

The City of New York
Brooklyn Community Board 15



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LAURA SINGER
DISTRICT MANAGER

Monthly Board Meeting - Minutes

January 26, 2021 Webex Conference 6:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm, by Chairperson Theresa Scavo.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson Scavo asked everyone to please keep Board Member, Rabbi Melvin Burg in their prayers, he has been struggling to recover from the effects of Covid.

Chairperson Scavo, introduced Mr. Ronnie Tawil, Chair of the Zoning and Variance Committee, Mr. Tawil explained the procedure for the meeting.

ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. Tawil called upon a representative for the first item on the Agenda:

PUBLIC HEARING:

BSA Cal. No.2020-89BZ 111 Langham Street
Located between Shore Boulevard and Oriental Boulevard

Application under ZR 73-622, to enlarge an existing family semi-detached home contrary to FAR (23-142), open space (23-142), lot coverage (23-142), and rear yard (23-47) requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

Questions from the floor: Did the applicants reach out to the neighbors in the semi-attached house to circumvent any possible damage to their home during construction? Will they take out any additional insurance rider to cover any damage? The representative stated they were in touch with the other homeowner and she would bring the insurance rider question back to the client.

A motion to approve was made by Edmond Chalom and seconded by Edmond Dweck.

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A committee vote was taken 8 yes and 0 no. The motion passed the committee. A full board vote would take place later in the Executive Session.

Captain Derby St. Fort, the new Commanding Officer of the 61st Precinct introduced himself to the Board. He stated he was here to serve the Community and is currently in the process of getting to know everyone. He offered some background on himself stating that he has been on the job for 16 years, most of that time spent in Brooklyn North. He has also worked in Community Affairs and he is eager to address the Community's needs.

Board Member, Debra Greif stated to Captain St. Fort, she would be grateful if the Precinct would not block the North Bound B68 bus stop with Precinct vehicles, so that she can disembark easily at the bus stop. Captain St. Fort stated he would make sure the bus stop remains clear.

A presentation by The Jewish Board was given, as they were seeking a letter of support from the Community Board for an application to expand current services at 1007 Quentin Road a/k/a 2020 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11223. The support letter is to include the addition of a New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) licensed use disorder treatment program to their existing continuum of services.

Tracy Gard, Division Director for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services spoke on behalf of their request stating they currently providing mental health services to children, adolescents, families and adults and they would like to add substance abuse treatment as a new service. She explained existing clients, specifically 1 in 5 teens and 1 in 5 adults are using alcohol and or drugs and are requesting these services. Right now, they have to refer addiction issues out and they would like all care consolidated under one roof. She explained, to do this, they need a license from New York State. They don't plan to administer methadone, but they would like to be able to prescribe other drugs as part of their treatment program.

Chair Scavo announced she received two letters in opposition, one from Senator Simcha Felder and the other from Rabbi Yeruchim Silber, Director of New York Government Relation for Agudath Israel of America.

Chair Scavo then invited some members from the public to speak on the request.

Irwin Shamah was called to speak. He stated he was the founder of the Yeshiva Ateret Torah, which is located 120 Feet West of this location at 901 Quentin Road. He added that he founded this Yeshiva in 1980 and it's been

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operating at this location since 1986 with 620, K through 12 students. They are now erecting a new school for 900 students, which they eventual expect to expand to 1200 students, which upon its completion will be fully occupied in about a year. He went on to express his worry and concern for the safety and well being of his students should this program be allowed to move forward at this location.

Naomi Sutton a parent and grandparent from the community, expressed her concern for the safety of students. She stated that her community does not have a drug or alcohol problem and this program would not serve the people in the immediate community.

Nessim a homeowner and parent spoke, stating that this program represents a clear danger to the safety and welfare of the children and their families of the community. He thought it would attract drug dealers to the area. He collected signatures on a petition against the expansion of this program that he would be happy to submit.

Nancy Levy a mother of school age children stated that a drug rehab program would jeopardize safety and bring about more crime to the area. The children walk or bike to school and do not have cell phones and many return after sundown.

Ronnie Tawil, 1st Vice Chair of the Community Board stated, that the Community Board members act as the eyes and ears for the Community and that we take our jobs seriously. He further stated that the Jewish Board has a great reputation, running good programs, but that this expansion should not take place near a school. He also expressed concern about the types of drugs that would be prescribed as part of the treatment service. He added in the Jewish Board's literature, they stated there were already other providers in this zip code and several nearby.

Councilman Kalman Yeger, stated he agreed with everything Ronnie Tawil stated. He added what he was hearing from the Community was not, "not in my backyard, but just not near our schools". He went on to state as a Community we do not shirk our responsibilities to our neighbors and house our fair share of programs. Giving the location of this program he will not be giving a letter of support to the Jewish Board.

Board Member, Debra Greif expressed concern that by not allowing this program to exist , the waiting time would be longer for people suffering with addictions to receive these much needed services.

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Councilman Yeger replied to Ms. Greif, that the Jewish Board did not state that people are not receiving services, just that it is being done as a referral, not at their current location.

Tracy Gard from the Jewish Board asked to address the concerns expressed. She stated they are concerned about safety and have cameras and guards on site and would be happy to work with their neighbors more actively to alleviate any concerns. She also stated having seen that the new Precinct Captain St. Fort was online, she would be happy to work with the local Precinct if needed.

Chair Scavo asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to take a full board vote on this matter. It was seconded by Ronnie Tawil. The vote was 1 yes, 30 no and 2 abstentions for cause. The motion to approve a letter of support for the Jewish Board's substance abuse program, did not pass. No letter from the Board would be forth coming.

Chair Scavo expressed to the Board that the preliminary budget was released, and she received responses from the agencies for the Community Board's Budget Requests. She explained that some agencies disagreed with the Board's requests and some suggested we approach our Elected Officials for funding, including the comfort station for Brigham Park, and Homecrest Park and upgrades to Manhattan Beach Park. Chair Scavo requested a motion to reject the Agencies' responses and tell them they should go back to the drawing board to find funding. A motion to reject these responses was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING:

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chair Scavo called upon guest speakers:

Jeffrey Sanoff, First Vice-Chair of Community Board 13, spoke on behalf of himself and Community Board 13 Chair, Lucy Acevedo to Thank Community Board 15 Members and neighbors who participated at the Community Board 13 Zoom Meeting, which was recently held on the proposed Homeless Shelter for 100 Neptune Avenue.

Reeves Eisen from Senator Gournardes office stated the Senator was working with Governor Cuomo to get more vaccines for our district. She added that the Senator was alarmed by the disruption that took place at the Capitol on January 6th and is working on some legislation concerning that date, even

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though the representatives were still able to conduct their business. It is also the night the Senator became a father for the first time. Her personal opinion is that baby Evan is adorable. Lastly, those who work part-time will notice a change in their unemployment procedure. Please read it carefully, it will now be calculated hourly instead of by days.

Sergey “ Sam” Chuprik representing Comptroller Scott Stringer’s Office stated the Comptroller’s website has fiscal reports and newsletters available online to let you know what the Comptroller is working on, please take a look and if you have any questions to please let him know. He stated the Comptroller put out a comprehensive vaccine plan called “ Vaccine a Fair Shot”, please look for it on our website. His email is schupri@comptroller.nyc.gov

Nancy Lulu from Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez’s office sent greetings from the District Attorney for a Happy New Year. She wished Rabbi Burg a full recovery. On 1/04/21, the DA indicted a 21 year old man for manslaughter for reckless driving that resulted in a 50 year old man’s death. She stated that the aggressive driving has got to stop in our community and this indictment sends a clear message that this behavior will not be tolerated on our streets. 1/06/21, 900 gang members were arrested receiving 71 indictments. The gun violence on our streets has got to stop. On 1/30/21, DA Gonzalez is sponsoring a Gun Buy Back Event, offering gift cards and iPads for those turning in weapons. Different weapons have different monetary values. Some weapons can be valued up to \$250 in gift cards , while other non-functioning weapons or fake guns have a value of \$25. The event is being held from 10:00am-2:00pm at 167 East 98th Street in Brooklyn. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month; tomorrow is their last event should the Community want to attend to learn how they can prevent trafficking in their community. The link is

<http://www.brooklynda.org/htawareness2021>

The Brooklyn DA’s Action Center can be reached at 718 250-2340. Ms. Lulu also provided her email which is Lulun@BrooklynDa.org

Board Member, Debra Greif announced she has changed her Facebook and personal email because her accounts have been hacked.

Chris Greif from the Transit Rider’s Council announced that the OMNI cards are being rolled out. For those with reduced fare cards, please make sure all your information is current on the MTA’s website.

Glenda Silva, Deputy Director from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams’ office spoke stating the Borough President has a newsletter available

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online, where you can see what events have taken place throughout the Month. Community Board Member Applications are due on 2/12/21, please apply online. She mentioned for those seeking funding for Capital Projects inquiries for funding are due in by 2/25/21.

