

# The City of New York

## Brooklyn Community Board 15



**ANTONIO REYNOSO**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**THERESA SCAVO**  
CHAIRPERSON

**OFFICERS**  
**RONALD TAWIL**  
FIRST VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**RAISA CHERNINA**  
SECOND VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
**JACK ERDOS, ESQ**  
TREASURER  
**DOUGLAS LUBACK**  
SECRETARY



**ERIC ADAMS**  
MAYOR

**LAURA SINGER**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

### Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes

#### GENERAL BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday May, 27, 2025 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. Chair Scavo then welcomed new Board Members Shlomo Balanka, Charles Chakkalo, Michelle Dmitrenko, Jennifer Figueroa, David Haddad, and Devin Urena.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING / PUBLIC SESSION:**

Chair Scavo opened the floor and invited Elected Officials, their representatives, agency representatives and community members to speak:

Camille Dee, a DC37 retiree and a member of the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, spoke about her organization of 50K+ municipal retirees fighting to preserve their traditional Medicare, plus a supplemental plan that they earned and were promised. The City wants to shift Public Retirees to a Medicare Advantage program which has limited access to their doctors in network and will disallow and deny many of their medical claims. She cautioned that this shift would cost the tax payers more in the end because of the program's notorious "up billing" practices. She was seeking a letter or resolution from the Board in support Intro 1096 - a Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to protecting the vested health insurance coverage and contributions of retired employees of the City of New York. She stated we now have 13 City Council Members co-sponsoring the bill, including Council Members Mercedes Narcisse and Inna Vernikov from our district. She stated we would like you to encourage others.

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Stanley Kaplan spoke about the dangers of these unlicensed electric food delivery bikes on our streets and spoke of the impact and danger to the public they pose. These bikes speed and often go the wrong way on public streets. He pondered why more isn't being done to stop these hazards and stated we need to follow the money. How many of these food service companies, such as Grub Hub, Seamless and Uber Eats give to political coffers? Are they donating money to buy favor? He cautioned the public to do their due diligence in supporting candidates that accept political contributions from these firms. He believes candidates and or elected officials who take donations from these firms, then turn a blind eye by not creating legislation curtailing their ability to wreak havoc unlicensed and uninsured on our streets.

Mike, a resident from Sheepshead Bay reiterated his concern that a hotel was built on East 18<sup>th</sup> Street off of Jerome Avenue and became a migrant shelter without any input or warning to the community. He feels the government needs more transparency and community residents need to be given a say or a vote when such projects are created. He heard the migrant shelter was closing so what does that mean for the hotel? Will it remain open or abandoned? He would like some answers.

Tom Paolillo, a resident of Sheepshead Bay stated he counted 70 "Ghost Cars" along Emmons Avenue and its side streets the other day. They take up valuable parking. He clarified that "Ghost Cars" are cars with fake paper plates and no inspection or registration stickers. He feels other Precincts are more proactive in removing these vehicles but the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct is more lackadaisical in taking action. He stated he calls 311 constantly and has spoken with the Precinct and Elected Officials about this issue. He wants to encourage other community members to please call 311. He believes that the more calls the Precinct receives, and attention is brought to this matter than they will be forced to take action.

Allen Popper announced he is leaving the Community Board after 25 years of service, in which he served 15 years as its Secretary. He appreciated his fellow Board Officers and the valuable tools he learned in working beside them.

Ed Jaworski, former Vice President of Madison Marine Homecrest Association spoke about something that occurred at the last Board Meeting. He stated a couple who spoke pointed out in their dismay the numerous projects and special permits the Board approved throughout the years. He stated he also heard certain Board Members state that at the last meeting they do take community feedback and neighborhood character into consideration, but he feels that has not been the case. He stated that 20 some years ago he

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and his Association garnered 1,000 signatures requesting that the Board not allow for special permits. He felt the Community Board assembled a clearly partisan committee that dismissed and disparaged the petition. He stated even former Councilman Lew Fidler said it was wrong for that Committee to dismiss the petition that wasn't related to the Zoning Chair's neighborhood or vision. He claims that request fell on deaf ears as is evidenced by their failure to take the signatures he provided years ago on that petition seriously.

