

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

ATTENDANCE

Cassandra Alvarez
Johnny Arcenteles
Felina Backer
Barbara Bieber
Greg Borruso
Gardy Brazela
Jamaal Carryl
Donna Mae Crossfield
Paul Curiale
Gil Cygler
Marie Delus
Nigel Dupree
Joan Gilbert
Denise Gordon
Denise Gourdine
Francesca Griffith
Sara Hendricks

Tomas Hernandez, Jr.
Naomi Hopkins
Kenny Jean Baptiste
Naomi Lehrer
Rob Mazzuchin
Doodley Plaisival
Yolaine Ridore
Michelle Sealey
Akis Sinesi
Victoria Stennett
Julius Stukes
Sharene Williams
Valerie Woodford
Grace Zwillenberg

GUESTS:

Herbert Fair
Elba Melendez
Tomi Marshall
Roberson Joseph
Melissa Beauduy
Paul Willoughby
Matthew
Chelsea Sutherland
Tyler Roosa
Mariam Khan
Kerisha Campbell
Michael Trotta
Dr. Jackie Cody
Linda Steinmuller
Marilyn Vazquez
Edwin Vazquez
Josephine Toliti
Ed Rohrllich
Skhy LoBianco
Eugene Boasi
John Faciano
Angelo Natoli
Jennifer Horsford
Roslyn Campbell
Pat Williams
Maryam Said
Eric Peterson
T. Jones
Antonette McKain
Arnelle Williams

Brooklyn Public Library
CERT
Area Resident
Lago Kache/LK Lounge
Lago Kache/LK Lounge
Bill's Bar
Bill's Bar
Area Resident
NYCEM
Representing Congress Member Yvette Clarke's Office, 9th C.D.
CUNY
Bergen Beach Civic Association
Area Resident
Canarsie Courier
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office, 19th S.D.
Area Resident
Area Resident
Hebrew Educational Society
NYC Parks Department
Area Resident
Area Resident
Area Resident

Kimberly Vick	Area Resident
David Phillip	Area Resident
Jenny Troman	Principal, P.S. 276
Sharon Long	Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59 A.D.
Norine Medas	Canarsie Merchants Association
Jason Lewis	Stoned in Brooklyn, Inc. (Mood New York)
Andrew Zibell	Area Resident
Petula Squires	Area Resident
Calvin Sannon	Area Resident
Sabrina Dieujuste	Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45 th C.D.
Katia Belony	Area Resident
Roslyn Campbell	Representing Borough President Antonio Reynoso's Office
Keisha Sydney	Sesame Flyers
Abigail Jordan-Nicome	Area Resident
Hon. Monique Chandler-Waterman	Assembly Member, 58 th A.D.
Kylah Burrowes	Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58 th A.D.
Chris Smith	Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58 th A.D.
Arlene	Area Resident
Averil Fraser	Area Resident
Beverly	Area Resident
Brenda Lawrence	Area Resident
Carly Jabouin	Area Resident
Francis A.	Area Resident
Guerda Victor	Area Resident
Ian Gaynor	Area Resident
Jennifer Bedeau	Area Resident
Jo-Anne Caton	Area Resident
Joe-Louis McCray	Area Resident
Linda Stallings	Area Resident
Loretta Chin	Area Resident
Mariya Markh	Representing
Michael Martin	Area Resident
Michelle	Area Resident
Roxanne Need-Ervin	Area Resident
Rachel Rivera	Area Resident
Russel Prisker	Area Resident
Sam Bent	Area Resident
Antoinette Byam	Area Resident
Cateshia Ledee	Area Resident
Cheryl Primus	Area Resident
Mitchell Partnow	Area Resident
Pietro Baio	Area Resident
Taifa J.	Area Resident

7:06 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

7:08 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

A quorum was present to begin the meeting.

Chairperson pro Tem Greg Borruso asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2025. Board Member Rob Mazzuchin made a motion that the minutes be

accepted. Board Member Akis Sinesi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes have been approved from the last regular board meeting.

7:11 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Pro Tem Greg Borruso introduced Tyler Roosa, Program Manager from the NYC Emergency Management's Notify NYC Team. He explained that Notify NYC is the city's official source for verified emergency alerts. Notify NYC offers free, customizable notifications via text, email, social media, and the mobile app. Tyler outlined 16 alert categories, including large-scale emergencies, weather disruptions, traffic incidents, and public health advisories. Message alerts are available in 14 languages. Community-specific alerts cover L train service changes, brush fires, coastal flooding, pool closures, and water advisories. He highlighted that alerts can be tailored to personal preferences, ensuring individuals receive only the most relevant notifications. He also noted that those living in basement apartments can sign up for special flood alerts. Tyler Roosa demonstrated the accessibility of Notify NYC, explaining that individuals can sign up via the website, call 311 for assistance, or download the mobile app for real-time alerts. He also encouraged attendees to follow Notify NYC on Twitter/X and Facebook, where updates are regularly posted. Handouts providing step-by-step instructions for enrollment were distributed. During the discussion, an audience member inquired about Notify NYC's coordination with the National Weather Service. Tyler Roosa explained that several weather sources are utilized to maintain accurate and timely alerts. An enrolled Notify NYC noted that there were several water main breaks in the community, but Notify NYC had no alerts. Roosa acknowledged the difficulty in distinguishing minor from major breaks and promised to relay the feedback to his team. He explained that because water main issues occur frequently, there is an ongoing challenge in determining which incidents warrant an alert and said that improved communication with DEP could enhance public awareness. Another resident asked about the difference between Notify NYC and 311. Tyler Roosa said that Notify NYC focuses on emergency alerts and city services related to public safety, while 311 serves as a general information and service request platform. Notify NYC prioritizes urgent updates, such as power outages, transit disruptions, and severe weather warnings, ensuring the public receives critical alerts in real-time. Roosa urged attendees to spread awareness about Notify NYC. He encouraged residents to share the service with friends, family, and community groups, emphasizing that greater participation strengthens the city's overall preparedness.

7:23 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPITAL & EXPENSE BUDGET COMMITTEE – David Price, Chairperson

Budget Committee Chair David Price informed the board that the Capital & Expense Budget Committee was convened on March 10th, with a strong turnout from both committee members and community stakeholders. During this meeting, the committee conducted a comprehensive review of available funds and proposed budget allocations to support ongoing community initiatives. After thorough discussion and deliberation, the Budget Committee approved the allocation of a total of \$11,000 for the following initiatives:

- \$3,500 for a Community Baby Shower, aimed at supporting expectant parents and providing essential resources to families in need.
- \$2,500 for a Youth Summit, an event designed to engage and empower young people through discussions, workshops, and mentorship opportunities.
- \$5,000 for Communications and social media, to improve outreach efforts, increase community engagement, and address ongoing challenges related to event promotion and public awareness.

These allocations, if approved by the full board, will help fund critical community events and enhance communication strategies within Community Board 18. Chair Price emphasized that the Budget Committee currently has approximately \$20,000 in available funds. If this \$11,000 allocation is approved, the remaining balance will be \$9,000, which must be spent before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. A key discussion point during the meeting was the community's ongoing struggle with branding, outreach, and engagement.

Despite numerous activities and events taking place, community awareness remains a challenge. Currently, Community Board 18 does not have a dedicated Communications Committee, and the methods of disseminating event information do not yield the desired level of engagement. In response, the Budget Committee has committed to taking a more proactive role in addressing these concerns, ensuring greater visibility and awareness for community initiatives. On behalf of the Budget Committee, Chair David Price made a motion to the full board to approve the recommended allocation of \$11,000 for the above-mentioned initiatives. Board Member Felina Backer sought clarification regarding the remaining \$9,000 in available funds, specifically inquiring about the deadline for spending the funds. Chair Price confirmed that the remaining funds must be used before the fiscal year ends on June 30th. He further stated that the committee will reconvene next month to determine how to allocate the remaining funds. He encouraged board members and the public to submit ideas and feedback, noting that the next Budget Committee meeting will be an open meeting in April with the exact date to be posted on the Community Board 18 website. For today's motion, the approved expenditures are as follows: Community Baby Shower – up to \$3,500, Youth Summit – up to \$2,500, Communications & social media – \$5,000. Board Member Cassandra Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed with 25 Yes and 1 Abstention votes.

