

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
AND  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

B. Braton, A. Gellineau, A. Antonino, F. Dardani, J. Patron, C. Malizia, J. Caruso, P. Baumann, R. Ferrara, M. Vecchio, R. Ciulla-Frisone, M. Finnerty, A. Cosentino, D. Gilmartin, I. VanPutten, P. Ellison, L. Walker, A. Bellantoni, N. Santiago, J. Quijano, H. Kamph, P. Lynch, P. Granickas, R. Hitlall, M. Ali, J. Cavanagh, D. Mitchell, S. Pace, J. Calcagnile, I. Dimoh, M. Salim, D. Quintana, L. Gerardi, R. Martinez, J. Fazio

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

L. Amorim, J. Ariola, N. Beneduce, G. Duldulao, E. Holland, D. Singh, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo

**COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, D.M.; M. Turso

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hon. J. Addabbo; Hon. P. Goldfeder; Hon. R. Wills; Hon. N. Garcia, Commissioner, Qns. DOT; Hon. V. Turso, Deputy Commissioner, DSNY; H. Parekh, Rep., Hon. A. Cuomo; P. McCabe, Rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; E. Shvartzman, Rep., Hon. P. Goldfeder; A. Siegel, Rep., Hon. D. Weprin; L. Fogal, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; J. Rose & L. Patterson, Reps., Hon. R. Wills; A. Brown, Rep., Hon. E. Ulrich; D. Brown, QBPO; E. Beaton, DOT; K. Kitchner, DSNY; B. Anderson, DSNY; D.I. J. Schiff, C.O. 106 Pct.; Det. K. Zorn, 106 Pct.; S. Austrie, Resorts World

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:45 P.M. and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked that all remain standing for a moment of silence in remembrance of the 9/11/2001 attack on NYC and in remembrance of former council member and former Board member, Alfonso Stabile, who passed this week.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. who welcomed everyone back from the summer break. He thanked Commissioner Nicole Garcia and Eric Beaton from the Department of Transportation for attending and shared his views regarding the Select Bus Service Program. The Senator stated that there is concern with the overflow affecting the side streets, pedestrians, businesses, drivers, etc. It said it is critical that residents look at what is being presented and speak out whether or not they are for or against it. This will have long-term ramifications for the community. He again thanked DOT for presenting the information to the residents of Community Board 10. Senator Addabbo also commented on the organic recycling program that the Sanitation Department has created. He stated that he has the program working in the northern part of his district in Community Board 5 in Glendale and Middle Village, which started about a year ago. At first there was adverse reaction but in the long term it is environmentally friendly. He stated if there are any questions or concerns to call his office. He thanked the Sanitation Department for having a Town Hall Meeting at the time in that area after the pilot program started. He advised that, presently, there is no violation if you don't comply. He advised of upcoming events for September. The Chairperson thanked the Senator for his comments.

The Chairperson advised that if there was anyone attending the meeting who wanted to speak to the Public Hearings regarding the speed bumps, they should sign the appropriate sheets for each speed bump being addressed. There is also a separate sheet for general comment during the Public Forum.

(L. Gerardi arrived at 7:52 pm) (D. Quintana arrived at 7:52 pm) (J. Fazio arrived at 7:52 pm) (M. Salim arrived at 7:52 pm)

The Chairperson then presented service awards from Borough President Melinda Katz to Board Members Rosemarie Ferrara for 25 years of community service and James Caruso for 15 years of community service.

The Chairperson then opened the Public Hearings for speed bump requests for 78<sup>th</sup> Street between 158<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 91<sup>st</sup> Street between 161 Avenue and 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street between 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The chairperson explained the procedure utilized by the Board when requests such as these are received. When requested by DOT to assess support and make a recommendation, the Board sends a written notice via mail to every home on the block or blocks affected. That notice includes a tear off for residents to check off whether they support or oppose and to sign. Based on the responses, the Board then knows if a majority of the block or blocks supports the installation. The Chairperson informed the Board members of the responses received and indicated that none of the blocks involved had indicated majority support for installation of a speed bump on the block.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public present who wished to comment. One person from 91 St. representing a group present from 91 St. spoke in opposition. There were no other speakers.

