

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman – Excused
Anthony Cosentino, 1st Vice Chair – Called the meeting to order.**

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Michelle Akyempong
Arguello, Tatiana
Berksteiner, Dora
Berksteiner, Doreen
Joseph Bird ex
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 ex
Selina Grey ab
John Guzzo ab
Robert Holst ex
Linda Huff ab
Sunny Jain
Linda Juarbe ex

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

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Councilwoman, Kamillah Hanks, Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President Vito Fossella's office, Mike Arvenitis of Councilmember Kamillah Hanks, Deputy Inspector of the 120 Precinct, Eric Waldhelm, Agnes McBeth, DA McMahon's office, Carlos Gonzalez, ADA McMahon's office, Prince Cobbina, Beth Stern, Kelly Yim, Mario Buonviaggio, Makeda Campbell, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office, Jermaine Williams, Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office, Mark Albin, Bruce Lauria, Andrew Dorman, Anthony Navarino, Brenton Mitchell, F. Marra, Diane & Marshall Dubio, Catherine Anastasio, Neil Anastasio, Maryann Dipilli, Nadia Fabozzi.

6:31 PM Meeting called to order by Acting Chair, Anthony Cosentino, 1st Vice Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker:

Eric Waldhelm, New Commanding Officer. 120th Precinct – There for 5 months. Prior to that, 2022 – 2024, I was Commanding Officer at the 121 Precinct. 2019-2022, 2nd in Command in the 120 Precinct. Lifelong Staten Islander. Attended Curtis High School and happy to help them out in any way I can. Crime is down 10% compared to last year. Some tips in the cold weather. Don't warm up your car and leave the keys or valuables in the car. There are people flipping door handles, we call it car hopping. Detective Connor will be here if you have any questions.

Councilmember Kamillah Hanks: A round of applause for our Commanding Officer of the 120. We are against Congestion Pricing and Governor Hochul should not lift the pause. This is borough discrimination. This gives an undue burden of tax on Staten Islanders. The pride center will be able to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. I'm here to discuss the Martling Avenue Bridge regarding the "ugly" fence that has been constructed. Please give a round of applause to our DOT Borough Commissioner Roseann Caruana. This bridge was done by the Central office of DOT Bridges and Tunnels in NYC. They sent a letter to all the elected officials & Community Boards. The letter said they would be doing some remediation, cleanup and some fencing. It is our fault if we missed that but when you say fencing, that does not explain what was put up there. We are all upset, myself and the Borough President, etc. I want to thank the Borough Commissioner Roseann Caruana who got in touch with the necessary agency and they explained what happened with the bridge and why it was put up. They said safety reasons but there is a gap in the fence so that doesn't make sense. Thursday, 11/14, 2:30PM, there will be a press conference with the borough president on the bridge. We are calling for the removal of the fence. We were not in office when this was designed but it doesn't excuse us but it wasn't specific enough to send out an alert. I am introducing a bill that requires bridges and DOT to submit design plans instead of the "innocuous" letters.

Public Session - Friday Ogbewele

Agnes McBeth, Education Liaison in DA McMahon's office with ADA Carlos Gonzalez – Carlos said he started in June 2024 originally from California, living in Staten Island since September and with the Criminal Court Bureau. Agnes said on Saturday, November 23rd, 10:00AM, Mount Sinai Christian Church, another Gun Buy-Back in partnership with the NYPD.

At a recent Land Use meeting, there was a conversation about fencing at Silver Lake which was the discussion. During and following the meeting, the District Attorney's office received a flood of phone calls due to the comments that were made in reference to his participation in that project. He has written a letter which has been submitted to the community board. I will read that letter for the record. (Please see attached letter from the DA's office). First Vice-Chair, Anthony Cosentino said on behalf of Community Board 1, our District Attorney is always looking out for our best interest. Want to apologize on behalf of this board for that mishap, however, let it be known that it was not a sworn member of this board that made those comments.

Prince Cobbina of CCRB – Thursday, November 14th at 5:30 PM, Hybrid Meeting, 100 131st Street, NYC, Teen meeting for young New Yorkers to share their experiences within their community.

Beth Stern, Community Agency for Senior Citizens (CASC) – We offer many services for seniors. Case assist if you want to apply for housing. Transportation, medical and food shopping. Case management where all Meals on Wheels go through. If you need help with housekeeping. If you have a homebound senior, they will match you with a volunteer with a same type of interest. Justice for Elder Abuse. 1 out of 23 of these crimes are reported. Financial, physical, emotional, and neglect. If you know someone being abused, it will be kept confidential. CASC works hand in hand with the NYPD. Crime victim's assistance. I was director of that program for 7 years. We can get a victim compensated if lost money. If you had your catalytic converter stolen, the insurance only charged you the deductible, we can reimburse you the deductible. You need the crime report. We have NY Connects. If we can't help with a service, we will find someone who can. I am director of the Cassidy Coles Adult Center. Open Monday-Friday, 8AM – 4PM. Breakfast and lunch are offered daily. There is a suggested donation but not mandatory. Arts & Crafts, Nutrition Education. There is a gym onsite.

