

## **COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 18, 2024**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Rosamond Alvaranga  
Johnny Arcenteles  
Felina Backer  
Barbara Bieber  
Greg Borruso  
Roosevelt Boursiquot  
Gardy Brazela  
Jamaal Carryl  
Paul Curiale  
Gil Cygler  
Marie Delus  
Nigel Dupree  
Maria Garrett  
Joan Gilbert  
Denise Gourdine  
Francesca Griffith  
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.

Aryanna Holder  
Naomi Hopkins  
Naomi Lehrer  
Rob Mazzuchin  
Omeil Morgan  
Doodley Plaisival  
Violette Roberty  
Michelle Sealey  
Akis Sinesi  
Julius Stukes  
Sharene Williams  
Maria Willis  
Valerie Woodford  
Grace Zwillenberg

### **GUESTS:**

Isabella Torres  
Tanasia Swift  
Alex Tretiak  
Cathy Dews  
Roshelle Nelson  
Michael Benjamin  
Stu Heier  
Dr. Jackie Cody  
Kamla K. Millwood  
Saye Joseph  
Kimberly A. Vick  
Andrew Zibell  
P.O. Samuel Maria  
Mariam Khan  
Mark Partnow  
Christine Delius  
Christopher Leon Johnson  
Andrew Duret  
Samia Cean  
Franklin Benjamin  
Econzi Benjamin  
Roslyn Campbell  
Tatyana Nurse  
Semilla Thompson  
David Phillip  
Sabrina Dieujuste  
Akis Sinesi  
Hon. Jaime Williams  
A Calise  
Alejandro Garcia

Billion Oyster Project  
Billion Oyster Project  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Area Resident  
Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Representing State Senator Kevin Parker, 21<sup>st</sup> S.D.  
Marine Park Civic Association  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
69<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Representing Congress Member Yvette Clarke's Office, 9<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Area Resident  
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Brooklyn Borough Present Antonio Reynoso  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Council Member Farh Louis, 45<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Mill Island Civic  
Assembly Member, 59<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Area Resident  
Area Resident

Guerda Victor	Area Resident
J. Mary	Area Resident
Jennifer Bedeau	Area Resident
Nancy Montgomery	Area Resident
Maryam Said	HES
Noreen Bhola	Area Resident
Shania Uppal	Area Resident
Tiara M.	Area Resident
Jackie Hamilton	Area Resident

### **7:06 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

### **7:08 P.M.**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and introduced Isabella Torres.

### **7:12 P.M.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Isabella Torres, Field Station Coordinator for the Billion Oyster Project, greeted everyone and provided a presentation on the Billion Oyster Project and the Oyster Reef site in Community Board 18. She gave some background on the project and how it began at the NY Harbor School Maritime Program with the focus on restoring a billion oysters to the waters with the help of one million people by 2035. Ms. Torres explained why oysters are so important and how they can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day and help protect shorelines from wave action. If you go back hundreds of years ago, oysters were used for food, trade and tools. Even though an abundance of oysters was used, they were always given the opportunity to rejuvenate. As more people migrated to the US and NY, oysters were readily available and eaten for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for the oysters to reproduce. Eventually, pollution and dumping caused oysters to feed on bacteria causing illness to those eating them. The harbor needed to be dredged but New York put those laws into effect too late to protect the environment. Ms. Torres explained that's where the Billion Oyster Project comes in. We are helping to restore the natural environment through community engagement, field programming and education. In CB18 there is the Canarsie Field Station located at the Sebago Canoe Club. Participants take part in reef monitoring, oyster research, water chemistry and wild oyster surveys. Canarsie has been extremely successful and thanks to help from the surrounding community, the Billion Oyster Project is now working on a proposal to expand. Oyster restoration is important for shoreline stabilization, reducing erosion and promoting long term wetlands which protect from large storms and flooding. The Billion Oyster Project has engaged 20,000 NYC students and to date have restored 150 million oysters. We would be happy to work with the CB18 community by connecting you to projects that ultimately serve you. Board Members and community guests wanted more information about volunteering, school projects and collecting oyster shells. Ms. Torres gave her email address and website information. Chair Hopkins thanked Ms. Torres and encouraged everyone to take part in the billion-oyster project.

