

Antonio Reynoso Borough President



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> **Yidel Perlstein** Chairperson



Barry Spitzer District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD12 JANUARY MINUTES

HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

VIA ZOOM

Yaakov Kaplan, 1st Vice Chair • Yeruchim Silber, 2nd Vice Chair • Anna Cali, Secretary • Mamnunul Haq, Sergeant-At-Arms Alan J. Dubrow, Chairman Emeritus

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

AAMAH KHAN ALAN DUBROW ANNA CALI **AVI GREENSTEIN** AVROHOM WOLFSON AYESHA RAHIM **BENJAMIN THEODORE BERNARD FREILICH** CHESKY BLAU DAVID FRIEDLANDER DAVID SHLOMOVICH EDGAR GLUCK ELLIE KASTEL JACOB ASKAL JACOB EISDORFER JACQUE FRIEDMAN JEFFREY DWECK JOHN TALMADGE LILY MARINELLI MARIA ARETTINES MIRIAM HERSKO MORDECHAI KATZ MORRIS SENDEROVICH PETER REBENWURZEL SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR SAM STOBER SHARON FUCHS SHLOMIE RIEGER SOL WAHBA YAAKOV KAPLAN YAAKOV SCHAPIRO YERUCHIM SILBER YIDEL PERLSTEIN YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS YONAH MOSES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 30 RESIDENTS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADAM COHEN DOUGLAS JABLON JACOB HASS JOSEPH GROSS JULES FLEISCHER LARRY JASON MAMNUNUL HAQ MONIQUE WALLACE MORTON PUPKO NAFTALI TESSLER ROCHELLE ZAMI YECHIEL MALIK YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

ELECTED OFFICALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

BORO PRESIDENT ANTONIO REYNOSO COUNCILMEMBER SHAHANA HANIF COUNCILMEMBEM RITA JOSEPH COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR ERIC ADAMS MUSARRAT LAMIA, REP COUNCILMEMBER SHANAHA HANIF PINNY RINGEL, REP. DSNY SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

• December Minutes were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Delivered by Chairman Yidel Perlstein

- The chairman held a moment of silence for the fallen NYPD officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora. Officer Rivera was only 22 years old when he was killed in the line of duty. He wrote a letter while in the academy explaining why he became a cop; he wanted to improve police and community relations. How devastating that he lost his life when he should have been making the difference the city needs. Sadly, Officer Wilbert Mora's injuries were too extreme and he died at only 27 years old. As Commissioner Sewell said, Wilbert is 3 times a hero: for choosing a life of service. For sacrificing his life to protect others. For giving life even in death through organ donation.
- Unfortunately 2022 hasn't been off to great start, but even amidst the tragedies there have been some bright spots to look at for hope.
- On January 9th there was a horrific fire that resulted in multiple casualties. We mourn for those who died and applaud the outpouring of support from those whose only connection to the victims was fellow humanity. Many organizations, based in our district, stepped up in a big way. Masbia, Boro Park Shomrim, and Met Council led the way in delivering food and necessities to the victims of the fire and their families.
- On January 16th a woman was pushed onto the tracks and lost her life. We join the calls for real efforts to make our subway safer for all New Yorkers.
- The rise in anti-Semitic attacks continues. While we thank the NYPD for catching the perpetrator in the assault that took place last month in Bay Ridge, it is unfortunate that the revolving door jail system already has him out on the street.
- Thank you to the NYPD for stepping up their security around our synagogues in the wake of the hostage situation this past Shabbos in Colleyville, Texas. We are relieved that all hostages made it out ok.
- Thank you to the NYPD's SVU for their attention and prompt investigation that led to the arrest of the perpetrator who sexually assaulted a young girl right here in our district, on 60th Street. They followed a trail of cameras for about 2 and a half miles to catch this predator.
- The Chairman congratulated those Board Members who had perfect attendance in 2021, their volunteerism is appreciated:
 - Alan Dubrow
 - o Avraham Wolfson
 - Ellie Kastel
 - o Jacques Friedman
 - o Jeffrey Dweck
 - Sam Stober