7:32 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

I REPRESENT CB18 AT VARIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS BRINGING INFORMATION AND UPDATES TO OUR RESIDENTS

63rd & 69th Precincts Community Council meetings - Thank you Presidents Greg Borruso & Gardy Brazela.
Joint Civic Meeting – Bergen Beach, Mill Island and Mill Basin – Thank you Presidents Mike Trotta, Ike Sinesi & Paul Curiale.

IN & AROUND COMMUNITY BOARD 18

There has been a lot happening within CB18.

A Lithium Battery Storage Facility proposed on Flatbush Ave. & Quentin Rd.

A proposed 7 story building at 5502 Flatlands Ave.

A proposed 10-story building at Ralph Ave. & Glenwood Rd.

A developer seeking a variance to build a large condo facility on E. 66th St. & Dakota. All attorneys and developers are invited to the Planning & Zoning meeting that will be held here on Monday, March 24th at 7:00 pm.

The opening of the Carol Pino Learning Farm will be held on Friday, May 16th from 10 am – 12 noon.

National Grid will begin work sometime in April on a Pipeline Inspection Project from Bay Ridge to Ave. U & Hendrickson St. The project should take approximately 6 weeks. There will be crews, multiple vehicles and equipment at different areas throughout the Jamaica Bay route. Traffic control will be present to maintain the flow of vehicles during the inspection process.

CB 18 April Meeting moved from April 16th to April 9th

The proposed Coyle Street Homeless Shelter is in our neighboring Community Board 15

CB18 MARCH CABINET MEETING

DOB – Info on Local Law 152 which requires gas piping inspections by a licensed Master Plumber for all NYC buildings, except for 1 and 2 family homes. Failure to comply will result in penalties.

69th PCT – Larcenies on the rise, especially in sector D. Officers visit nursing homes to educate on scams.

63rd PCT – Rise in car break-ins, tire and rim thefts (which are done in 3 minutes). Use wheel locks. An arrest was made for mailbox fishing on Utica & Flatlands, 5 males, 40 checks seized. Use gel pens to prevent check washing.

DDC- Pedestrian ramp project update. Upcoming project-Jamaica Bay Greenway Reconstruction, Paerdegat Avenue North Connector. Construction begins April 2025. Test water shutdowns will be in the evenings. Bus stop in front of DEP will not be relocated. DDC will coordinate with South Shore & Canarsie High Schools. B82 reconstruction continues along Kings Highway with additional sewer work near Mt. Sinai Hospital starting this week for approximately 2-3 weeks. No water shutdowns but the bus stop at E. 37th St. & Kings Highway removed causing concerns that there will be a large gap from Flatbush Ave. to Frasier Square.

NYC Dept. of Aging – Focused on public engagement and volunteer recruitment. The department is celebrating 50 years with special events. They need funding for the ever-growing older adult population.

DEP – Introduced the new Borough Commissioner Drisana Hughes.

DOT – Walk thru on E. 34th St. & Avenue S with Donald Cranston, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse and myself for a traffic light request on this dangerous and busy intersection. Milling and Paving scheduled to take place on March 13th & 14th at E. 63rd St. from Ave. U to National Dr. postponed due to the Jewish holiday of Purim, was rescheduled for the following week. Request was made for a milling/paving schedule.

Parks Dept. – Rise in graffiti in parks. Homeless encampment clean-ups scheduled for March 21st in Marine Park & March 24th at Fresh Creek. Bathrooms now close at 4 pm, moving to 5 pm and as the weather gets warmer, 7 pm.

DEPT. OF HEALTH – Shared info on Green Cart Permits for selling fresh produce in underserved neighborhoods. Green Cart vendors must have both a permit and vending license from NYC Health Dept.

Paul Curiale/Millennium – Discussed Summer Rising applications which opened this month. Applications are available online and are due by April. Due to construction at many sites, schools will be merging. For a full list of participating schools, go to myschools.nyc. The Summer program is open to students in public schools and charter schools.

Donald Cranston Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams – Gave update on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Food Pantry at Assemblymember Williams' office, March 27th shredding event, March 21st Lithium Battery Facility Protest and thanked CB18 for hosting the Town Hall.

Mariya Markh Representing Assemblymember Kalman Yeger- Share contact info and upcoming events.

Daniel Heredia Representing Councilmember Farah Louis – Discussed pending legislation, budget cuts to Medicaid and schools.

