



Eric Adams
Borough President

THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12

5910 13th Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219
Phone: (718) 851-0800 • Fax: (718) 851-4140
Email: bk12@cb.nyc.gov

Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson



Barry Spitzer
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MINUTES

HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
AT
COMMUNITY BOARD OFFICE
5910-13TH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11219

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ADAM COHEN
ALAN DUBROW
ANNA CALI
ANNIE FERDOUS
AVROHOM WOLFSON
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB DASKAL
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JULES FLEISCHER
LILY MARINELLI
MENDEL REINER
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MORTON PUPKO
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR
ANN MARIE HONAN- COMMUNITY ASSISTANT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ABUL HASNAT
AVI GREENSTEIN
BERNARD FREILICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JOHN TALMADGE
JOSEPH GROSS
LARRY JASON
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MAYER WEBER
MONIQUE WALLACE
MORDECHAI KATZ
NAFTALI TESSLER
SAM STOBBER
YECHIEL MALIK

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TONYA CANTLO, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO
PINNY HIKIND REP. COMPTROLLER
STRINGER
GABI FRIEDLANDER REP. CM LANDER
OSHER TEITELBAUM REP. CM EUGENE
RAMONA
JOSEPH LANGSAM, REP SEN. FELDER
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENA. FELDER
MARY KAY SEERY, REP AM ROBERT
CARROLL
SHLOMIE REIGER, REP AM EICHENSTEIN

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 12 RESIDENTS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Statement from the Chairman on the Monsey Machete Attack:

“Unfortunately, it is once again necessary to hold a moment of silence. This time we direct our thoughts to Rabbi Neiman who was critically injured while practicing his religion on Chanukah. I don’t want to stand here month after month talking about this, but we must. We must shine a light on this sickness of Anti-Semitism, and work towards healing. Yesterday was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Many of us are descendants of survivors. Nobel Prize winner and Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel said it best “We must bear witness”. In fact, one of the strategies talked about to change this anti- Semitic trend, is to make sure all NYC children understand the events leading up to the holocaust.

I want to thank Governor Cuomo for his trip to Auschwitz to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau. And also thank Attorney General Barr for visiting with Jewish leaders in Brooklyn today to discuss the recent rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

And now please rise for a moment of silence for the victims of anti- Semitism today. And the 6 million victims of 75 years ago.”

A moment of silence was held for the victims.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Anthony Loum- Branch Manager of the Mapleton Branch, Brooklyn Public Library:

- Mr. Loum read a letter thanking Senator Felder for his continued support, which detailed some programs that was enabled by his funding.

“With your help, our young patrons have benefited from additional weekend programming like Ready, Set, Kindergarten and Bilingual Storytime. They are also huge fans of some new sets of alphabet blocks that span six different languages! Our school- aged patrons delight in the widening range of creative possibilities thanks to dynamic arts and craft supplies. They have loved that it’s made it possible for our librarians to bring more craft activities directly to their schools. These exciting school visits have brought more and more kids to Mapleton and we have been able to form lasting connections with them. Teens at Mapleton are particularly grateful for additional technology, like Nintendo switch consoles, and are deeply enamored with the button making machine. Little giveaways can go a long way, as evidenced by adult attendees of our computer classes who have appreciated the surprise of free BPL headphones and flash drives alongside some newly learned technical skills.”

Anthony Loum presented some notes of gratitude and tokens of appreciation, made by patrons of the Mapleton Branch Library.

- Mr. Loum advised that the Mapleton Branch Library would be closed for building maintenance from February 1 and will reopen in spring 2020. Those in need of library services should visit any of the other Brooklyn Public Library branches listed in a flyer available at the front desk for distribution.
- Sharon Fuchs accepted the letter on behalf of Senator Felder.

Georgette Conroy- Resident:

- Nothing improved at the school. Buses are still blocking Clara Street. Cars are on the sidewalk all the time. Trucks block the streets when they unload supplies for the nighttime parties. And they disregard everything that would make them good neighbors. They make no attempts to resolve these easily solvable problems. They don’t even answer the phones.

