

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AND
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Braton, D. Gilmartin, A. Antonino, A. Gellineau, F. Dardani, P. Baumann, C. Malizia, J. Caruso, N. Beneduce, L. Gerardi, M. Salim, I. Dimoh, R. Martinez, G. Duldulao, Bhola Ramsundar, A. Cosentino, J. Cavanagh, H. Kamph, D. Quintana, M. Vecchio, J. Ariola, P. Granickas, L. Amorim, S. Pace, J. Calcagnile, N. Santiago, P. Lynch, G. Russo, R. Ciulla-Frisone

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

M. Ali, A. Bellantoni, I. Brasile, P. Ellison, J. Fazio, R. Ferrara, M. Finnerty, R. Hitlall, E. Holland, S. McCabe, D. Mitchell, J. Patron, J. Quijano, I. VanPutten, L. Walker

COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, DM; M. Cirilli-May

OTHERS PRESENT: Hon. J. Addabbo; Hon. P. Goldfeder; Hon. E. Ulrich; P. McCabe, Rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; L. Savinkin, Rep. Hon. H. Jeffries; L. Fogal, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; E. Svartzman, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder, A. Brown, Rep. Hon. E. Ulrich; J. Rose, Rep. Hon. R. Wills; H. Ho, CAU; P. Osina, Rep. Hon. S. Stringer; D. Brown, QBPO; D.I. J. Schiff, C.O. 106. Pct; Capt. J. Ganley, X.O. 106 Pct.; Det. K. Zorn, 106 Pct., S. Austrie, RWN

The Chairperson wished all present a Happy New Year and opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of former Governor Mario Cuomo and slain NYPD Officers Ramos and Liu.

The Chairperson commented that a quorum was present and commended the Board members present for making the extra effort to insure a quorum despite the weather. The Chairperson then opened the Public Hearing for the evening, the Citywide Statement of Needs for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. She asked if there was anyone who wished to make a comment or speak, and there were none. She asked for a motion indicating the Community Board does not support the City Wide Statement of Needs for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 as presented, as it is vague and unclear, non-definitive and non-specific. The motion was made by Mr. A. Cosentino and seconded by Mr. J. Cavanagh. All were in favor, there were no objections and no one abstained; the motion carried unanimously. The Chairperson closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business. She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of December 2014, which included:

- E-mail notification received late this afternoon announcing on January 15, the NYC Department of Transportation Division of Bridges will close westbound lanes on the Belt (Shore) Parkway under 130th Street to remove loose concrete and replace shielding. One lane will be closed starting on Thursday at 10:00 p.m. and a second lane will be closed starting on Friday morning at 1:00 a.m. All lanes will reopen at 5:00 a.m. on Friday. The work is weather-dependent and may be rescheduled to another night, if necessary. One lane will remain open to traffic at all times.

- Notice from NYC DOT regarding the review of an application for expansion of vans and territory from Community Transportation Systems, Inc., 159-05 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432.
- Notice of Proposed Action Plan Amendment - City of New York - Sandy Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery; public hearing meeting held last night in the Rockaways.
- Letter to D.I. J. Schiff, C.O. 106th Precinct, extending the Board's condolences on the loss of the two murdered NYPD officers.
- Notification from National Park Service - Gateway National Recreation Area - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge West Pond Environmental Assessment: Status Update on West Pond.
- Notification from OMB of the Certificate to Proceed with the Department of Parks & Recreation's request for a design cost limitation for the restoration of the Salt Marsh and Coastal Upland at Spring Creek Park in the Borough of Brooklyn and Queens.
- Notification from the Department of Consumer Affairs advising they are hosting a Phone-a-thon, on January 31, and are looking for volunteers to help spread the word about refundable tax credits.
- Notification of an exhibition at Resorts World Casino, "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Wonders of Jamaica Bay" photographs showcasing Jamaica Bay, presented by Queens Chamber of Commerce & Gotham Networking Group with special guest Borough President Melinda Katz, on January 27, p.m.-9 p.m.
- Notification of the NYC Business Solutions January 31 deadline for financial assistance for Hurricane Sandy affected businesses, in the form of grants up to \$100,000 / loans up to \$1.1 million, with 1% interest rate for 5 years on the loans.
- Notification from NYC Environmental Remediation advising Risingsam Management, LLC has applied to enroll in the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) for (14,280 sq. ft.) site at 132-10 149 Avenue.

