

The City of New York

Brooklyn Community Board 15



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LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday March 24, 2026 7:00pm

Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY
11235, Faculty Dining Room U112

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chair Scavo, asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for World Peace.

PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo called the first Presenter Erica Porter, Manager for External Affairs Brooklyn from the New York City School Construction Authority

School Construction Authority (SCA) – Presentation for a new school addition at P.S. 255K located at 1866 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229 (Between Avenue R and Avenue S)

Ms. Porter stated that a new school will be constructed at 1601 Avenue S, which was the old Department of Health Facility that the Department of Education has acquired, to serve as an addition for P.S. 255. The building will provide 438 seats. It will be a fully accessible, air-conditioned and a state of the art facility. The design process is just starting and will take approximately 12 months to complete. The bid and award stage will take 3-4 months and construction of the new annex will take approximately 24-36 months. She stated they anticipate that the addition will be open for student occupancy in September 2030.

Questions from the floor inquired if the neighbors were notified about pending construction, the SCA stated they will notify residents once construction commences, but prior to the design phase they are only obligated to notify the Community Board and Elected Officials of their intent. Someone asked why the process takes so long. It was answered that

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they are following protocol and there are phases to the project they must go through before work can begin. Someone asked about the height. There is no design yet to show, they are just in the design phase so no height has been determined. Similarly, someone asked about the use of solar panels, but again it was answered although the building will be fully electric, no design has been rendered yet. Lastly it was asked if it was a standalone building and will it become a charter school. It was answered that the building will be an extension of PS. 255 which is in need of additional space to ease their overcrowding concerns.

FDNY – Fire Safety Education Unit: Briefing on Fire Safety

Chair Scavo called upon the next Presenter, Captain Jerry Rocco from the New York City Fire Safety Education Unit. Captain Rocco stated that there have been 25 fatalities from fires already this year, He said most fire fatalities can be prevented through education. He stated that people naturally panic in these life-threatening situations. He stated that is why it is so important to devise a family plan. Whether you are at home, the office or on vacation devise a plan where all your loved ones have a location to meet should you experience such a situation where you need to leave your location. Many people die because they run back into the fire to make sure a family member got out. He cautioned that's the Fire Department's job. Let someone trained do the rescue. The other most important thing is to have working fire alarms throughout your home and Co2 alarms. The location of these alarms in your home is also important. So many folks, don't have an alarm, or it's broken, disabled, or not properly placed in the home where it could serve you the best. For \$35, your life and those of your loved ones can be safe. He urged everyone to purchase an alarm or contact the Red Cross who works with the FDNY to evaluate your home where they either provide you with free smoke alarms or alert you to what you need and where in your home is the best location to place these alarms. He provided brochures with Fire Safety information and a bar code to scan to reach the Red Cross to inquire about their free fire alarm program. You can also call 877- RedCross or 1- 800 733-2767.

Chair Scavo opened the floor and invited Elected Officials, their Representatives, Agency Representatives and Community Members to speak:

Stanley Kaplan spoke about addressing the City's financial crisis by going after, illegal or tampered with car plates and tightening the use of out of state plates to save on insurance. He feels lowering the speed limit to 15mph in certain sections is penalizing those who follow the law because dropping down

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to that speed will be difficult and he feels it's paying off the City's growing debt on the backs of hardworking New Yorkers.

Miranda Garcia-Cassani representing Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated the Senator represents a portion of the District. She wanted to share a couple of events the Senator is sponsoring on April 12 at Coney Island's Gospel Church there will be a No Cost Mammogram Event for women aged 40 to 75. If you don't have insurance, they will accept you and there are no co-pays or any additional payments involved. She provided flyers on the front table with more information. They are also publicizing the New York State Council For The Arts Grant program, she placed those flyers also on the front table. She added that the Senator is up in Albany working on the New York State Budget and they have released their One House Resolution with the Senate's hopes for the Budget. Some highlights the Senator is pushing for are, 3 billion dollars in total reimbursement for stolen Snap Benefits and Cash Assistance Benefits, more secure Snaps Card to make it harder to skim money, \$500,000 for a Midwifery Program and 2.2 billion in childcare assistance providing families below the 85% of the State's median income with childcare services. She closed with if you have any legislation questions or in need of constituent services to please speak with her after the meeting.

Salim Cadet representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clark stated he was there to offer any Federal Constituent Assistance to anyone in need of help with Social Security, IRS, or Immigration. He stated he had business cards with his information to anyone who wanted assistance. He placed flyers on the front table for an upcoming High Schooler Art Challenge Event the Congresswoman is sponsoring in April. The winner will not only get their Artwork exposure but a chance to win a trip to travel to Washington DC.

Hunter Rabinowitz sent greetings from Brooklyn Borough President, Antonio Reynoso. He wanted to invite everyone to the Borough President's 2026 State of the Borough Address being held at the Brooklyn Museum on April 16th at 6:00pm. Paid parking is available for those who want to drive. Please RSVP, he placed flyers on the front table. Their office is still offering Free Tax Prep through April 8th, to those that qualify, you must make an appointment. He placed flyers on the front table with more information. He added on April 25th, there will be a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk, You are all invited to join and take a stand. They are meeting at Cadman Plaza and will be marching over the Brooklyn Bridge at 10:00am. Lastly, he provided flyers with some important information on protecting your Snap Benefits.