Kate Ustrzycki- Resident:

- Ms. Ustrzycki came to the meeting to discuss the same topic as the previous speaker. There were no improvements at the school, the situation worsens every day. There is no parking for anyone.

She came to the Board to ask for help. She requested that the board facilitate a meeting with the Building Department, because this building is supposed to be only a school. The nightclub should not be on a community street and should be shut until the problems are fixed. Cars can't pass through and then honk and make noise, the loud music for the dancing is heard all over because the walls aren't soundproof. The neighbors are left on their own with no one to help, they want the place shut.

- The school buses are another problem. Mr. Spitzer promised he would work to make the streets safer with approvals for lights or signs. But there is nothing. School buses park dangerously all the way to the corner. So, if someone wants to pass, they need to go all the way out into the street. And cars speed by.
- Where is the police? When they are called by the residents, it takes 5-7 hours for a response. The residents need the police every night for the parties. This isn't a request, it's a demand.
- She had one more question regarding the cars on the sidewalk. Can all the neighbors park on the sidewalk now? There are signs that say "No Parking", but the sidewalk is always full of cars.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager

- There was a meeting at the school site with the Department of Transportation, with their school safety division and with the commissioner's office. They have representatives at the board meeting to discuss another issue, but they can weigh in on this as well. The DOT saw the cars on the sidewalk and spoke to the school. The school promised they would get rid of it, they would build a gate so cars can't drive onto the sidewalk.

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison

- Mr. Branch advised that he spoke with the school regarding this issue. DOT will look into safety improvements such as signs and crosswalks.
But before DOT can do anything, the school needs to take the cars off the sidewalk. While DOT representatives were at the site they observed cars driving on the sidewalk. The school has to do something about that, and then DOT can look into the other things.
- Mr. Branch advised that concerns regarding the parties need to be addressed by the NYPD. And that he is working with the Community Board to rectify the DOT aspects of this situation.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS- YIDEL PERLSTEIN:

- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2020.
- He reinforced that if anyone wants to say something, a question or comment, they need to make sure to be recognized by the chair, and state their name before speaking. The meetings should always have been run like this, now they will be. The Community Board office said that when recorded the minutes it is very hard to know who says what. So everyone should abide by this rule in order to have an orderly meeting and so the minutes can be properly taken down.
- The Chairman and District Manager met with the Mayor and the Chief of Department to discuss the rising Anti-Semitism in Boro Park. A thank you is owed to Pinny Ringel for pushing for this meeting and following up. The NYPD does a very good job working with the community board to see where coverage is needed, especially at nighttime and on Shabbos. Thank God there have been no recent violent attacks in Boro Park, like in other places.
- A major shout out to Police officers David Radziwon and Russel Mattera of Sector A of the 32nd Precinct who apprehended the suspects of the Monsey machete attack. What was the suspect thinking running to NYC where we have 35,000 NYPD officers doing a great job protecting the city? It took not even an hour to catch the perp.
- It's time for members to file for reappointment. The deadline is February 14th. Members can reapply online at <http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/community-board-membership-application/> or fill out a paper application available at the front desk.

The following members needed to reapply: Jacob Eisdorfer, Peter Rebenwurz, Shlomie Reiger, Douglas Jablon, Sharon Fuchs, Mayer Weber, Yechiel Malik, Jules Fleisher, Morton Pupko, Adam Cohen, Bernard Freilich, Rochelle Zami, Lily Marinelli, Monique (Yocheved) Wallace, Larry Jayson, Samuel Stober, Abul Hasnat, Joseph Gross, Sol Wahba, Anna Cali, Jacob Daskal, Mendel Reiner, Mordechai Katz, Yaakov Kaplan and Yaakov Schapiro

PUBLIC SESSION Cont.