(L. Gerardi arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

The Chairperson acknowledged State Senator Joseph Addabbo and invited him to speak. Sen. Addabbo wished everyone a happy new year and thanked the Chairperson and the board members for the work they do. He reported session in Albany has started and the first order of business is the State Budget, which is to be released by the Governor January 22. The State has a \$5 billion surplus, and as there are differing ideas as to how the surplus is to be spent, they need to make sure that the process is fair and equitable. Another order of business is, Mayoral Control over New York City's public schools, which expires this year. Consideration must be given as to whether State Legislature votes to pass, amend or cancel the 2002 law that gives the Mayor and his administration the power to appoint a schools chancellor, oversee the operating budgets and make decisions about schools across the city. He welcomes input from principals, teachers, administrators and parents, but he stressed that his main focus is on how to improve the school environment to make it better for our children. Other business includes, teacher evaluations, Common Core, Smart School Bond Act. Although there is a lot going on in Albany, he indicated he welcomes input and if there are any issues residents would like to weigh in on, such as a piece of legislation or administrative act, to please let him know. He stated he had the privilege and honor of welcoming the six rookies at the 106th earlier today. He took the opportunity to thank them for their service, expressed unwavering support from his district and the community, and wished them a successful and safe career. He apologized, that with session starting, there would be times when he cannot make this meeting but Pat McCabe from his office will attend. He asked if there were any questions. There were none. He again thanked the Chairperson and the entire Board for the work they do.

(M. Salim arrived at 8 p.m.)

(I. Dimoh arrived at 8:01 p.m.)

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence Pat McCabe representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Pesach Osina representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Arlene Brown representing Council Member Eric Ulrich, Larry Savinkin representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Linda Fogal representing Assembly Member Mike Miller and Eugene. Svartzman. representing Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Chairperson read the report of expenditures for the month of December 2014 in the Treasurer's absence.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT - D. Brown - wished everyone a very happy 2015 on behalf of the Borough President and her staff. He reminded everyone of the State of the Borough Address to be held at Colden Auditorium at Queens College on January 22 at 10 a.m.; indicating this annual event is a good opportunity to find out how far they have come over the past year, and the Borough President's visions for the coming year. Free tickets may be reserved at: www.queensbp.org/RSVP. He reported the Borough President had the privilege of welcoming the new graduating class of New York police officers and spoke at an orientation session at St. John's University last week. She also met the new recruits of the 106 Precinct, welcomed them to the force and wished them well. He said the Hurricane Relief Task Force meets monthly at Borough Hall and among those in attendance are Chairperson Braton and board member J. Calcagnile. All relevant agencies involved, such as the Build it Back Program, elected officials, Dept. of Buildings, etc. are attending trying to help people with issues such as permits and the rebuilding of their houses. He announced the Veterans Business Owners Forum, hosted by the Small Business Administration, meets once a month at Borough Hall, and the next forum is February 2. This provides veterans the opportunity to become informed about the different programs offered by SBA such as financial assistance or setting up a small business. Also meeting at Borough Hall are the Disabled Veterans of America - the first Wednesday of each month, and the National Association of Black Veterans - every third Wednesday, both at P.M. He can be contacted at 718-286-2853 or per e-mail dbrown@queensbp.org.

The Chairperson acknowledged Councilman Eric Ulrich and invited him to speak. He said that his office has been getting a lot of calls regarding board membership reappointment. He indicated if your term is up and are reapplying for membership, and you live in his district, his office is happy to help. Both Sal Simonetti and Arlene Brown are notaries and if you sign in front of them, they can notarize the application, provide a copy for you, and get it to the Borough President's office. He commented that a fellow City Councilmember is trying to promote a bill that would place term limits on community board members. He stated he sent an e-mail to the Chairs indicating he does not support term limits for board members. He recognizes how hard it is to get people to stay on the board, and how much more difficult it would be to get new people to serve on the board. It's a volunteer opportunity, which provides tremendous service, as the eyes and ears of the community, to city agencies and elected officials by letting them know what the priorities and issues are in the neighborhood. He works closely with the community board, and emphasized how he relies heavily on the community board to do his job. He can't imagine that, with up to 50 members, there is such systemic stagnation that there would be a need such a turn over. He indicated his office is always looking for and striving for diversity; and when new members are appointed his office looks to make sure that each neighborhood is represented, groups are represented, and constituencies are represented. He reported, his office is working closely with Board 9 and Board 10 on the anti graffiti program which was rolled out about three months ago. Rockaway Blvd., 101 Avenue, Lefferts Blvd., Cross Bay Blvd., Woodhaven Blvd, are now graffiti free. Over 75 or 80 locations have been cleaned. He has put \$20,000 in the budget, and will continue funding the program. If you have a location that has been vandalized, both commercial and residential, report it to the community board office or call his office and it will be referred to QEDC, who then sends a truck out pretty quickly. He is the Chair of the Veterans Committee and announced that Redmond Haskins of his staff has completed training and is now certified as a Veterans Service Officer. As a result, he can now handle and process claims with the VA for medical issues, medal requests, and with anything that is pending with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, thereby eliminating the need for a trip to Manhattan or Brooklyn. If it is something that can be done from the district, they can provide those services; thereby making it more convenient for people to come to his Ozone Park office, and a lot easier to send or scan paperwork, notarize documents, and can even speak with VA staff on your behalf if you sign a waiver. He asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

