



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
MARCH MINUTES**

**HELD ON
TUESDAY,
MARCH 28, 2023**

**VIA ZOOM
& IN-PERSON
AT AMICO SENIOR CENTER
5901 13TH AVE. 3RD FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY 11219**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ALAN DUBROW
ANA CALI
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BERNARD FREILICH
BETH SLEPIAN
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HASS
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ
JULES FLEISCHER
LOUIE LIE
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MARIA ARETTINES
MORDECHAI KATZ
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
NAFTALI TESSLER
NICK BERGHALL
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
WIL FISHER
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE – COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

AAMAH KHAN
ALEXI SHALOM
AVI GREENSTEIN
BENJAMIN THEODORE
CHESKY BLAU
DOUGLAS JABLON
JOSEPH GROSS
MIRIAM HERSKO
ROMINA FERNANDEZ
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YECHIEL MALIK
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 20 RESIDENTS PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BP ANTONIO
REYNOSO
JACK PLUSHNICK, REP. CONGRESSMAN DAN
GOLDMAN
ORLANDO ROSS, REP. CONGRESSWOMAN
YVETTE CLARKE
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER
JAMES NEIMEISTER, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES
ROSLYN JOINVIL, REP. CM RITA JOSEPH
MUS LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SEN. SIMCHA FELDER
STEPHEN CARUSO, REP. DSNY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF JANUARY MINUTES

The February minutes were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS –YIDEL PERLSTEIN

- Good evening. It is great to see all of you here.
- Last week, our office held its annual pre-Passover meeting. It's great seeing the cooperation between agencies, community, and organizations. Thank you to our partners in the city for working so well with us every year; FDNY, NYPD, and of course, DSNY and the elected officials. We have them to thank for our ability to celebrate Pesach safely. Of course, I also need to thank our local organizations, Shomrim, Hatzalah, and Chaveirim and many more. I would especially like to mention that we had the pleasure of having the chair of our public safety committee, Rabbi Gluck, who started this tradition in 1966, at the meeting, as well as the chair of our sanitation committee, Rabbi Freilich, who everybody is glad that, thank God, is doing well and participating in community related matters.
- I would like to thank the Met Council and its CEO David Greenfield for the food distribution today. They gave away thousands of pounds of food to hundreds of families in need. It's especially great this year when food prices are so high that this food giveaway significantly eases the burden for so many low-income families.
- I will keep my remarks short and just wish everyone who celebrates a Kosher Pesach, a Happy Easter, and a Happy Ramadan.

PUBLIC HEARING

Anthony Loum-Branch Manager at the Mapleton Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

- The Brooklyn Public Library is holding a writing contest. NYC writers in grades 6-12 are invited to submit poetry and prose to BPL's teen writing contest. There are cash prizes totaling \$3,000, which will be awarded. Teens can stop in for a writing kit at libraries throughout Brooklyn which includes a notebook, pen, and a zine of writing prompts, while supplies last.
- BPL's Senior Debates
Older adults looking to flex their debating skills should join the Senior Debate Teams at BPL. This is a hybrid program, with the first sessions occurring on Zoom, then with in-person options, all leading up to the Senior Debate Tournament at BPL's Central Library. This program runs for 3 months, Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4pm, and all participants receive a copy of the book *On the Other Hand*, written by the founder of the Association for Senior Debate.

Theodora Scarato- Executive Director of Environmental Health Plus

- She is the director of a scientific think tank working on environmental health that is currently focused on wireless radiation. She reported several health concerns and studies in opposition to wireless 5G antennas.

Sue Peters-resident

- She spoke in opposition to the jumbo 5G cell towers.

Dr. Dilshad Fakhruddin- resident

- She came to reiterate the safety issues prevalent at 724 CIA from the neighbors illegally doing car work on the sidewalk.

Odette Wilkins- Technology Attorney

- She came to highlight the dangers of the 5G link towers slated to be built throughout the city. While OTI claims it meets FCC limits, that is a very high limit that is not necessarily safe but immunizes the companies from liability. CB12 is slated to get 57 poles preliminarily.
- She shared a white paper detailing information on this which will be shared with the Board.

Tom Wagner– Resident.

- Mr. Wagner introduced himself as the new CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) leader, with ties to NYPD 66 precinct and funded through NYC Emergency Management and FEMA.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

There are several updates.