Dr. Henry Zhu, a clinical psychologist stated he has become active in his community's plight against the homeless shelter planned for 2134 Coyle Street. They are mostly scared seniors who have experienced a 'bait and switch' when a planned affordable housing project became a homeless shelter. They are worried about what is going to come into their neighborhood and their property values and are out there protesting. There is a lot going on behind the scenes with the developers, owners and providers and we are going to try to uncover it. If you guys want to help we are going to have another march on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. The march also protests the building of a Lithium Battery Facility on Flatbush Avenue. Please talk to me and Lina after the meeting. It's important the community is heard and has a voice. Our Mayor doesn't care and has allowed seniors to be arrested. Please come support us.

Chair Scavo acknowledged Christopher Greif from the NYC Transit Rider's Council.

Sainya Hylton Boothe, from JASA, spoke about their programs. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting older adults. Their mission is to help seniors remain in their community with dignity and independence. They provide a wide range of services to eligible persons. They have services such as home care, home delivered meals, for those who meet the eligibility criteria. You must be at least 60 years of age and are able to be maintained at home safely and not currently receiving similar services from a government funded program. You can receive up to 20 hours per week of personal care or up to 8 hours per week of housekeeping. They also monitor the delivery of the services that you're receiving and they have case managers who monitor progress follow-ups and reassessment. They also provide NYC agents to help you receive supplemental assistance and assist with screening referrals and linkages to other NYC benefits. She left flyers on the front table with more information for those who are interested.

Nancy Lulu sent greetings from Brooklyn District Attorney, Eric Gonzalez' Office. She stated that the DA's top priority is ensuring Brooklyn communities remain safe and strengthening communities trust if there's anything you would like to address, please reach out to our Action Center

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718 250-2340. She concluded with thanking Allen Popper for his dedicated service to Community Board 15.

Salim Cadet, Constituent Services Representative for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, sent Greetings from the Congress Member. He added he just wanted to remind everybody they are a Federal Office, so if you have any issues with a Federal Agency like Social Security, IRS, or immigration please give them a call. He added that includes any Veterans' issues. They could help with any claims you have pending with the VA. He also announced 2 events that their office is holding, the first one is a create your own app for students. The winner will get to present the app in DC. It's a really great opportunity to get your children involved and get them into computer graphics and design and get these apps out there. The second event is a Town Hall Meeting that they are going to have, there is a flyer with a bar code on the table you have to RSVP for. The location will be provided to those who register a week before the Town Hall for security reasons.

Solomiya Momot representing Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office stated she had some legislative updates. The Senator sponsored legislation that was signed into law Senate Bill 2710, which restores the 20 year service retirement for New York City police officers hired on or after 2000. And in addition, Senate Bill 4262 that ensures long serving members of NYPD receive fair recognition for the dedication and service increasing the annual salary imputed for final average salary.

The Senator also secured funding \$500,000 for the midwife program, \$750,000 for health screenings, and \$800,000 for Red Cross of Greater New York. In addition, \$1,000,000 for Holocaust survivor initiatives, \$250,000 for JCC Senior Services and \$80,000,000 for Mitchell Lama capital projects.

The Senator has worked on creating discovery reforms to make it easier to move cases through procedural delays and prevents automatic dismissal. She worked on providing Universal free school meals. New York kids deserve to have free breakfast free and lunch regardless of family's income. She also worked on limiting cell phone use during school day.

Lastly, she sponsored, a Battery Storage Bill that wasn't included in the legislative bill passing, however this was a bill that the Senator introduced and was passed in the committee. This Battery Storage Bill 5208, the Senator introduced, requires public notice of any planned siting and construction of a Battery Storage Systems and to provide for annual inspection of such Battery Energy Storage Systems. She stated that concludes the legislative and investment of updates. She stated we do have a one event that we're hosting

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this is our annual Juneteenth Event. Please if you have the time come out, obviously June 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm -4:00pm. She left a flyer on the front table for more information.

Hunter Rabinowitz brought greetings from Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. First off, he stated it's May so Happy Jewish American Heritage Month, Happy Asian American Islander Heritage Month and Happy Older Americans Month. Welcome New Board Members and Thank You and Congratulations to Allen Popper on 25 years of Community Board Service. I have two events that I want to bring to your attention, this Thursday is our graduation award deadline. If you are a teacher or work at a public, private or charter school and have a graduating pre-K through 12th grade. you can nominate your students for awards up until 5:00 PM this Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>. The BP is hosting a one-on-one with the New York City Economic Development Corporation to better understand their proposed redesign of the Brooklyn Marine Terminal and how it will impact Brooklyn. The one-on-one will run from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Members of the public can submit written questions and the flyer with more information can be found on the front desk.

Irena Khlenver, Deputy Director of Constituent Services, for Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse, spoke about the many events the Councilwoman is sponsoring such as food give aways every Monday and the MTA bus once a month. She has upcoming shredding events and offers e-waste disposal at their office. She provided a booklet of flyers on the front table and welcomed all to partake. Their office is available to assist during business hours 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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 Allen Popper, with a Quorum present, a motion to adopt the April 29, 2025, minutes was made by Moses Massry and seconded by Debra Greif.

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

Chair Scavo read the Liquor and Cannabis and Dining Out licenses the Board received:

### **Liquor Licenses May 2025**

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### **Sidewalk Café License:**

Soup N Burger Corp  
1809 Emmons Ave, Unit 9 (AKA: 1825 Emmons Ave)  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

AMGP Restaurant Corp  
DBA – Yiasou Estiatorio  
2003-2005 Emmons Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

### **Dining Out Licenses May 2025:**

Mamma Leone Pizzeria, Inc.  
1623 Oriental Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

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

Chair Scavo stated if you know of any issues with any of these establishments, please let the office know so that we can reach out to the State Liquor Authority and the Office of Cannabis Management.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Chair Scavo called upon the Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, Edmond Dweck. Edmond Dweck thanked his fellow Committee members. 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 the Treasurer Jack Erdos cast the one vote needed.

For First Vice-Chairperson: Ronald Tawil was the only name submitted–The floor was opened for nominations, with none from the floor, the nominations for the office were closed and the Treasurer Jack Erdos cast the one vote needed.

For the position of Second Vice Chair, the Committee received two candidates. The Committee voted for Raisa Chernina. Are there any nominations from the floor?? If there are no further nominations... I close

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this office and ask the Treasurer Jack Erdos to cast one vote to close this election.

For Treasurer: Jack Erdos was the only name submitted - The floor was opened for nominations, with none from the floor, the nominations for the office were closed and the Second Vice Chairperson Raisa Chernina cast the one vote needed.

For Secretary: For the position of Secretary, the Committee received two candidates. The Committee voted for Douglas Luback Are there any nominations from the floor. If there are no further nominations... I close this office and ask the Treasurer Jack Erdos to cast the one vote needed.

For the position of Executive Board, the Committee received 11 candidates, the Committee voted for:

Edmond Chalom

Marc Cohen

Dr, Alan Ditchek

Edmond Dweck

Morris Dweck

Jack Kishk

Chick Pallotta

Al Smaldone

Richard Warner

Eli Zami

Are there any nominations from the floor?? If there are no further nominations, I close this office and ask the Jack Erdos Treasurer to cast a vote to close this election.

### **Public Safety Report:**

Public Safety Chairperson Chick Pallotta stated that our Public Safety Committee meeting was held in person at the 61st Precinct on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:30pm. Representing the 61st Police Precinct was its Commanding Officer, Captain Joseph Antonio. In attendance from the 61st's

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Community Affairs office was Detective Lauren Au and Police Officer Colleen Abbate.

Public Safety Committee members were forwarded in advance both links to the 61's CompStat Report and the Traffic Stat Report, covering the week of 5/5/25 through 5/11/25 (Volume 32 Number 19).

Based on the 7 major crime categories, a year to date, comparison with 2024, overall, the 61st was down 10.46%. We have had 1 murder thus far, 7 rapes compared to 5 in 2024. Robberies are down 31%, we had 40 robberies in 2025, compared to 58 robberies in 2024. Felony Assaults, almost the same, 89 crimes in 2025, compared to 90 in 2024. Burglaries are up 20%, 66 so far in 2025, compared to 55 in 2024. Captain Antonio estimates that about 40% of these burglaries are attributed to the same "4 regulars" who are arrested and then released. Continuing year-to-date

Grand Larceny, the 61, is down 22.2% with 182 of these crimes reported in 2025, compared to 234 in 2024. Grand Larceny Auto, about the same, 86 so far in 2025, compared to 84 in 2024.

In the category listed as "Hate Crimes", we've had 7 so far in 2025, compared to 15 year-to-date in 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chair Scavo disbanded the Nominating Committee

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ed Jaworski stated he wanted to make a motion to send a support letter on behalf of Camille Dee's request to support maintaining Public Service Retirees Benefits. It was Seconded by Dr. Alan Ditchek.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Moses Massry and seconded by Debra Greif. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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