Training, 10AM to 2PM at the Elks Lodge on Richmond Avenue. If you're interested in volunteering and installing smoke detectors. Flyers in the back. Please Vote in the Elections.

Jeanne Raleigh – Resident of West Brighton – I already spoken to you about NYC Local Law 18. I would now like to speak about Section 8 Housing. I met a entrepreneur of a private management & developing company in Port Richmond on the corner of Richmond Terrace. He said he will never engage with traditional housing in NYC because Section 8 Housing always pays. On his website, he boasts 300 homes have converted and growing. Mariner's Harbor, Elm Park, Port Richmond, West New Brighton, & St. George. His FB Page reads, "We need your help. We are interested in purchasing low-income properties in these areas. Please let me know if you know anyone with a listing." This is a concern. Many of these homes were owned by long-time Staten Islanders who have passed away and no family to take care of these matters. Our landscape is changing quickly. There is a 4-story apartment building being built by this management company on Port Richmond Avenue by the Terrace. He put in a variance to raise the structure from 2-stories to 4-stories. It used to be a parking lot for a bank. Please have this investigated.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI – Annual Baby Shower, October 19, JCC at 230 Broad Street. Senator, Jessica Scarcella-Spanton has given us \$80,000 for NYPD cameras in real-time.

Makeda Campbell, Community Liaisons for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton – We have had at least 5 Mobile Health Units for people to get checked out without insurance. We go out on location in communities and make ourselves present. We also did a shredding event with the DA's office. We had a Veteran's BBQ this past Sunday partnered with Senator Lanza's office. Thank you to those who came out. Legislation: The Accidental Death Benefit for Anthony Varvaro's family was signed/passed. The Senator allocated money for PS 57 STREAM Program. Jermaine mentioned the money allocated for NYPD cameras. Money allocated to PS 78 for their Community Garden. We will be Honoring Joan Cusack, CB1 District Manager for her work in the community along with other SI Community Members this Thursday, October 10th at Curtis HS.

Roll Call Attendance by Loretta Cauldwell, Secretary. We have a quorum.

Presentation:

Jennifer Larsen, Associate Executive Director & Nadia Fabozzi, Director of Development - On Your Mark – OYM and the new campus that they have recently acquired in New Brighton. We been here since 1979. We finalized our purchase of St. Peter's/St. Paul's Campus. All one floor with no stairs. We had 120 Victory which is no longer conducive to our program. Adults ages 18- "whatever". We have a Snack Zone at the Snug Harbor Children's Museum. On Clinton is a blue house which used to be the Rectory, 4 foot in-ground pool and track to share with the community. The senior housing in the community said the Goodhue Center isn't always open.

Nadia Fabozzi said Casa Belvadere is having a Fall Festival this weekend. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 645 Forest Avenue, walk-in interviews. Peter Lindy Crescitelli said they are doing a great job.

Jenna Blakeman, Jessie Cohen, Chris DiPietro, Downtown Staten Island Wayfinding Project Team in coordination with the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, Janet Dugo for remarks/wrap-up. The project aims to create pedestrian and vehicular wayfinding signage in downtown Staten Island. Our goal is to increase access to, and awareness of, attractions, businesses, and activities in the area. NYS developed a program where they provide \$10 million dollar grants to downtown districts each year. SI Chamber partnered with the BP's office & SIEDC applied for SI District and was awarded that grant. 8 projects are going forward. One being the Staten Island Wayfinding Project. This program will create signage. There will be Infrastructure and transportation signage areas. Chris and Jesse are the Wayfinding Team Design and Implementation Specialists. Presentation couldn't be shown due to technical difficulties but we had handouts.

Chris from Wayfinding spoke. Patterning with the Chamber of Commerce. There would be parking directionals. 13-month project.

Jesse, with Melissa Johnson Associates. This signage is for people who need help with navigating. Throughout the process we will be working along with the Community Board doing a variety of outreach. The signage is welcoming for visitors and gives a sense of pride for residents with its visual appeal for people who live, work and travel here.

Anthony Sgarlato, CB1 Cultural Chair asked if there will be signage for all the Cultural areas on SI, approximately 30 locations. The answer was yes.

The area will be a strict boundary which would be the "downtown" area, St. George, Tompkinsville and Stapleton. Ferry terminal and transit areas.

For more information, you can reach out to Janet Dugo of the SI Chamber of Commerce.

Officers' Reports:

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino: No report.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth: No report.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – No report.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari - CB1 Chair Nick Siclari announced there was a church fire on Castleton and Broadway having many fire engines going by during the presentation.

Chair Nick introduced Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton to speak.

