



Antonio Reynoso
Borough President

THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12

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Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson



Barry Spitzer
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MAY MINUTES

HELD ON
TUESDAY,
MAY 31, 2022

VIA IN-PERSON & ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ALAN DUBROW
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BENJAMIN THEODORE
BERNARD FREILICH
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB EISDORFER
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JOSEPH GROSS
JULES FLEISCHER
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 14 RESIDENTS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

AAMAH KHAN
ADAM COHEN
ANNA CALI
AVI GREENSTEIN
EDGAR GLUCK
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HASS
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MARIA ARETTINES
MORDECHAI KATZ
NAFTALI TESSLER
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR
SHARON FUCHS
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN
ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR ERIC
ADAMS
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMPTROLLER BRAD
LANDER
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN
DAVID PECHEFSKY, REP. AM ROBERT
CARROLL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ATTENDANCE
ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY & MARCH MINUTES

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – YIDEL PERLSTEIN

The chairman shared some updates:

- The past month was a tragically violent month. On May 14th a vile person motivated by racist hate shot up a supermarket in Buffalo, NY- killing 10 innocent victims and injuring 3 others. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. Hate is a deadly virus. We know what it's like to be targeted for being different. Anti-Semitic and Anti- Asian incidents this month alone include BB gun shootings at school buses, anti- Semitic graffiti, random attacks- and these are only the stories that made the news. Verbal abuse is rarely reported. Just this week some animals held what appears to be an Asian man so that he must accept the blows other animals were raining on him. This is not ok. We are not ok.

The Buffalo shooting was barely off the front pages when just 10 days later, on May 24th, a deranged individual killed 19 little children and 2 teachers in a school in Uvalde, Texas.

A moment of silence was held for all the precious children killed in Uvalde and the innocent people in Buffalo who were killed because of pure racism and hate.

- The chairman welcomed the new board members appointed to the board Alexi Shalom, Bao Zhi (Louie) Liu, Beth Slepian, Judith Ojo-Diaz, Nick Berghall, Romina Fernandez and Wil Fisher. The chairman pointed out that he knows Louie for a very long time and all the great things he does for the Asian community and that he is excited to have him on our Board.

He also thanked the former board members for their service to this community. First he mentioned Morty Pupko. Morty has served on the board since 1976. He was an extremely valuable and senior member of our CB12 family. We wish Morty well and hope he has a complete recovery. He also thanked Shloimy Itskowits, Lily Marinelli, Monique Wallace, Larry Jayson and Ayesha Rahim.

- Mayor Adams held the annual Jewish Heritage Celebration event at Gracie Mansion last Tuesday. Congratulations to our dear friend Inspector Richie Taylor for the rightfully earned recognition he received at the event from the Mayor.
- Joel Eisdorfer, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, gave an incredible speech at the event. It's comforting knowing our friend is in the Mayor's inner circle and we can rely on him to look out for our community.
- We had a beautiful Lag B'Omer celebration. Everything went off without a hitch. The chairman was pleased to see so many people throughout the district having the chance to celebrate.
- There were some beautiful events this month in the district: Councilman Yeger gave out helmets at his bike safety event at the 18th Ave. Park. BPJCC had an informational senior event that was wonderful. And the Met council Chessed Center had a Shalom Bayis event in our community board office, the turnout was overwhelming as was the feedback from those who attended.
- Last week the chairman had the honor of accompanying the Police Commissioner to Bais Yaakov where she gave a speech to the girls. It was great seeing the beautiful interaction between the Commissioner and the students.
- He gave an update on 540 Ocean Parkway. The office sent out an email but there may have been some who missed it. At our April Board Meeting, UCP presented a request to the board for a letter of no objection so they can purchase a unit at 540 Ocean Parkway for 4 adult males with developmental disabilities. A motion was passed by the Board to table the vote pending a public hearing.

A couple of weeks ago we were notified by UCP that they are no longer purchasing this property; therefore, the public hearing was canceled.

- As per the Open Meetings Law, starting next month, at the June Board Meeting, the meetings will open for in-person attendance by the public.