The link is <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/capital-budget/>

His office continues to distribute PPE, so if you want to put in a request , please reach out. She provided links in the chat:

For PPE requests:

<https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/you-can-help-brooklyn>

Lastly the Borough President will be hosting 2 Chinese New Year Events on 2/05/21 and 2/26/21.

The link is <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/event/year-of-the-ox/>

Laura McKenna from The Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island stated the Covid is rampant in our Zip Code 11235. She is working to educate and distribute masks throughout the district. If you know of any organizations that would like to assist in this effort to please let her know.

Nick Zorin, Emmons Avenue Resident from the Coalition for Safe Housing spoke about the proposed homeless shelter being planned for 100 Neptune Avenue. He expressed concerns about the environmental issues from prior land uses at the site. He also spoke of his concerns that the current shelter system does not transition to permanent housing. Lastly, he stated the group's staunch opposition to 100 Neptune Avenue. Please join them on their Facebook page. Their email is coalition4safehousing@gmail.com

Doug Luback, former President of Gerritsen Beach Homeowners Association stated they are still waiting for an update from the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection on plans on how they are going to move forward with restoring parking in the Gerritsen Beach area after the sewer and sidewalk upgrade project.

Lenny Markh, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz stated 1/27/21 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Assemblyman spoke on the floor of the Assembly today about his co-sponsorship of New York State's Holocaust Remembrance Day Resolution. You can read about it our newsletter. If you don't receive our newsletter, please send me an email so I can add you to our list. Lenny can be reached at markhl@nyassembly.gov

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Roll Call Attendance was taken by Chair Scavo; with a Quorum present, Chair Scavo asked for the adoption of the Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020.

A motion to adopt the December, 15, 2020 minutes was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Ronnie Tawil.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chair Scavo reported that the City is planning a Homeless Shelter for 170 Single Adult Men at 100 Neptune Avenue in Community Board 13, which is on the periphery of Community Board 15. She has been working with neighbors in Manhattan Beach, the Manhattan Beach Community Group, and Sheepshead Bay to fight the shelter. She requested a motion to draft a resolution in opposition of this shelter. A motion was made Dr. Alan Ditchek and seconded by Robert Gevertzman.

LIQUOR LICENSES- Month of January 2021

Renewal - Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider

Buckley's Tavern
2926 Avenue S

Tamaqua Bar & Grill
84 Ebony Court

Sheepshead Bay Yacht Club
3076 Emmons Avenue

Brooklyn Burger Boys, LLC
d/b/a Siena Ristorante
533 Kings Highway

Renewal - Wine, Beer and Cider

485 Kings Corp.
485 Kings Highway

New Application for Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider

Masuta Japanese Fusion Inc.
d/b/a Mamamito Japanese Fusion

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1712-1714 Sheepshead Bay Road

Chair Scavo stated if you know of a problematic location please reach out to our office to let us know, so that we may contact the proper authorities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee:

Committee Chair, Chick Pallotta stated the Committee met online Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 5:00pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its newly appointed Commanding Officer, Captain Derby St. Fort. He comes to us from the 77th Police Precinct, serving the northern portion of the Crown Heights section and a portion of Prospect Heights in Brooklyn. In attendance also was our departing, Commanding Officer, Deputy Inspector Gaby Celiba, assigned to the 67th Police Precinct. Present from Community Affairs division of the 61 was Detective, Sam Shaya and Police Officer, Lauren Au. The CompStat report presented to our committee in the preliminary, year end report, for the 2020 calendar year. Year-to-date stats comparing 2020 with 2019, the 61st Precinct was up 6.9%. As stated in previous, monthly committee reports, the two challenging crime categories are Burglary and Grand Larceny Auto. The Burglary crime category year-to-date comparisons is up +49.3%; Grand Larceny Auto is up +145%.

Zoning Committee Report:

Zoning Committee Chair, Ronnie Tawil

BSA Cal. No.2020-89BZ 111 Langham Street
Located between Shore Boulevard and Oriental Boulevard

Application under ZR 73-622, to enlarge an existing family semi-detached home contrary to FAR (23-142), open space (23-142), lot coverage (23-142), and rear yard (23-47) requirements of the underlying R3-1 zoning district.

A motion to approve was made by Debra Greif and seconded by Mitchell Shpelfogel. The vote was 39 Yes and 2 No.
The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

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ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Tawil and seconded by Lenny Markh. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29p.m.

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