

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 10, 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 ex  
Berksteiner, Dora ex  
Berksteiner, Doreen ex  
Joseph Bird  
Allison Brown ex  
Telee Brown ex  
Christopher Campbell  
Loretta Cauldwell  
Andre Ciprut ex  
Kathleen Coen  
Christopher Corbo ab  
Anthony Cosentino  
Claudette Duff  
Samir Farag ab  
Timothy Forsyth  
Selina Grey ab  
John Guzzo ab  
Robert Holst ex  
Linda Huff ab  
Sunny Jain ab  
Linda Juarbe

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

**Office Staff**

Joan Cusack, District Manager  
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

**Guests:**

Yvonne Scordia, Joseph Ottomanelli, Brigida Torres-McIntyre, Thomas McIntyre, John Garcia, Neil Pisane, Anthony Illardi, Gloria Morales, Jelica Potter, Andrew Dorman, Edgardo Jimenez, Ralph Fortunato, Elena Brady, Angela Porter, Cathleen Kenny, Ernest Eans Jr., Joan Coogan, Maryanne MacDermott, Agnes McBeth, RV Augusty, Jerry Fine, Rosemary Algeno, Donna Manitta, Charlie Olson, Anika Flores, Antonio Fonseca, Casey Brown, Ivon Martinez, Dina Rosenthal, Tracey Kohne.

6:30 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 – Tomorrow, 9/11, we want to offer our prayers for those still suffering from related illnesses and stand in solidarity with our First Responders. Guilty plea from defendant Nelson Pizarro for attempted murder in the second degree of Dominick Libretti and will be receiving a near 20-year sentence. Check washing is on the rise. If you have to pay your bills by checks, use a gel pen. Two upcoming events. Annual EV Walk, Run Festival October 5<sup>th</sup>. Catalytic Converter etching event on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ocean Breeze Complex.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI – Community Link/QR code. Ex. If you see RV or Tractor Trailers parked illegally. Who are my NCO's, my ambassador? The community link would pass complaints directly to Precincts. For noise complaints, drug use/sale, loitering, trespassing, traffic violation, vending condition, scaffolding condition, etc.

Nicole Brooks, Parks Project Manager – Liotti Ikefugi Playground Presentation at the Area Committee meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Alice Austen House Reconstruction will be presented at the Rosebank Area Committee Meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. ADA accessibility, etc. Vital Parks For All: Investing in NYC's Living Infrastructure flyer (posted on CB1 FB Page).

Nina Salerno, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – We gave 2,000 families school supplies (backpacks) at our Second Annual Back to School Event. Please contact our office if anyone is still in need of backpacks. We continued with our Mobile offices this Summer and will continue in the Fall. Mammogram Event on 9/15 at St. Joseph & Mary Immaculate. Shredding Event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Midland Beach. Veterans BBQ on October 6<sup>th</sup>, The Elks Lodge.

Cathleen Kenny from Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office – Very solemn 9/11 Day tomorrow. Along with the First Responders we should remember the people on the airlines. Event hosted in Summer at Willowbrook Park which was a huge success. Thank you to whoever came out. Shredding Event on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Krispy Kreme Parking Lot at the SI Mall. Sam has written a letter to the FAA regarding helicopters that are flying over Willowbrook & Westerleigh. To investigate late night and early morning helicopters. You can find updates on Sam Pirozzolo's Social Media sites. District Manager, Joan Cusack said the Congresswoman is also looking into this matter. They were flying over Rosebank one after the other. It's a tourist company that changed their route. Sherry Diamond at Nicole Malliotakis' office is working on it. Cathleen said thank you to Joan for this information. Sam Pirozzolo also firmly opposes the City of Yes for Housing. He is looking at legislation at the state level for tax incentive credits for homeowners for the NYC trash cans. It's great to see everybody and welcome back.

Gerald Fine – Sanitation garage on Jersey Street, the city has affordable housing building there which I believe affordable housing is not the way to go there. There were other options for that location including the 120<sup>th</sup> Precinct. I believe we need a Charter School there. There are more than 40 kids now in the classrooms. We don't have enough infrastructure to carry another 1,000 people in that community. I can get 1,000 signatures from residents who oppose this. Is this brought upon by an insensitive developer that doesn't even live on Staten Island? Joan Cusack, District Manager said this was done way back when they close-down the Sanitation Garage. Nicholas Siclari, Chair said we are waiting for definitive plans when the garage closes.

John Garcia, President of the Serpentine Commons – The City of Yes is saying forget about the hurricanes, we want to build on the Hillside. It's going to damage the retaining wall. Those tunnels were not properly covered with cement. You don't know if these houses will shift. Oakland Terrace or formerly known as Snake Hill Road. DCAS condemned that street because it's sinking and they closed it. Think about it.

