

The City of New York

Brooklyn Community Board 15



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SECRETARY



ZOHRAN MAMDANI
MAYOR

LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday May 26, 2026 7:00pm

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 upon Marissa Yanni, Community Affairs Liaison for the NYC Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Public Affairs, who was presenting to the Board a new Legislative initiative for an earlier Friday Setout Time for garbage. She explained to the Board Members, that the Board may opt into this Board-wide initiative by voting to approve a Resolution to be included. This will allow for an earlier Friday set out time for those with Saturday collections, beginning at 3:00pm. She cautioned this Law doesn't waive any containerization requirements. Residents are still required to use an authorized sanitation bin. She added residents now have till Labor Day to comply with acquiring the new mandated bin, without being penalized. Once the Board opts into this set out change there is no mechanism to opt out and it is Board-wide, so all blocks in the district are included, no partial areas. She also cautioned earlier times may cause a rise in rodents because garbage is put out and stays out at longer intervals. Someone asked about the containerization requirements applying to larger buildings. She stated as of now anything over 10 residential units, such as a large apartment building are exempt from having to use the authorized bins. She concluded that whatever the Board decided regarding the Resolution, they were welcome to share with her directly.

Chair Scavo made a motion with a quorum present to move into Executive Session to take a Full Board Vote and it was seconded by Ronnie Tawil. A motion to approve the sanitation resolution to opt-in was made by Ronnie

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Tawil and Seconded by Moses Massry. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 39 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention. The motion passed to send a Resolution to opt in.

Chair Scavo opened the floor for Public Session speakers:

Stanley Kaplan stated that when Mayor de Blasio was in office during the pandemic, he decided that for people to deliver food maybe they should have a pedal assisted bicycles, which on the face of it it was probably a good idea but we now know what it morphed into because we have 7 and 8 year old children riding powered bicycles dangerously traveling at 20 miles an hour. These e-bikes have become a menace to the community and recently a senior was hit by one in our community.

In addition, another concern with these bikes, he stated that he read an article in the Sunday Daily News about 2 weeks ago written by Jen Helmsley, who is the senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Con Edison. She spoke about the growing need for battery facilities to match the needs for charging these bikes and the rise in consumer electric consumption changing what was once deemed “peak use”. There was a time in the recent past where overnight use was lower and considered "off peak", and rates would be lower based on need, but now with battery facilities coming online and utilizing overnight hours to charge, will peak use become an all the time measure, so rates will always be charged at the peak time rates.

Christopher Greif, from the Transit Riders Council stated he had a couple of announcements to make. The Brooklyn Developmental Disabilities Council's Family Support Fair will be held on June 18 from 9:30am to 2:00pm at the Brooklyn College Student Center, 2705 Campus Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210, and all are welcome to attend. Secondly, the vintage trains will be running again on the Brighton Line, from Brighton Beach to Kings Highway in honor of the Transit Museum's 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7 from 11:00am-4:00pm.

David Kupferberg, representing, Passengers United spoke about concerns pertaining to the Brooklyn Bus Network redesign plan. He stated his organization is a 501c3 nonprofit nonpartisan transportation advocacy group and their website is www.passengersunited.org

He spoke about the Brooklyn Bus Network's proposed redesign which was intended to close service gaps to transit deserts without negative impacts but in fact seems to dismantle and cut service by replacing it with redundant service plans on several bus lines like the B82 and B100. He stated currently

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travel between Central Brooklyn and Kingsborough Community College is either considered a 2 fare ride or a very long bus ride. He was making suggestions as to how the MTA can rectify this by breaking up their current bus lines into two sections. Lastly, he stated. Passengers United would like to see 1% of New York City's Transit Budget or 26 million roughly be designated to help in the redesign. The MTA needs to stop mindless implementation without consideration of the effects of their actions.