Kelly Yim, Stapleton Library – Programs happening. Creative Aging Workshop with Nikita Shah for seniors 50 and over. Classes on media, painting acting, knitting and drawing Mondays at 12PM – 1:30PM from October 28 – December 9, 2024. Also, for anyone who has lived, worked or loved Stapleton, and want your voice to be heard for Civic Engagement on this Saturday, November 16th from 11AM to 1PM with a gift card raffle.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – We just transported a 48 foot Spruce tree for our annual tree lighting on December 13th, 7PM at 415 Port Richmond Avenue. Thank you to all four precincts that helped with the transport.

Nughub, 1350 Forest Avenue, operating inappropriately. They are not allowed to smoke their product in front of the location. Veltman Avenue residents are sending videos and photos. Party in the parking lot giving out gummies occupying residential spaces. This is OCM, we have SLA, and the failing NYS Parol Board. They are “rubber-stamping” paroles. These are all state agencies. I am putting this on Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton’s shoulders. She’s the only one representing the North Shore appropriately. Asking her to get the State Electeds including the State Assembly to get in the game and work together and get these agencies in order. You are putting public safety in jeopardy. Nobody is answering at the Office of Cannabis Management. The cops wouldn’t know how to approach this problem. Four marijuana dispensaries operating inappropriately right out of the gate. Two on the North Shore, one on Clove Road and one on the South Shore. To the Governor, clean your own back yard.

Makeda Campbell, Community Liaison for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton’s office – Happy to say we will be here another two years. We will be working with the community and Mario Buonviaggio with the Cannabis Dispensaries. Turkey giveaway on November 21st, 2PM at Mount Sinai Church, 16 Pike Street, 10301. Partnering with the NYC District Council of Carpenters.

Cathleen Kenny from Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo’s office – We are grateful to serve for another two years. I have never introduced myself. I grew up by the Broadway YMCA for 30 years. Now live by the Armory. I have been volunteering for Sam for several years. I have been an International Flight Attendant for the last 29 years for a major carrier. I can live anywhere in the world. This is where I’m from and this is where I’m staying, where I grew up. I am committed to serving our community. Sam is outraged by the fence in Clove Lakes Park. He walks his dog there every morning. I have walked many dogs there too. He is working on it. He is also opposed to the Battery Storage Units. Anything you need, please do not hesitate to call.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI – It’s the holiday season. If your going shopping and putting bags in your car and going back in, go to a different location. There are people watching you. Have a Great Holiday of Thanks and a safe one.

Mark Albin – Born in Manhattan, grew up in Bay Ridge. 30 years ago, came to Staten Island for a better life. Last 40 years I have been working in Broadcasting for all three networks. I have seen the quality of life in Rosebank on Hylan Blvd diminish the last five years with graffiti, trash, etc.. I am squeezed between the Hotel and Colton Street. Next to my house is the Colton Street Staircase that runs from Hylan Blvd. to Clifton Avenue owned by the State. DOT is responsible for it. Every year my neighbors and I have to call 311, the Borough President, this has to be on a regular rotation. We are in the worst drought that we have seen in decades. All that brush and dead trees that are sitting next to our homes, not only is an eyesore but a hazard for property and life. People will die and property will be lost. DOT has failed us. If they are not going to do anything with it, then remove all the vegetation and put cobblestones down this street. All it takes is for someone to throw a cigarette butt into the area.

End of Public Session

Roll Call Attendance by Loretta Cauldwell, Secretary. We do not have a quorum.

Anthony Cosentino, 1st Vice Chair said he will go through all the committees. The minutes are in the packet.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino:

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth:

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell –

Treasurer, Sunny Jain –

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari -.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Waterfront requested a letter. Joe Ahlstrom said the North Shore Action Plan had a very good presentation at the last Waterfront Meeting. They will have affordable housing near Urby (not Sect. 8). They will put a Junior High School there. We would like them to put a Maritime Junior High School, similar to what we have on Governor's Island. There are plenty of jobs on the Waterfront and we are short people. This is an opportunity for young people to get their license. Motion: As discussed at EDC North Shore Action Plan, CB1 supports the construction of a Maritime Junior High School located in the area being developed on the Waterfront. Also, concession will be back on the SI Ferry (it was just announced in December it will be Dunkin Donuts). Please check your emails for the Power Point by EDC.

