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MINUTES

October 7, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Traffic, Transportation, and Public Service Joint Committee Meeting

<https://youtube.com/live/8CrEQQQmrTA>

The Traffic, Transportation, and Public Service Committees met jointly on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the third-floor Conference Room at 900 South Avenue, Staten Island.

Salute the Flag of the United States of America.

Attendance Roll Call. A Quorum was not present.

Board Members Present: Shawn Abraham, Julie Freeman, Diane L. McNamara, Leutrim Qoku, Joseph Torres.

Board Members Absent: Marc Alvarez, Igor Baboshkin, Michael Lanza, Stephen W. Zaderiko.

Staff Present: Debra A. Derrico

Agency Representatives: Tara Das (NYC EDC), Diana Switaj (NYC EDC), Marvin Pissot (NYC EDC), Kenya Smith (NYC EDC), Chris Scotti (Stantec), Nicholas Gibson (Hunter Roberts), Anisa Bekteshi (NYC DOT).

Elected Officials Representatives: Michael Pardo for Council Member David Carr.

Guests: Moe Elgaly (The Flowery), Jeff Klansky (The Flowery), Livia Marsella (The Flowery), Alex Marsella (The Flowery), Mirsad Kovaci (Arka Bar & Grill -628 Midland Ave.), Mr. Weissman, Esq. (Arka Bar & Grill), Jonathan Malihan (SI Workforce 1 Industrial & Transportation Career Center), Mike Matteo (SI Advance).

Public Speaker Session:

Jonathan Malihan spoke about programs offered at SI Workforce 1 Industrial & Transportation Career Center. The Center offers business courses, business planning, legal assistance, navigating Government, financing, hiring, training, and incentives.

Committee Chair, Joseph Torres announced the first item on the agenda.

Presentation: Tara Das, Assistant Vice President of Government & Community Relations at New York City Economic Development Corporation presented updated plans regarding the Travis Avenue Raise Shoreline Project.

- The Travis Avenue elevation project is part of the city's Raise Shorelines Citywide initiative, which works to mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels and erosion in low-lying areas.
- A portion of Travis Avenue could be closed for up to 18 months as part of a project to elevate the street.
- The work will raise an approximately 1,000-foot section of Travis Avenue that runs through the William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge.
- Construction will begin in March. Travis Avenue will be fully closed between Victory Boulevard and Mulberry Avenue for anywhere between 15 and 18 months. The 15 to 18-month project timeline is based on crews working a standard during the morning and evening rush hours.
- While the road is closed, most traffic in the area will be detoured through Richmond Avenue and Victory Boulevard.
- The NYC Department of Transportation will extend the northbound left turn lane from Richmond Avenue onto Signs Road to ease congestion. A temporary fire lane will be added at Victory Boulevard between Travis Avenue and Signs Road to prevent delays in the emergency response time.
- NYPD enforcement agents will be posted at chokepoints along the detour to keep traffic flowing.
- According to NYC EDC, Travis Avenue flooded an average of 12 times a year, for around two hours a day, between 2014 and 2021.

Joseph Torres announced the next items on the agenda.

Application for licensure with the Office of Cannabis Management

The Flowery – 2059 Richmond Avenue (10314)

New Retail Dispensary Premises.

- Livia Marsella, owner of The Flowery said she will be hiring 20 full-time employees and 5 part-time employees.
- The business generates about \$100,000 a year and the taxes go to zip code 10314 and 9% goes to the state.
- Moe Elgaly, the owner of The Flowery at 3022 Veterans Road West, Staten Island said he will be helping Livia.
- Hiring retired NYPD Security – 5-boro security.
- A quorum was not present. Therefore, no vote was taken.

Application for On-Premises Liquor License

Arka Bar & Grill, Inc. – 628 Midland Avenue (10306)

New application to the SLA for an On-Premises Liquor License.

Mr. Weissman, attorney for the applicant stated the following:

- Mr. Kovachi is the sole shareholder and the president
- The proposed premises are at the corner of Patterson Avenue and Midland Avenue.
- The certificate of occupancy is for a maximum of 55 people.
- This premises had a restaurant for 11 years called the Verrazano Grill
- Mr. Kovachi owns 50% of the Grand Café since 2020 with no incidents.
- A quorum was not present. Therefore, no vote was taken.

Old & Business: None

Adjourned at 8:30 P.M. – Respectfully submitted by Fred R. Guinta, Chair.