Aaron Spector- Resident:

- Mr. Spector came to the board to bring to light the conditions at the Ocean Parkway Bike Path. The bike lanes are in terrible condition because of the tree roots that grow into bumps on the path. What makes the situation even worse is that there aren't enough street lights along Ocean Parkway for cyclists can see these bumps at night. This makes the situation extremely dangerous. The roots need to be trimmed, the street repaved, and more lights need to be installed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: FT HAMILTON/ NEW UTRECHT/ 44TH STREET

Presented by Rochelle Brahall- School Safety Division Liaison, Department of Transportation

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison:

- The Department of Transportation has recently focused on trying to make areas around schools safer. They have requested to make specific areas around schools safer. Right now they are focused on areas where gas stations are very close to schools, this is because when crossing around gas stations you don't know when a car will exit the gas station. The School Safety Division is working on a project at this intersection. Rochelle Brahall, from the school safety division, will present the improvement project.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- The Chairman reminded the Board Members that it is their duty to pay full attention when the DOT does a presentation. When the Board is shown something and no one listens, the community has every right to get upset. It is the board's responsibility to listen, to question and bring up any issues that may be of concern to the community.

Rochelle Brahall- School Safety Division Liaison, Department of Transportation:

- Ms. Brahall laid out some proposed changes to the intersection at 44th street, Ft. Hamilton & New Utrecht Ave., including proposals such as sidewalk extensions, limiting exits from the gas station, and eliminating some vehicle turning. The presentation is attached to the Board Minutes.
- She then opened the floor to questions.

Jacob Daskal- Board Member:

- Asked why DOT would not install a dedicated turn signal for the left turn from Ft Hamilton onto New Utrecht, instead of eliminating this turn. This is a vital option for emergency transport.
- Ms. Brahall clarified the turn will remain open to traffic, and per Mr. Daskal's suggestion, DOT will look into the possibility of adding a turn signal.

Rabbi Edgar Gluck- Board Member:

- Protested the extension of the curb cuts as an impediment to Emergency Vehicles. He reminded everyone that the reason the island previously at that location was removed was because emergency vehicles got stuck. FDNY testified that it forced them to go wrong way.
- Ms. Brahall clarified that the proposal was not for pedestrian islands in middle of street and that the pedestrian extensions wouldn't interfere with traffic.

Adam Cohen- Board Member:

- Wanted a clarification on the pedestrian islands considering they are a traffic hindrance.

- Ms. Brahalla explained that DOT would not be installing the Pedestrian Island that was previously removed.

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison -

- When DOT does safety projects they need to get FDNY to sign off on it. There is a new rule in effect now that requires the local firehouses to sign off on projects. Previously, only the central office signed off on everything and then problems would come up with the local firehouses who actually are the ones actually affected by changes. Now local firehouses sign off, as well as the central office.
Any project undertaken by DOT would have to be ok with their emergency vehicles.
- Ms. Brahalla advised the Board that the proposal was currently under review by the FDNY.

Peter Rebenwurz- Board Member:

- Maimonides Medical Center is three blocks away from this intersection. EMS coming from the lower streets need to pull in at 48th St. - 49th St. and traffic backs up because of this. It is extremely important that this complicated turn not be made worse. As a Board Member at MMC, this was a matter of concern.
- Rochelle advised it wouldn't affect that turn at all.

Gabi Friedlander- representing Councilmember Brad Lander:

- She lives in the neighborhood of the proposed safety improvements, she wanted to know if DOT would include safety improvements for pedestrians crossing.
- Rochelle advised such changes would include: some left turn bans as well as rubber speed bumps to force left turning vehicles to turn at a safe speed. (Left turns are the leading cause of pedestrian fatalities.)

Ellie Kastel Board Member:-

- Asked if parking spots would be lost, because parking is practically non-existent in the Boro Park area and every spot is valuable.
- Ms. Brahalla advised the changes may impact a spot or two, she will look into the exact number.

Richard Navas- Resident:

- He has been asking for safety improvements to this intersection for 4 years. Last week, 3 pedestrians were struck. His children attend the school at this intersection and he hopes that whatever change will be done is for the best. He asked for more crossing guards. He is grateful that DOT is making changes and asked that the changes be implemented speedily.

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison -

- Thanked Mr. Navas for his statement and clarified that school crossing guards are NYPD jurisdiction, not DOT.

