



**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 13**  
1201 Surf Avenue – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11224  
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<http://www.nyc.gov/html/bkncb13>

ANTONIO REYNOSO  
Borough President

LUCY MUJICA DIAZ  
Chairperson

EDDIE MARK  
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 13  
BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Date:** Wed., Jan. 25, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

**Loc.:** Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lucy Mujica Diaz  
Lakeisha Bowers  
Mario Caggiano  
Lolita Divilova  
Selina Grant  
Amarilys Herrera  
Cynthia Leveille  
Robbin Wright Paraison  
Milagros Quiles  
Sam Rinkovsky  
Michael Silverman  
Barbara Teitelbaum  
Gregory Vayngurt  
Dennis Vourderis  
Annette Wesley

Zunera Ahmed  
Dionne Brown  
Marion Cleaver  
Susan Flaschenberg  
Ronald Greenberg  
Queenie Huling  
Yelena Makhnin  
Nodira Pirmukhamedova  
Michael Quinn  
Fran Schwartz  
Evelyn Strasser  
Fanya Vasilevsky  
Edita Volovodovskaya  
Gloria Watkins  
Svetlana Zelinskaya

Joe Corace  
Patricia Brown  
Asad Dandia  
Olga Fort  
Erum Hanif  
David Wynn  
Allen Newman  
Jeff Sanoff  
Pat Singer  
Tatyana Segal  
Jack Suben  
Joann Weiss  
Kumali Zairee

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Doyin Isaac  
Boris Pincus(exc)  
Pervez Siddiqui

Bernard Kaufman  
Michael Russo(exc)

Pat O'Brien

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eddie Mark, Dist. Mgr., Hanna Glikman, Community Assoc., Lucia Knizhik, Community Asst., Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator

Lucy Mujica Diaz, Chair of Community Board 13 opened the meeting and introduced the staff.

She introduced Daniel Murphy, Executive Director of The Alliance for Coney Island. He gave an overview of what he plans for The Alliance. He gave his contact information ([daniel@allianceforConeyIsland.org](mailto:daniel@allianceforConeyIsland.org) – 718-594-7895). During the season, The Alliance does many activities in the amusement area which attracts the amusement parks customers and beach goers. During the off season The Alliance is instrumental in getting the contract for Christmas/Holiday lights on Mermaid Avenue with the assistance of CM Kagan and the Small Business Association. They have been instrumental in procuring extra lighting for 63 businesses along Mermaid Avenue after conversation with merchants. RFP was put out for the lights which can be turned on/off through the business owner's cell phone. The installation of those lights will begin in the Spring.

Queenie Huling advised Mr. Murphy that some of the holiday lights are still up on the higher West Streets on Mermaid Avenue.

Ramon Guadalupe asked what Mr. Murphy's vision for The Alliance in the future was. Mr. Murphy wants the area to be safe, clean, and welcoming for our community and the many tourists who come to visit each year. There are new buildings coming up on Surf Avenue and he wants to fill the first floor retail space with the best possible business available. He stated that the vacancies in stores on Mermaid Avenue need to be filled. Board member Milagros Quiles asked how to apply for the extra lighting. Email Dan at the Alliance if she wants to apply for the program.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Ayanna Williams, representing CM Kagan- The CM's office is covering all that is going on in the community including Candlelight Vigil for Nyeem Wright. The CM is aggressively addressing security issues and pest control issues in the community. He has obtained \$600,000 for the Trauma Center at South Brooklyn Health (CIH). The CM is looking at the MTA Bus Redesign Plan. It should not be done. The community needs more, not less, bus transportation in the area.

Olga Fiore, representing SS Jessica Spanton – The Senator attended the Transportation Committee meeting about the MTA Bus Redesign Plan. She has sent a letter to the MTA expressing her concerns. Please follow the Senator on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. She currently has Mobile Offices on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 at the Coney Island Library and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brighton Beach Library.

Zunera Ahmed, representing SS Iwen Chu – The Senator has been made Chair of the Library Committee, member of the Education & Higher Education Committees. Also, the Civil Service, pensions, SBS and commerce committees.