### **7:30 P.M.**

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2024. Board Member Grace Zwillenberg made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes have been approved from the last regular board meeting.

**7:32 P.M.**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Naomi Hopkins

Good evening, everyone!

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. I hope you find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones. I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work this year. Your commitment to our community and the time you've given to our board is deeply appreciated. It's been a great year, and I'm proud of all we've accomplished together.

This evening, we are welcoming back member Michelle Sealey, and I'm happy to share that member Michael len is recovering and to keep in touch by texting. If you have his number, please reach out and send him some good vibes. I'd also like to welcome new Board Member Sara Hendrix and remind everybody that community board applications are open and are available on the Borough President's website.

I'm thrilled to report that committee meetings are happening, and I couldn't be more excited to see the progress being made. Starting this month, we will be streamlining our agenda by focusing on just one item per meeting. By pairing this with the hard work of our committees, we'll be able to move more efficiently.

Now, I'd like to touch on *Street Co-naming's*. A few months ago, a family came before us with a request to co-name a street in honor of their slain son. As part of the process, our board votes on the recommendation, which is then passed by the City Council for further vetting. Occasionally, requests are rejected either because they don't meet the established criteria or because the individual doesn't pass the vetting process. If everything goes smoothly, the City Council introduces a law to co-name the street, which happens twice a year for all 51 districts. Over the years, our board has consistently voted unanimously on street co-naming requests. While some of these votes did not align with the NYC standardized requirements—such as the person being a uniformed officer, making a significant impact in the area, and being free of legal issues, our votes have always reflected our values. We vote with our hearts, and I'm proud to be part of a board that prioritizes people, but we must be clear-eyed about the process. We can't override the law, no matter how strong our feelings might be. For this reason, I created the Landmark and Co-Naming Committee. While no items have come before the committee yet, I wanted to address this publicly, so people aren't left wondering what's going on. When the committee does bring a recommendation forward, please understand that we may have to weigh some very heavy considerations. It's important to remember that we're not doing anyone any favors by making decisions based on emotion alone. We need to ensure we're upholding the law while also honoring our community.

Again, thank you for your work, your dedication, and your passion for the community. It's been a great year, and I'm excited to see what the new year brings as we continue our important work together.

Happy holidays to each of you, and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2025!

**7:39 P.M.**

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

District Manager Partnow greeted and thanked everyone for being here this evening.

**T'IS THE SEASON FROM THANKSGIVING TO NEW YEAR'S AND OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO GIVE BACK**

69<sup>th</sup> Pct. Council Thanksgiving Dinner at South Shore Manor – Thank you President Gardy Brazela and our 69 officers.

Canarsie Lions Brotherhood Service – Thank you President Jean Joseph

The Bernard Catcher Ecumenical Service – Thank you Temple Sholom & St. Bernard's Church.

Community Holiday Lighting Event – Sponsored by Austin Ferrazzano, CB18, Frank Seddio & Millennium Development.

BP Cabinet Meeting – Presentation by the American Red Cross-Volunteer Mental Health Specialists, relocating victims, free smoke alarms and a 24-hour Red Cross Center 877-733-2767. Fire, flood, building collapse, they're there to help.

69<sup>th</sup> Pct. Council, Mill Basin Civic, Bergen Beach Civic, Mill Island Civic & Marine Park Civic

Meetings & Holiday Celebrations – Thank you Presidents Gardy Brazela, Paul Curiale, Mike Trotta, Ike Sinesi & Rob Mazzuchin.

Holiday Light Displays throughout CB18 – The Lott House, PS 276, Amersfort Park, Canarsie Merchants Assoc., Fox Playground and a special Millennium Development Holiday Tribute in memory of CB18 Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald – Thank you Greg Borruso, Principal Jenny Troman, Councilmember Farah Louis, Assemblymember Jaime Williams, President Norine Medas & Paul Curiale.

Thank you, Councilmember Farah Louis, for hosting your Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon

Toy Distributions – Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse, Senator Roxanne Persaud, Assembly Members Jaime Williams & Monique Chandler-Waterman, the 69<sup>th</sup> Pct. And the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pct.- Thanks to our elected officials and local Precincts, neighborhood kids and those in hospitals will be able to enjoy some holiday fun.

Thank you, Assemblymember Jaime Williams for hosting Holiday on the Avenue featuring an ugly sweater contest, Police Santa, a gingerbread house contest, books, toys and lots of giveaways.

### **IN & AROUND COMMUNITY BOARD 18**

The DOT is improving visibility for pedestrians through a tool called "daylighting". This safety measure will remove visibility-blocking obstructions, such as parked vehicles near intersections. Over 300 locations throughout the 5 boroughs have been completed with the remaining 700 to go. Three locations in CB18 have new no-standing signs – Avenue M & E. 94<sup>th</sup> St, E. 105 St & Flatlands 3<sup>rd</sup> and Glenwood Rd. & E. 81 St.

Proposed improvements along Ave. J between E. 80<sup>th</sup> & E. 81<sup>st</sup> St. and E. 81<sup>st</sup> St between Aves. J & K. The reconstruction includes re-grading roadways and sidewalks to address flooding issues and ensuring proper drainage by installing catch basins, water mains, storm sewers and sanitary sewers. There will also be safety improvements by extending the curbs and installing raised crosswalks.

Mulchfest sites to say good-bye to your Christmas trees can be found by going to [nyc.gov/mulchfest](https://nyc.gov/mulchfest) or by calling 311. There will also be free bags of mulch at select sites in January.

The New York City Department of Sanitation, in observance of Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, 2024, will not be picking up trash, curbside composting or recycling on the holiday. Residents who normally receive **Wednesday trash, curbside composting, or recycling collection** may place their material at the curb on Wednesday evening, for collection beginning Thursday. However, residents should expect collection delays, as is common after holidays.

Sanitation is now hiring Emergency Snow Shovelers to assist in removing snow and ice from bus stops, crosswalks, hydrants and step streets. You can apply at [nyc.gov/snow](https://nyc.gov/snow).

### **CB18 DECEMBER CABINET MEETING**

**SANITATION** – All city agencies, religious institutions and commercial establishments must have their garbage in closed bins or dumpsters. Beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, fines will be issued for homes, businesses and religious institutions even if a private carting company is used.

**69<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT** – Along Seaview Ave. from E. 102 St. – E. 108 St illegal dumping. Sanitation will be placing mobile cameras. Tow op for RVs on Foster Avenue & E. 83 St. with outside agencies since some of the RV's are occupied. Enhanced patrols around Bildersee JHS vicinity. Retail & auto theft on the rise.

**FDNY** – Holiday Season – increase in fires due to cooking, candles, faulty lighting and of course lithium batteries. Lithium batteries are power many things, be weary of the size of the battery and the manufacturer of the item. Be vigilant about charging capabilities and smells. Wildfires, this was the largest dry spell in NY history.

**Marine Parks Administrator Eric Peterson** – Lifeguard recruitment is underway since there was a lifeguard shortage last year. One of the locations for Mulchfest at on Ave. U at Marine Park from 121/26-1/12/25. Remember to remove all the lights and decorations. Homeless outreach sweep in Marine Park, Lenape Park and Marine Park Golf course. Services were welcomed and people were brought out of the cold.

**NATIONALGRID** –Clean energy Pilot program for Geothermal heating at Flatlands Ave. & Louisiana Ave. which is the border of CB18 and CB5 at a cost of \$100 million.

**DDC-** Pedestrian & Vehicle Safety B82 SBS which runs along Kings Highway to Flatlands Ave. will be working on water mains during the overnight on Flatlands Ave. from E. 82 St-92 St. beginning 12/11 and lasting for 4-5 weeks. December 16<sup>th</sup> planting is scheduled to begin depending on weather.

**Paul Curiale Director Millennium Development, Sabrina Dejuiste Representing Council Member Farah Louis, David Schaeffer Representing Senator Roxanne Persaud and Chris Smith Representing Assemblymember Monique Chandler-Waterman**– Updated everyone on upcoming events and programs being offered through elected officials offices.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

Congratulations Board Member Maria Delus on receiving an award from Mayor Adams for assisting a constituent who suffered a mental health crisis on the NYC subway

Condolences to Board Member Eugene Burshtein on the loss of his mother

Reminder – There is always correspondence from the Community Board office, so please check any emails that come from BK18.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa, enjoy a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday with family and friends.

Let's make this a great New Year. See you in 2025

### **7:50 P.M.**

P.O. Samuel Maria, Representing the 69<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct greeted everyone and extended Happy Holidays & Happy New Year wishes.