Board Member, Moses Massry stated that on May 11th Borough President Antonio Reynoso spoke out against Brooklyn Jews and Israel regarding what he deemed a sale of illegally occupied land in the West Bank. Reynoso called it an injustice and that Palestinians were being victimized. All while local Brooklyn Jewish neighborhoods are being terrorized by acts of violence, chants of intifada and shouts to go back to Germany. He added that it should be noted that the properties he referenced as land for sale at this Brooklyn event were actually existing homes in Tel Aviv and undisputed areas that are not in the West Bank, but it's clear that Antonio Reynoso doesn't care about inconvenient facts when elected leaders spread inaccurate narratives about Jews. He stated that not only was Reynoso misinformed but that the legitimized prejudice which perpetuates targeted harassment in Brooklyn which is home to one of the largest Jewish populations outside of Israel. He stated that Jewish families with children and elderly people walking to synagogue feel unsafe in their own neighborhood, He has read reports where there has been documented scuffles, hair pulling and explicit anti-Semitic rhetoric. Yet instead of condemning the violence and intimidation against his Jewish constituents the Borough President chose to amplify the narrative that incites and unfortunately this troubling pattern extends to the highest levels of city leadership.

On his very first day in office Mayor Mamdani reversed the city's adoption of the standard definition for anti-Semitism he proudly declared that he is skipping the Israeli day parade something no other New York City Mayor has done in modern history while his wife has curated overtly anti-Zionist music playlist featuring songs that call for intifada and chant.

He stated the failure by public officials to denounce anti-Semitic violence directly emboldens extremists and fuels the kind of rioting and harassment we saw on May 11th and that we've seen increased throughout our neighborhoods since October 7th 2023. It tells them that attacking Jews is justified resistance. He urged the Community Board to strongly condemn anti-Semitic violence and intimidation in our streets regardless of the political climate and he called on Borough President Reynoso to retract his factually inaccurate statement and to prioritize the safety of all Brooklynites

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including Jews. He wants the Borough President to support the creation of buffer zones outside of schools and provide strong policing around houses of worship and community events to prevent future harassment and abuse. He concluded by asking the Borough President Reynoso to affirm that Brooklyn's Jewish Community, which enriches our neighborhoods through education, business, culture and charity deserves equal protection and respect the kind of protection and respect his recent statements have undermined. We want peace, security and prosperity for all Brooklyn residents. This cannot be built by sacrificing the safety of one community to appease another. We should prioritize safety over slogans, facts over fiction and unity through mutual respect.

Board Member, Ed Jaworski stated that last Thursday, the City issued an alert for periods of heavy rain. It was stated to avoid street flooding residents should clear leaves and debris from catch basins near their home. While walking with his wife through the Community it was rare to see a catch basin not covered with leaves and debris. This is why with heavy rains we see parts of the neighborhood underwater. He wanted to strongly suggest that before the Summer the Community Board's Sanitation and Environmental Committee meet to develop a plan to encourage residents to clear their catch basins and follow the sanitation requirement of cleaning curbs 18 inches into the street of debris and leaves falling, especially from October to November.

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

Nancy Lulu representing Brooklyn DA, Eric Gonzalez, extended greetings from the Brooklyn DA. She wanted to share that the DA's Office in partnership with the NYPD, on April 24th, held a prescription drug take back event and they were able to collect 72 pounds of medicine. Safely disposing of unwanted medicine was a great initiative. She added if there's anything you want to address with the DA 's office to reach out to our Action Center at 718 250-2340

Olga Fiore, representing New York State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated that she wanted to share the Senator's office was able to recently help a Manhattan Beach Resident get an out of state plated vehicle that sat in front of their home for months flagged and removed. She added that the Senator's office is aware of the fact that abandoned cars have become an issue in the Community and they do their best to act with the local precinct to get them addressed. The Senator is also working with the Manhattan Beach Community in regard to DEP's new water main switch, which is scheduled to go into effect in November, impacting about 90 homes.

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The Senator is drafting a letter to homeowners in regard to this issue and understands the cost for the switch varies from \$10,000 and up to complete. Their office immediately reached out to DEP demanding financial relief for the impacted homes but could not get an offer for any assistance or relief for homeowners. The Senator realizes this is a major financial hardship and will continue to advocate. The Senator has also created Legislation, Bill S5230 to establish a grant funding opportunity that would help homeowners cover the cost of such an upgrade. She encouraged constituents to reach out to their office with any issues or concerns. The office is located on West 8th Street near the DMV. She stated she had business cards for anyone interested to see her after the meeting.

Salim Cadet representing the Office of Congresswoman Yvette Clark stated their office can offer any Federal Constituent Assistance to anyone in need of help with Social Security, IRS, Passport, or Immigration. He also stated the Congress Member is sponsoring two events he wanted to share. The first is a 2026 Annual Housing Resource Fair, for homeowners, tenants, homebuyers, and landlords and is going to be really good resource for people in the Community if you're interested this is going to be on Saturday, June 6th at Brooklyn College from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The second is an event that is going to be a monthly event, this is an in person event with the Business Council and is open to entrepreneurs and any small business owners. This event is provided through Pace University and they have a program where you can find access to financing, marketing, sales strategies, government procurement, certificate programs and business growth. If you're interested in that you can reach out to our office to get more information. He concluded to please remember to view the Congress Member's social media pages and if you need to reach out to me directly, my number is 347-907-0370.

Hunter Rabinowitz, representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, sent greetings, and stated that he only had a few events to announce today. He stated, tomorrow May 27, actually hosted by the District Attorney 's office at Brooklyn Borough Hall is a Men 's Mental Health Symposium. You can join us for panels, table discussions and networking opportunities dedicated to men's mental health. It will be from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. He said Borough Hall is still accepting requests for graduation awards. You can find the application online. We are accepting awards for pre-K kindergarten 5th and 6th grade graduating classes 8th grade through 12th grade and the deadline is Monday, June 1st. Finally, he stated that the Borough President's Advisory Council is accepting applications, you must be a sophomore, junior or senior at a Brooklyn High School to be eligible to apply to join. Application close on June, 8th.

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Liam McCabe Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Michael Novakhov stated the Assemblyman was at a Mayor Mamdani protest at Gracie Mansion to fight anti-Semitism and the Mayor's unfortunate decision not to march in the Israel Day Parade.

In regard to some Legislative updates, the Assemblyman introduced legislation pushing "Not on Our Dollar Act" to counter a Democratic Socialist Bill 'Not on our Dime'. The "Not on our Dime" was a Bill aimed at being a Boycott of Israel. The "Not on our Dollar" is a Bill to stop money from going to Hamas or any other terrorist organization. The Assemblyman's Bill 10801 will limit the authority of municipal agencies to set price controls that will control grocery prices. Another Assembly Bill he sponsored, 10821 will designate a portion of the state highway system to honor our first responders. This dedication will be located by Coney Island Hospital on Ocean Parkway, where the FDNY's EMS is located. Lastly Bill, 880 which will prohibit metered parking on residential streets again this is another push back against the Mayor to put metered parking in our residential spots.

In conclusion, he stated please don't forget that on June 21st, Sheepshead's Bay Fest is going to happen with kiddie bouncy castles, music, entertainment, and fun for the entire family. If you need anything from the office, he stated he would be in the back with his business card.

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 April 28 2026, minutes was made by Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by Al Smaldone.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo read the Liquor Licenses the Board received:

Renewal, Wine, Beer & Cider

Khinkali Factory Corp.
1105 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, NY 11229

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Renewal, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Living Room Sushi & Steak House Inc
192 Avenue U
Brooklyn, NY 11223

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

Q Ball Billiards Inc
DBA – Q Ball Billiards
2570 East 17th Unit 1
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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

Neighbors Coffee LLC
1874 East 4th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223

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

Nominating Committee Report:

Chair Scavo called upon the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Alan Ditchek stated his fellow Committee members met 2 weeks ago. He stated their recommendations were as follows:

The Officers:

For Chairperson: Theresa Scavo was the only name submitted- The floor was opened for nominations, with none from the floor, the nominations for the office were closed and Secretary Doug Luback cast the one vote needed to close this election.

For First Vice-Chairperson: the Committee recommended Ronald Tawil. The floor was opened for any other nominations, with none from the floor, the nominations for the office were closed and Secretary Doug Luback cast the one vote needed to close this election.

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For the position of Second Vice Chair, the Nominating Committee recommended Raisa Chernina. The floor was opened for nominations, with none from the floor. There were no further nomination and the office was closed and Secretary Doug Luback cast the one vote needed to close this election.