Troy Olson, representing CM Inna Vernikov – She is a member of the Admission Oversight Committee, Higher Education, Human Rights and Landmark Committees. She is working on security issues in the community. Troy was part of the Homeless Count last night. He sent the CM congratulations and welcome to Daniel on his position at the Alliance. If questions on the budget, contact Mary. If legislative problems contact him, both can be reached by calling the CM's office. Lucy personally wanted to thank the CM for being very open and waited for our recommendation, and she certainly is listening to our community. Troy said that by the next board meeting CM Vernikov will have introduced 4-29 "End Jewish Hatred Day".

Joann Weiss, representing AM Brook-Krasny – She is a volunteer at the AM office which is located at 2002 Mermaid Avenue (718)266-0267. For now, the office is opened Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for constituents to stop in with any problems. The AM is meeting with all community-based organizations to find out their needs and wants.

Christopher Greif – He thanked Lucy and C.B. 13 for having the Transportation Committee meeting. He reminded everyone to send their comments on the Bus Redesign Project to the MTA. The MTA needs to hear from everyone who uses the bus. Marion Cleaver said that the B82 which runs along Cropsey Avenue to Coney Island – 1 out of 3 that come down Cropsey go to Coney Island, which is definitely a problem.

Jennifer – resident of Coney Island stated that the B74 stops on Mermaid and West 21<sup>st</sup> Street. It doesn't stop near where the Ida G Israel Center is on West 17<sup>th</sup> Street between Mermaid and Surf. (We will connect her with Chris Greif who may be able to assist her).

Ida Sanoff – She spent most of today in a day-long seminar with ACE which touched on many things including the repurposing of the boardwalk. They may be building a second, elevated boardwalk adjacent to the current boardwalk. The Parks Department conducted tours to Rockaway to show that boardwalk. She urged the Parks Committee to have a meeting with ACE and Parks Dept. to get a look at the conceptual plans. The Park Department wants to spend a great deal of money for boardwalk repair and within the next 5 years if ACE has it's way, the existing structure may be buried and all the money that was spent would go for nothing. Lucy suggested that Ida discusses the situation with Parks Committee Co-Chairs Susan Flaschenberg and Barbara Teitelbaum.

AM Alec Brook-Krasny – He is on his way back from Albany. He is open to all suggestions from community residents on what he can do to improve the community. Lucy thanked the AM for reaching out to get the MTA to attend our Transportation Committee meeting.

Sergei Chuprik, representing the Comptroller's Office – He wished everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year and Happy Chinese New Year. He suggested everyone read the Comptroller's Report "Turn Up the Heat" – One Year After the Bronx Fire with 17 fatalities. The report shows how building owners comply with the building codes in New York City. How homes must be heated and how different areas comply more or less with existing codes. The Comptroller's Office will continue to work with NYCHA and have Advisory Committee with NYCHA residents.

#### **MINUTES:**

Motion made by Joann Weiss, seconded by Marion Cleaver to approve the minutes as submitted.

VOTE: In Favor: 39 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 (3 No votes-on cell phones-no camera)  
Motion carried (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Lucy Mujica Diaz reported that she and District Manager Eddie Mark met with the new AM Alec Brook Krasny at the board office. The meeting went well. They also met with the new Executive Director of The Alliance for Coney Island and that meeting went well also. Earlier today she went to an event sponsored by Lakeisha Bowers. Lucy gave information to those present about how students 16 and over can apply for membership on the Community Board (thanks to Barbara Santonas for suggesting I bring this information to the schools). Lucy extended condolences to the family of the young man, student a Liberation H.S. who was stabbed and died. Lakeisha said there is no information on the wake as of now. There has also been a shooting at the auto repair shot on West 20<sup>th</sup> St. and Neptune Avenue. No injuries were sustained. The Mayor has extended the State of Emergency until the end of February. The Board meeting in February will be via Zoom. Lights on the boardwalk have been repaired by DOT. The Borough President is reviewing the attendance records of board members who are up for reappointment. We have submitted the records. If members of committees miss 25% or more of their committee meetings, they will get a courtesy phone call. Gloria Watkins reported that Det. Nicholas Nelson, the nephew of Pam Harris was murdered in Staten Island. Lucy extended condolences to the family. Fanya Vasilevsky voiced her concern about rising crime, losing young people. She wants to know what we, as a community, can do to get the laws changed. Lucy said that we, as the community board, is not in the position to speak about law issues. If a person has a concern, they should connect with Joann Weiss, President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and maybe you can speak at that meeting. Joann Weiss said that the Council meeting is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Every month the only complaints at that meeting are double parked cars. Never said anything about problems or concerns with guns/knives etc.

