

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

**Members**

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

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

**Office Staff**

Joan Cusack, District Manager ex  
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

**Guests:**

Mike Arvenitis, Councilmember Kamillah Hanks Office, Agnes McBeth, DA McMahon's office, Jack Parlo, ADA McMahon's office, Makeda Campbell, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office, Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador, Cathleen Kenny, Asssemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office, Andrew Dorman, Neil Anastasio, FRRCA, Diane & Marshall Duberstein, Jack Parlo, Bruce Lauria, Bing Weiss, Jackson Tam, Mary Ann McGowan, Chris Coppa, Terry Troia, Donna Meritta, DOT, Maria Mendez, Tracey Walton, Prince Cobbina, Elena Brady, Councilmember Carr's Office, Charlie Olsen, Charles Roland, RV Augusty.

Meeting called to order, Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Session - Friday Ogbewe**

Agnes McBeth, Education Liaison in DA McMahon's office with ADA Jack Parlo – Jack said he was hired on September 16<sup>th</sup>, originally from Long Island. Lived in NYC for the past 6 years and lived in Richmond County for the past 3 months. I used to work in the criminal courts, petty larceny, assault, vehicular traffic violations.

Agnes McBeth – November 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a Cash for Guns Event. We had 84 firearms including a dozen ghost guns. We hosted two Staten Island Educator's Breakfasts. We invite Principals, Parent Coordinators, PTA Presidents and School Safety Agents to have breakfast with us at the Staaten along with NYPD and School Safety. We need to know what the school's safety needs might be so we can address them. We had over 300 participants this year. Last week there was an arrest and indictment of Anthony Sciortino who was an NYPD Detective assigned to the 120 Precinct. A search warrant was

issued and he had 19 illegal firearms, nearly two dozen unregistered firearms, and 4 unregistered, untraceable ghost guns at his Princes Bay residence. Ghost guns are illegal.

We have our Holiday Pet Calendars for next year and Christmas ornaments.

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Kamillah Hank's Office: I want to thank the Staten Islanders who came out the press conference at the Martling Avenue Fence. This is a process in taking this fence down. Originally they said it was for safety reasons, suicide, but nothing has happened. You can break an ankle if you jumped. They are worried about trash going into the waterway. On both sides of the fence you can then throw trash. They were called lakes but they are actually ponds. We are in talks with DOT about common sense. Thank you for coming out and supporting us. We are talking to DOT about "common sense creeping into their thought process."

Councilmember Hanks is introducing two pieces of legislation. 1<sup>st</sup> DOT has to show us their completed projects. The notification we received as well as CB1 said "some fencing".

City of Yes. The three councilmembers from Staten Island all voted no. We worked with a task force that we compiled. Thank you Selina Gray who was the chair of that task force. Thank you to Maryann McGowan, Neil Anastasio, Peter Lisi, and others for your participation. We need home ownership and affordability. We are losing our 20 and 30 year olds to New Jersey. North Shore Action Plan...please take a drive down Front Street. There is a lot of work being done on sewers, etc. before the build.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI -- Holiday season. Please be mindful of going into stores and putting your items in the car. Someone could be watching you. We do have a new Assistant Chief, Melissa Eger. She is making her rounds in meeting everyone. Happy Holidays.

Cathleen Kenny from Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office -- Thank you everyone who came to his tree-lighting ceremony. Happy Holidays from Sam.

Neil Anastasio, FRRCA -- If you are a disabled person and want an exemption from the congestion pricing, you can go on the MTA website, MTA.info.idp. You have to have an EZPass, and certify a site of your disability. You then get a special EZPass. The Cannabis siting of the Bagel and Card store on Forest Avenue. Many of us got notified by the State about a month ago, that there used to be a Dry Cleaner on that site. They had a fire. There are "forever chemicals" in the ground. The vapors from those chemicals can come up. Apparently, there is a remediation ventilation system in those buildings. The state will be coming around in the winter and offer testing. If it's not properly ventilated, it is a big problem. They said there is a ventilation system on the roof. The problem is, it's not working. They are taking samples and apparently these tests are coming back higher than they are supposed to be. We have been working with Senator Scarcella's office to try to get in touch with the office of Cannabis Management to know this and talk to the EPA. They should be pulling these permits. When we get these Cannabis licenses, we need to be considerate to the residents abutting these properties. Problems with people smoking weed in the parking lots, loitering, etc.

I had the opportunity to work with Michael Arvanites and the Councilwoman on the City of Yes. It was very enlightening and democratic. We thank the Councilwoman for allowing us to voice our opinions and concerns. The bottom line is if you live in a neighborhood that has a two-family house, now it could be a three-family house. That is not what we fought so hard many years ago to be one and two-family detached homes.

Makeda Campbell, Community Liaison for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office -- Over the Thanksgiving holiday, we were able to do a Turkey Drive and gave away a couple of hundred turkeys. We are collecting for our veterans, undergarments, toiletries, etc. Please drop it off to our office at 36 Richmond Terrace. Signed into Law, "Detective Brian Simonsen Law". The Senator is proud to honor his

memory combatting violent theft. To reduce the resale of stolen cell phones for financial gains. Happy Holidays.

