

**COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**

Rosamond Alvaranga	Reeves Eisen	Elaine Reid
Felina Backer	Maria Garrett	Patrick Jayson Reyes
Barbara Bieber	Ian Gaynor	Yolaine Ridore
Ernest Borno	Joan Gilbert	Violine Roberty
Sharon Borno	Denise Gordon	Michelle Sealey
Gardy Brazela	Denise Gourdine	Frank Seddio
James Buchanan	Stuart Heier	Victoria Stennett
Terri Cadet-Donald	Tomas Hernandez, Jr.	Nancy Walby
Salvatore Calise	Naomi Hopkins	Valerie Woodford
Donald Cranston	Michael Ien	
Gil Cygler	Jibreel Jalloh	
Malynda Jordan-Dandridge	Judy Newton	
Amar Dyal	David Price	

**GUESTS:**

Wayne Gomillion	Area Resident
Widmark Valme	Area Resident
Evelyn Blissett	Area Resident
James Richmond	Guyana Avenue Committee
Derrick Arjune	Guyana Avenue Committee
Harriet Wieber	Area Resident
Nigel Dupree	Breuklen Houses
E.O. Capt. Darryl Smallwood	69 <sup>th</sup> Precinct
Sgt. Brian Maher	69 <sup>th</sup> Precinct
P.O. Nicole Rostant	69 <sup>th</sup> Precinct
Michael Benjamin	Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19 <sup>th</sup> S.D.
Roderick Wilcox	48 <sup>th</sup> Street Mill Island Block Association
Alniota Hoyte	Area Resident
Marcia Ashby	Area Resident
Andrew Libell	Volunteers of America Legacy Family Residence
Matthew Lewis	Slam Block Association
Mark Partnow	Area Resident
Sgt. Joseph Piscatella	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
P.O. Bellah	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
P.O. Paul Alva	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
Det. Ronette Benjamin	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
P.O. Thomas Podd	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
Walter John Thompson	Rep. Willy Germain d/b/a Bonacci Restaurant Lounge
Willy Germain	Bonacci Restaurant Lounge
Peterson Bonaventure	Area Resident
Amanda Salazar	Canarsie Courier
Johnny Arcenteles	TAHIBA
Dheydra Lovell	Area Resident
Clarence Lovell	Area Resident
Norine Medas	Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association

Joseph Piscatella	Area Resident
Saye Joseph	Rep. Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46 <sup>th</sup> Council District
Martin Katzman Esq.	Rep. Bernardo DeJesus d/b/a IHOP
Bernard DeJesus	Bernardo DeJesus d/b/a IHOP
Doodley Plaisival	Area Resident
Semilla Thompson	Area Resident
Ras Onneil Morgan	Area Resident
Frieda Menos	Representing Assembly Member Hakeem Jeffries, 8 <sup>th</sup> C. D.
Sal Calise	Bergen Beach Civic Association
Paul Curiale	Mill Basin Civic Association/Millennium Development
Judith Destin	Representing Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Yolette Toussaint	Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41 <sup>st</sup> A.D.

**7:16 P.M.**

Board Member Jim Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chairperson Michael Ien called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Special Election Meeting and Regular Board meeting held on January 18, 2022. Board Member Sharon Borno made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the motion. The motion passed with 34 Yes Votes.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced the Executive Board, 2nd Vice Chair Maria Garrett, Secretary Barbara Bieber, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, Assistant District Manager Dorothy Paul and Community Assistant Gail Fazio. He asked for a moment of silence for Tyre Nichols who was killed in Memphis Tennessee and for former Board Member Sam Palmer. Chairperson Ien informed all to call the board office for viewing times and funeral arrangements for Sam Palmer.