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Noam Abraham, representing Senator Sam Sutton stated he had some District News to share. This Winter the office submitted 100 applications to the HEAP program saving constituents a combined amount of \$15,000. The program is still open for those who want to apply and soon they will be hopefully moving on to assisting with the Cooling Fund as well. With the upcoming Holidays of Easter and Passover their office will remain open with limited staff available, who are available to assist constituents. He stated with the warmer weather they hope to bring their office closer to constituents and are actively seeking Community Centers, Senior Centers, and Houses of Worship to accommodate their staff to offer constituent services. If you need any help with filling out tax abatement forms or Senior OMNY card services please call the office.

Nancy Lulu representing Brooklyn DA, Eric Gonzalez, extended greetings from the Brooklyn DA. She added if you have anything you would like to address with the DA 's office please call the Action Center 718-250-2340. She encouraged everyone to please visit their website at BrooklynDA.org to see the resources and the services that our office offers.

Liam McCabe stated he is the new Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Michael Novakhov. He was formerly in the District working for Congressman Michael Grimm and Congressman Dan Donovan. He wanted to make some announcements regarding some events the Assemblyman is sponsoring on April 3, 2026 from 9:00am-12:00pm at 1809 Emmons Avenue there will be a Free Community Shredding Day and on April 19, 2026 from 10:00am – 12:00pm they are doing a Community Cleanup, please meet at the Assemblyman's Office located at 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road. He stated in other brief news the Assemblyman has been working to restore the lights on the Ocean Avenue Footbridge because they have been out for quite sometime due to bureaucratic red tape. He went to Home Depot, out of his own expense to purchase some lights that were later vandalized and stolen. Undeterred and determined he once again, went into his own pockets without taxpayer monies and installed more substantial solar powered lights. He assured that The Assemblyman will continue to advocate for a more permanent solution to lighting the bridge. He added some Legislative Updates the Assemblyman is working on is introducing Bill 10124 that prohibits youthful offender status to people who commit hate crimes, which has been an issue. The other Assembly Bill 2332 which requires EBT mobilization applications associated with EBT transfer systems to be offered in 12 most common non-English languages.

Questions from the floor asked the representative to please tell the Assemblyman to support Legislation to make Express Buses half-fare not

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free and to please do more to stop the surge of unregistered, uninsured, and unlicensed e-bikes plaguing the neighborhood. Liam McCabe agreed to share these valid concerns with the Assemblyman.

Chair Scavo asked if anyone else would like to speak? With no one coming forward she moved on to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Secretary Douglas Luback, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the February 24, 2026, minutes was made by Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by William Matheson.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo read the Liquor Licenses the Board received:

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Tuji Group Inc
2027 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Wine & Vine Hospitality Group LLC.
1809 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

New Application and Temporary Retail Permit, Wine, Beer & Cider

Noribar Kings Highway LLC
DBA – Nori Bar
916 Kings Hwy
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Class Change, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

1610 Neck LLC
DBA – Meet Wise Meat
1610 Gravesend Neck Rd
Brooklyn, NY 11229

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Sidewalk Cafe License, Wine, Beer & Cider

A & I Cake Corporation
DBA – Wildbayberry
1715 Emmons Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Renewal, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Memorial ASSN Inc
DBA – Argonne Marine Park
2414 Gerritsen Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11229

500 Foot Hearing

Wine & Vine Hospitality Group LLC
1809 Emmons Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Chair Scavo shared if you know of any illegal activity or want to share any concerns regarding a liquor license, please contact our office.

Public Safety Report:

Chair Scavo read the report prepared by Public Safety Chairperson, Chick Pallotta. She stated that the Public Safety Committee meeting was held virtually on Webex, March 11, 2026 at 6:00pm. Representing the 61 was its Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector, Joseph Antonio. Also present from the Community Affairs office was Detective Lauren Au.

Public safety Committee Members were forwarded in advance the CompStat Report (Volume 33 Number 10), the 61 Traffic Stat Report, and the Quality-of-Life Stat Report, with all reports covering the week of 3/02/2026 through 3/08/2026. Deputy Inspector Antonio announced that 61's Executive Officer, Captain Francis Abbriano received NYPD recognition by being appointed as the new Commanding Officer of the 60th Police Precinct, our neighboring precinct in Coney Island.

Here now is the year-to-date, CompStat Report covering the 7 major crime complaint categories comparing 2026 with 2025. Overall, the 61 was down 7.69%. There have been no murders thus far in 2026, the same as it was in 2025. There have been 5 rapes in 2026, compared to 3 rapes year-to-date in 2025. Robberies are up 47.4%, 28 so far in 2026, compared to 19 in 2025.

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Felony Assaults were up 35.3%, 46 crime complaints during 2026 compared to 34 in 2025. Burglaries are down 29%, 22 in 2026 compared to 31 in 2025. Grand Larceny was down 14.1% with 79 in 2026, compared to 92 in 2025. Grand Larceny Auto, was down 42.9% with 24 crime complaints in 2026, compared to 42 in 2025. In a subcategory labeled “Hate Crimes,” the 61st Precinct reported no hate crimes recorded in 2026. Compared to 4 hate crimes in 2025.

Finally, Deputy Inspector Antonio reported a series of home break-ins from midnight to 5:00am. These brazen individuals are looking for car keys to steal expensive cars parked in homeowner’s respective driveways.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 100% Attendance Awards for 2025

Chair Scavo announced the recipients of the 100% Attendance Awards for 2025 which were as follows:

Jennifer Faucher, Debra Greif, Shari Kaplan, Douglas Luback, William Matheson, Theresa Scavo, Al Smaldone and Eli Zami.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Moses Massry and seconded by Hanna Glikman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

*This is not a verbatim account of the meeting but a synopsis of the main points. *