### **7:51 P.M.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PARKS COMMITTEE** – Violine Roberty, Chairperson

1. Joint effort between Sanitation and Parks to clean up along the fence line on Bergen Avenue between Avenue U and Avenue K.
2. Sunners Park – Flag is ripped and needs to be replaced. It was replaced previously but it keeps ripping.
3. Parks Committee Meeting will be held in January

Board Member Paul Curiale thanked everyone who came out last night for the holiday lighting in memory of Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald.

### **7:52 P.M.**

#### **SLA & CANNABIS COMMITTEE** – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

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

- NYC Boat Cruises Inc., TBD, 2094 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, 11234

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

- Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, Chipotle Mexican Grill #3625, 2179 Ralph Avenue – 11234

Chairperson Paul Curiale stated that the board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct about the SLA New and Renewal applications received from NYC Boat Cruises Inc., TBD, 2094 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, 11234, and Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, Chipotle Mexican Grill #3625, 2179 Ralph Avenue, 11234. Chair Curiale stated that no objections were received. Chair Curiale moved the motion to accept that the board approve the SLA New Application received from NYC Boat Cruises Inc., TBD, 2094 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, 11234 with the following stipulations: **Newly amended application to include the entire vessel, dock will only be used for boat parking, there will be no serving of alcohol at this docking location and no patrons will board and or disembark the boat at this location.** Board Member Violine Roberty seconded the motion. The motion passed with 28 Yes, and 1 Abstention votes recorded. Chair Curiale moved the motion to accept that the board approve the SLA Renewal Application received from Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, Chipotle Mexican Grill #3625, 2179 Ralph Avenue, 11234. Board Member Maria Willis seconded the motion. The motion passed with 26 Yes, 2 No, and 1 Abstention votes recorded.

### **8:10 P.M.**

Chair Hopkins explained that she doesn't typically vote unless there's a tie and will cast the tie breaking vote. As far as the motions go, we're going to go into January as experts. Think of a motion as an object and you're moving it to the floor for a vote. I move that we approve, I move that we go, I move that we don't, I move that we stop, I move that we buy. You just move it. When we move one of these applications, I move that we approve a new application or move that we renew. Someone seconds it, and then we go forward. For SLA and Cannabis, we must do roll call votes, not voice votes because of their importance. Additionally, when we have questions, remember questions are addressed to the Chair. More than likely, I will defer to the committee chair. This is how we keep things calm and orderly. We opened the floor for New Business.

### **8:13 P.M.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A Board Member expressed concern with National Grid work that's being done on his block without prior notification. District Manager Sue Ann Partnow advised him that she will speak with National Grid.

**8:22 P.M.**

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Michael Benjamin, Representing State Senator Kevin Parker's, 21<sup>st</sup> S.D., Christine Delus, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D., Roshelle Nelson, Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58<sup>th</sup> A.D., Saye Joseph, Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse's Office, 46<sup>th</sup> C.D., Sabrina Dieujuste, Representing Council Member Farah Louis' Office, 45<sup>th</sup> C.D., and Roslyn Campbell, Representing Borough President Antonio Reynoso's Office, greeted everyone and provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

A community guest requested information on a speed bump that was submitted through Assembly Member Helene Weinstein's office. Chair Hopkins explained the process.

A Board Member shared a resource called Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) which has created an interactive mapping site that shows all co-named streets across the city.

Another Board Member expressed concern about a family of gun violence being denied a street co-naming from the City Council. District Manager Partnow informed everyone that there will be a street co-naming committee meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm here at the community board. The committee will go over the criteria set forth by the City Council for Community Boards. The meeting is open, and all are welcome. The information is on our website.

A community guest informed the board of a rally and youth festival to stand up to gun violence being held from January 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The flyer will be shared with the CB18.

Alex Tretiak, Canarsie Library provided information on programs and upcoming events happening at the Canarsie Library.

Assembly Member Jaime Williams greeted and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy 2025. She thanked the Millennium staff and Flatlands Civic for their help with the Fox tree lighting. The Assembly Member gave updates on the Floyd Bennett Field closing and spoke about congestion pricing and how it will hurt our community.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Greg Borruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Valerie Woodford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

*End....*