**7:32 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairperson Michael Ien opened the Public Hearing on the Public Comment for the Agency Responses to the Community Board’s Fiscal Year 2024 Register of Capital and Expense Priorities. He introduced Budget Committee Chair Barbara Bieber who called upon DM Partnow to read the Letter of Comment for the Preliminary Budget Submissions for Fiscal Year 2024. DM Partnow explained that according to the (*New York City Charter § 238.*) each Community Board must submit a letter commenting on the responses received from the city agencies budget request submissions. The Preliminary Budget Submissions and Responses were emailed to all board members along with the meeting agenda on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. DM Partnow explained that she will read the letter which has been written on behalf of the Community Board 18 Members highlighting some of the negative responses to our requests. She will then request a motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a vote will be taken to adopt the letter which will be sent out via email to the Mayor, Borough President, Office of Management and Budget, Elected Officials, and Community board 18 Members. DM Partnow read the Letter of Comment for the Preliminary Budget Submissions for Fiscal Year 2024. Board Member Frank Seddio asked that the section of the letter about funding for a new 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct station be adjusted since he met with city officials who looked at the property located on Flatbush Avenue and Hendrickson Place as a potential new 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct House. The adjustment to the letter of comment was made, and Board Member Barbara Bieber asked for a motion that the letter be accepted. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald made a motion. Board Member Jim Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion passed with 31 Yes Votes.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Michael Ien

Chairperson Ien explained that the board received a request that Utica Avenue from Avenue H to Eastern Parkway be co-named "Guyana Avenue". He introduced Derrick Arjune from the Guyana Avenue Committee, who explained the purpose of the co-naming and informed the members that they have secured approval from Community Boards 9 and 17. He is here to ask Community Board 18 to sign off on the stretch of road in its district, from Avenue H to Foster Avenue. This initiative is designed to celebrate the achievements of the Guyanese community in Brooklyn. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald asked if they would be willing to have a shorter stretch since there are more countries other than Guyana that are represented along that stretch. Derrick Arjune responded that they are not willing to shorten the stretch. Board Member Barbara Bieber suggested that since there are a large variety of Caribbean Nations here, why not name it "Caribbean Way." James Richmond, Representing the Guyana Avenue Committee, reminded the members that the focus here tonight is to co-name Utica Avenue, Guyana Avenue. Board Member Dyal said that this Community Board needs more time to consider this and knows that the Guyana Avenue Committee is very set in their ways and a month from now this will not change. He made a motion to defer this vote until next month. There being no further questions or comments Board Member Dyal made a motion that the board table the vote for the Street Co-Naming of Utica Avenue until next month. Board Member Michelle Sealey seconded the motion. The motion passed with 16 Yes and 15 No Votes.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT** – Sue Ann Partnow

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening and informed the board that as District Manager, she represented the community board at the following meetings and events to show support for local organizations and elected officials. She attended the following:

1. The meeting on the 5G poles going up throughout the 5 Boroughs.
2. 63<sup>rd</sup> Pct. & 69<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council Meetings and Mill Basin Civic, Thanks Presidents Greg Borruso, Gardy Brazela & Paul Curiale.
3. She Congratulated the following: Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman on her Induction – Congratulations, Congress Member Hakeem Jeffries State of the Congressional District & Induction – Congratulations, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse – State of the District Address. Thank you, Council Member, a job well done.
4. Chief McEvoy – Newly assigned to South Brooklyn – Discussed Community issues and needs.
5. Borough President Reynoso's Cabinet Meeting.
6. 69<sup>th</sup> Pct. Senior Valentine's Dinner Dance. Great idea, thank you officers and Community Council
7. Flossy Organization – Anti-Gun & Anti-Violence Rally Chair Michael Ien, Valerie Woodford and I were present as the Community and elected officials spoke out. Thank you President Jibreel Jalloh for organizing the rally.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM CB 18'S CABINET MEETING**

**DDC (Dept. of Design & Construction)** – Finishing pedestrian corner ramps on Glenwood Road from Remsen – Rockaway Parkway and corner ramps & mid-block ramps on Conklin Ave. from E. 94<sup>th</sup> St. – E. 100 St. Right now, these are done on a priority basis but eventually the goal is for everywhere.

**National Grid** – Reminded everyone about their electric & gas bill relief program, energy affordability program & neighborhood heating fund. They also have funding to help not for profits renovate their spaces.

MILLENIUM DEV. CORP. – Getting the Older Adult back to the centers. Working to get young people interested in programs and off the streets. Hiring afterschool workers.

63<sup>RD</sup> PCT. – Answered questions about incidents in the area.

DOB (DEPT. OF BUILDINGS) – Reminded everyone about Buildings After Hours every Tuesday from 4pm – 7 pm. For building owners with questions or violations at their offices 345 Adams Street.