Anthony Cosentino said since we can't vote, we will stand on the Waterfront Committees recommendation which is a unanimous yes for the Maritime Junior High School and send the letter.

Public Services, Sunny Jain –

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna. –

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth –

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – The city has all new forms. Joan and Linda had to be retrained. We had a great Budget Meeting where the board voted on it for the FY2025 Budget. We are ready to send the Budget in, and we have preprinted forms which say FY2026. The Mayor's budget goes from July 1st through June 30th where our budget is aligned with his. I am told this 2026 is a projection. How does that coincide with our FY25 budget? DCP came to us with the City of Yes and now this budget thing. I see "BEWARE". It really should be FY25.

Transportation, Joseph Bird –

Small Business & Non-Profit,

Labor, Robert Holst –

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino –

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato –

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali –

West Brighton, Anthony Cosentino –

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – Anthony Cosentino said Claudette was instrumental in getting the NYPD for relining the streets for the Bike-A-Thon. Claudette Duff said they had the police department, Road Runners Club and other agencies related to the marathon and bike tour. Urby to Bay Street Landing is cut off the entire day. The marathon is not a problem but the Bike Tour is. We are advocating for them to pause it certain times of the day so cars can move. We were told these routes were created 30 years ago. It was completely different back then. We didn't have Urby, Bay Street Landing was two buildings, etc., It's a whole different place. Now we are talking about a school and affordable housing. It's time for them to come up with new ideas so that thousands of people are not cut-off for the entire day.

Anthony Cosentino said Councilmember Kamillah Hanks requests support from CB1 for Street Co-Namings for Raymond J. Pezzoli Esq. Way (Lois Place and Prospect Avenue), Firefighter Deo Lall Jr. Way (Broad Street and Wright Street), Ralph Lucci Way (Bay Street and Cross Street), Naimullah Sheikh Khan Way (Van Riper Street and Port Richmond Avenue), Sajda Musawwir Ladner Way (Jersey Street and Scribner Avenue), George Doyle Way (Vanderbilt Avenue and Tompkins Avenue), Icema "June" Williams Way (Bowen Street and Sobel Court) , Geraldine Parker Way (Broad Street and Warren Street). We will support this.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth –

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo -

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

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi-

Old Business – New Business –

Motion to Adjourn – 7:22 PM



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY
MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 12, 2024

Staten Island Community Board 1
1 Edgewater Plaza Suite 217
Staten Island, New York 10305

*RE: Correcting Misrepresentations at Community Board 1 Land Use Public Hearing
on November 7, 2024*

Dear Community Board 1 Members:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. It was brought to the attention of our office that at a recent Community Board 1 Land Use Public Hearing there were several misrepresentations made about myself, our office, and advocacy we have undertaken on behalf of public safety interests at Silver Lake Park. Please allow this letter to serve as a correction of those misrepresentations and to clarify any position our office may have regarding plans for the park.

First, prior to last week's meeting, our office was not aware of a planned project by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to change or implement higher fencing at Silver Lake Park. We have never requested a change to fencing at Silver Lake Park, we have never received information about a proposed change, nor do we have a position about the proposed project now. Any representation stating that this project was a result of advocacy by our office is misinformed and false.

What is true and accurate is that in 2021 there was a tragic death of a 9-year-old girl who drowned in the Silver Lake Reservoir. The circumstances surrounding her death were such that an investigation was undertaken by our office to determine what if any criminal charges might be applicable. During that investigation – three years ago – members of our office met with the Parks Department and DEP to better understand the schematic of the park, signage in the area, and the nature of the water current in the reservoir, among other things. We were compiling information to inform our decision-making process regarding the criminal investigation.

At that conclusion of our investigation, our office did circle back to advocate that signage in Silver Lake should be updated to reflect that swimming is prohibited in the reservoir. In conjunction with Borough President Oddo, and with the support of other elected officials, we

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submitted that request to City Hall and the Parks Department. The request for updated signage was honored shortly afterwards, for which we remain extremely grateful. That concluded our advocacy related to public safety changes at Silver Lake Park.

Again, our office has never taken a position nor advocated for changes to fencing at Silver Lake and we have no position regarding the current proposal made by DEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify and correct the record regarding this project. We look forward to continuing to work with the members of the Community Board to strengthen and protect Staten Island's North Shore.

Sincerely,



Michael E. McMahon
District Attorney

MEM/aem

cc:

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman, Community Board 1

Joan Cusack, District Manager, Community Board 1

George Turner, Chairman, Land Use Committee, Community Board 1