Sergey Thuprik – NYC Comptroller's Office, Brad Lander – Please go to the website for a lot of information. We audit city agencies, according to the Charter, every 3-4 years. We offer recommendations. <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/>

Maria Mendez – Under Angel's Wings Recovery Center, Brooklyn, NY - A resident of Staten Island since 1997. I am currently living in 10305. "I am broken-hearted". For the last 26 years I have been crossing this bridge to service other communities outside of Staten Island for substance abuse. I am getting older and afraid. On Staten Island we treat substance abuse but we act like it's not happening. "When I have to come out of my house on Olympia Blvd. and give someone Narcan that is stuck on my driveway, I'm getting very concerned." People must cross the bridge for services. I need support. I do not feel afraid in the other boroughs. We have 500,000 residents. Chair, Nicholas Siclari stated that we have Elected Official Representatives at our meeting tonight to address this matter. I know we have the YMCA, Camelot, etc. It's just not enough.

End of Public Session

Chair, Nicholas Siclari thanked everyone for coming out due to it being the Holiday Season. We have refreshments after the meeting.

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

**Officers' Reports in the packet.**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** - Excused.

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** - No report. Happy Holidays to all.

**Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe** - No report. Happy Holidays.

**Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell** – No report. Next Wednesday evening at the 120th Precinct, Holiday Party at 7PM. All are invited.

**Treasurer, Sunny Jain** – Excused.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** – Thank you for coming.

**Functional Committee Reports:**

**Land Use, George Turner** – Absent. Chairman Nick went over the application for 64 Signal Hill Road in Grymes Hill. To facilitate construction of a driveway on the Special Hillside District. Land Use Vote: 11 yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention. Motion to approve. Vote: Passes unanimously.

Motion to approve last month's minutes.

Discussion on the Martling Avenue Bridge to send a letter to all the departments, DOT, etc. CB1 wanted a barrier-free access. Did not approve the barrier and to be restored to its original form. Land Use Vote passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the letter. Vote: Passes unanimously.

**Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom** – No quorum last month to vote on the Maritime Junior H.S. as part of the North Shore Action Plan. Motion to approve – Passes unanimously.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain** – Excused. No snow to report.

**Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna**. – No report.

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

**Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino** – Excused.

**Transportation, Joseph Bird** – No meeting, no report. Chairman Nick said there is a Zoom for Nicholas Zvegintzov on Saturday.

**Small Business & Non-Profit**, - Absent

**Labor, Robert Holst** – How we can do better with the PLA's (Project Labor Agreement) to help working people on Staten Island. NYC has signed PLA's with NYCHA. NYCHA on Todt Hill will be renovating. That job will all be daily wage jobs with registered apprenticeships. This changes lives for people. I am a Local 3 Electrician. Presently working at the garbage dump. There are two kids on that job who came out of the military. They had no direction and getting Section 8 for their apartments. Because of that, NYCHA was able to put them in a registered apprenticeship. That's how it works. They are given an opportunity for a pension and medical coverage. (Applause).

**Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino** – Excused.

**Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato** – Discussion on making the website more user-friendly. We want to make multiple pages which will be linked with each other which takes you to different sites. For example, NYPL, schedule of events, etc.

**Health and Human Services, Fran Reali** – Absent.

**West Brighton, Anthony Cosentino** – Excused.

**New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff** – No meeting, no report. We will have a January meeting.

**Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth** – Minutes are in the packet. Regarding the Martling Avenue Bridge being a DOT project that perhaps Parks was not informed or aware of it which is why the Board Office didn't receive a notice of this. The definition of a Navigable Waterway, at one time is where you can float a log down a waterway where you can connect with a river on the way to the sea. I don't think a log would be able to get to the Kill-Van-Kull. I think it would be a stretch. I would like to see NYS DOT's definition of a navigable waterway and how it pertains to Martling's Pond outlet from it. As Michael Arvanites pointed out, boating isn't permitted on Martling's Pond although I suppose a small rowboat, kayak could be navigated on the pond. I'm glad we got that vote in. My next fear they will do the same thing on the Silver Lake Reservoir in conjunction with the plan to build a 6 foot fence around the entire reservoir and whether that's going to come through the Parks communication. I believe that is a DEP Project under their jurisdiction. We should get proactive with Parks. Chairman Nick said the question is who makes the final decision, DEP, Parks, DOT?

**Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo** – Minutes are in the packet. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Kwanza, etc.

**Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner** – No meeting, no report.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi**- "Santa". Our area meets at the Stapleton Library monthly. We are always looking for new members. The major issue we are getting is the dispensaries that are coming in. We did get a notification for one. We can give them requirements. We have heard complaints about the product being used outside of the facility, I have seen it myself. Need to have more enforcement. Like the State Liquor Authority, at first they didn't have the enforcement. They put it out there legally without enforcement. Community input. Some of these organizations could put together an advisory board of local neighbors. We can have open communication with them if something does go wrong. They are coming whether we like it or not. Also the hurdles and experiences applying for affordable housing. Needs to be more programs to help facilitate that. It's a cumbersome process for a major amount of people. Shout out to those who have done an event or want to do an event for the community. We can all help by spreading the news. "I think the people who are most saddened are the ones always trying to make others happy. Because they know first-hand what it's like to feel empty and depressed and they don't want anyone else to feel that way." Robin Williams. Have a great holiday!

**Old Business** – Jermaine Williams. Sleigh Ride with the NYPD. It takes place in each of the 5 boroughs. December 16<sup>th</sup>. They come from JFK with the toys. The locations are going to be on the North Shore. The first one is 285 Clove Road which is the New World Preparatory Charter School. Second location will be the Carter Center. A long convoy of NYPD vehicles dressed up in costumes giving out toys to kids in the community. The hours will be between 4pm-7pm.

Christopher Campbell mentioned the drones that have been seen on Staten Island.

**New Business** – Chairman Nick said thank you again for your time and volunteering.

Motion to Adjourn – 7:18 PM – Holiday Food and Drink to follow.