A motion was made and seconded for each block individually, to approve the installation of these speed bumps. The vote for each was 0 in favor, 35 against, 0 abstaining. Motions failed. Chairperson Braton stated that letters would be sent to the Department of Transportation indicating that the Board did not support the installation of the speed bumps addressed at these Public Hearings. The Chairperson indicated that if opinion changed on the blocks at some time in the future, the Board could revisit the issue and Cmsr. Garcia concurred.

The Chairperson introduced the first guest speakers for the evening Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia and Eric Beaton of the Department of Transportation who gave an update on the Select Service Project for the Woodhaven/Cross Bay Boulevard Corridor. Commissioner Garcia advised that she wants to keep everyone updated as to the design, etc. of the project. She then turned the presentation over to Mr. Beaton. He stated that this project was a work in progress and they would be back later in the fall to take a better look with regard to the actual design. He stated that it was important to get this project right. He advised of where DOT is with this project and said DOT would try to answer any questions and address any concerns. They will continue to keep everyone updated, coming back to the Board several times more to provide information. They have been doing studies on this corridor for years. It is a very important corridor with travelers driving through every day. He claimed that 30,000 people take the buses on the route every day. The service could be improved. The time element plays an important role, as well as the safety of the streets. He gave a brief overview, referring to a PowerPoint Presentation. He stated that they are looking at the medians along the corridor, as some are wide enough for planting while others are so narrow that people can barely stand on them. They would like to allocate space without removing lanes of traffic however; the traffic analysis has not yet been done. The Chairperson Braton commented that areas of concern must be addressed and all questions must be answered before the project moves forward. There were concerns by board members with regard to turning bays and the banning of left turns. These turning areas are being revised. Mr. Beaton asked if there were any questions. A member asked why this has to be done at all. He stated that the "A" train could take commuters into Manhattan. He was told that most who take the bus are travelling through Queens. Another member commented that he has noticed that the road from Queens Boulevard had been painted and signs were put up. He asked if this was part of the project. He was told that it was not part of the SBS. Discussion ensued. Another member expressed his opinion that this project will turn the already congested corridor into a literal parking lot creating a more dangerous condition. He stressed the importance of putting the LIRR train back into operation. Another member commented that he felt there was no need for a bus lane, but there was a need for more traffic enforcement agents to stop drivers from blocking the box, double-parking, etc. He stated that he did not agree with the project. Another member commented that Queens Boulevard has bus lanes and the buses don't use them. Another member commented about reactivating the former rail link and about buses. Since the members were making general comments rather than asking specific questions regarding SBS, the Chairperson asked if the Board could agree to express to the Commissioner that the representative opinion in this board area is generally skeptical of how this project is going to work without impacting further vehicular traffic that uses Cross Bay Boulevard and Woodhaven Boulevard. As was indicated before, there is a great deal of concern in this board as to how turning situations are going to be dealt with and that there is considerable opinion in the community that this may be a project that should be scaled back in some degree. She asked if the board can agree to this position at this point, in the interest of time tonight, knowing that as the design moves forward DOT will be back with the board where further discussion will occur. The board agreed. The Chairperson indicated that if there are any further questions that are specific to a particular intersection with a particular design question, the floor will remain open to that, but the

floor is closed to anything other than that. A member asked, with regard to design that a statement was made earlier that once the SBS gets into Howard Beach, the bus lane is going to be alongside the parking lane. Is that also going to be the situation from the Parkway north to Liberty Avenue? The response was that the entire portion of Cross Bay Boulevard between Liberty Avenue and 165<sup>th</sup> before it goes to the bridge will be the same design as the offset bus lane except that interchange when the Belt Parkway comes in and the Conduit; in that section they are not proposing a bus lane at all because they are aware of the entering and exiting, etc. The member asked for confirmation that there would not be a painted bus lane from 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the other side of the Belt Parkway. Discussion ensued. The Chairperson asked if there were any other questions. There were none. She stated that DOT will be back again with more information and there will be further workshops. People who have any specific questions may call the board office and let the office know what issues you want the board to factor into what we express to the Commissioner as this moves forward. The Chairperson thanked Commissioner Garcia and Mr. Beaton for their presentation.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Council Member Ruben Wills and invited him to speak. The Councilman welcomed everyone back from summer break. He stated that due to the diligence of the community, the constituents and the community board, all sex offenders were removed from the Skyway Men's Shelter near P.S. 124. He thanked his staff, Deputy Inspector Schiff, Assembly Member Goldfeder and Council Member Eric Ulrich, along with the community board for all of their efforts. He stated that now work must be done to make sure the prison does not open. He asked that his office be alerted if anyone knows of another building that would be able to take on the youth prison that is not in a residential area. He is looking for options to where that prison can be moved. He announced events that would be up coming. He thanked everyone for allowing him to represent him or her. He advised that he is getting ready to do legislation regarding synthetic marijuana to make the sale of it illegal. If anyone sees this substance being sold, contact his office and contact 311. The Chairperson thanked the Council Member for his comments. The Chairperson then acknowledged the presence of Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder and invited him to speak. He thanked everyone for the constant communication between his office and the constituents during the summer. The Assemblyman welcomed everyone back. He spoke about the Aqueduct racetrack, and stated that it's not what it once was and how Resorts World Casino has helped by creating jobs for the community however he felt, in his opinion that NYRA is not treating Aqueduct as well as Saratoga and the other NYRA racetracks. He feels more should be done to bring Aqueduct back to what it was once. He stated that there was talk about Aqueduct going private. The community must be involved in helping by voicing their opinions and suggestions. Aqueduct is also in need of some significant investments. Whether it is with NYRA or private, real investments are a major necessity. He stated that Aqueduct must be enjoyed for years to come. The community needs to be heard. The Chairperson thanked the Assemblyman for his comments.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Hersh K. Parekh, Esq., Queens Regional Representative for the Governor's Office who introduced himself and let the community know that the Governor's office is available for any questions or concerns on a state level. Please reach out to him and he will try to help in any way he can. He thanked everyone for his or her service.

The Chairperson presented the second guest speaker for the evening, Ms. Bridget Anderson, the Department of Sanitation's Deputy Commissioner for Recycling and Sustainability, who gave a presentation on New York City's new organic collection service, which will be expanding to Community Board 10 on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She also acknowledged the presence of DSNY Deputy Commissioner Vito Turso. Ms. Anderson introduced members of her staff, who had accompanied her. She stated that organic collection is the next recycling stream for NYC. She commented on the beginnings of recycling in NYC 25 years ago. Now they are embarking on their next form of recycling, which will be organics. The department is endeavoring to collect organic waste, which includes food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste that will be turned into compost. Collection will be curbside like regular trash and recycling collection. The organics collection will be 2 times a week. This pilot program has been conducted for the last two years in all 5 boroughs and is, presently, on a volunteer basis. There will be no violations or summonses given if you chose not to be part of the program. She stated that recycling organic waste can help NYC reduce waste sent to costly landfills; prevent pests by keeping food waste in secure bins and by creating compost, a natural soil amendment and renewable energy. The department will provide brown bins into which the food scraps, soiled paper and plants will be placed. Ms. Kate Kitchner displayed one of the brown bins as well as a counter container, which will be provided by the department for residents to empty scraps into before emptying the contents into the brown bin which would be kept outside. This bin has a locking latch to prevent animals from getting into it. People may also use certified compostable bags. Compostable bags are available for sale. These bags

break down, unlike plastic bags. Plastic bags should not be placed into the brown bins. This bin and any yard waste are to be set out on regular collection days. If there is a lot of yard waste that won't fit into the brown bin, it can be placed in a paper lawn and leaf bag, an unlined container or a clear plastic bag. Ms. Anderson stated that in a few weeks, a mailer will be sent to all households in the community with instructions and information. She continued her presentation explaining the importance of the program and encouraged everyone to try it. She did stress the fact that tree debris is not part of this program. Tree limbs must be handled by the Parks Department because of the long horned beetle problem. The Chairperson asked if there were any questions. A member asked if the bins were raccoon proof. She was told that the bins do have locking devices to help keep these animals out. There have been no instances, to date, of any animals being able to get into the brown bins when properly closed. A member asked what to do with a lot of yard waste. He was told that large amounts of yard waste can be put into other clear bags and will be collected, twice a week, with the regular collection. A member commented that with regard to electronic recycling, that P.C. Richards would not take a TV set. He was told that this is a state law and they should take TV sets. He was told that they would be reported, as they are not complying with the law if they do not take TV sets. A member asked about bulk material. There will be bulk pick-ups. No pooper-scooper waste is allowed. A member suggested that the Sanitation Department send a truck around once a month to pick up electronics, as it is difficult for some to get to the places that accept them. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Anderson and the Sanitation Department for their presentation.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Deputy Inspector Schiff and invited him to speak. He gave a review of what was going on this summer. He advised that the number of cars stolen has lessened. He advised of a recent arrest involving GLA and indicated that the enterprise corruption charge carries a mandatory jail sentence of a few years. Last week, there were 0 grand larceny auto incidences reported; the first time in the whole year. The Deputy Inspector mentioned the Community Council meeting that would be held next week, at which time he will give a more in depth report. He commented on the Battle of the Badges event that was held at Resorts World recently. He stated that he believes this will become a yearly event. The Chairperson commented that next time we would like to see the Department of Sanitation be part of this event as well.

The Chairperson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June minutes. There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the months of June, July and August 2015, which included:

- Memo from the Department of Parks request for proposals for the renovation, operation and maintenance of riding stables at the Cedar Lane Stables at Gemini Fields. The RFP has gone out.
- Letter from the Board to the property owner of the former Staples on Crossbay advising that “the use of the parking lot is subject to a restrictive declaration permanently limiting its use as accessory parking” and requesting that the owner comply with the CPC requirement for the lot to closed and locked when the store is not open for business. Reply from Staples indicated it still has custodial responsibility, was unaware the parking lot was being used, and will secure the property and provide the NYPD with a trespass affidavit.
- Back in June a meeting of the Transportation Committee was held regarding Safe Routes to Schools. The committee recommended support for the proposed safety improvements on Rockaway Blvd. and Sutter Avenue in the vicinity of Our Lady’s Catholic Academy. A letter was written to Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia. (Chairperson read the letter.) In an effort to ratify the committee decision, the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, made a motion to the Board to approve the recommendation made by the committee. P. Granickas seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all were in favor with 0 abstaining, 0 opposing. Motion carried.
- Notice received from the State Liquor Authority regarding a 500 ft rule hearing for 116-04 Rockaway Boulevard, doing business as Scarlet Night. The Board sent a letter to SLA recommending that the 500-foot rule be upheld.
- Notice received that Cheap Shots is renewing its on- premise license. The stipulation that was agreed to last year regarding the use of the rear yard will continue. A result of the stipulation is that noise complaints dropped from about 90 last year to less than 5 this year at the location.

- Letter received from the city's Emergency Management about their proposed commodities distribution location in CB 10, where they would distribute supplies in the event of a disaster. The Chairperson stated that unfortunately, they picked a location on the outskirts of the board district. They were asked to find a more central location. The Board suggested a number of locations. They will be changing their location to be more conveniently located.
- Letter from the DOC regarding Sandy Repairs occurring at P.S. 146.
- Notice regarding HW 411B Albert Road.
- Notice of Pedestrian Ramps being planned for a few locations on Rockaway Boulevard and Liberty Avenue.
- Notice that façade work at 106 Pct. has been funded and approved.
- Various Zoning Notifications.
- Public Service notices received from the State of New York.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Treasurer reported that the budget ended at the end of June 2015 with a zero balance. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the budget was started with a new balance. The Treasurer read the report of expenditures for the months of July and August 2015.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT – Mr. Brown welcomed everyone back from the summer break. He announced various events that will take place at Borough Hall, including the Veteran's Affairs Annual Veterans function on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall to honor our Vets. Invitations will be forthcoming. The National Parks Service (NPS) advised that it would repair the vandalized playground equipment at Hamilton Beach Park. Mr. Brown announced Movie Night on October 2 at 7 pm to be held at Charles Park. No movie has been selected yet. He advised that he is trying to build a proper relationship with NPS. He mentioned meetings that were held with Commissioner Nicole Garcia, which included Chairperson Braton, District Manager Petersen and himself to discuss minor issues that were going on that, are DOT issues. Mr. Brown also advised that Comptroller Scott Stringer had registered the contract for the CTH facility. He reported that the Borough President is formulating another letter and reaching out to the mayor as she is requesting that the mayor make this a school facility rather than a Close to Home facility and try to locate a site outside of a residential area to move forward with this project. If there are any issues of concern, please call his office at 718- 286-2850.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT – T. Smith – No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – The District Manager advised that the Board office was notified by DOT that a traffic signal has been approved at the intersection of Linden Boulevard and 118<sup>th</sup> Street. Installation is expected to be performed by contract and the work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Board office was also notified that the Metro Van would be at the Foch Post Office located at 126-15 Foch Boulevard on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 1 – 3 pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – The Chairperson acknowledged Detective Kenneth Zorn and thanked him for assisting in getting the job done with the Staples situation. She acknowledged the presence of Linda Fogal, representing Assembly Member Mike Miller, Eugene Shvartsman representing Assembly Member Phil Goldfeder, Leslie Patterson, representing Council Member Ruben Wills, Pat McCabe, representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr., Sasha Austrie, representing Resorts World, Jahai Rose, representing Council Member Ruben Wills, Aaron Siegel, representing Assembly Member David Weprin. Chairperson Braton stated that with regard to 311 complaints, residential noise for July and August is #1 and to date continues to hold as the top complaint. There were over 950 noise complaints during those two months. Blocked driveways, illegal parking and street conditions were also high during the summer. She stated that the city has appealed FEMA's preliminary flood insurance rate

maps for New York City. Hopefully they will get a positive answer to at least remove some of our community residents that were placed in the high-risk zones out of them. If anyone is interested in reviewing the entire appeal, the chairperson will make it available. The Nature Conservancy that had earlier done a comprehensive amount of work specifically in the Howard Beach area has come out with another report that is worth reading if you are concerned about the issue. It is specific to Howard Beach and makes a number of recommendations that hopefully the USACE will deem something that they will do. The State of New York NY Rising has issued a RFP on residential technical assistance. A provider has been selected. One of the issues that had come out of the NY Rising Committee was that many residences would do work to make their homes more resilient, however they were not aware of what to do since they are not engineers and architects. This is a program that is being developed where people can get technical assistance. The Airport Traffic Report for 2014 has been released. Please advise if anyone is interested in reviewing it. The runway work that has caused additional noise in CB10 is nearing completion and hopefully the noise will taper off.

TRANSPORTATION – The Committee Chairperson thanked her committee members for their support in coming out in June for the Safe Routes to Schools meeting. DOT will evaluate the other schools, the Islamic School and the Public School, near the work area and advised the report was in the folders.

LAND USE – The Committee Chairperson reported that two applications have been received. One is BSA Cal. #201-97-BZ, 119-02 Rockaway Boulevard, (Walgreens) wherein the applicant seeks to reopen and amend a variance previously granted under Calendar Number 201-97-BZ. The other is BSA Cal. #178-15-BZ, an application filed to permit in an R 3-1 Zoning district the legalization of a two family dwelling that exceeds the permitted FAR and does not provide a required front yard, side yard and rear yard, contrary to district requirements. Committee meetings will be held at the appropriate times for each of the applications.

JFK INTERNATIONAL – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in the folders. A member advised the PANYNJ had installed a noise monitor in his yard as he had requested.

GOOD & WELFARE – The Committee Chairperson advised of the engagement of a member and also reported that another member had become a grandfather.

PUBLIC SAFETY – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in the folders.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS – The Committee Chairperson advised the report was contained in the folders.

LIBRARIES – The Committee Chairperson thanked the Borough President for allocating \$14 million to Queens libraries and reported the Ozone Park Branch will receive \$800,000 for roof replacement and \$81,000 for security cameras at the Queens Library at South Ozone Park.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC FORUM – The Chairperson asked if there were any speakers for the Public Forum.

Ms. Bridget Bartolini spoke about a Five Boro Story Project production for Queens Art Intervention.

Ms. Eileen Miller spoke of her interest in the Board passing a smoke free housing resolution.

Mr. Phil Konigsberg spoke of his interest in the Board passing a smoke free housing resolution.

Mr. Buyian spoke of his interest in the Board passing a smoke free housing resolution.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

MaryAnn Turso  
Draft, subject to approval