The Chairperson acknowledged and invited Assemblymember Goldfeder to speak. Assemblyman Goldfeder praised F. Dardani, as President of the Precinct Community Council for providing a forum at the 106 Precinct in which the community can come, see the officers, talk about issues, express themselves and communicate concerns in a calm and peaceful manner. He stated police officers are putting themselves on the line to keep the community safe, and

he expressed his unequivocal support for the NYPD. He indicated his Blue Ribbon Campaign in Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, Broad Channel, and across Rockaway shows this support.

(R. Martinez arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

He reported that OEM Commissioner Esposito was very instrumental in assisting him in getting DOT to update all emergency evacuation route signs to correctly direct people to John Adams High School (as currently signs incorrectly direct people to Aqueduct). He stressed the importance of continuous emergency preparedness education. He wished everyone a good new year and thanked everyone in the community for their help.

The Chairperson acknowledged Helen Ho of CAU who announced that New York City has officially launched its new municipal identification card program known as IDNYC. All are eligible for this free card if you are a resident of New York City, have proof of identification, and are at least 14 years old, regardless of immigration status. There are three enrollment centers in Queens: Central Branch - Queens Library, Flushing Branch Library - Queens Library, Make the Road New York - Jackson Heights. IDNYC cardholders can receive one-year free membership at more than 30 cultural institutions, discounts at movie theatres, health & wellness centers, and access to BigAppleRx.

The Chairperson acknowledged Jahai Rose, representing Councilmember Ruben Wills, who extended a happy new year on the Councilman's behalf and invited everyone to the State of the District Address January 17th at 10:30 a.m. at York College Performance Arts Center. Please RSVP to Shruti Garg at 718-206-2068.

The Chairperson acknowledged Larry Savinkin, representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, who announced the State of the District Address January 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Long Island University Paramount Theatre. Please RSVP to 718-237-2211. He wished everyone all the best for the New Year.

The Chairperson acknowledged Norman Jones, representing Assembly Member Michelle Titus, who indicated that the Assemblywoman is informed of the situation surrounding the placement of the juvenile detention facility on 127 Street and is aware of the potential negative impact on the residential community and the associated quality of life and character issues. She is fully involved in the process of talking with her Assembly colleagues, and trying to reach out to the Mayor and ACS on how to mitigate this circumstance. She wants the Board and the citizens to know that she is fully aware.

The Chairperson asked whether there were any other representatives who wished to speak. There were none.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The District Manager reported that notification was received from DDC that traffic poles and wiring will be installed at Rockaway Blvd. and 113 Street as part of the construction of Safe Route to Schools near P.S. 108. The anticipated work will take place from January 5 to January 8 during the hours of 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) on Monday, January 26. They are looking for volunteers 18 years of age or older to help survey streets, parks, subways and other public spaces to estimate the number of people living unsheltered. Training will be provided on the night of the survey. For more information or to register to volunteer, go to: www.nyc.gov/dhs or [call 311](tel:311). The MTA Metrocard Mobile will be in front of the Foch Post Office at 126-15 Foch Blvd. on January 27 from 1 - 3 p.m. She wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Deputy Inspector Schiff and Capt. Ganley. She extended gratitude on behalf of the Board, its members and the community for the drop in crime in the Pct. during 2014 and expressed support for the difficult job they and the officers they command do on a day-to-day basis.