- As the chairman mentioned, we had a productive Pesach meeting last Wednesday. We met with DSNY, FDNY, NYPD, and community organizations including: Shomrim, Hatzalah, Chaveirim among others. We do this every year to make sure the Yom Tov is a safe and clean celebration.
- Regarding Sreifas Chometz- there are designated fire locations with protocols and supervision in place. Only those locations can be used. PD and FDNY have the list of locations and will strictly enforce it. Please only throw your actual chometz in the fire. And please follow the instructions of the supervisors at each location. We don’t want anyone to end up in the hospital. These protocols were put together for a reason.
- A few reminders: DSNY collects bulk on your regular collection day. Don’t wait to throw it out and don’t shlep it to containers. Wrap mattresses in plastic. Schedule appointments with 311 for any appliances containing freon. Other appliances can be placed out with regular garbage.
- It is illegal to place electronic waste with your trash and such disposal is subject to a \$100 fine. This includes things like TV’s, Computers, fax machines, DVD players and the like. Just like last year, we will host an E-waste event. We filled up a few pallets last year. A lot of people hold onto e-waste for a long time because it can be hard to figure out where to bring it to. We are making it easy. You can bring it to our office on Monday.
- There will be a Wednesday-erev Pesach recycling collection-from 12:00 to 8:00. And regular collection all day from Wednesday morning throughout the day. Same as last year, we will have a dedicated hotline active from 1-7 only for Erev Yom Tov. The number is 718-449-2671.
- Aside from the pre-Passover meeting, we met with the DSNY Commissioner Tish. We had local businesses at the meeting so she could hear directly from them what the biggest challenges are. It was a very productive meeting. We discussed the Yeshiva pickup issue, and we are hopeful that it will bring services we desperately need. For example, she recognizes that private schools produce as much trash as public schools and need more than twice weekly collections. She is also looking to bring in cameras to catch the illegal dumpers. We also discussed the new rule that requires garbage to be put out after 8pm if it is in bags only, or after 6 if it is in covered containers. Considering the official rollout date of April 1 closely coincides with Pesach, she agreed to allow a 30-day grace period. There are other issues that we are still working on, such as for condo buildings that have supers who only work business hours. We hope to have a solution to share. Friday pickup will continue as it always has been this district.
- We miss our old FDNY Brooklyn Borough Commander Chief Ferrante, but we had an opportunity to meet with him along with the new Brooklyn Borough Commander, Assistant Chief Dean Koester. He seems dedicated to the job, and we know this will be the start of a great relationship. We thank Chief Ferrante and wish him well at his new command.

- We are very happy to report that we were able to get TCAs assigned to our district to help with the pre-Pesach traffic. We have got very good feedback already on the officers that were out this week. They will be focusing on traffic flow such as getting double parked cars to move.
- We discussed temporarily stopping street work with a lot of agencies in our district, but sometimes emergencies come up and they do need to work, please if you see closures let us know and we will find out if it's sanctioned.
- Thank you to our chairman, who gave away his business location for the Met Council food distribution. The Met council gave out thousands of pounds of food to hundreds of families. This year, like every year before Pesach we have food distributions by various organizations. We are proud to work with these groups to coordinate the clean ups after and to coordinate parking.
- Summer Youth Employment (or Youth Corp.) applications are open until March 31. To apply, visit application.nycsyep.com. If you have any questions about this, feel free to reach out to our office. (The local CBO that is contracted to be a provider is COJO of Flatbush)
- Wishing all who celebrate an enjoyable holiday.

Gittel Fekete- Community Coordinator

- I wanted to respond to comments made at the last board meeting when I was not here. I have been the unofficial project manager for District Needs for 4 years now. The first thing I did when taking on this project was to review the needs and the responses going back as far as they were digitally available- so about 10 years. I also researched the census data, the American Community Surveys, and various other data compilation methods used by different levels of government that compile and synthesize demographic information, such as health needs, literacy, sanitation, and poverty levels.
- The product we presented was well researched and well compiled. It accurately reflected the needs of the community based on hard data, the requests we get at our office, input from other elected officials offices, conversations with other government agencies, as well as being on the constant lookout for rollouts of new city programs and stated objectives. Such as when they put out press saying they got federal funding for infrastructure. Or when there was a mandate to improve ADA compliance. We also ask for feedback at board meetings. Keep in mind that because of the time limitations of this job, a lot of this research is not done at work. Barry and I live in the district, we work in the district, and have families here. We hear feedback from family, friends, and neighbors every day.
- It is obvious from the responses we get from the city that district needs aren't always read, much less considered. We never copy paste indiscriminately from the year before. Every single item that remains on the list is reconsidered and edited for updates, either based on changes from our end in the district or to reflect city policy or legislative updates. We consult the city charter to see what the city's legal mandate is. This is the foundation on which we base our district's needs.
- I appreciate the comments from Wil Fisher because that is what the process is all about. We dedicate so much time to this project knowing the process is a farce. For example, they have contact numbers for agency members who are retired. No one is even trying to pretend this is anything but an exercise in futility.
- At this point, we must consider the best use of a very scarce resource, our time. I appreciate the desire to compile feedback from the community in a different way. But we have very limited resources and cannot in good conscious roll out a project that involves so much time and effort that will come at the expense of our residents who call us every day for help or any one of our other charter-required duties. The desire to want community input is admirable. But all districts have the same outcome regardless of the way the district needs are put together.
- I know some board members are not satisfied with our compilation process. I want to remind all our board members that you are a critical part of this process as well. Your job as a member of