Neil Pisani – Neighbor to this project just mentioned. Cecila Court Project. This project is full of variances and half-truths. They are proposing a septic system located underneath a driveway. The city code states this is not permissible. This is a non-porous area. The tanks can overflow into the caves. During Hurricane Sandy that water seeped out into Grymes Hill Estates. Now this will not only be rain water but sewage water.

Leo Heinert – Professional skate-boarder on Staten Island. How many skate parks are there on Staten Island? There are two. The Bronx has 9, Manhattan has 7, Queens has 11 and Brooklyn has 21. Since this sport has been added to the Olympics, this has become more and more popular. This park can prepare for the next Olympics in 2028 in LA. A way to stay active, avoid trouble and for social activity for growth. It would create jobs and economic growth. Skate-boarding is a powerful form of self-expression. Hopefully we can make this happen.

Richard Rojas – I co-founder Skate to Elevate with Leo Heinert. Very important to push these projects forward. Our Outreach is very important. There are safety concerns in skating at night. I've been skating for 15 years and have to go to NJ or other boroughs. This takes money for tolls, gas, etc. We have a petition with over 700 signatures.

Ralph Fortunato – Resident of St. George. Like many of you, I am deeply invested in the well-being of our community and want to keep St. George safe for all of us. Following up on concerns expressed three months ago about Project Hospitalities Drop-In Center at 150 Richmond Terrace. Unfortunately, they are not present this evening. This situation has not improved. Many of the problems have gotten worse. Public urination, indecency, noise, loitering, trespassing, harassment, drug-use on private property in our neighborhood. This is happening in an area where children live, and unsafe for families. There is continued lack of engagement and accountability from Project Hospitality and DHS. The monthly in-person meetings with the community have yet to be reinstated. It has been over 4 years since the Drop-In Center has been operating. We've seen this at their previous location at 25 Central Avenue and at Castleton Housing in Port Richmond. This pattern suggests there are larger systemic issues that need to be addressed. We are asking that our concerns be taken seriously. Safety should be a priority for all of us.

Chairman Nick Siclari said there is still no quorum maybe due to the Presidential Debate.

### **Presentation:**

#### **Joseph Ottomanelli of the Sanitation Department – NYC's New Mandatory Trash Cans (Residential Containerization) & Curbside Composting.**

Property owners and managers, beginning November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, all trash must be set out in a bin 55 gallons or less with a secure lid. This applies to single-family homes, two-family homes, buildings with up to 9 apartments. You can use a compliant bin 55 gallons or less with a secure lid that you already have but starting June 2026, you must use an official NYC Bin. The official bin is durable, rat resistant, and costs less than \$50 for the most-used size. Order by October 1 to ensure delivery by November 12<sup>th</sup>. Official NYC Bins are available for purchase at [www.bins.nyc](http://www.bins.nyc) or call 311 for assistance.

Curbside Composting – Free weekly service begins on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Compost will be collected every week on your recycling day. Separating leaf and yard waste, food scraps and food-soiled paper from trash is mandatory. You need a labelled bin, 55 gallons or less, with a secure lid. Get a free label at [nyc.gov/CompostingBinDecal](http://nyc.gov/CompostingBinDecal).

What to Compost: Leaf and Yard Waste (Plants, leaves, twigs, grass), Food Scraps (fruit, vegetables, meat, bones, dairy, prepared food), Food-Soiled Paper (napkins, towels, tea bags, plates, coffee filters, pizza boxes). NO RECYCLING OR TRASH. Violations are \$25 to \$400 starting in the Spring of 2025.

Violations are \$50 first offense, \$100 second offense and \$200 for the third and ongoing offenses. Remove the bins by 9PM on the collection day.

### **Q&A**

Chairman, Nick Siclari asked if new trucks were being purchased? That is further “down the pipeline”. June 2026 we do need to have the bins from the city with the NYC logo.

What if the pails are stolen? File a police report (updates to follow). The bins do come with a warranty.

Who will monitor if trash is being disposed of correctly? We will have DSNY enforcement teams.

How will DSNY know that the resident put the food scraps in the wrong bin, anyone can throw garbage in your bin? There was no answer to this question.

To buy all the bins, you are talking about \$200+. What happens to the homeowners that can barely pay their taxes, their mortgage, etc. Will they provide funding for those people?

Chairman, Nick Siclari made a motion to write a letter to Department of Sanitation to forget about the program until they get their act together. Vote passes unanimously.

#### **End of Public Session**

**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 Ogbewele** – 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 Caldwell: 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM on Zoom.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain** – Excused.

**Youth Services, Katherine Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna**. – Kate spoke on behalf of herself and Mohan. Meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> to do Budget consultations.

**Transportation, Joseph Bird** – Meeting September 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It was a great day.

**Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino** – No report.

**Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sqarlato** – (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 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, Pig Fest 2024, 2-6PM at the National Lighthouse Museum. Entertainment, food and vendors. Best Pig food made and entered crowned

winner. Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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