- o Sharon Fuchs
- Shlomie Reiger
- Yaakov Kaplan
- Yeruchim Silber
- Yonah Moses
- The Borough President has a new Community Board application. All the members who need to file for reappointment and haven't done so will need to file with the new application. Board members who already filed do not need to do it again, the Borough President will honor the old application. The link to the new application was sent out by the office today. **The deadline has been pushed off to March 4th**.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Josh Mehlman- Chairman of Flatbush FJCC

- Mr. Mehlman congratulated the board members who had perfect attendance. As a former Board Member of CB15 for 10 years, he knows the dedication required.
- He brought up an issue affecting Coney Island Ave. Over the past months there is an increase in the number of trailers repeatedly parking along CIA on the 66 precinct side. These trailers don't even move for alternate side parking. This location is near yeshivas and shopping centers. Mr. Mehlman asked the board to work with DOT and the 66 Precinct to alleviate the problem.

Binyamin Bendet- Resident

- Mr. Bendet congratulated the board members who had perfect attendance.
- He echoed the problems of trucks parking illegally along CIA.
- He brought up concerns from residents who have trash collection on Shabbos. DSNY employees put the cans on the sidewalk in a way that can obstruct pedestrians. People may not want to move cans on Shabbos. DSNY should place the cans properly so as not to obstruct.

Miriam Hersko- Boro Park Jewish Community Council

- Ms. Hersko thanked Community Board 12 for coordinating with BPJCC on the new men's computer classes that started a week before.
- She listed a few functions taking place at the BPJCC this month:
 - There will be a senior seminar on February 9th from 6:30 pm -8:30 pm a. The topics discussed will be estate planning, wills and trusts.
 - There will be a parenting workshop on February 9th from 11 am -12:30 am. The workshop is geared towards children 6-12.
 Both events will be at the BPJCC hall at 1310-46th Street. Call 718-972-6600 to reserve a spot.
- BPJCC has a new Crisis Division run by Chaim Tuschinsky.

Jennie Fleishhacker- Resident

- She recognized that the district needs statement addressed the gaps in sanitation service, but said there are problems in the northeast area of district. There were some missed collections in December and when the garbage stays out for a while, and weather spreads it around. There needs to be more coordinated communication and education.
- Pedestrians and driver litter in high traffic area and loose garbage ends up in catch basins. Perhaps public receptacles could be helpful. An example of this is the garbage on E8th St. and Beverly Road.

Anthony Loum- Mapleton Branch Manager at the Brooklyn Public Library

Vaccinations for kids at Brooklyn Public Library

- In partnership with NYC Health and Hospitals Test and Trace Corps, select libraries will host a walk-in vaccine clinic for children ages 5-11.
- \circ New York City's \$100 incentive will be available at this clinic.
- Kids can take a photo with a cardboard cutout of Max from Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are, and take home a free copy of the book!
- Books provided courtesy of the Sendak Foundation and HarperCollins.
- Our first sites were Coney Island and New Lots Libraries, and these will travel to different locations in the coming weeks.
- $_{\odot}$ $\,$ Please check BPL's events calendar in advance as schedules may change

Events for Youth & Families: Gates of Equality

• This dynamic one-man presentation chronicles the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, from his early childhood through his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

- The fictional dialogue is interspersed with real excerpts from Dr. King's press conferences and speeches and the practice of nonviolent protest. Presented by Urban Stages.
- For ages 5 and older.
- The program will air on Facebook at <u>https://www.facebook.com/BushwickLibrary</u>.

Grab and Go Crafts Kits

- Grab & Go Kits are take home activities designed for kids, teens, and adults.
- Stop by your local Library on and pick up a free grab and go craft kit
- Each kit contains everything you need to make your own fun crafts project.
- All kits are available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

John Biagini- Resident

• The Biaginis live on 59th Street between 15th and 16th Avenues. There's a loud humming noise these last 6-8 weeks from 60th Street. They called DEP and explained. DEP said they'd investigate and determined it's an alarm. It isn't- it sounds like a generator that whines all night and all day.