Jacque Friedman- Board Member:

- Mr. Friedman pointed out that changes to the very busy intersection must include reassessment of lights and a subsequent coordinated light synchronization. This would avoid the dangerous rushing to catch yellow lights.
- He mirrored the concerns about an island impeding emergency vehicles.
- He urged DOT to engage the public to inform and explain these changes as well as to encourage pedestrians to exercise caution- to avoid injury. Perhaps temporarily assigning police guards there as a deterrent and to encourage people to handle the intersection more carefully.

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison:

- Advised the implementation would include a synchronization of the lights. However, any NYPD resources are out of purview of the DOT and need to be discussed directly with the NYPD.
- He explained that the need to extend the sidewalk for the 'island' is to give people in wheelchairs and seniors a refuge to have where to stand when they cross Ft. Hamilton Parkway.
- In terms of getting word out about the changes, that is why DOT came to the board meeting.

Gabi Friedlander- representing Councilmember Brad Lander:

- She brought up another highly problematic intersection in the district: 50th Street/12th Ave./ New Utrecht Ave. is also a really bad intersection with frequent pedestrian accidents.

Leroy Branch- Department of Transportation Liaison:

- Mr. Branch advised that the District Manager asked him about this very same intersection and was told it would be looked at.
- He further advised that that would be looked at by a different DOT division. Ms. Brahalla is a part of the School Safety Division and only focuses on areas near schools.
- Mr. Spitzer confirmed that there is something in pipeline, per a previous conversation with DOT.

ZONING AND VARIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Presented by: David Shlomovich- Chair of Committee on Zoning and Variance:

- The Zoning and Variance committee had meeting on January 23rd to discuss two items, one was a rezoning item and one was a request for a special permit.

1938 Coney Island Avenue:

- 1938 Coney Island Avenue is a corner property consisting of an 80' by 100' lot. The property is built as a 7 story office building. The first floor will be UG6 commercial office space, the second through seventh were built as UG4 community facility space. At the time of application, they proposed to have 26 off street parking spots. The zoning, as is, allows a certain amount of feet to be used as commercial space, in this case it would amount to the top floor, but it would come with the requirement of 1 parking space per 400 square feet.
- The property owners are requesting a special permit to change that to 1 parking space for 800 feet, which would effectively eliminate 8 spaces.
- Nobody from the community was present at the hearing. A representative from Sheldon Lobel, P.C. was in attendance to explain what the builders were trying to do.
- The Committee did not feel comfortable approving this special permit and it was denied.
- The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Board Member Adam Cohen requested clarification on what the special permit would exempt the builders from, and what would be required without it.

Board Member Yeruchim Silber questioned what sort of community space would be at the location.

David Shlomovich- Chair of Committee on Zoning and Variance:

- The property has 33 spots, which is more than the 26 spots they are required to have for the top floor of UG6 commercial space. They would be required to have 43 spots- if the top 2 floors are changed to UG6 commercial office space, which is the conversion they want. Originally, they applied as UG4 community facility space to avoid having to include the additional parking.
- Usually UG4 community space is used for not-for-profits, such as medical facilities or charitable organizations. Such space could not be used for commercial purposes such as lawyer's or CPA's offices.

Board Member Adam Cohen verified that as per the original plans on this project, the whole building was to be UG4 community space. For that they were required to have 26 spots, but they have more than that, they have 33. They want to change the top 2 floors to commercial usage which would require 43 spots. They want to do the change in class without adding more to the existing 33 spaces. The special permit is for an exemption in the requirement because they don't have the space to add another 10 parking spots.

MOTION TO DENY SPECIAL PERMIT FOR 1938 CIA:

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5914 Bay Parkway:

- This application is for a re-zoning. The property is currently an R5 zoning and the application is a request to convert it to an R6 zoning with a C2-4 commercial overlay. R5 zoning only allows construction of a residential low rise. R6 zoning allows for taller construction. The C2-4 overlay allows for some commercial space usage.
- This project, if the zoning change is approved, will consist of a 9 story structure. The first floor would be UG6 commercial office space, the second would be UG4 community facility, and floors 7 through 9 would be residential units. There would be 36 residential units, of which 11 would be affordable units and 25 would be market value units.
- The rezoning would require the property to have 15 parking spots. As a gesture of goodwill, if the rezoning is approved, the builders said they would increase that to 20-25 parking spots.
- The chair opened the floor to questions.