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton - Decided to stop by, living in the neighborhood. Wrapping up her first two years in office. Passed over 55 pieces of legislation, including for veterans. She is the chair of Veterans Homeland Security and Military Affairs. We had a Veterans Roundtable today with Senator Gillibrand. We have a lot on the State level and need support at the Federal level. We have Public Safety bills. We passed a law that was signed making it a felony to assault a retail worker punishable up to 4 years in prison. We have signs that go on a retail window as a PSA, like you see on a bus. If you know anyone who owns a business and wants one. The DA will prosecute those crimes. We passed a bill that prevents squatters from having the same rights as tenants. We brought funding to this district. \$2 million dollars for the Goodhue Center. I care about Public Safety and Affordability. I know groceries are "astronomically" expensive. Inflation is not a state-driven issue, however we passed a \$350 million dollar child tax credit which you'll be feeling next year. For public safety, we are making sure our police precincts have the resources they need. \$80,000 for the 120 Precinct for cameras. We made sure we enhanced their pension benefits for officers to give them an incentive to stay on the job and retire comfortably. Also we are helping Tier 6 to make sure our state workforce is strong, healthy and sustainable. Thank you to everyone in this room for being a true partner in my first two years.

Questions about Ferry workers by Joshua Rental - Senator Spanton said yes, the protection is for ferry workers too.

Tony Cosentino - 6 months ago, letter for assaults on teachers. Senator Spanton said both of her parents are retired school teachers. She will look at it. It is not easy increasing penalties on crimes in NY State. I do my best to talk to my colleagues and get them on board. We will try to get that passed.

Neil Anastasio asked about Cannabis Management on where these dispensaries are placed. Senator Spanton said the fact that a church is only considered a church if only used as a church is absurd. We introduced a bill to address those issues and also as far as schools. They are not considering daycare schools. We want to make sure we get the language right. The Office of Cannabis Management is understaffed. There are 20 people at the agency dealing with the State of NY. It's not an efficient system.

Jack Bolembach thanked Senator Spanton for her work with the veterans. She said her husband did two tours in Afghanistan. We passed a bill that require the Department of Veterans Services to have a registry. A veterans drivers license is not enough. We want the Department of Veterans

Services to get that information. A packet, Welcome to NY, this is what's available to you, housing, jobs, non-profits offering mental health services, etc. Make sure you sign up for the VA.

We are collecting items for victims of North Carolina right now.

Chairman Nick said you can come to the Senator Spanton's Award Ceremony on Thursday for Joan Cusack, CB1 District Manager.

Chairman Nick said we had a 22 minute Land Use Meeting. Continue to do virtual meetings especially when there are less important agendas.

District Manager, Joan Cusack - - Please don't park on the grass outside the church.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – Meeting, Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6:30 PM – Virtual on Zoom

55 Seagate Road

Application (N230332ZAR) pursuant to Zoning Resolution Section 105-421 to authorize modification of topographic features on Tier 1 sites and Zoning Resolution Section 105-425 to authorize modification of botanic environment and tree preservation and planning requirements to facilitate development of a single-family, two-story residence and detached accessory garage within the Special Natural Area District. They came to us because they have a pool which is outside of the 15 foot buffer. They didn't have to even go to City Planning for a pool but that's why they came over to us. We feel the project is deserving of our endorsement.

Land Use Vote – 13 Yes, Passes Unanimously.

Motion to approve this project.

Full Board Vote: 28 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions

301 Howard Avenue

Application (N240078ZAR) to authorize a development, enlargement or site alteration on a steep slope or steep slope buffer to facilitate the vertical and horizontal expansion of the existing residence from a two-story to a three-story, single-family house at 301 Howard Avenue (Block 615, Lot 21) within the Special Hillside Preservation District (HS). Parking platform proposed (10 feet). They already have a parking garage.

Land Use Vote: 11 Yes, 2 Abstentions, Passes

Motion to approve this project.

Full Board Vote: 29 yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstention

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Minutes are in the packet. We are still working on the Ferry to Brooklyn. We are pushing to get the Maritime Junior High School on SI. There is a huge issue with crossing Bay Street with these events like the Bike Tour, etc. People cannot get access to their homes. It was the whole day. John Guzzo said Rosebank/Shore Acres also suffers and anyone below Bay Street is not allowed out. Every year this happens with a "rookie cop", "sergeant said". No reason not to let the couple go to church.

Public Services, Sunny Jain –

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna –

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth – Tony said Joe Bird is doing an excellent job with the Transportation Committee.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – We had a meeting and discussed the Statement of Needs Budget. Two corrections. We are looking to get a Maritime Junior High School, not High School. This is on the Expense Budget #8. Expense Budget #2, Mental and Physical Health Issues for transgender youths and everyone and all groups including DEI. Vote Passes unanimously.

Transportation, Joseph Bird – We have some historical issues started by Nicholas Zvegintzov. Issues with the S76 & S78 buses. The schedule was resolved with the S76. Goethals Road and Jules Drive. A traffic study was done and was completed with no plans at that intersection. Nicholas Avenue in Port Richmond, there is a longer plan for that intersection. Next meeting October 29th on Zoom.

Small Business & Non-Profit, Jaclyn Tacoronte – Excused. Chris Campbell spoke - September 26th we had a meeting via Zoom. We decided going forward to do quarterly meetings.

Labor, Robert Holst – The project at Castleton and Port Richmond Avenue, this project was before I was on the Community Board. The money is coming to the North Shore. As far as these projects, like the developer did in other boroughs. Not everyone is a bad neighbor but everyone of those bad neighbors builds their project by exploiting their labor.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – The Parks Department is giving presentations to some of the area committees.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – No report. Our meetings will be going quarterly.

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – No report. Our meetings will be going quarterly. Jessica Scarcella-Spanton is working with me with protecting one heart at a time which is near and dear to my heart. Our son died of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. Our goal is to have every single high school entrance exam to include an echocardiogram and EKG so that every child gets tested. Please pray for Jessica if this goes through so I don't have to have 200 baskets to raise funds.

West Brighton, Anthony Cosentino –

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff - Leotti Playground Presentation. Parks is asking for a letter. Anthony Cosentino said the letter will be approved and sent out.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth – No meeting, no minutes.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo - Kindly get a flag for the CB1 office. (Update: We now have a flag). We have a rat problem in Rosebank. At 49 St. Mary's Avenue, a Fish Warehouse that washes their trucks out in the street at 11PM. The entire neighborhood smells like a fish store. We can't seem to get the city agencies to ticket them. Consumer Affairs should be there. I want every city agency to go there. Sanitation one meeting, consumer affairs another meeting, Health Department, EPA, etc. They are worried about our food scraps in a pail but we have fish smell down the street. We had a Alice Austen House Presentation by Parks. Upgrading the signage for the community, new stairs and ramp. The Rosebank Committee approved it unanimously.

Reverse Roll Call to send a letter of approval.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner –

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi- Liquor license renewals. The Richmond on Bay Street, I was told they're not open anymore. Change of Operation for Addiction on Front Street, for later closing time. We took no action and they will come to another meeting. Barca SI, LLC, Pastavino, 44 Navy Pier Court, committee approved. Latin Grooves Bar & Lounge, we will monitor this place. 155 Tompkins Avenue, Demolition Notice. We would like clarification. Two NYPD complaints on Van Duzer Street. Drug use during school hours. Also by the Stapleton Library. Next meeting October 17th Hybrid meeting. 4th Annual Tappan Park Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7th. Port Richmond and Rosebank has one. Mr. Christopher Rooney, 77 years young. Beloved husband, father, grandfather and long time Staten Island resident. An Irishman who married his college sweetheart and proudly raised 4 children and loved his 5 grandchildren. Chris was the second of 7 children. His father served and Chris served as a US Army Captain in Vietnam. He played varsity Baseball and Basketball and Coach for his children soccer teams. He was a lawyer for 50 years. Known for his integrity, dedication and commitment to justice. He helped family, friends and strangers. Devoted community activist. Served on this CB1 for 25 years. President of the Special Olympics Soccer Team. He was inducted into the SI Soccer Hall of Fame. Devoted catholic and a member of Holy Name Society. Staten Island thanks him for his contributions. A street naming honoring Mr. Rooney must be done. Thank you.

Chairman Nick asked for a moment of silence for Chris Rooney's passing. We didn't get notified of his wake.

Michael Arvenitis - New trains in the SIRT in a month. We have retired old trains. We got together with BP Fossella and other Elected Officials for Hurricane Relief for North Carolina and Georgia. We are looking for socks, feminine products, paper towels, & cleaning supplies. You can drop them off at Borough Hall and all the Elected Officials offices. We are teaming up with the International Firefighters Association & Notre Dame Alumni Association to deliver those supplies there. Post Sandy we were supported and we will now support. We have 3,200 job vacancies, go to NYC.GOV/Hire.

Old Business – None. **New Business** – Tatiana Arguello - Non-Profits are important. 12th Annual Non-Profit Conference on October 30th at the Hilton. We have the entire space. We all need to work together. If you want to have a table please let me know. We have an amazing lineup.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:06PM