For Treasurer: The Nominating Committee recommended Marc Cohen. The floor was opened for nominations, with none from the floor, the nominations for the office was closed and Secretary Doug Luback cast the one vote needed to close this election.

For Secretary: For the position of Secretary, the Nominating Committee recommended Douglas Luback . It was asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations and the office was closed. Second Vice-Chairperson Raisa Chernina cast the one vote needed to close this election.

For the position of Executive Board, the Nominating Committee received 13 candidates for the 10 positions available, the Committee recommended and voted for:

Edmond Chalom

Dr. Alan Ditchek

Edmond Dweck

Morris Dweck

Jack Erdos

Jack Kishk

Chick Pallotta

Al Smaldone

Richard Warner

Eli Zami

It was asked if there were any nominations from the floor?? With none from the floor, the nominations were closed this office and Secretary Doug Luback cast the one vote to close this election.

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Public Safety Report:

Public Safety Chairperson, Chick Pallotta stated that our Public Safety Committee meeting was held in person at the 61st Police Precinct on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6:00pm. Representing the 61 was its Executive Officer, Captain Jose Guzman. In attendance also was the 61st Precinct's Community Affairs Officer, Colleen Abbate.

Public safety Committee Members were forwarded in advance the CompStat Report (Volume 33 Number 19), the 61 Traffic Stat Report, and the Quality-of-Life Stat Report (Volume 2, Number 19), all covering the week of 05/04/2026 through 05/10/2026.

He stated According to the CompStat Report, based on the 7 major crime complaint categories, year-to-date, the 61 was down 5.07%. We had 1 murder in 2026, compared to 1 murder in 2025. We had 8 rapes in 2026, compared to 7 rapes in 2025. Robberies, year-to-date, 42 in 2026, compared to 41 in 2025. Felony Assaults, 87 in 2026, compared to 91 in 2025. Burglaries, 43 in 2026, compared to 67 in 2025, that crime category is down 35.8%. Grand Larceny, 217 complaints in 2026, compared to 181 in 2025, that's up 19.9%. Grand Larceny Auto, 51 complaints in 2026, compared to 85 in 2025, that's down 40%. In a subcategory labeled "Hate Crimes," 4 crime complaints in 2026, compared to 7 in 2025.

Lastly, he stated, at our March Public Safety Committee Meeting we reported a series of home break-ins from midnight to 5:00am. The perpetrators were looking for car keys to steal expensive cars from their respective driveways. Captain Guzman announced that 2 of the 3 individuals were arrested. Their car had New Jersey plates and 1 individual escaped.

Transportation & Transit Committee:

Chairperson Theresa Scavo gave the Transportation & Transit Committee Report. She stated that on Tuesday May 18th, 2026 there was a virtual meeting with DOT and the Board Members regarding a Presentation on the East 14th Street Bridge over the Belt Parkway. The project will be advertised in the Fall of 2026. Construction will begin in 2027. Construction will take 27 months and it will be completed in the winter of 2029. She added that the existing conditions are a 10' wide walkway, 450' long and they are aiming to make the bridge ADA compliant. The current 9 steel piers are deteriorating. There are structural deficiencies and the bridge that does not fit current seismic code requirements The proposal calls for a making the deck 15' wide with 5' wide ramps and 10' steps. The deck will be constructed of

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concrete that will be include drainage There will be tall fencing, as well as, under bridge architectural enclosures. She also stated that 5 parking spots will be removed as well as several trees to accommodate the new bridge and that the island on Shore Parkway and East 14th Street will be reconfigured. She concluded that the entire area would remain open for pedestrians at all times.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Scavo discharged the Nominating Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Member Francis Pallotta shared his concern for the already difficult parking problems plaguing the community. He shared he recently read that the New York City Council, passed legislation that will be eliminating 300,000 more parking spaces throughout the 5 boroughs to implement daylighting to allow clearer visibility for both pedestrian and drivers. He stated this will only cause more illegal parking. He cautioned the Board Members when they vote to be more mindful of who you put into office to represent your community.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Al Smaldone and seconded by William Truscio. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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