Board Member Jacob Daskal asked how many units can be built with no zoning change.

David Shlomovich - Chair of Committee on Zoning and Variance:

- 16 units can be built with the current R5 zoning. The R6 zoning would allow for 36 units.
- There is no doubt that the builders would benefit from the zoning change. In consideration, the community gets another 10 spots
- The committee had a discussion on this rezoning and unanimously approved the zoning change.

Anna Cali- Board Member & Committee member of Zoning and Variance Committee:

- Ms. Cali clarified that the committee unanimously approved the change only with the stipulation that parking spots would be added. The discussion on being good neighbors was in regards to increasing to a total of 25, possibly 30 spots. The committee was in favor of the zoning change only with the stipulation of more parking.

David Shlomovich - Chair of Committee on Zoning and Variance:

- The builders have put the proposal of additional space on the drawing board. Today they promised to put in a stipulation to include 20-25 spots instead of only 15. At the committee meeting they said they would try to go up to 30 spots. They didn't have an architect at the meeting and so they needed to discuss it. The board could choose to table the vote, but prior to the meeting the architect came back with an answer saying they could promise 20-25 spots. The motion put forth to the committee included a stipulation for 20-25 spots, not a specific number- that is what the vote at the board meeting would have to be on.

Board Member Jacques Friedman requested the vote take place after the plans are updated. 20-25 means nothing theoretically, but when driving around and around looking for a parking spot, the difference is huge. The board needs to see plans before they can approve it.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Clarified that the builders already finalized the plans.
- David Shlomovich confirmed with the attorney present that 25 spots would be included.

Board Member Adam Cohen asked if there could be 30 spots if stackers are used.

Attorney-

- They can't put 30 spots with stackers because it would require full time personnel.
- He pointed out that for the 11 affordable units and 25 market rate units there is no requirement to add parking. The 15 spots is only required for the UG6 commercial space.

David Shlomovich - Chair of Committee on Zoning and Variance:

- Reminded the board that only the motions proposed by the committee can be made. So the vote would be on a motion to have 25 spaces.

MOTION TO APPROVE REZONING FOR 5914 BAY PARKWAY WITH STIPULATION:

Motion passed with unanimous consent, with the exception of Mr. Jacques Friedman's opposition.

ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MINUTES

Minutes adopted with no changes.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Tonya Canto- Representing Boro President Eric Adams:

- The Borough President had 3 upcoming events of interest to the board.
- A. Breaking Bread, Building Bonds
This initiative is in response to the hate crimes in and around New York City that are rising exponentially. The NYPD reported a 19 percent increase in hate crime related incidents in 2019. Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams invites all to participate in his "Breaking Bread, Building Bonds" initiative. He will hold 100 dinners, each with 10 everyday New Yorkers from varied and distinct ethnicities, identities and faiths. The goal is to bring all cultures, faiths, and lifestyles together to unite us through shared commonalities and to build the bonds needed to peacefully heal our communities. If you would like to be a participant in, or host these dinners, go to brooklyn-usa.org/breaking-bread and complete the online form.
- B. Quarterly Vegan and Veg-Curious Meetup
On Monday, February 3, 2020 from 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM, join us for the next Vegan and Veg-Curious Meetup at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The event will feature a conversation with Drs. Dean and Ayesha Sherzai and will focus on brain health. To RSVP, go to <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/event/vegan-veg-curious-meetup-5/>.
- C. Make Change at your Hospital and Change Lives
Borough President Adams is working with hospitals in Brooklyn and across the city to create more avenues for patients to engage with the power of whole-food plant-based nutrition to treat and reverse chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. Over the last year or so, significant changes have taken place across the hospital system, including the implementation of Meatless Mondays at every NYC Health+ Hospitals location, the opening of Bellevue Hospital's Plant Based Lifestyles Medicine Program, and the expansion of nutrition education opportunities for all New Yorkers. The annual conferences at SUNY Downstate Medical Center on the power of plant-based nutrition to reverse chronic disease and at Montefiore Hospital on treating cardiovascular disease with plant-based nutrition, serve as exemplary opportunities to learn more about the topic, whether you are a medical professional seeking continuing education credits or an everyday New Yorker looking to make healthier choices in your own life. BP Adams asks that you consider advocating for change at your local hospital. To learn more about progress underway across the city, ways you can bring better food and better nutrition education to your hospital, and pathways to make change in your own life, please contact Rachel Atchenson at ratcheson@brooklynbp.nyc.gov or (718) 802-3762.
- D. Applications are open for Community Board Seats.

