

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #16 – February 22, 2022

Attendance

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

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

PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX

Chairperson Genese Morgan called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m. and an invocation was given by Mr. John McCadney, Jr.

Sen. Jabari Brisport gave updates from Albany. In January, they stopped putting an end date on the Open Meetings Laws which allows community boards to meet virtually. Whenever the Governor decides that the state of emergency is over, that's when we will resume back to normal. The most recent extension is March 15, 2022.

They voted in new district lines for the State legislature and Congress.

Sen. Brisport shared a link to send out budget request letters to his office for discretionary funding for nonprofits or community organizations. His email address is brisport@nysenate.gov.

Chairperson Morgan opened the public hearing in the matter of an application filed with the Board of Standards and Appeals Cal. No. 2021-85-BZ regarding 2310 Atlantic Avenue (Block 1435, Lot 36), in the Borough of Brooklyn to reinstate a prior variance pursuant to Zoning Regulation Section 11-411 for an automotive repair service, including collision repairs, auto painting and spraying and parking of cars awaiting service.

Ms. Elyse Foladore, Attorney for the owners, made a slide presentation. She stated that the owner is applying for a 10 years extension of the variance which was originally granted on May 17, 1932.

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

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso addressed the Board. They are doing a needs assessment and will be targeting communities that have the highest needs in health, education, public safety, and small business services. He requested patience as they staff up Borough Hall.

New applications are out for community boards. If you have already filled out the application before January, you don't need to fill it out again.

One of his initiatives is black women's health. They will be outfitting every public hospital in Brooklyn with a state of the art birthing center. They are looking to address an inequity that exists which is the death of black women during child birth. Black women are dying 9.4 times the rate as their white counterparts.

Borough President Reynoso stated that he has three mandated responsibilities which are land use recommendations, allocation of 5% of capital budget funds, and appointment of community board members.

Dr. Cleopatra Brown asked if funding will be available to support community board initiatives and would he be able to help promote events?

Borough President Reynoso stated that they will support community boards with resources; i.e., a planner to review Department of City Planning ULURP applications, classes on professional development, data, transportation, education, and constituent stats.

Ms. Sydone Thompson asked if he can fast tract the ULURP training because there is a lot of development happening in Brownsville?

Borough President Reynoso responded that because she is the first to ask. He will put this Board on the top of the list for community board training and will commit to this.

During the public comments and announcements, the following announcements were made:

- 1) St. Nick's Alliance about their construction and IT programs for 18 to 24 years old,
- 2) Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Brooklyn about their Help for Heroes Program which assists veterans with home repairs and modifications such as lifts and ramps and NHS's property management program which provides services to owners 1 to 4 family units. For more information, call (718) 469-4679 or visit their website at www.nhsbrooklyn.org, and
- 3) NYC Accelerator program which is a free City program that helps property owners navigate local law compliance and reduce their building's carbon emissions. They program is inclusive of all private-owned new or existing buildings that are over 5,000 square feet. For additional information, call (212) 656-9198.

Ms. Melanie Mendonça called the roll of Board members. A quorum was present with 26 in attendance.

Minutes for January 25, 2022 were tabled.

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 Rev. Miran Ukaegbu, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to accept the District Manager's Report.

Capt. Carol Hamilton, Executive Officer of the 73rd Precinct, reported that there was a meeting on February 15th with Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding cars being parked in the bike lane on Powell Street between Livonia and Sutter Avenues. DOT has agreed to narrow the bike lane. They continue to do enforcement, but it's not effective because cars are continuously being parked in the bike lane.

There's been an increase in pedestrians being hit by vehicles. From February 14th to February 20th, 3 pedestrians were hit. There have been e-bike fatalities within the 28-day reporting period. They continue to enforce the double parking rule on Pitkin Avenue.

Capt. Hamilton stressed the importance of not leaving keys in unattended cars with the engine running and property such as credit cards exposed.

Mr. Christopher Toomer reported that the Equity Planning Work Group met on February 8, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Sydone Thompson, seconded by Ms. Linda Rivera, and carried to accept the Equity Planning Work Group report.

A roll call vote was taken on BSA Cal. No. 2021-85-BZ at 2310 Atlantic Avenue. The vote was 20-in favor, 0-against, and 3-abstentions.

Ms. Melanie Mendonca reported that the Community Resident Work Group met on February 9, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Kadajah Smith, and carried to accept the Community Resident Planning Work Group report.

Ms. Sydne Thompson reported that the City Services Planning Work Group met on February 10, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Ms. Linda Rivera, seconded by Ms. Digna Layne, and carried to accept the City Services Planning Work Group report.

Ms. Diedra Olivera reported that the Fiscal and Policy Work Group met on February 15, 2022 (A copy is on file in the Community Board Office).

A motion was made by Dr. Cleopatra Brown, seconded by Ms. Kadajah Smith, and carried to accept the Fiscal and Policy Work Group reports.

Mr. William Jordain, representing Councilmember Sandy Nurse, announced that the deadline for discretionary funding applications is tonight at 12 midnight. There will be a Town Hall meeting on the development of Broadway Junction on March 22, 2022. Their office is at 1945 Broadway and is open from Tuesday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Orlando Ross, representing Congressmember Yvette Clark, announced that Congressmember Clark had secured over \$1 Billion in federal funding for New York State and \$62 million will be allocated to projects in her district.

Mr. Juan Bravo, representing Councilmember Charles Barron, announced that their office is located at 407 New Lots Avenue and is open Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Their telephone number is (718) 649-9495.

Councilmember Darlene Mealy stated that her office will be open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They will be giving away free food every Wednesday. They also have free COVID-19 tests available.

Councilmember Mealy also stated that she is negotiating with the City to bring a co-educational center at 444 Thomas S. Boyland Street. The initial proposal was for girls only. We also need a facility for young men and that's why she is proposing a facility for both males and females.

Rev. Eddie Karim, representing Assemblymember Latrice Walker, stated that Assemblymember Walker is in Albany working on the budget. For assistance, you can reach her Brooklyn office at (718) 342-1246.

Mr. Malcolm McDaniel, representing Mayor Eric Adams, stated that Mayor Adams is addressing the problem of hate crimes in the City. Mayor Adams is directing all City agencies to establish a cyber command liaison. He's working to strengthen security on the internet. Mayor Adams announced that there will be funding for 100,000 summer jobs for young people between 14 and 24 years old. Mr. McDaniel can be reached at (212) 676-3033.

Mr. Nickolas Perry, representing Comptroller Brad Lander, announced that Comptroller Lander and senior members of the Mayor's Office stood together to release the findings of a report called "A Better Contract for New York". A joint task force is being established to get nonprofits paid on time by managing and streamlining the nonprofit contracting and procurement process while increasing accountability and transparency. Mr. Perry can be reached at (646) 409-0749.

Mr. Anderson Fils-Aime, representing Senator Zellnor Myrie, announced that their office is open and are seeing constituents by appointment. You can call (718) 284-4700 for assistance. They are open Monday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They encourage those who are behind in rent due to COVID-19, sign up for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Chairperson Morgan announced that there will be a public hearing on City agencies response to our capital and expense budget requests for Fiscal Year 2023 at next month meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Kadajah Smith, seconded by Ms. Marie Pierre, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.