D.I. Schiff thanked everyone. He said he is very proud of his officers and the work they have done and continue to do. Contrary to rumors of a slow down, he indicated they are making arrests and handling emergency situations as need be. He has no doubt they have the support of the community, which is documented by the cards and letters received from residents and school kids on display at the Precinct. It's important to know that the officers are appreciated, and such actions are a confidence builder. He thanked everyone on behalf of the 106th Pct. He reported that crime is down for the first time since 2009 - down 6% - there were 100 fewer crimes in 2014 than in 2013.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson reminded those members who are up for reappointment that applications are due back to Borough Hall by January 22. She reported that, in early December, members of the

Transportation Committee and JFK/Port Authority Committee were invited to a tour of the Korean Air Cargo Building and got to see first hand how cargo gets from a plane to the truck which brings it where it's going; and how it goes into the cargo distribution system and gets on a plane. They also toured the Airport Plaza Truck Stop, which is off 150 Street. It was a very interesting tour. She reported on the 311 complaints for the calendar year. The Chairperson announced applications for the Avenue NYC Grants must be in by February 6. She announced DEP construction is set to begin in early 2015 on the new interceptor sewer, which is the work set to begin on the Conduit, that when completed, will provide significant additional capacity within the areas drainage system and thereby reduce sewer overflows into Bergen Basin. Later in the spring, DEP will begin work to install three hydraulic levees at key junction points within the area's sewer network that will optimize the carrying capacity of the pipes during rainstorms and reduce sewer overflows into both Bergen Basin and Thurston Basin. Installation of the three levees is expected to be completed by the summer of 2016 and construction of the new interceptor sewer is expected to be completed in early 2017. The Queens Borough President Melinda Katz' African American Heritage Committee has announced the application period for the 2015 scholarship. Applications need to be in by January 13 and scholarship recipients will be notified by February 3.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Det. K. Zorn, 106 Precinct.

She continued with her report, indicating that the Board has been made aware of a piece of legislation that has been introduced into City Council - Intro. No. 47 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to removing the off-street parking requirement for base station licenses. She commented this legislation has not yet been passed and a copy was referred to Legislation Committee Chairperson, Mr. A. Cosentino. She reported that DEP has committed more than \$187 million to reduce nitrogen discharges from the four wastewater treatment plants located on Jamaica Bay by 50 percent. DEP has announced the completion of a nearly \$83 million upgrade to the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant that will reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged from the facility into Jamaica Bay by approximately 6,500 per day, or nearly 2.5 million pounds each year.

(J. Dudulao arrived at 8:30 p.m.)

Committee reports were given as follows:

LEGISLATION – The Committee Chairperson expressed the thought that it might be a good idea to keep a watch on Intro 47. The Board Chairperson briefly explained the current requirement for off-street parking for livery cab base stations. Presently bases must provide an off-street location sufficient to park 50% of their affiliated vehicles off-street. Since cars are radio dispatched the parking does not have to be at the base station. Based on the types of complaints the board receives regarding livery vehicles and the locations of our various base stations the Chairperson recommended the Board support keeping the current parking requirement and express to the council opposition to the change as it would create an impact in areas such as CB10. Mr. A. Cosentino made a motion to communicate to the City Council that the Community Board does not support the removal of the off street parking requirement for livery car base stations. Mr. J. Cavanagh seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no objections and no one abstained; the motion carried unanimously.

SUMMER YOUTH / OTHER OPPORTUNITIES –The Committee Chairperson wished everyone a happy new year and reported that DCAS is currently seeking Exam Monitors. Members were advised a copy of the report of current job opportunities is in the board folders, additional copies are available if needed.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS – The Committee Chairperson advised the report is in the board folders.

EDUCATION – The Committee Chairperson reported the city would be lifting the ban on cell phones in public schools on March 2. The kindergarten application period will remain open until February 13 for children born in 2010. The Queens kindergarten admissions information session will be held at Forest H.S. on January 13 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY - The Committee Chairperson advised the report is in the board folders. He indicated that the safety fencing by J.H.S. 202 has been completed and has been extended west to 88 Street. Hopefully this will deter people from running across the Conduit and encourage use of the walk over bridge.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. George DiLieto introduced himself and indicated that his entire family serves the City of New York. He works for the Dept. of Sanitation, his wife is a NYPD School Crossing Guard, his son is a NYC Fireman and his daughter is a NYPD Officer. He spoke in opposition to the ACS plan to locate a limited secure juvenile justice facility on 127 St. He invited everyone to please sign the petition he is circulating and to attend the upcoming important SOPCAW meeting at St. Anthony's on January 20.

Mr. DiLieto's son spoke indicating his sister is an NYPD officer working in South Jamaica. He expressed his concerns about the Close to Home concept and the proximity to his family's residence. He indicated his concern regarding the possibility that his sister could have been the arresting officer for one of the juveniles and expressed his fear that one of the delinquents housed there, could now possibly know where she and her family personally lives.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Marcella May

Draft. Subject to Approval