Jennifer Horsford Representing Senator Roxanne Persaud – Upcoming events Canarsie Park Easter Egg Hunt on April 12th where you might find one of 120 golden eggs.

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. To the strong dedicated women in our office and on our Community Board, thank you for all you do in our community every day.

7:43 P.M.

PARKS COMMITTEE – Violine Roberty, Chairperson

1. The Parks Department is currently hiring for various full-time permanent positions in recreation and maintenance in Brooklyn. Interested applicants can check the Parks

Department website.

2. The Marine Park Alliance has several upcoming events in March, including a Women's History Month event at the Carmine Carro Community Center. For more details, visit the Marine Park Alliance website.
3. Family Day/Spring Extravaganza at Amersfort Park, hosted by Council Member Farah Louis and the Parks Department, will take place on April 5th from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

YOUTH & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Naomi Lehrer, Chairperson

1. Tomorrow, March 26 at 7:00 PM, Free CPR Training here at Community Board 18 for individuals aged 12 and up. If you are interested, flyers are available outside. Additionally, if you need more information or would like to register, you can either see me directly or provide your name, and we will ensure you are registered without any issues.
2. Board Member Felina Backer has organized a Youth Summit for March 31 at 9:00 AM. She is currently seeking volunteers to assist with the event, and vendors are welcome to participate. Approximately 130 students and 30 vendors have signed up, additional volunteers are still needed. Flyers are available on the table outside.
3. The Community Baby Shower will be held on May 4th at P.S. 276. Canarsie has high maternal mortality and morbidity rates. It is deeply concerning that despite the available resources, these rates remain high within our own community. The baby shower will feature a variety of resources and activities, including Hospitals, doulas, nutritionists, Sorority AKA's Maternal Committee offering support and services. Craft stations, games for parents, and informational workshops. Donations can be brought to St. Thomas and Mary Queen of Heaven. If you would like to donate baby items, you can bring them directly to the collection sites or contact us. We can accommodate 350 people at the Baby Shower. Additionally, the Canarsie Merchants Association has applied for a separate grant to help support the event. The more funds we secure, the more we can give back to this community, where maternal health remains a serious issue. We are also awaiting a response from the Citizens' Committee regarding additional funding. In connection with this initiative, we are also partnering with an organization that will offer a series of post-baby shower workshops for families. These workshops will cover topics such as: Healthy relationships, recognizing red flags, self-care, emotional well-being for new moms, safety planning for expectant and new mothers, trauma and parenting: breaking the cycle, consent and body autonomy for mothers and babies, community resources and legal rights. The workshop dates are not yet finalized, but information will be available at the baby shower. We also hope to organize financial literacy workshops for young adults soon.
4. Sebago Open House offers Free Kayaking, Canoeing, and Row Boating for families, children, and parents. Flyers with more information will be available soon. Registration has not yet opened, but the events will take place on July 12, August 9, September 6
5. Summer Rising Program applications are open. This free program offers various educational and recreational activities to keep children engaged and off the streets during the summer. We encourage parents to apply as soon as possible to secure a spot for their children.

Chair Pro Tem Greg Borruso thanked the CERT team for being here and look forward to their presentation at the June 18th meeting.

Board Member and President of Marine Park Civic Association Rob Mazzuchin discussed the NineDot Energy Lithium-Ion Battery Storage facilities that are being built in our community on Flatbush Avenue. He proposed that the community make a motion that Community Board 18 send a letter to NineDot Energy which will be copied to the City Council, the Mayor and the Governor opposing the installation of any Lithium-Ion Battery Storage facilities in our district or on Flatbush Avenue and Quenton Road or any other location. Board Member Marie Delus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 31 Yes and 1 Abstention votes recorded.

SLA & CANNABIS COMMITTEE – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

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

- Lago Kache Restaurant and Lounge, N/A, 1819 Utica Avenue – 11234

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

- JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N – 11234
- MIS TAQUITO's INC, Mis Taquitos, 6612 Avenue U – 11234
- 3rd & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3rd & 7, 3622 Quentin Road – 11234

Chairperson Paul Curiale stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the applications listed and acknowledged the owners of the establishments that were present. Chair Curiale stated that the board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, the 63rd Precinct about the SLA Renewal applications received from JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N – 11234, MIS TAQUITO's INC, Mis Taquitos, 6612 Avenue U – 11234, and 3rd & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3rd & 7, 3622 Quentin Road – 11234.

Chair Curiale moved the motion to accept that the board approve the SLA Renewal Applications for Alcoholic Beverage License for Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider received from JP Canes Inc., Bill's Bar, 6326 Avenue N – 11234, MIS TAQUITO's INC, Mis Taquitos, 6612 Avenue U – 11234, and 3rd & 7 Sports Bar LLC, 3rd & 7, 3622 Quentin Road – 11234. Board Member Michelle Sealey seconded the motion. The motion passed with 32 Yes votes recorded.

Chair Curiale stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application for Lago Kache Restaurant and Lounge, N/A 1819 Utica Avenue, 11234. The committee decided to recommend denial of the SLA New application due to business operations, the building structure, and the potential impact on neighboring residents. The committee specifically noted concerns about noise levels, particularly with live bands. The committee conducted research and reviewed past records, including notes from the previous Chair of the SLA Committee which contained 311 complaints and other documentation highlighting these issues over the years at this location. The recommendation to deny the application was also supported by feedback from two local civic associations and the 63rd Precinct. The precinct expressed concerns about the potential for ongoing issues like those faced with past businesses at this location. Chair Curiale moved the motion to deny Lago Kache Restaurant and Lounge, N/A 1819 Utica Avenue, 11234 an SLA license. Board Member Grace Zwillenberg seconded the motion. Concerns were raised from Board Members about denying a new owner a license based on past records. A suggestion was made to table the vote. Board Member Rob Mazzuchin moved to table the SLA Application for Lago Kache Restaurant and Lounge. Board Member Marie Delus seconded the motion. The motion passed with 29 Yes votes recorded.

Chair Curiale explained that the following Cannabis application of Stoned in Brooklyn, although not on tonight's agenda, had been previously tabled. This is a microbusiness, located at 2600 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234. The proposed business, which plans to operate under the future d/b/a Mood NY, was deferred last month. Chair Curiale emphasized that the application must be formally submitted to the community board for review. Chair Curiale has been in contact with the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), awaiting a comprehensive explanation regarding the specific nature of this type of microbusiness application. To date, Community Board 18 has approved five retail-only cannabis license applications. However, this application is distinct as it seeks authorization not only for retail but also for cultivation and processing, making it the first microbusiness application of its kind within the district. Chair Curiale reiterated the community board's commitment to thoroughly evaluating such proposals, noting that the committee had extensive discussions on the matter. Chair Pro Tem Greg Borruso sought clarification on whether the applicant was operating under one business name or two. Chair Curiale explained that the submitted application lists "Stoned in Brooklyn" as the d/b/a. However, in discussions with the applicant, Jason Lewis, it was suggested that a different name might be used moving forward. Mr. Lewis then addressed the board, stating that the official business name is "Mood New York". Chair Curiale requested that Mr. Lewis provide

updated documentation reflecting this change, as the current application does not align with the business's actual operational name. Chair Pro Tem Borruso emphasized the importance of having the correct business name on the application before a vote could take place. He stated that without an amended application reflecting the updated name, the board would be unable to proceed with an official decision. As a result, the recommendation was made to deny the existing application for “Stoned in Brooklyn” and require the applicant to resubmit under the proper business name. Chair Curiale moved a motion for the board to deny the application submitted by Jason Lewis for the business named Stoned in Brooklyn, Inc., located at 2600 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Board Member Felina Backer seconded the motion. The motion passed with 27 Yes and 3 Abstention votes recorded.

9:13 P.M.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Parents were urged to complete the New York City school survey; the deadline is April 4th.

A request for District Manager Partnow to invite National Grid as guest speaker for an upcoming CB18 meeting

Jennifer Horsford, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud’s Office, 19th S.D., Sharon Long, Representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59th A.D., Kyla Burrowes, Rep. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58th A.D., Roslyn Campbell, Representing Borough President Antonio Reynoso, and Maryam Said-Nanton, Representing Hebrew Educational Society, Norine Medas, Representing the Canarsie Merchants Association, Taina Evans Representing the Brooklyn Public Library, and Keisha Sydney Representing Sesame Flyers greeted everyone and provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Paul Curiale made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18. Board Member Violette Roberty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

End....