- Thank you all for attending. Happy Shavuot to all who celebrate, and we look forward to seeing you at next month's board meeting on 28th.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Anthony Loum – Mapleton Branch Manager at the Brooklyn Public Library

- **Brooklyn Public Library is celebrating its 125th anniversary.**

Borough wide birthday celebrations kicked off on June 4th at all locations

125th Birthday Booklist

- Celebrate Brooklyn Public Library's 125th Birthday with 125 essential Brooklyn books.
- The books on this list capture the spirit of Brooklyn: the vibrant, diverse and exciting communities that make up this borough and represent Brooklynites of all ages.
- This list features genres from historical to romance to science fiction and more.
- We hope you'll recognize some familiar favorites, while also discovering new books to love.
- The library has a literary walking tour available on their website to see where some of these books are set.
- The Re/Creation Collective Workshop amplifies the voices of those striving to survive incarceration on Rikers Island. Incarcerated neighbors will be connected with a larger community of justice affected writers and artists to help hone their craft and reshape their narratives.
- All of the Brooklyn Public Library programming you have come to love will be available including special summer programs with a focus on STEAM, Literacy, and Summer Fun!
Sew Brooklyn-The program will offer sewing machines, free materials, and free workshops for patrons interested in learning to sew by hand and/or machine. Designed for patrons to learn an invaluable skill without burdensome costs, to engage in a creative activity, and to build community together.
- Summer reading at Mapleton Branch will kick off this Saturday June 4th.

Ron Glickman- Resident representing Barkai Yeshiva.

- Mr. Glickman brought up an issue concerning Barkai Yeshiva and the neighboring schools located around 21st Avenue. Illegal parking and trash dumping are both chronic issues plaguing the area around Washington Cemetery. These conditions are tied to illicit activity in the area.
- Mr. Glickman proposed creating a zone in the area, just like the one near Murrow high school, that zone would have ASP occur at night. This would minimize opportunities for dumping and would accommodate daytime parking for teachers and others.
- The proposal is supported by PS 121 and neighbors who have signed a petition in support.

Chairman Perlstein asked Mr. Glickman to share the information and presentation via email.

Board Member Alan Dubrow said this proposal has been attempted many years ago but it didn't work with DSNY.

Assemblyman Eichenstein representing the 48th Assembly District:

AM Eichenstein shared some updates during the public hearing as he was on the floor in Albany.

- There is a lot going on in Albany during this is the last week of scheduled session. The assemblyman hoped to join the June meeting in person.
- Assemblyman Eichenstein sponsored a bill with Senator Felder in the Senate regarding Hatzolah members' personal vehicles while responding to calls. This bill exempts them from speeding, red light and bus lane camera violations. While the city has usually been good about dismissing such violations, this bill codifies it as an official defense so that no issues would come up.
- Another bill cosponsored with Senator Myrie from Crown Heights establishes a requirement that the Department of Financial Services publish a list of banks that waive fees on holocaust reparation transactions. NYS can't require banks to waive fees but publishing a list would make it easier for survivors to find such banks and provide incentives for banks to do so.

- The AM also sponsored a bill with Senator Kaplan from Long Island that would prohibit insurance companies from raising premiums on victims based on damages resulting from a hate crime to either homes or motor vehicles.
- He looks forward to getting into these details in person at the June board meeting.
- He commended his administrative director, Shlomie Reiger who participates at the board meetings. Mr. Reiger keeps the Assemblyman updated, often with texts during the meeting.

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD (CCRB) UPDATE

Delivered by Jahi Rose, Director of Outreach

- CCRB is a city agency separate from the police department that investigates, mediates and sometimes administratively prosecutes allegations of police misconduct, including: force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language.
- If an officer is accused by civilians, the CCRB is the official agency that looks into the conduct thorough a nonbiased investigation. Officers are required to engage with sworn statements. If an officer is found to have given untrue statements, that can be investigated. As of 2019, CCRB is in charge of the process. As of 2021, NYPD and CCRB entered a memorandum of understanding regarding the NYPD discipline matrix to streamline the process for misconduct. Depending on circumstances of the misconduct, the matrix will break down how officers should be disciplined so there is one process and one gage for misconduct to be determined. If NYPD deviates from the matrix they will then make public as to what the discipline was and why they deviated.
- The CCRB also investigates biased policing and racial profiling now. They are currently staffing up the unit so they can fully investigate such allegations.
- CCRB also investigate sexual misconduct and then they can make recommendations to NYPD
- Lastly, there are different forms of outreach CCRB engages in, including block by block outreach and speaking to various neighborhoods about their rights.
- Another aspect of this outreach is CCRB Care working with charity organizations so they can build trust in the community. CCRB is doing outreach in recreational spaces such as parks, ball courts. They want to meet people where they are at. And provide information to them.
- CCRB is doing board meetings in person. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of month at 4 pm at the CCRB main office located at 100 Church Street and can also be viewed virtually via Webex.

ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT- 1571 McDonald Avenue

Delivered by Chairman David Shlomovich

- On May 23, the zoning committee held a public hearing to present an application for 1571 McDonald Avenue.
- The property owners applied for a zoning change to allow development of a building with 11 stories that would contain 102 units in the apartment building, of which 37 would be affordable housing. The building would have 132,000 feet of residential space and about 53,000 feet of commercial space. The committee had a lot of questions and listened to the feedback from the public. The general consensus from those attending was that they did not want this project to go through as it would change the character of the neighborhood.
- A motion was made to deny the application, and it passed.
- After the vote, the applicant asked for a chance to submit new plans looking into what they can do to make the plans more appealing to the community. The committee agreed and tabled their motion till the June meeting.
- The applicant was given until June 7 to submit their new plans and the committee will then decide how to proceed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- The District Manager started his remarks by thanking the FDNY, NYPD and Shomrim for their exemplary work on the Lag B'Omer fires. It was a beautiful site to see the happiness and celebration throughout the district at each of the fire sites.

- HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit opened May 2nd, 2022. This program can help you get an Air Conditioner if you qualify. You are not required to have a medical condition.
- We are happy to see, in great part thanks to efforts of Councilman Kalman Yeger and vice chair Kaplan, that there is an unofficial competition between the 66 precinct and the 70 precinct to see who will remove more illegally parked cars. We hope they keep it up.
- There was a piece in the Hamodia regarding an incident at PS 160, a public school within our district, at Fort Hamilton Pkwy and 51st Street. The school has been throwing out Jewish kids from their playground. The DM was at the scene when it happened because of a call from neighbors. He then spoke to the principal who says she wasn't aware of this. There were reports the custodian ran after a kid and that he yelled anti-Semitic slurs at neighbors. The DM passed by a different public school at Fort Hamilton and 58th Street where a lot of kids were playing nicely, even past 8:00pm. The only difference is that those kids weren't Jewish. Our position is that a school that is publicly funded should be open to the public. The councilman got involved as well to make sure that the few spaces we have in the district are available to the children.
- With redistricting taking such a focal point in the news, now is the perfect time to remind everyone to register to vote. The deadline is this Friday the 3rd for the June 28 primary. We will soon be electing representatives along new district lines. These elections are very important to make sure we get good representation. You can get voter registration forms at our office.
- DOT approved the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Beverly Road and Ocean Parkway – on the East Service Road.
- DOT also designated Beverly Road between East 2nd Street and Church Ave as an Open Street.
- Please remember to look before you lock your car. There are tragedies with children left in hot cars. Please let's be aware and safe.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Anastasia Yaskova- representing Mayor Eric Adams.

- Ms. Yaskova advised the online meeting guidelines are in effect unless the state of emergency is lifted. But boards need to announce the meeting format of their meetings.

Councilmember Kalman Yeger representing the 44th Council District.

The councilman shared some updates.

- First he took a moment to thank the community in general for coming out to his event, and the NYPD and Shomrim for their efforts in the bike safety event where he gave away 1500 helmets. Hopefully they will wear them safely. This is a good way to begin the summer.
- He also thanked all involved for their efforts toward an incredible Lag B'Omer. Every time we do events we see the amazing coordination between organizations like Shomrim, Hatzolah, Police Department, and FDNY. We also have to thank the district manager and the community board staff. The councilman was out on Lag B'Omer going from fire to fire and saw there was an incredible energy in the community.
- He thanked Avi Greenstein and the BPJCC for a beautiful senior event.
- First Vice Chair Jack Kaplan properly gets credit for publicly calling out incidents of derelict vehicles. The councilman and vice chair are amplifying to police the towing needed for the trucks and cars parked illegally, an issue which has infiltrated our community these last 4 years. It has gotten pretty egregious, particularly the car carriers, especially the ones who drop the carriers off and then take off. The competition with the 66 and 70 is great to see and he publicly thanked them. Dozens of these vehicles have been towed.
- The councilman gave a salute to Joel Eisdorfer, a friend from the community, who is making us proud every day. It was incredible to see him speak from the mayor's lectern at the Mayor's Jewish Heritage Event. The Councilman was honored to speak at the event and said that we have the mayor's back. The mayor is sick and tired of the crime, chaos, and anarchy. One of the ways we have his back is by voting. It is important to stand up and be counted, and to speak up when needed. It's not a secret that there are a lot of people in the city who don't want us here. We have a mayor who backs us and we have to do the same.

- Speaking of crime, we are lucky to live in a safe neighborhood. But the crime isn't too far away. Someone was killed on a Q train with no apparent reason, the same line the councilman was on 2 hours earlier, and it could have been one of us. And this is the second time in just a couple of weeks such a thing happened. We are a community that supports our cops.
- Following up on the district manager's report on the incident at PS 160, this is something that pops up from time to time. The same story of a school locking kids out happened at another neighboring school. The District Manager and Board Member Chesky Blau were involved. Public school yards should be open to children. We pay for it with our tax dollars and since we don't use classroom we should get to use the yards. Shomrim was very involved in the PS 160 incident, especially with some of city personnel who have not been acting appropriately. The schoolyard is now open to children. We hope it will remain so. But this is a reminder that if you see something that doesn't seem ok, let us know and we will address it.
- The Councilman thanked Assemblyman Eichenstein. He was also grateful for the incredible team of elected officials here. These guys are fighting the good fight for us.
- Mazal tov to Senator Felder upon the marriage of his child.
- Hopefully next month he will have some updates on the city budget

Pinny Hikind- representing Comptroller Brad Lander.

- The comptroller was having a sanitation and property tax town hall on June 7th 2022 to discuss how clean your neighborhood is and if the property tax you pay is fair.
- There was a sanitation survey available online at Survey@nyccomptroller.nyc.gov

David Pechesky – representing Assemblyman Robert Carroll

- The assemblyman sent his greetings.
- He was working hard on several pieces of legislation. He will share 3 that he is the prime sponsor of.
 - The establishment of a dyslexia task force. Dyslexia is something that effects all communities so it's important to have a more thorough effort to address it on statewide level.
 - Another bill allows someone who mistakenly shows up to a wrong polling place within the same assembly district to vote.
 - The third bill is designed to help seniors from getting kicked off a pharmaceuticals programs when a social security COLA increase puts them over the benefits cliff.

Sol Reiger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business. No Old Business.

New business:

Douglas Jablon- Board Member and Executive VP Relations at Maimonides Medical Center

- Mr. Jablon thanked Mr. Spitzer for reminding everyone to look for children before they lock their cars. He has witnessed a few heartbreaking tragedies of children who were left in cars and hopes it will not happen again.

Alan Dubrow- Board Member:

- Mr. Dubrow was hoping the transportation committee could meet before the summer to hold a public hearing regarding the request for a street co-naming for Thomas Marrinan at Church Avenue and East 3rd Street. Mr. Marrinan was a retired NYPD Officer who was shot and died last June on that corner while helping a neighbor.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete