

COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 19, 2025

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

Cassandra Alvarez
Johnny Arcentales
Mohamed Azez
Felina Backer
Alan Bash
Barbara Bieber
Greg Borruso
Gardy Brazela
Lisa Callendar-Wilson
Jamaal Carryl
Kimberley Coke
Donnmae Crossfield
Paul Curiale
Marie Delus
Stanley Delva
Nigel Dupree
Maria Garrett
Denise Gordon

Denise Gourdine
Francesca Griffith
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.
Naomi Hopkins
Naomi Lehrer
Rob Mazzuchin
Doodley Plaisival
Elaine Reid
Yolaine Ridore
Akis Sinesi
Christopher Smith
Victoria Stennett
Julius Stukes
Jennifer Troman
Mike Trotta
Arnelle Williams
Sharene Williams
Maria Willis

Valerie Woodford
Grace Zwillenberg

GUESTS:

Mercedes Narcisse
Monique Chandler-Waterman
Jaime Williams
Tanisha Johnson
Sabrina Dieujuste
Eric Peterson
Robert Eardley
Tanasia Swift
Jada Henry
Maryam Said
P.O. Murphy
Michael Condon

Council Member, 46th Council District
NYS Assembly Member, 58th A.D.
NYS Assembly Member, 59th A.D.
Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45th C.D.
NYC Parks Department
NYC Parks Department
Billion Oyster Project
Billion Oyster Project
HES
69th Precinct
Brooklyn Public Library

7:06 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

7:09 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

A quorum was present to begin the meeting.

7:12 P.M.

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2025. The Chair recognized SLA Chair Jamaal Carryl with a correction to his report. Correction noted, a motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Chair Hopkins introduced the new Captain of the 69th Pct. Captain Shashana Wynter who expressed her excitement at being part of the 69th Pct. again since she served as the Executive Officer here a few years

ago. She is looking forward to working with everyone.

7:18 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS/PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Naomi Hopkins reminded the CB Members that in June of 2025, a developer made a presentation to the Board for a one-story commercial building at 5502 Flatlands Avenue. Two weeks ago, NYC Council Land Use reached out with a proposal to add 3 stories or 6 stories of residential apartments above the store. Last week, an emergency meeting of CB18 was called to hear the proposal. Since a quorum was not present a vote could not be taken. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed unanimously to keep the original vote from the June 2025 meeting keeping 5502 Flatlands Avenue a one-story commercial building with no residential overlay.

7:33 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Naomi Hopkins

Welcome, everyone, to our November meeting.

You'll notice on the agenda that we have *no* public hearing tonight; we took care of that during last week's special meeting.

You'll also see that we *actually* have old business this month. Because we didn't have quorum, we weren't able to vote on the proposal at 5502 Flatlands Avenue. When we get to that point on the agenda, I'll speak more about it, but for now I want to talk about quorum itself.

By **December 1st**, I'm asking all committee chairs to report attendance to the office so we can review it. As a reminder, we meet on the **third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. unless there's a holiday**. If you cannot make the meetings, then please resign. We have ten meetings a year, plus committee work. If you're on a committee that meets at a time that genuinely doesn't work for you, communicate that. Lastly, I'm also convening a meeting of all chairs in December before our board meeting. CB18 has a **waiting list** of community members who want to serve; many of whom regularly attend these meetings. I'm encouraging committee chairs to bring motions to the floor to remove members who are not taking their responsibilities seriously. It isn't fair to the community, and it isn't fair to the people who want to do the work.

Now, let me end on a brighter note.

As we head into Thanksgiving, I hope each of you gets a little rest, a little joy, and at least one plate you don't have to share. Whether you're traveling, hosting, or hiding from your family in the kitchen, I wish you all a warm and peaceful holiday.

7:39 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING

63rd Pct. & 69th Pct. Community Councils, Mill Basin, Mill Island, Marine Park & Bergen Beach Civic meetings – Thank you to the Presidents Greg Borruso, Gardy Brazela, Paul Curiale, Rob Mazzuchin, Ike Sinesi & Mike Trotta. Diwali started off the season of lights with a celebration at the Carmine Carro Center in Marine Park. Canarsie 3rd Space Ribbon Cutting to kick-off a designated area along the Rockaway Parkway corridor for movies and gatherings. Thank you, Rockaway Parkway Merchants Association President Norine Mades, Councilmembers Mercedes Mercedes Narcisse's Resource Fair in Kings Plaza & Veterans Resource at the Carmine Carro Center, Assemblymembers Jamie Williams' Fall Festival & Veterans Day Salute, Monique Chandler-Waterman's Harvest Festival, State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Domestic Violence Seminar. Our elected officials do this for you so take advantage, they're free.

IN & AROUND COMMUNITY BOARD 18

- 69th Pct. Breast Cancer & Domestic Violence Walk
- District 22 Carol Pino Learning Farm Fall Festival
- Hurricane Sandy Remembrance
- NHS (Neighborhood Housing Services) Grand opening/Ribbon Cutting of their new building 1734 Rockaway Pkwy
- Rally at East 108th Street to oppose a rumored Men's Shelter
- CB18 Approved Street Co-Naming for Judge Sy Gerschwer
- Marine Park Ave. S parking lot construction began late Summer 2025 and was completed Fall 2025 an inspection of the lot is set for tomorrow and if everything looks good, the contractor will remove the fence.

CB18 NOVEMBER CABINET MEETING

ASSEMBLY MEMBER JAIME WILLIAMS – DOT finally installed the all-way stop signs on Ave. S. Wrote letter to Mayor Adams to create Ferry transportation at Canarsie Pier but no response.

DDC- B82 – Remsen & Flatlands Aves. excavation completed

63rd Pct. – Joint towing operation with Sanitation, 68 vehicles towed

69th Pct. – New Commanding Officer

DEP – Working on 2350 E. 69th St. bulk heads, 827 E. 56th St. sewer issues, 1240 E. 73rd St. cleaning sewer.

REPRESENTING SENATOR ROSANNE PERSAUD – Upcoming event Turkey & Chicken giveaway for residents in Senate District 19.

NYC DEPARTMENT OF AGING – Winner of NYC Aging's talent competition was from Penn South in Manhattan. There will be a NYC & NYS Aging Event that focuses on the needs of older adults. Reminding everyone that it is Medicare open enrollment time. For more information call 212-AGINGNYC.

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene – Update on open enrollment.

MAYOR ADAMS' COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICE – Local and around the city updates.

GOOD & WELFARE

All free local events in CB18 can be found in our Look What's Happening, on our website and on the tables in our lobby

Leaf bags available in our office

Please check emails from Bk18 and that includes your spam

Happy & Healthy Thanksgiving hope you win the turkey tonight which were provided by the
NYPD POLICE FOUNDATION

Remember to walk off what you eat while looking for deals on Black Friday and make sure to shop local and support the small business owners in CB18

7:46 P.M.

Assembly Member Jaime Williams urged constituents to fill out housing applications for a new building on Utica Avenue. She invited everyone to take part in her turkey giveaway and spoke about her humanitarian relief efforts for the Hurricane victims in Jamaica and the Earthquake victims in Haiti.

Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, along with colleagues Assemblywoman Jaime Williams and State Senator Roxanne Persaud, have secured \$20,000 in scholarships for High School students preparing for college. Her bill asking that burial fees for victim's families be increased from \$6,000 to \$12,000 has passed. The Assembly Member explained that Persons Experiencing Emotional Crisis (PEC),

is the correct way to describe an emotionally disturbed person.

Detective Thomas Podd, 63rd Pct. stressed the dangers of drinking and driving since people overdo it during the holidays.

Jennifer Horseford, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud spoke about the bill the Senator introduced to expand agency assistance on human trafficking. The agencies include the DMV and DOT. With more agencies working together, there is a better chance to successfully combat human trafficking

Sabrina Dejuiste, Representing Councilmember Farah Louis spoke about legislation for NYPD to deploy school crossing guards to all public and charter schools for the safety of our children.

7:58 P.M.

AD-HOC LANDMARKS & Co-NAMING COMMITTEE – Akis Sinesi, Chairperson

Chairperson Sinesi introduced the application for the co-naming of the northeast corner of East 53rd Street and Avenue L in memory of former Board Member Terri Cadet-Donald. Terri was devoted to the community she loved. She served as an officer of the Mill Basin Civic, 63rd Community Council, was an active member of the Kiwanis Club and her Church where she mentored young people. Chairperson Akis Sinesi made the motion to co-name the northeast corner of East 53rd St. and Avenue L for Terri Cadet-Donald. Board Member Julius Stukes seconded the motion. The motion passed with 36 Yes votes recorded. 1st Vice Chair Greg Borruso shared that Terri Cadet-Donald was a wonderful human being whom we all miss dearly, and he expressed his appreciation that everyone recognizes the significance of honoring her.

8:04P.M.

TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE – Greg Borruso, Chairperson

Chairperson Borruso reported that the Transportation and Safety Committee met with the group Stop the Chop NY/NJ. The group is advocating for a ban on non-essential helicopter flights over the NYC area. He noted that helicopters are important for emergencies, but they are not essential for trips to the Hamptons or sightseeing tours. Stop the Chop has already visited two other Community Boards asking for letters of support to stop these unnecessary helicopters that impact the quality of life with noise, health concerns, and pollution. Chair Borruso said that for people who live under the flight paths, like some of our Board Members, the constant noise is a daily nuisance. Chairperson Borruso moved that Community Board 18 pass a resolution supporting Stop the Chop NY/NJ and ban non-essential helicopter traffic. Board Member Akis Sinesi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8:11 P.M.

PARKS COMMITTEE – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

Chair Curiale introduced Tanasia Swift, representing the Billion Oyster Project. The initiative aims to create a living oyster reef to support coastal resilience and STEM education. The project will expand historic reefs to help protect against storms, improve water quality, shoreline restoration and enhance marine life in Jamaica Bay, all while incorporating community engagement. The oyster habitat will provide ecological and educational benefits to Community Board 18, especially the Canarsie/Bergen Beach area by 2029. Chair Curiale expressed strong support for the project. He also introduced Eric Peterson, NYC Parks Administrator, and Robert Eardley, NYC Parks Manager, and welcomed them to the team.

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse thanked everyone that joined her at the rally on East 108th St. to oppose a rumored Men's shelter. She also explained the bill she introduced that gives homeowners the legal right to rent out their homes as an Airbnb.

8:19 P.M.

SLA & CANNABIS COMMITTEE – Jamaal Carryl, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

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

- Black Business Men Inc., TBD, 2177 Flatbush Avenue – 11234

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

- NY Tracks Café Inc., NONE, 1556 Ralph Avenue – 11234

2. Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Premise License Application Received - Vote

NEW APPLICATION FOR AN ADULT-USE RETAIL DISPENSARY PREMISES LICENSE

- Sala Alammari, TBD, 11114A Flatlands Avenue – 11207

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from Black Businessmen Inc., TBD, 2177 Flatbush Avenue, 11234. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63rd Precinct. Chair Jamaal Carryl moved the motion that the Board approve the new SLA license for Black Businessmen Inc., Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider. The motion passed with 33 yes, and 3 abstention votes.

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from NY Tracks Café, Inc., 1556 Ralph Ave., 11234. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63rd Precinct. Chair Carryl moved the motion that the Board write a letter to the New York State Liquor Authority recommending **denial** of the application. This recommendation is based on numerous community complaints and concerns, as well as the applicant's failure to appear before the Board on two separate occasions when requested to address these issues. The motion to deny passed with 34 yes votes.

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from Sala Alammari, TBD, 111-14A Flatlands Avenue-11207. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63rd Precinct. Chair Carryl moved the motion that the Board write a letter to the New York State Office of Cannabis Management recommending **denial** of the application. This recommendation is based on the applicant's failure to comply with Community Board 18's established rules and conditions, as well as the applicant's failure to appear before the SLA/Cannabis Committee to address community concerns. The motion to deny passed with 32 yes, and 1 abstention votes.

8:44 P.M.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Canarsie Library representative reported that the library is temporarily closed for renovations and that there will be a Book Mobile outside 1370 Rockaway Parkway on November 26th.

Tanisha Johnson, Representing Borough President Antonio Reynoso informed everyone that Community Board applications are open and can be found on the Borough President's website.

H.E.S. giving back to the community initiative, begins Sunday, November 23rd with tulip planting along the medians on Seaview Avenue. On Monday, November 24th, they will be hosting lunch and learn with 2 special guests.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

End....