this board is to represent your community in some way. This is the process. You are the eyes and ears on the ground in the community. So, it is surprising to get complaints from the same people that are silent when we ask for recommendations. We have an open file on the district needs all year round and make edits until submission. We repeatedly remind the board to let us know of their suggestions. There was ample time for any board member to call the office or email with a suggestion to discuss.

- Anyone with questions can call the office, and I will be happy to discuss this.

Barry Spitzer-District Manager-

- Added that he spoke to a couple of other boards, and some have said that they may choose not to participate in the district needs anymore because of the futility in the responses we get.

Yidel Perlstein-Chairman-

- Said the board appreciates all the hard work Gittel does all year.

Alan Dubrow- Board Member-

- As the former Chairman, he knows that this has been going on for 30 years or better. They also would go meet with all agencies and it is indeed futile.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES

Stephen Caruso, Citywide Community Affairs officer - representing DSNY.

- He thanked the board for allowing him to speak.
- He announced the change in setout times that goes into effect on April 1. As of now, NYC has the earliest setout time- 4 pm. That changes April 1 with new setout times. Trash in containers can be set out at 6 pm. Otherwise, trash in bags alone can only be set out at 8 pm.
- As Barry mentioned, there will be a grace period with no enforcement for 30 days. During this time the DSNY will be issuing warnings.
- Buildings with 9 or more units can opt into a program to allow them to put the trash out between 4 am to 7 am. This program is currently closed to new registrants but will reopen in 2024.
- Business trash set out is also at 8. But, if business owners can put their trash into containers, they may put their trash out 1 hour prior to business closing time.
- The purpose of this new regulation is because the garbage is unsightly, smells, brings rats and rodents, and impedes pedestrian traffic.

Jacob Eisdorfer- representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso.

Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander.

- It was a pleasure being at the Met Council distribution. Kudos to Yidel for helping every Pesach.
- The comptroller will be doing an “Aging New Yorkers” questionnaire. He will be sending this out to various community boards to get a sense of how the quality of service is for seniors.
- On behalf of the Comptroller, he wishes to those observing a Happy Passover, Happy Ramadan, and Happy Easter to those observing.

Jack Plushnick, representing Congressman Dan Goldman.

- He thanked the board for assisting with organizing the food distribution.
- The congressman is working on the issues people are having with passports. The passport office is understaffed. Applicants are also experiencing delays in the US Embassy in Israel. The congressman’s office is working on it. If you have issues, feel free to call our office.
There are some legislative updates.
 - The Nonprofit security grant program by DHS is approaching the deadline of April 20. The grant provides funding for security upgrades for houses of worship or buildings deemed as potential targets.

- The congressman is working on taking action on unreported hate crimes, specifically, working with the FBI on a better system to track and manage hate crimes on the federal level.
- The congressman is holding an art competition. Eligible students can participate, and all the winners will be announced.

Mus Lamia, representing Councilmember Shahana Hanif.

- Wishing all Ramadan Mubarak.
- The councilmember is having a community Iftar in Kensington on the Ave C Plaza, anyone can join. The event will highlight Muslim artists.
- Happy Easter and Happy Passover to all who celebrate.
- The office is finishing up Participatory budgeting. They allocated 3 million in funding. Other districts usually do 1 million, the Councilmember did more because she really believes in this. Please take a few minutes to vote if you are eligible.
- Please file taxes, which is due on April 18.
- Lastly, the office will host a citizenship drive at Brooklyn College on resources.

James Neimeister, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.