FDNY – Visit [FDNYSMART.org](http://FDNYSMART.org) website for treating minor burns and fire safety. Cooking and overloading electrical outlets are major causes of fire. In CB 18 alone, we had 49 structural fires, 12 non- structural fires, 505 medical emergencies, 307 non- medical emergencies, in total 873 emergencies during the month of January. Fire safety & first aid are so important. If your organization hasn't partnered with the FDNY, please email [sandra.sanchez@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:sandra.sanchez@fdny.nyc.gov) to schedule a safety presentation.

SANITATION – They reported, no snow even though they are ready with salt trucks and plows. All garbage was allowed to be put at the curb after 4:00 pm the day before pick up, beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, you won't be able to put your garbage or recycling out until after 8:00 pm to control the rodent situation.

DOT – Offered updates on Community projects.

Daniel Heredia - Representing Council Member Farah Louis spoke about the Council Member working to revitalize Utica Avenue & Flatlands Avenue business districts. Council Member Louis will be meeting with school Principals about the funding they need.

Ian Girshek Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams' gave an update on events and programs. He highlighted the Marine Park Compost distribution and the redistricting meeting being held at Medgar Evers College for the 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

### IN & AROUND CB 18

1. DOT repaired pothole on Flatlands 6<sup>th</sup> Street
2. 69<sup>th</sup> Pct. - Abandoned vehicle removed on Conklin Ave.
3. Abandoned trailer removed on Albany Ave.
4. 63<sup>rd</sup> Pct. – Abandoned vehicle removed from E. 70<sup>th</sup> St.
5. A new traffic signal has been and installed at the intersection of Fillmore Ave. & Ryder St.
6. The Community Board requested lighting around the Women in Need shelter at Glenwood Rd. & E. 46<sup>th</sup> St.
7. Thank you to Paul Curiale, staff & volunteers of Millennium Dev. Corp. for cleaning up and painting the outside of the old Canarsie Theatre.
8. On October 2, 2023, curbside composting will begin. No sign up is required, residents simply set out materials such as leaves, grass clippings and certain kitchen scraps in a separate 55gallon or smaller bin with a secure lid on the same day as your recycling.
9. MTA will be installing ABLE cameras on 300 buses across 9 routes in the outer Boroughs to capture drivers violating busway and bus lane rules. The Brooklyn buses are the B62, B25 and the B42 in Canarsie.

### GOOD & WELFARE

Happy Birthday to my granddaughter Lizzie who turned 5 last week

Happy Birthday to Gail's daughter

Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Gail and her husband

Congratulations to P.O. Thomas Podd on the birth of his baby boy

Condolences to the family of former Board Member Sam Palmer on his passing. Call CB office for viewing and funeral information.

Condolences to Julie Bove – Superintendent of school district 22 on the loss of her mother.  
Congratulations and welcome to the new President of Breukelen Houses – Nigel Dupree.

ALTHOUGH THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IS SHORT THERE IS MUCH TO CELEBRATE.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Today, Black History Month is a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS, INVENTORS, SCIENTISTS, TEACHERS, POLITICIANS AND MORE.

- Happy Chinese New Year. It is the year of the rabbit, known for longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

- Happy Valentine’s Day and coincidentally it is also heart health month. Try and cut down on all those chocolate hearts you received and make a date to see your doctor.

- Thank you, Board Members Jim Buchanan & Terri Cadet-Donald for organizing the goodie table. Thank you to the Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association Corridor, Norine Medas, President, for donating the beautiful cake from Steph’s Bakery.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced E.O. Capt. Darryl Smallwood, 69<sup>th</sup> Precinct who greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meetings, and event updates. DM Partnow informed E.O. Capt. Smallwood that a constituent called the office and stated that the deli on Rockaway Parkway and Avenue K is selling smoking paraphernalia to minors. E.O. Capt. Smallwood said they had a positive debriefing on that location and the field intelligence officers are aware of it. DM Partnow also informed him of an RV/Camper that has been parked for quite a while with cones around it on Paerdegat Avenue North. P.O. Nicole Rostant 69<sup>th</sup> Precinct responded that there are no plates on it, and they will have to refer it to the Department of Sanitation. DM Partnow stated that Department of Sanitation was notified. Sgt. Brian Maher 69<sup>th</sup> Precinct responded and said that NCO Charlie went out on that yesterday and it should be taken care of in the next few days.

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Sgt. Joseph Piscatella, 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct who greeted everyone and provided precinct crime statistics, meetings, and event updates. The biggest problem they have right now is Kings Plaza Mall. Johnny Arcenteles asked if his car gets stolen while his keys is in the ignition, what will the insurance company do. Sgt. Piscatella stated that he doesn’t know what the insurance would do. Board Member Denise Gourdine asked for clarification on the dates and times of the Build a Block Sector Meetings. DM Partnow said that “Look What’s Happening in and Around Community Board 18” contains that information.

**8:23 P.M.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PARKS COMMITTEE** – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

1. **Marine Park Forest Restoration, Saturday, 2/18/23, 10am – 12noon.** Volunteer with the Stewardship Team to protect the forested areas in Marine Park. Volunteers will contribute to ongoing restoration work and learn the importance of species diversity to ecosystem health. Space is limited and registration is required. Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. This event has been funded in part by NYC Service. Register online at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/reg/stewardship/13380>.
2. **Kids Week: Shelter Building, Tuesday, 2/21/23, 11am – 12noon.** Even when school’s out, our parks are still the city’s natural classroom. Bring your kids to parks

throughout the city for Kids Week during Mid-winter Recess. With programs led by the Urban Park Rangers, kids will learn shelter building using natural materials. Contact 718-421-2021.

3. **Nature Meditation Hike, Saturday, 2/25/23, 1pm – 2: 30pm.** Take a tranquil walk through the wetlands of Marine Park. Learn about different ways to relax in the park. Learn about the importance of greenspaces and adventure therapy. Contact# 718-421-2021.

Also, there are no NYC Parks events scheduled in Canarsie Park for February. Remember to check the NYC Parks website on a regular basis to get updates on events and programs citywide.

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE** – Terri Cadet-Donald, Chairperson

1. Bayview Community Center has a new initiative to get kids off the streets. They offer Martial Arts classes for kids ages 10 and up Wednesdays from 7-9 pm & Saturday from 1-3 pm.
2. Cooking classes at Bayview Community Center have started and are being held Mondays and Wednesdays between the hours of 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Cooking classes are for 10 years and up and Martial Arts classes are for 7 years and up.
3. Bayview Community Center is in the process of hiring staff for the Summer through the Millennium Development Corp.
4. For those of you who have children, grandchildren, friends, or neighbors between the ages of 14 and 24, SYEP registration has started. There are two sets of applications, one for 16 to 24-year old's and one for 14 to 15 years old. If the child is 13 and is turning 14 by July 3<sup>rd</sup> they can apply.

She also thanked Norine Medas from the Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association Corridor for donating tonight's cake.

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE** – Frank Seddio, Chairperson

Greeted everyone and informed the Board that he is pleased to announce that the committee held their first Bylaws Meeting last week. He reminded the Board Members to send any recommendations via email to the District Manager before the March meeting. The Committees goal is to have a meeting in March and review those recommendations, present them to the Board in April, and then vote in May. Chairperson Seddio suggested that new members and even seasoned members attend an orientation from our own Community Board. Let's work together and support each other for the betterment of our community. Chairperson Seddio circled back to the possibility of a new 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Station. He met with Brendan Maguire who is the Legal Counsel to the Mayor and OMB, and he is optimistic that a new Station House is on the horizon.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE** – Tomas Hernandez, Jr., Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Application Received - Vote

#### **NEW APPLICATION AND TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Eko Lounge Inc., TBD, 11010 Flatlands Avenue – 11207

#### **NEW APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Willy Germain, Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, 1570-1572 Ralph Avenue – 11236

**NEW APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Bernardo DeJesus., IHOP, 11000 Flatlands Avenue – 11207

**RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Glen Terrace Inc., Glen Terrace, 5305-21 Avenue N – 11234
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7, 3622 Quentin Road – 11234
- Night Flight Inc., Bamboo Garden Restaurant, 9505 Avenue L– 11236