Consider being a part of your neighborhood's community board and the grassroots conversations touching the neighborhoods in Brooklyn you call home. To apply to be a community board member in Brooklyn, go to Brooklyn-usa.org/community-board-membership-application. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 14, 2020.

E. Brooklyn Ambassador Program.

Borough President Adams developed a Brooklyn Ambassador Program in order to help promote community and cultural engagement across the borough. Ambassadors notify Borough President Adams about the concerns and issues of residents, as well as events and meetings held within the region of Brooklyn under their purview. To learn more about this, go to Brooklyn-usa.org/programs.

F. Brooklyn Association Registration

Borough President Adams is building "One Brooklyn," block by block, to help beautify, enhance, serve, and sustain our communities. If you are interested in registering your association with our office, please complete the form at Brooklyn-usa.org.

- Ride half price started January 27th, low income NYC residents who are at or below the federal poverty level may qualify for half-priced transit fare through the FairFares initiative.
- Census work is available and pays \$28 an hour. The next Census 2020 sessions to register at Borough Hall is January 30, 2020 from 1-7 pm and February 5, 2020 from 1-7 pm.
- Notice of property value (NPV) public sessions at Borough Hall are February 24, 2020 from 5pm to 7 pm. Representatives from Department of Finance and NYC Tax Commission will be available to discuss your property

- **Mayor Bill de Blasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.**
- **Public Advocate Jumaane Williams was represented by Jibreel Jalloh.**
 - Mr. Jalloh introduced himself as the new Brooklyn Borough Advocate.
 - He explained the function of the public advocate as a link between the government and the people, as an agency with oversight over city agencies.
 - He echoed the point raised by others on the importance of census participation. The census is a determinant in the allocation of billions of dollars in funding. Brooklyn was grossly undercounted in the 2010 census.

- **Councilmember Brad Lander was represented by Gabi Friedlander.**
- **Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.**
- **Councilmember Mathieu Eugene was represented by Ushi Teitlebaum.**
- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Joseph Langsam and Sharon Fuchs**
- **Assemblyman Robert Carroll was represented by Mary Kay Seery.**
 - Assemblyman Carroll sent greetings from Albany. He wanted to inform the community of two events of interest.

The MetroCard Van would be in front of his office from 10-12 and in front of the Cortelyou Road Library from 1-3 on January 29th.

The Assemblyman, along with the Boro President and other community leaders are doing a clothing and toiletries drive to benefit the 140 bed men's shelter that opened up on Coney island Avenue. There are a number drop off points available for unopened clothing and toiletries
 - The address of the Assemblyman's office is 416 7th Ave.
- **Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein was represented by Shlomie Reiger.**

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – BARRY SPITZER

- Reminded Board Members who would like a personal biography of themselves on the Board website, to please email it to us. Thank you to the 21 Board members who either sent in their biography or information so their biography could be written. Thank you to the members who said they would send them in- please do so. Rabbi Gluck just brought in his biography, so thank you.
- In keeping with the tradition of highlighting cases, 3 cases will be highlighted this month. The first is a case where a constituent called our office because of a sidewalk violation. He was scheduled to close on his house, but because a tree damaged his sidewalk in 2012, he had a lien on his house. We reached out to DOT and were able to get the paperwork squared away and the lien was removed. This resolution is Ann Marie's credit.

The second case, which Gittel worked on, is a case where a constituent asked for help with a Sanitation violation. The case has always been that for sanitation violations the burden of proof is on the resident. The officer who writes the ticket doesn't have to prove anything- rather you have to prove the officer wrong. We felt that in this case the ticket was not fair to the constituent who is diligent in keeping her property clean yet is repeatedly fined. We were able to find some defined obligations of homeowners, and more importantly, limits to a homeowner's responsibility. Gittel did a lot of research and wrote up a legal brief citing other cases. And this ticket was dismissed.

The third case is one that we owe councilman Kalman Yeger credit for being a true partner in our efforts. There was a school that was trying to rent auditorium space at a local Public School for a play. They were unsuccessful in their many attempts. They reached out to our office. And there was a lot of back and forth, first the Public school said the space wasn't available, then they said that the days were during midwinter vacation, but we were able to get the space for the school. Today they signed the contract.

- Please be aware that the fines for alternate side parking will be increased to \$65 on February 20th. Hopefully this will increase compliance so the street sweepers can clean properly.

Board Member Yeruchim Silber wanted to know if the increased fine needed to go through City Council for approval.

The District Manager clarified that the change is administrative in nature and so did not need any City Council input.

There was a lot of MTA news this month.

- The MTA transit chief, Andy Byford, resigned. Andy Byford was instrumental in pushing for important policies, such as the Subway Action Plan at the MTA. While the subway system is not perfect, Andy improved the reliability and increased the capacity of NYC subways. He will be missed.
- Fair Fares NYC opened application on January 27. New Yorkers who are at or below the Federal Poverty Level and don't already have discounted transportation from the MTA or the City are eligible and may qualify for a 50% discount on MTA fares. You can apply online at www1.nyc.gov/site/fairfares/index.page
- MTA announced that they would study the possibility of initiating passenger service on what used to be a freight-only rail line. This is the rail line that lies at the border of our district. This would be a 16 miles-long line and would connect directly to Queens- cutting the travel time significantly.
- Please be aware of weekend changes from January 31st to February 3 to the D line that will impact subway travel times. The Coney Island bound D train will skip Fort Hamilton Parkway, 50th street and 55th Street stations. If you need to get to these stations by train you will have to

take the Manhattan bound D train from 62nd street. You can always check mta.info to see if your trains are running on time and see any scheduled changes.

- One other interesting item was pointed out by someone in the District Attorney's office. It is imperative to put the full year '2020' whenever signing any legal documents. If you just put in the abbreviated '20,' people can add whatever they want, they can change the year to a previous year (2019) or a future year (2021), which can create challenges, especially if problems come up with purchases or contracts.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Jacob Hass- Board Member:

- Mr. Hass brought attention to a problematic trend in the district. As of late, National Grid has chosen wintertime to knock into residences and demand to check for gas leaks. And without minimizing the danger of gas leaks, if they find even a tiny, not unsafe leak, they will shut gas off immediately. The process to reopen the gas is a months' long process involving a specialized licensed plumber. The timing of these inspections is troublesome, it is causing little children and the elderly to suffer freezing conditions for a long stretch during winter. Therefore, Mr. Hass is asking representatives, public officials, and the community board to get involved in this matter. National Grid is notorious for ripping up streets without any regards to community.

Board Member Adam Cohen questioned if this was political payback resulting from Governor Cuomo forcing National Grid to resume providing new gas lines. He wanted to know if they can be denied access.

Board Member Jacob Daskal reiterated that the plumber needs to be highly specialized, per a new requirement. There is only one such approved plumber in this area, which is very expensive and overbooked.

- He advised that while you can deny entrance, they can shut off gas until access is provided.
- He suggested homeowners get their own pressure tests and fix any minor leaks before without having to go through the specialized National Grid process.

Board Member David Shlomovich told the Board that National Grid came by his house in August and did the inspection. And they came back again in January claiming the gas was never checked. And even though there was proof that they did, they started charging a \$100 fine every month until he gives them access.

- This seems like they are trying to recoup the 46 million fine from Governor Cuomo. It seems as though they are picking on this community

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:-

- Since the Board has gotten a lot of complaints, this will be looked into. Councilman Yeger's office will be involved perhaps by introducing something to City Council.
- He informed that this problem is not unique to this community, it is taking place all over the city.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 25th

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete