

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – JANUARY 25, 2022

Attendance

Lorenzo Andrews (A)
Cynthia Bannister (A)
Eramas Beras-Monticciolo (A)
Margaret Brewer
Dr. Cleopatra Brown
Kaseem Clark-Edwards (A)
Adrainer Coleman
Norman Frazier (A)
Danny Goodine (A)
Chanel Haliburton (A)
Sarah Hall (A)
Balinda Harris
Zalika Headley (A)
Michael Howard
Gabriel Jamison (A)
Leticia Knowles
Dr. Bettie Kollock-Wallace (E)
Charles Ladson, Sr. (A)
Digna Layne
Kelly Lee-McVay
Albion Liburd (A)
Deborah Mack (A)
Yolanda Matthews (A)
John McCadney, Jr.

Andrew McCoy
Melanie Mendonça
Shemene Minter
Genese Morgan
Rose O'Neill (A)
Deidre Olivera
Luz Ortiz (A)
Shelevya Pearson (A)
Marie Pierre
Linda Rivera
Shaneek Samuel (A)
JoAnn Sexton
Khadijah Smith
Dr. Sonia Smith
Keturah Suggs
Beverly Tatham (A)
Sydone Thompson
Brenda Thompson-Duchene
Christopher Toomer
Rev. Miran Ukaegbu
Deborah Williams
Pat Winston
Viola Greene-Walker, District Manager
Jimmi Brevil, Community Assistant

PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m. and an invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu.

Chairperson Morgan opened the public hearing in the matter of an application filed with the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA Calendar No. 346-60-BZ regarding 211 Tapscott Street (Block 3565, Lot 30) in the Borough of Brooklyn) to convert the existing 1-story masonry building to a convenience store in accordance with TPPN-10 of 99 and Zoning Resolution Section 11-412. The current automotive component will be eliminated from the application and the proposed new uses will include the sale of gasoline and an accessory convenience store.

Glen Cutrona, Architect for the project, did a slide presentation followed by questions from the audience.

Ms. JoAnn Sexton asked if the BP gas station will remain? Mr. Cutrona stated that it will.

Mr. Andrew McCoy stated that the intersection becomes very congested during rush hours. Where will the access points be when construction begins? Mr. Cutrona stated that there will not be accessibility during the construction phase.

Mr. McCoy asked what will be the timeframe for construction? Mr. Cutrona stated that it might be a six to eight month process.

Mr. McCoy asked if there will be any environmental or health concerns as far as moving old tanks? Mr. Cutrona stated that there will be monitoring.

There were other concerns raised by Board members and a roll call vote was taken to determine if the Board should proceed with the vote on the project. The vote was 20-in favor, 5-against, and 1-abstention to proceed.

Inspector Terrell Anderson, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Precinct, thanked everyone for their expressions of condolences in the loss of the two police officers in the 32nd Precinct.

Thus far this year, there have been two shootings compared to three this time last year. There has also been a decrease in reports of shots fired. The 73rd Precinct had the most shootings in the city last year. The 73rd Precinct also recovered the most firearms. They are seeing an increase in stolen Ford Econoline vans. Last year, 54 vans were reported stolen. They were able to recover two. There has also been an increase in burglaries at construction sites.

Historically, the 73rd Precinct has been high in crimes. Inspector Anderson stated that we are making progress in reducing the number of crimes.

When he reported in December 2021, the number of officers at the 73rd Precinct decreased by 63. They are now down by 50. Eleven rookies have been assigned to the precinct.

A virtual meeting with Chief Kenneth Corey, the new Chief of Department, is being scheduled with the community.

Inspector Anderson stated that Mayor Eric Adams announced that there will be a transition from uniform public safety units to plainclothes Neighborhood Safety Teams who will wear identifying vests. He has recommended 10 officers from the 73rd Precinct for the Neighborhood Safety Team which will focus on getting guns off the streets.

Mr. Michael Howard asked if the recent public safety initiative on Rockaway Avenue between Herkimer and Fulton Streets will be repeated this year?

Inspector Anderson stated that the Brownsville Safety Alliance event was not well attended by community-based organizations and city agencies for many reasons. He is looking to have another event in April 2022.

Ms. Sydone Thompson requested that representatives from the Transit Police attend next month's meeting to address concerns about the IRT-3. She also stated that more lights are needed on Livonia Avenue.

Inspector Anderson stated that he will follow-up with the Commanding Officers of Transit District 32 and 33 to attend next month's meeting.

Mr. John McCadney, Jr. thanked Inspector Anderson and Det. Esposito for providing assistance to his brother-in-law who was an innocent victim of gun violence and succumbed to his injuries 2 weeks ago.

Ms. Deborah Williams asked if the new initiative will affect the NCOs in any way? Inspector Anderson stated that it will not. The NCOs do a great job. Three NCOs were promoted to detectives in December.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deidre Olivera, and carried to close the public hearing.

The floor was opened for public comments and announcements.

Mr. Rock Hackshaw, representing Councilmember Darlene Mealy, stated that they are open for business at 400 Rockaway Avenue. The telephone number is (718) 953-3097.

Ms. Melanie Mendonça called the roll of Board members. It was noted that a quorum was present with 27 members.

Mr. Jeffrey McDuffie from the Department of Transportation gave a slide presentation update on the Brownsville and East New York School Safety Plan (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Deborah Williams, and carried to accept the minutes of December 28, 2021.

District Manager Viola Greene-Walker read the District Manager's Report (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Mr. John McCadney, Jr., and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the October 26, 2021 minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deborah Williams, and carried to accept the November 23, 2021 minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Brenda Duchene, and carried to accept the October 26, 2021 and November 23, 2021 District Manager's Reports.

Ms. Adrainer Coleman read the Equity Planning Work Group report (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Brenda Duchene, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the Equity Planning Work Group reports for January 25, 2022, December 28, 2021, November 23, 2021, and October 28, 2021.

There was a roll call vote to support the application to the State Liquor Authority for a beer, wine, and liquor license at 2105 Atlantic Avenue. The vote was 23-in favor, 0-against, and 0-abstentions.

There was a roll call vote in support of the BSA application for 211 Tapscott Street. The vote was 20-in favor, 2-against, and 2-abstentions.

Ms. Deborah Williams reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on January 14, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Adrainer Coleman, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the City Services Planning Work Group reports for January 25, 2022, December 28, 2021, November 23, 2021, and October 26, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken on a request for a letter of support for Eco-Friendly Parks for All. The vote was 15-in favor, 2-against, and 6-abstentions.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca reported that the Community Resident Work Group met on January 12, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deborah Williams, and carried to accept the Community Resident Planning Work Group reports for January 25, 2022, December 28, 2021, November 23, 2021, and October 28, 2021.

Ms. Freida Menos, representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, announced that applications for the New York State Low-Income Household Assistance is still open. New York State Homeowners Assistance Program administered by the State Home and Community Renewal Office is available. For assistance regarding immigration, social security or veterans issues, call (718) 373-0073.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing the Mayor's Office, stated that his email address is now mmcdaniel@cityhall.nyc.gov. His telephone number is (212) 676-3033.

Mr. Nicholas Perry, representing Comptroller Brad Lander, stated that he can be reached at (646) 499-0749.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Deborah Williams, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.