Chairperson Tomas Hernandez Jr stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local elected officials, civic associations and the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> Police Precincts about the SLA Applications received from Eko Lounge Inc., TBD, 11010 Flatlands Avenue, 11207, Willy Germain, Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, 1570-1572 Ralph Avenue, 11236, Bernardo DeJesus., IHOP, 11000 Flatlands Avenue, 11207, Glen Terrace Inc., Glen Terrace, 5305-21 Avenue N, 11234, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7, 3622 Quentin Road, 11234, and Night Flight Inc., Bamboo Garden Restaurant, 9505 Avenue L, 11236. No objections were received for the New & Renewal Applications received from Willy Germain, Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, Bernardo DeJesus, IHOP, Glen Terrace Inc., Glen Terrace, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7, and Night Flight Inc., Bamboo Garden Restaurant. Chairperson Hernandez asked if any applicants were present. Walter John Thompson Rep. Willy Germain d/b/a Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, Willy Germain owner of Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, Martin Katzman Esq. Rep. Bernardo DeJesus d/b/a IHOP, Bernard DeJesus owner of Bernardo DeJesus d/b/a IHOP were present. Chairperson Hernandez Jr thanked them for attending the meeting this evening. Chairperson Hernandez inquired as to why IHOP wants a liquor license. Martin Katzman Esq. Rep. Bernardo DeJesus d/b/a IHOP explained that IHOP is trying to compete with similar types of restaurants. They also oversee it completely and staff must conform to laws and must have training. There is training for each shift and staff including the manager and those who provide service. There being no further questions or comments Chairperson Hernandez asked for a motion to approve the SLA Applications received from Willy Germain, Bonacci Restaurant Lounge, Bernardo DeJesus., IHOP, Glen Terrace Inc., Glen Terrace, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7, and Night Flight Inc., Bamboo Garden Restaurant. Board Member David Price made a motion to approve. Board Member Malynda Jordan-Dandridge seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 28 Yes, 1 No, and 1 Abstention vote. Chairperson Hernandez asked for a motion to table the SLA Application received from Eko Lounge Inc., TBD, 11010 Flatlands Avenue, 11207 until the 75<sup>th</sup> Precinct replies with a position. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald made a motion. Board Member Maria Garrett seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 27 Yes votes.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – Gil Cygler, Chairperson

Chairperson Gil Cygler explained that last month we had a brief presentation from the NYC Department of Transportation for the proposed Capital Improvement Project for Kings Highway to Avenue K to Ocean Avenue. Since the project contained a great deal of information, more than could be addressed at our meeting, the Community Board requested a copy of the NYC Department of Transportation's PowerPoint presentation and sent it via email to the full board. This way you can digest the full scope of the project and consider voting and sending an approval letter to the NYC Department of Transportation. The Transportation Committee recommends a favorable vote for this much needed improvement project. Chairperson Cygler made a motion to give the NYC Department of Transportation a letter of approval from Community Board 18 on the proposed Kings Highway to Avenue K to Ocean Avenue project. Board Member Violine Roberty stated that at the Transportation Committee Meeting they made suggestions or changes about things that concerned them and wanted to make sure that those changes were being made. How do we follow up? She mentioned the lighting at Avenue K and also the NYC DOT School Safety Project on Williams

Avenue. The members of the Committee asked DOT to send letters out to the community about the safety project. DM Partnow informed her that the NYC Department of Transportation will notify us when the letters go out. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 25 Yes and 2 Abstention votes.

Chairperson Gil Cygler explained that unlike the extensive Kings Highway Project, the NYC Department of Transportation met with the Transportation Committee and District Manager Partnow on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> for a smaller presentation on the proposed NYC DOT School Safety Improvement Project on Williams Ave from Stanley Avenue to Flatlands Avenue. Additional traffic signals, angled parking, crosswalks and widened sidewalks are all in the proposal to increase the safety of the children, teachers, and parents. The Transportation Committee asked that the NYC Department of Transportation notify residents of the surrounding community by sending home a flyer about the proposed safety plan. With that adjustment, the Transportation Committee supports the safety proposal. Nigel Dupree, Representing the Breuklen Houses, asked how much impact this will have on his community and how long will the construction take. Chairperson Cygler explained that it is not an extensive project, and they hope to start later in the year. It's basically surface work such as repainting the lanes and widening the sidewalk. It could take a couple of weeks or a couple of months. Nigel Dupree of Breuklen Houses asked how this project benefits the residents of Breuklen Houses. Chairperson Cygler explained that wider sidewalks will mean less time crossing the street. Nigel Dupree expressed his concerns about construction causing rodent infestation. Board Member Ian Gaynor explained that usually when you widen sidewalks you lose road space so are we losing a lane by creating wider sidewalks? Chairperson Cygler said yes, we are losing one lane because they're going to add angle parking and widen sidewalks. Board Member Gaynor asked about speed cameras. Board Member Felina Backer stated that they already have speed cameras. Board Member Sal Calise asked if the NYC Department of Transportation gave a rendering to the Committee. He expressed the dismay of Bergen Beach residents after the sidewalks were widened. DM Partnow said the DOT did show us sketches. Board Member Backer said that the DOT said they will be adding a traffic light in the middle of the block making it safer for the community. Chairperson Cygler made a motion to give the NYC Department of Transportation a letter of approval from Community Board 18 on the proposed NYC DOT School Safety Improvement Project. Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 18 Yes, 4 No, and 7 Abstention votes.