Boro President Antonio Reynoso

- The Boro President thanked the board members for taking time out of their lives to volunteer for the city.
- He said he has high expectations for the community boards and is planning to infuse the Community Board with resources. He is looking forward to input from the community board on putting together a comprehensive plan for the district relating to transportation, education, schools and development.
- He will have some professional development and education classes for the community board.
- As the former Chairman of DSNY committee he will pay specific attention to these problems.
- He believes that a community makes itself safe. But with the increase in hate crimes in New York, especially anti-Semitism, it is important to make sure that people feel safe and if that means more cops on the streets that will need to be discussed. He thanked Shomrim for helping people feel safe.
- He asked all to spread love, it's the Brooklyn way. And he said he wants the board to get tired of him because of his continued presence.
- He wished everyone a good night.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The chairman appointed the following board members to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee: Avraham Wolfson, Motty Katz, Ellie Kastel, Jacob Eisdorfer and Adam Cohen.

CHAIRMAN

- The chairman announced some housekeeping rules. He would be sending out a memo dealing with the rules for virtual meetings. The rules will be strictly enforced starting with the February meeting. Members will need to confirm their receipt of the email.
- In the coming months the committees will be restructured. Board members who like to serve on a particular committee should let the office know by the end of February.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

• The Homeowners Assistance Fund is still open for a little while longer until February 4. If you are more than a month delinquent on your mortgage, taxes or utilities you can qualify for up to \$50,000 in assistance to cover those bills. You can apply at nyhomeownerfund.org

- He expressed thanks to the DSNY for their wonderful work during the past snowstorm. They did a great job cleaning up the snow. A couple of hours into the morning after the storm the roads were all clear.
- There has been a significant uptick in missed collection complaints that our office has been getting. We understand the frustration and will continue to hold DSNY accountable. On that note, a meeting was held with DSNY this week. The District Manager, Councilman Yeger and others were at the meeting with DSNY Commissioner Greyson. The commissioner pledged his cooperation. He will be focused on BK12 going forward and make sure we get the services we need.
- Once again, we owe Con Edison a debt of gratitude. There was an outage right before Shabbos started which affected a few houses on 54th between 14th and 16th Ave.'s. Con Edison came out Saturday night, in the freezing cold. They were in touch with our office the whole night to make sure residents got their electricity back.
- Covid tests are now free. Insurance companies are required to pay for 8 at home Covid tests per person per month. You can also get 4 Covid tests per residential household by ordering online at special.usps.com/testkits.
- As was mentioned by Mrs. Hersko, we are proud to facilitate a new round of computer courses with BPJCC. This one is a 6 week course for men taking place on Mondays covering computer basics in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The classes began and will continue every Monday for 6 weeks. There was amazing feedback on previous courses. We've heard of people getting jobs, getting promoted, and getting better jobs. It is really making a difference in the lives of our residents so I'd like to thank the BPJCC, Councilman Yeger, former Councilman Eugene and everybody involved in this effort that is helping our residents with better jobs and computer literacy.
- The federal government announced that the pause on student loan payment was extended to May 1, 2022
- The eviction moratorium has ended January 15th. There is still assistance for renters, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) reopened on January 11th. And tenants cannot be evicted while waiting for their application decision. Anyone who needs help with the program can reach out to our office.
- There is a matter to be aware of in case you come across it. DEP sometimes send notices to homeowners notifying that they did an inspection and the homeowner needs to replace old service pipes within 45 days. We are not entirely sure what we can do about it. We're in contact with DEP about this. We'll give you an update when we have a better understanding. But I want to put it out there if anyone got a notice please let us know. Right now we are working with DEP to maybe extend the time or some other help because this is costly.

Mr. Yidel Perlstein- the Chairman thanked the District Manager for staying extra hours to accommodate the computer classes.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Councilmember Kalman Yeger representing the 44th Council District

- The councilman welcomed his new colleagues, the two councilmembers who were present.
- He was happy to hear good reviews on the BPJCC computer program that was partially funded by himself and former Councilmember Eugene. The councilmembers who represented this board had a good working relationship. And he is sure the new ones will as well. He knows how hectic the schedules of councilmembers are so he is grateful his colleagues took time to participate.
- He congratulated the board members who had perfect attendance. He noted that the Boro President pays attention to attendance when it comes to reappointment. He urged board members to reapply if it's their year to complete the reappointment paperwork. It can be done by logging

in to the Boro President's website. If someone who isn't on the board and wants to be, this is the time to apply.

- He added to the District Manager's remarks on the meeting with DSNY. After 8 years of service at CAU, Mr. Pinny Ringel joined DSNY as a senior advisor. He hit the ground running and already scheduled a meeting with the commissioner. They all met with the Commissioner and chiefs and assistant chiefs on Monday. The Commissioner was focused on what's going on in bk12. They have been talking to the Commissioner since his appointment and giving him the horror stories and the pictures and the videos. This Commissioner gets it. Hopefully there will be some immediate noticeable change.
- The new city council is in session. There is a new speaker, Speaker Adams. She's already saying right things about our challenges. And she is working with the mayor who was incredibly strong and focused yesterday at his speech on violence. Hopefully the Council will be committed to restoring the city to greatness.
- The councilman introduced the first 2 bills of the session, Intro 1 and Intro 2. The first bill deals with Covid fines relief. This community was targeted by the State and City Government with outrageous fines, not limited to the arbitrary drawing of a Jewish red zone. Then this was followed up with city sending a whole alphabet soup of regulatory agencies. This was not anecdotal, this was proven. If Intro 1 passes, it would require the city to vacate all summons, whether they were already found guilty or are pending. Violations that were paid will be reimbursed. Yeshivas and schools had their violations dismissed because the Supreme Court determined they were unconstitutional. This legislation is intended to get the same for all the other Covid related violations.
- The second legislation is to have the city suspend Alternate Side Parking and parking meters for 48 hours following the conclusion of a snow storm. Alternate Side Parking is typically suspended to keep the roads clear so DSNY can clear the streets. It makes sense to not make people drive their cars because they have to move them away from meters. This is common sense legislation. It's what folks expect from those who represent their neighborhoods.
- Thank you to all the board members and the members of nominating committee for their time and service.
- Happy New Year and a Healthy 2022 to all.

Pinny Ringel, DSNY.

- Mr. Ringel announced that he joined the Department of Sanitation as a senior advisor.
- The meeting held with the Commissioner, District Manager and Councilman was a great start to address BK12's concerns and will continue to be addressed.

Councilmember Shahana Hanif representing the 39th Council District

- Councilmember Hanif introduced herself and advised that she was a CB12 board member in the past. And it's an honor to return as Councilmember.
- District 39 already dealt with a myriad of issues in the 3 weeks since the new session began, including residents without water and other local issues. She encouraged anyone with a concern to reach out to her office.
- She hopes to collaborate and coordinate with the board. And hopes that, like her colleague Councilman Yeger, she will be able to attend every Community Board 12 meeting.
- She provided some updates:
 - Her City council office is working remotely because of the Omicron variant of Covid 19 and because the office is being renovated.
 - The CB12 liaison will be Mussarat who is the scheduler and office manager and will participate in the board meetings.
 - She is glad to hear the sanitation issues as she recently learned CD39 has 40k in unallocated sanitation funds.

- A big priority is bringing free Covid testing to the district, especially as there are private facilities overcharging and delaying results. NYC Health and Hospitals set up a temporary site at 118 Beverly Road for 2 weeks. The site can provide PCR results within hours as well as take home self-test kits.
- She will be distributing home kits and masks.
- Participatory budgeting is underway. Idea collection just wrapped with over 150 ideas collected. This enables residents to choose how funding in their community is allocated.
- Regarding the resident who complained about Covid testing vans, those are under state jurisdiction. The behavior is happening everywhere. They are working with State to regulate these. Her office is keeping a list of bad actors in the district for the Attorney General's office.
- In the weekly newsletters, her office will provide updates on H+H testing and vaccination sites. She encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletters.

Councilmember Rita Joseph representing the 40th Council District

- She thanked her fellow councilmembers for being great partners and looks forward to working together to deliver city services.
- She echoed the concerns with delayed Covid testing results, and said she spoke to the NYC Schools Chancellor to have the turnaround time improved.
- As technology is one of her favorite things, she will be partnering with Councilmember Yeger to make sure these resources are available.
- She looks forward to working with the Board.

Anastasia Yaskova- Mayors CAU

• She introduced herself as a member of the Adams team since 2019, dating back to his time as Boro President. Now she joined the CAU led by Commissioner Fred Kreizman. She is looking forward to using every strength to bring our city back.

Musarrat Lamia- representing CM Hanif

- Ms. Lamia introduced herself as Councilmember Hanif's scheduler and office manager who will be at the monthly meetings and others as needed.
- Sharon Fuchs, representing Senator Simcha Felder.
- Sol Reiger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

No old business. No new business.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete