

**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.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI –

Jeanne Raleigh

Presentation:

Jennifer Larsen & Nadia Fabozzi, On Your Mark – OYM and the new campus that they have recently acquired in New Brighton.

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.

Roll Call and Attendance by Loretta Cauldwell – 1 member short of a quorum.

Officers' Reports:

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino: No report.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth: No report.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe: – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – No report.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain - Absent

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Chairman of area committees and such, I pride myself and this board that we were the first to come back after Covid and have in person meetings. We have to be smart. We had our first Land Use meeting where we saw an application from 4 years ago. We didn't have a quorum. A couple of members came down with Covid. We have people with compromised immune systems. If you're a chair with one or two liquor licenses, let's use the Zoom account. For example, Tony had one liquor license renewal and he canceled his meeting and sent emails out instead to get a vote. Let's be smart and safe.

Port Richmond North Shore Alliance for Mario Buonviaggio (Joan Coogan spoke) – As you know our Civic group does not take the summer off. We have issues that are negatively impacting our community. An application for a Cannabis Retail Business to open up at 1350 Forest Avenue. The response of the community is not favorable. This proposal fell short according to the OCM's list of guidelines. We sent out a letter of opposition along with CB1 and BP Fossella along with other Elected Officials and Civic Groups. OCM moved forward with the approval. A new state agency not listening to community concerns and choosing profit over safety. They should not be put in our community in neighborhoods where there are children, families and young adults.

District Manager, Joan Cusack - There is no quorum, and I know many people are still away. Please try to get to the meetings.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – 43 & 47 Cecilia Court – Two house development voted by the board 4 years ago. This Already approved by City Planning and met all the requirements including drainage and structural issues. Project was delayed due to Covid. They came back to City Planning with an amendment that only involves trees. R2 Located within the Special Hillside Preservation District - A Non-ULURP modification of the authorization pursuant to 119-313 for modification of landscaping, tree preservation and tree planting requirements is filed separately as a result of several trees having fallen, several trees increasing in caliper and several trees and several trees reaching the minimum 6" caliper. Presented by Michael A. Sanna, R.A.

A resident in the area above this property said they took down all the trees. The diagram shows that they are there but they're not. They were fined and paid the fine the next day. George Turner said they must replace the trees. The site plan calls for the replacement of the trees. There is a parameter you are allowed to remove the trees. Fran Reali stated there are more trees than needed. Land Use Chair, George Turner said you are welcome to go to City Planning and express your concerns.

We didn't have a quorum at our Land Use Committee Meeting, but we recommend and endorse this proposal.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell: It passes unanimously, 21 yes.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Over the summer we had a Grant for Pier 1. Very happy to get that money. We are keeping a close eye on the Waterfront project. Mary Cali Dalton Center is progressing. We have a rally on Saturday, September 28th at 11:00 AM "Back to Brooklyn" for the Staten Island Brooklyn Ferry at the steps of City Hall. We haven't had this since 1964. The concessions on the ferry are there. We will try to get someone from DOT to speak at our next meeting about getting these concessions open and running. We are still pushing for a Junior High School on Staten Island. We have a Waterfront Meeting on September 24th at 6:30PM on Zoom.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – Excused.

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Kate spoke on behalf of herself and Mohan. Meeting on September 25th via Zoom. Dana Vitolo and Michael Messing, co-directors of Youth Programs for NYC Parks on Staten Island. Discussion on programs for young people to coordinate with the start of the school year, such as Robotics and After School Homework assistance programming. Kate stated, we will do anything to support our young people on Staten Island.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth – No report.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – Will have a meeting on Monday, September 30th to do Budget consultations.

Transportation, Joseph Bird – Meeting September 24th for updates on the MTA buses, traffic issues, bus lateness, etc. We will pick up where Nicholas Z. left off.

Small Business & Non-Profit, Jaclyn Tacoronte, Excused – Chris Campbell said next meeting will be September 26th on Zoom.

Labor, Robert Holst – Excused. Tony Scutari said last Saturday was the Labor Day Parade in Manhattan. 200 unions with 250,000-500,000 people marching on 5th Avenue. It was a great day.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – (no microphone)

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – No report.

West Brighton, Anthony Cosentino – No meeting.

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff -

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth – Meeting next Wednesday.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo – Absent. Meeting next Tuesday at the Board Office.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – Not present.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi- We had a lot of liquor licenses. 635 Bay Street, Cruiseline, 305 Front Street, 520 Bay Street, 7 Navy Pier Court, Richmond Road. They were all approved. Climate Strong Communities Program Fairshare for the Stapleton Community for Environmental Justice. National Grid upcoming project gas mains in the Clifton, Greenfield Area and Park Hill. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 19th. Upcoming Events: New York City Open Street Stapleton Saturdays (every Saturday in September) from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM on Water Street and Bay Street. Play in the middle of a normally busy street. On Sunday, September 15th, Pig Fest 2024, 2-6PM at the National Lighthouse Museum. Entertainment, food and vendors. Best Pig food made and entered crowned winner. Saturday, September 21st, 13th Annual Staten Island Black Heritage Family Day Parade. Starts at Vanderbilt Avenue to Bay Street. A little pick me up..."If you can think it, dream it, picture it, see it and believe it, then it can be it."

Old Business – Michael Arvenitis said Shrek II, September 13th, 6:30 PM at the Ballpark. New bus stop in St. George, looks nice. If you take an express bus between 7AM and 11AM tomorrow, please don't. They are all being rerouted to New Jersey to Holland and Lincoln Tunnels due to the 9/11 Ceremonies.

New Business –

Motion to Adjourn – 7:52 PM