Taxi and Limousine Commission Application Received – Vote

**RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION LIVERY BASE STATION LICENSE:**

- Eco Ride Inc., Electric Blue Car Service, 6002 Foster Avenue – 11236

Chairperson Gil Cygler stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local elected officials, civic associations and the 69<sup>th</sup> Precinct about the TLC Renewal Application received from Eco Ride Inc., Electric Blue Car Service, 6002 Foster Avenue, 11236. No objections were received. Chairperson Cygler asked if the applicant or a representative was present. There being no one present, Chairperson Cygler made a motion that CB18 recommends approval of the Renewal Application received for Eco Ride Inc., Electric Blue Car Service, 6002 Foster Avenue, 11236. Board Member Felina Backer seconded the Motion and the Motion passed with 28 Yes votes.

Chairperson Ien introduced Frieda Menos, Representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries Office 8<sup>th</sup> C.D., Sabrina Dieujuste, Rep. Council Member Farah Louis, 45<sup>th</sup> Council District, Yolette Toussaint, Representing Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, 41<sup>st</sup> A.D., Michael Benjamin, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D., Judith Destin, Representing Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Office, and Ian Girshek, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams 59<sup>th</sup> A.D. Each representative greeted everyone and provided information



on programs, and upcoming community events.

Chairperson Michael Ien recognized Saye Joseph, Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse Office 46<sup>th</sup> C.D. who was also present at the meeting.

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Board Member Felina Backer thanked everyone who attended Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman's inauguration that took place on January 28<sup>th</sup>

Johnny Arcenteles asked if Community Board 18 can give him an answer as to how many locations within the Community Board has asylum seekers. DM Partnow stated that the only time we received notification concerning asylum seekers was at one shelter that is located on Kings Highway. Johnny Arcenteles stated that he raised this question because those asylum seekers stray from their locations. He asked how the Police Department handles those issues. DM Partnow said that he would need to speak with the Police Department.

Nigel Dupree Representing Breuklen Houses expressed that earlier Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald mentioned some programs at Bayview Houses Community Center. Bayview and Glenwood Houses have great Community Centers. However, Breuklen Houses Community Center was built in 1953 and he asked if renovations for Breuklen Community Center can be added to our budget submissions. He appreciates everyone's time and looks forward to working and participating with the Community Board. DM Partnow informed him the request is already included in our budget submissions.

Ras Omeil Novado Morgan, area resident and business owner, representing Rebecca Morgan Dementia War Inc., expressed his concern about outreach and African woman being at high risk for dementia in the United States. He provided information on Alzheimer's and Dementia programs which will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Jamaica Branch Public Library.

Roderick Wilcox, Representing the 48<sup>th</sup> Street Mill Island Block Association, expressed concerns about tree pruning on his block and requested to have a Parks Department representative attend his Block Association meeting to discuss concerns about street tree pruning. District Manager Partnow informed him that she spoke with Andrew Newman at the Parks Department via email. He explained that they have staffing issues and no contractor for block pruning and that his block is scheduled to be addressed next fiscal year. DM Partnow said that Parks Dept. indicated that the delays are due to funding, staffing and contractor issues and are working to address the backlog of scheduled pruning. Andrew Newman also said that he sent someone out to inspect the trees and there were no immediate hazards.

Noreen Medas, Representing Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association, greeted everyone and thanked them for supporting the Rockaway Parkway Merchants as they took part in their first Restaurant Week. Wellness Wednesdays continue, and they received a grant for five more crocheting sessions at the Canarsie Library. She provided further information on programs and upcoming community events.

Board Member Barbara Bieber recommended that the board move or take the votes ahead of the Committee Reports so that most of the board members are here to vote.

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Maria Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Tomas Hernandez Jr. seconded the Motion. The motion passed with 31 Yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

*End....*