The next scheduled Precinct Council meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church. It will be in person meeting. Sergei Chuprik announced that on February 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be A Community Conversation on Gun Violence at South Brooklyn Health (CIH) from 2 to 4 p.m. Lucy asked that the board office sends this information to all board members.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Eddie wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day had record attendance and made approximately \$100,000 for the charities they fund. The Public Safety Committee met with the Office of Cannabis Management and discussed the proliferation of smoke shops. We will be working closely with them. Questions were asked about the legality of the smoke shops and the answer was that all are illegal. At the Transportation Committee meeting the MTA gave a brief presentation. Asked the community to send in their comments. Eddie wished everyone who had a birthday in January, a Happy Birthday. There will be a Winter Birthday Celebration in February, once the Flaming Grill reopens. Lucy asked what the community based organizations apply to receive funds from the Polar Bear Plunge. Joe Corace said that if anyone needs contact for trophies, they should reach out to him. Lucy reminded everyone about the BB/CI Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Eddie mentioned that the Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

License Committee:

Yelena Makhnin, Chairperson

Juice & Moore, LLC located at 1915 Mermaid Avenue, Brooklyn 11224. Hours of operation from 12 noon to 2 a.m.

Motion to Approve from Committee: In Favor: 6    Opposed: 0    Abstention: 0

Motion Carried: (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office

Vote from full board: In Favor: 38    Opposed: 0    Abstentions: 0  
No Vote: 4 (phone in)

Motion carried (quorum present) Roll Call on file at C.B. Office

Discussion on revision of stipulations. This revision was withdrawn as the stipulation form was internal form, only to committee members, never went to full board for a vote.

Transportation Committee: Lolita Divilova, Chair

Lolita explained about the committee meeting where the MTA Bus Project was discussed.

Selena asked what action the board will take now. No action will be taken now.

Land Use Committee: Marion Cleaver/Shimon Rinkovsky, Co-Chairs

The meeting discussed the 58 Nixon Court Project. It will be going to City Planning and now they are going to give a new presentation with R7A zoning. The building will have the height, width and parking we have asked for. There was a motion to approve the recommendation that CM Kagan would work to have the Council approve R7A status at the time of the vote. The motion was denied, and we will have to discuss the project again. Michael Silverman stated that the attorney withdrew what we voted upon, so since it was withdrawn, no reason to send to the Board. According to the NYC Charter, especially on Land Use issues, a committee of 6 cannot speak for the entire board. If a ULURP is denied in committee, it still should be brought in front of the full Board, but the attorney withdrew what we were going to vote on today, there is no vote now.

**OLD BUSINESS:**        None

**GOOD& WELFARE:**

Queenie Huling – In honor of Black History Month, there will be A Community Conversation on Gun Violence – A Public Health Issue at South Brooklyn Health (CIH) on Friday, February 3, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Lolita Divilova – She stated that there is a lack of lighting along Surf Avenue from W. 8<sup>th</sup> to W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Perhaps a letter written to DOT is needed.

Dennis Vourderis – Announced that he became a grandpa again. Denos and Cyndi became parents for a second time to a baby boy, Matthew.

Lakeisha Bowers – Thanks to Lucy, and Dionne for attending D21K Leadership Dinner. All Principals and Superintendents received citations.

Eddie announced that CM Kagan will be sponsoring free ice skating from Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup> at the ice skating rink in Coney Island from 10-12 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Susan Flaschenberg, Co-Chair of the Parks Committee gave an overview of who Gene Ritter was and how much he gave to this community. Gene's wife Beth Ritter spoke briefly about how important she feels this naming is.

Motion made by Susan Flaschenberg, seconded by Evie Strasser to approve the naming of the walkway in Kaiser Parks in memory of Gene Ritter.

VOTE: In Favor: 39            Opposed: 0            Abstentions: 0 (no camera-no vote – 4)

Motion carried unanimously (quorum present) Roll call on file at C.B. office.

Beth Ritter, Gene's wife thanked the members of the board for their vote.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Barbara Santonas, Community Coordinator