- The councilmember is offering free tax prep. There are appointments available 718- 439-9012.
- They are also doing participatory budgeting. To find out more go to council.nyc.gov/pb
- The councilmember is also working on legislation in response to the more than 200 fires last year related to e-bikes. This is a serious issue, and the city council passed the first package of bills on this. The initial focus is education on safety practices. This is not limited to e-bikes because some of the popular children's toys have lithium-ion batteries and can be dangerous. Make sure they are not charging overnight and use original manufacturer chargers.

Roslyn Joinvil, representing CM Rita Joseph.

- Participatory budgeting voting is this week. In addition to online voting there are also in person locations throughout the district where you can participate by paper ballot.
- They offer immigration services every Tuesday and Thursday at the office, free of charge.
- They also have affordable housing application assistance on Thursday's from Also12-6.
- They also provide tax assistance.
- On Thursday – Friday they have a rep from HRA who comes to the office to assist with applying for SNAP and recertification.

Sharon Fuchs, representing State Senator Simcha Felder.

- On March 29, they will have an MTA van on 13 and 51 to refill MetroCard and where Seniors can get senior metro cards.
- She wishes everyone happy holidays.

Sol Rieger and Chaim Schneider, representing Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein.

- He wished everyone who celebrates happy holidays.

Orlando Ross, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke.

- Greetings from the congresswoman.
- The Congresswoman will evaluate community funding applications and keep everyone posted as to the outcomes.
- They have some events coming up and he will keep the board posted.

Ralph Wilson, representing Health Care Choices NY.

- They are partnering with Mapleton Branch Library in holding a Community Health Fair on Friday. There will be the Prep2 Love program for HIV testing. They also have other programs like dental and podiatry.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business:

- **Beth Slepian- Board Member:** She responded to Gittel's comments. She hears the input from Alan Dubrow. She appreciates the response. She brought up the process last month because she thinks it's important to hear from the entire district. She still thinks there are benefits to hearing from the entire district. There is a greater good, perhaps a need to have surveys or public hearings, even if it might not help and may never get looked at. Her stance is that we don't know what we don't know. And we don't always hear the needs from everyone in our district. Some may not feel comfortable sharing their opinions. She appreciates the methodology and work and knows that the staff does huge amounts of work. She doesn't think the responsibility needs to fall only on the staff. Her goal of being on the board is rooted in her belief in bringing the community into the community board. She hopes to have more active committees. Want to ask about committees. Would love to see more opportunities to be on committees.
- She also wanted to respond to the two experts who spoke on the 5g towers, there was an issue with this in her previous building. Someone had to move because of the effects of the towers. She would like to propose having these experts back to hear more from them.
- **Yakov Kaplan- First Vice Chair.** The board has a limited amount of time and cannot spend time on things that we know won't bring results at the expense of doing things that will help.
- **Beth Slepian-** understands, but there is a benefit to hearing more from the community. Her sense is that we are not hearing from the entire community. The suggestion for board members to compile information is good, but she doesn't know all her neighbors needs. This shouldn't all fall to the board staff; the board has 50 members and all of them can do more. That's the point of the community board. We shouldn't just rely on anecdotal information, and she is advocating for more input on district needs.
- **Yakov Kaplan-** This is why we have meetings; we ask the members to ask their neighbors for input. But the process of compiling data should not be one that takes away from vital needs.
- **Yakov Kaplan-** asked if Ms. Slepian had any recommendations for funding.
- **Beth Slepian.** Said she doesn't know what she doesn't know, but she's been an outreach professional for much of her career and is advocating for more outreach. She thinks we should consider the means that other community boards use, and she thinks it may benefit us to know more and reach out to people we may not have reached before.
- **Gittel Fekete- Community Coordinator-** Board members were chosen because they represent a unique faction of the community. Board members need to speak up about the needs of those they were appointed to represent.
- **Alan Dubrow- Board Member** -wanted to know about an update for the street co-naming he reached out to the office about. (District Manager- will talk to him offline.)
- **Beth Slepian- Board Member-** asked for an update on committee assignments.
- **Yidel Perlstein-Chairman-** there were technical problems, but it should be sent shortly.
- **Anna Cali- Secretary-** Thanked Odette Wilkins for coming and giving information on the cell towers. It is concerning, so perhaps there can be a bit more of a discussion like other boards had to figure out what is going on and maybe vote on it. Perhaps they can receive more information.
- **Barry Spitzer- District Manager-** Said the office will send out the white paper to all board members.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete