

COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2026

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

Cassandra Alvarez	Francesca Griffith	Valerie Woodford
Johnny Arcentales	Sara Hendrix	
Alan Bash	Tomas Hernandez, Jr.	
Barbara Bieber	Naomi Hopkins	
Greg Borruso	Naomi Lehrer	
Roosevelt Boursiquot	Rob Mazzuchin	
Gardy Brazela	Omeil Morgan	
Andrenia Burgis	Doodley Plaisival	
Lisa Callendar-Wilson	Yolaine Ridore	
Jamaal Carryl	Michelle Sealey	
Kimberley Coke	Frank Seddio	
Charmaine Corney-Antoine	Akis Sinesi	
Paul Curiale	Christopher Smith	
Gil Cygler	Julius Stukes	
Marie Delus	Jennifer Troman	
Nigel Dupree	Mike Trotta	
Denise Gordon	Arnelle Williams	
Denise Gourdine	Maria Willis	

GUESTS:

Mercedes Narcisse	Council Member, 46 th Council District
Alena Matthews	Representing Council Member, Mercedes Narcisse, 46 th C.D.
Farah Louis	Council Member, 45 th Council District
Sabrina Dieujuste	Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45 th C.D.
Dalton Robinson	Rep. NYS Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58 th A.D.
Donald Cranston	Representing NYS Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59 th A.D.
Tanisha Johnson	Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
Jennifer Horsford	Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud,
Julia Bove	Superintendent, District 22
Herbert Fair	Brooklyn Public Library
Erica Porter	New York City School Construction Authority
Andrea Bender	New York City School Construction Authority
John Banks	Brooklyn South High Schools
Robert Eardley	NYC Parks Department
Ali Boivab	NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection
Venus Scantlebury	Civilian Complaint Review Board

7:09 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

7:11 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

A quorum was present to begin the meeting.

7:13 P.M.

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the

meeting held on December 17, 2025. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes was unanimous.

7:15 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins introduced Erica Porter and Andrea Bender, Vice President of External Affairs, New York City School Construction Authority (SCA). They presented information regarding a proposed high school at 7001 Avenue U. Chair Hopkins clarified that the Board is currently reviewing only the proposed location and seat count, as no rendering or final programming details have been provided. SCA stated that District 22 currently faces a shortage of 2,084 high school seats and that this would be the first high school built in South Brooklyn in over a decade. They emphasized that the proposed property has not been purchased yet and that the public comment and community input period runs from January 5 through February 26, 2026. Andrea Bender, Vice President of External Affairs of SCA said that if site acquisition is approved, the project timeline would include approximately one year of design and three to four years of construction. Chair Hopkins questioned the previously discussed 676-seat capacity. SCA clarified that the total proposed capacity is 676 seats is inclusive of the 96-seat D75 component, not in addition to it. Planning & Zoning Committee Chairperson Tomas Hernandez, Jr., reported that the Committee met on January 15 with the SCA representatives to review an informational presentation regarding the proposed high school site at 7001 Avenue U. He stated that the site is a small, irregularly shaped lot located within a 10-block radius that already contains seven schools. He expressed concerns about increased traffic, parking congestion, narrow streets, additional buses and sanitation needs, safety issues, and the shortage of crossing guards. For these reasons, the Committee recommended voting against the proposal and advancing the matter to the full Board for discussion and a vote. Chair Hernandez moved that the Board vote no on the proposed high school site at 7001 Avenue U. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mike Trotta. Board Member Frank Seddio asked what alternative sites were considered. Erica Porter of SCA stated that three additional sites were reviewed: 2079–2115 Utica Avenue, deemed infeasible due to size, design, and construction concerns; 2343 Utica Avenue, which could not accommodate the projected school program; and 6065–6075 Strickland Avenue, which was ruled out due to similar design and construction limitations. She added that SCA welcomes community site recommendations and provided the email address sites@nycsca.org for submissions, noting that the District Manager would share this information with Board Members. Board Member Mike Trotta, also President of the Bergen Beach Civic Association, expressed strong concerns about the location. He noted that the parcel is situated along Veterans Avenue and Avenue U, the primary entrances to Bergen Beach, and that the Avenue U roadway was narrowed by the New York City DOT which has already created traffic challenges. He cited congestion, multiple bus routes (B1, B3, B41, BM1), nearby schools, and the residential character of the surrounding area as significant issues. He also stated that there are no guarantees that local students would have priority admission. He indicated that while the community would consider discussing a smaller K–5 specialty school focused on special needs students, there is strong opposition to a high school at that location. Board Member Frank Seddio referenced at least one additional potential site in the community. Andrea Bender of the SCA responded that the need for seats remains and SCA would continue to seek a location. Chair Hopkins asked that someone move the motion as stated by the Planning & Zoning Committee recommending that the Board not move forward with the proposed high school at 7001 Avenue U. The vote was 11 Yes, 19 No, and 3 abstentions. The motion passed, the Board will not be supporting the proposed high school at 7001 Avenue U. Chair Hopkins thanked SCA and DOE.

8:12 P.M.

Council Member Farah Louis greeted everyone and shared updates on legislation passed over the last year. She discussed the Benzi Law (Local Law 151), introduced after an 11-month-old child in Midwood died due to a faulty radiator. The law will help prevent similar tragedies in the future. She also noted the passage of Local Laws 108 and 109 addressing maternal health issues in New York City, legislation supporting STEM education in high schools, and bills focused on pay equity for women. Looking ahead to 2026, she said her office will focus on childcare affordability efforts with Speaker Julie Menin. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Zoning & Franchises, she explained that she is working to address new zoning laws following the recent referendum and to ensure Community Boards are informed and prepared to respond to land use

applications. She noted that the first zoning hearing will take place next week and invited those interested to contact her office. She also shared brief updates on additional programs and upcoming events.

Jennifer Horsford, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud greeted everyone and provided updates on recently passed legislation in the State Senate. She also shared information regarding the child tax credit, as well as upcoming programs and community events.

8:27 P.M.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Ali Boivab, NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) provided a presentation on its Free Tax Prep Program, which provides free tax filing assistance to low and moderate-income New Yorkers. Eligibility includes individuals or married couples earning \$97,000 or less with qualifying children or dependents, or \$68,000 or less without qualifying children or dependents in 2025. Services are available in four filing formats at more than 140 locations across all five boroughs. The program offers safe and reliable online options, as well as in-person assistance from IRS-certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparers to ensure accurate returns. For more information you can contact 311 or by visiting their website at www.nyc.gov/taxprep

Sgt. Hassan, Q-Team, 69th Precinct introduced himself and spoke on quality-of-life issues that they've tackled.

8:40 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Naomi Hopkins

Good evening, everyone, and Happy New Year.

As we begin our January meeting, I want to take a moment to acknowledge that this month holds special significance for many in our community with the observance of several Divine Nine Founders' Days. We recognize Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. These moments remind us of a long-standing legacy of service, leadership, and civic engagement that continues to shape communities across this city and beyond.

As we start the year, we are continuing with shorter, more focused meetings, as we did last month. I am looking forward to another year of doing this work thoughtfully and getting it right.

As we move into the year ahead, I hope we remain intentional in how we show up for this work and for one another, grounded in respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the community we serve.

Chair Naomi Hopkins informed the board that Assemblymember Stefani Zinerman, in partnership with Senator Kevin Parker, introduced A5881A/S6135, which would designate Kings County as a cease-and-desist zone and prohibit real estate solicitation of registered homeowners. Chair Naomi Hopkins asked for a motion to be put on the floor. 1st Vice Chair Greg Borruso made the motion. Board Member Arnelle Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with 23 Yes votes.

9:04 P.M.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Sue Ann Partnow

Good evening, everyone. Thank you to our Community Councils and Associations for providing so much important information at their monthly meetings. As always, thank you to Councilmembers Mercedes Narcisse, Farah Louis, and Chris Banks; Assemblymembers Jamie Williams, Monique Chandler-Waterman, Nikki Lucas, and Kalman Yeger; and State Senator Roxanne Persaud for hosting various seminars and

programs. I am happy to join these events on behalf of CB18 and to support our elected officials, who do so much for our community.

IN & AROUND COMMUNITY BOARD 18

- Christmas Tree collections have been extended too, whenever. Since the expansion of citywide composting, residents do not have to follow a limited schedule and can place their real, naked trees (no plastic bags) at the curb on their weekly composting and recycling day. This includes your wreaths. If you have an artificial tree, remove the metal base & trunk and put the parts out with metal recycling.
- On March 31st, 2025, we sent an email to DOT regarding an investigation of the operation of the traffic signal at Ave. U & E. 61st. We finally received an answer on January 8, 2026, that the timing signals were modified to improve the flow of traffic.
- Installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of East 87th St. & Flatlands Ave. has been approved.
- “NO STANDING” signage specifically for daylighting on the southeast corner of Mill Avenue approaching Mayfair Dr. No. will be installed.
- Protective Coating for bridges throughout Brooklyn was approved by the DOT. One of the bridges is located at Flatbush Ave. over the Belt Pkwy. We have not received any specific dates for the work.
- CB 18 partnered with Millennium Development, Flatlands Volunteer Ambul. Corps, Marine Park Alliance, Marine Park Civic, Kings Plaza/Canarsie Kiwanis Club, St. Bernards Knights of Columbus & the 63rd Pct. Community Council to host a blood drive at Marine Park. Despite the snow, we had a very successful drive.

CB18 JANUARY CABINET MEETING

B82/SBS – Update on construction along Kings Highway

69th Pct. – Two homes, one on E. 103 St. and the other on E. 85 St. served with DOB violations due to hoarding issues. Possible evacuation of the property for unsanitary conditions. Foster Ave., 18 wheelers removed but keep returning to park. Avenue D truck parking owner trying to resolve the issues

JAMAICA BAY GREENWAY PROJECT- New water main, pumps and valves replaced on E. 76th St. No night or weekend work, work will not affect South Shore HS or MTA buses. Completion date is Fall 2026.

DOB – New Commissioner. DOB after hours on Tuesdays for violations. Also, get your summonses corrected this Friday, January 23rd at Flatbush YMCA 1401 Flatbush Ave. Flyers on table in the lobby.

DSS (Dept. of Social Services) & (DHS) Dept of Homeless Services – Needs Volunteers for Hope Night on January 27th from 10 ppm – 4 am citywide to assist them in helping people get off the streets and in shelters.

DOHMH (Dept. of Health & Mental Health) – Any issues with a new or renewal of your handicap permit, your dr. can call 347-396-6552.

AGING NYC- No administrative changes thus far. The office encourages older adults to contact them for crime prevention and support services if they have been a victim of SCAMS at aging.ny.gov.

JENNIFER HORSFORD, REPRESENTING SENATOR ROSANNE PERSAUD – 33 bills passed. Plans to address issues for a better Rockaway Parkway shopping corridor. Working with Sanitation on dumping issues throughout Canarsie.

DONALD CRANSTON, REPRESENTING ASSEMBLYMEMBER JAIME WILLIAMS – The Assemblymember kicked off 2026 with a bill signed by the Gov. that gives first responder spouse property tax exemption if their spouse is killed on duty, moving Ion-Battery Facilities away from homes, schools and religious institutes.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT – Announced blood drive and older adult services.

FRIEDA MENOS, REPRESENTING CONG. HAKEEM JEFFRIES – Updates on resource and job fairs.

SABRINA DEJUISTE, REPRESENTING COUNCILWOMAN FARAH LOUIS – Graffiti removal through Dept. of Sanitation, businesses must apply for a waiver and upcoming removal of the OMNI machines.

MARYIA MARKH, REPRESENTING ASSEMBLYMAN KALMAN YEGER – 1st Legislation for 2026 that insurance can no longer charge more than \$100 for epi-pen. Free tax prep in the office.

IRINA KHLEVNER, REPRESENTING COUNCILMEMBER MERCEDES NARCISSE – Event updates. In office vet services, legal assistance, upcoming clothing boutique and food giveaways. Contact her office for snow removal.

GOOD & WELFARE

Happy Birthday to Chair Naomi Hopkins and her son Matthew

Happy Birthday to Asst. District Manager Dorothy Paul

Congratulations to Board Member Frank Seddio on the marriage of his niece

Kudos to everyone that took the time to honor Martin Luther Kings, Jr. and take part in a day of service

9:14 P.M.

PARKS COMMITTEE – Paul Curiale, Chairperson

Parks Committee Chair Paul Curiale provided an update on feedback shared during a recent NYC Parks meeting regarding improvements to Bildersee Playground (Flatlands Avenue between East 81st Street and East 82nd Street). The \$8.067 million project is funded by Assembly Member Jaime Williams, Senator Roxanne Persaud, former Mayor Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, and Council Member Mercedes Narcisse. A public question-and-answer period remains open for several more weeks. Chair Curiale also reported that Council Member Narcisse submitted a memo requesting a pause before final approval of the playground project. She noted that she secured \$500,000 in the FY25 City Budget for a feasibility study to evaluate the potential development of a community center at the site. Based on this request, the Parks Committee recommends that the Board honor Council Member Narcisse's request to pause the project until the feasibility study is completed.

Chair Curiale stated that on behalf of the Parks Committee they make a motion to provide a Letter of Support for Marine Park Alliance Grant Submission to NY–NJ Harbor & Estuary Program: Advancing Habitat Restoration through Community. Board Member Julius Stukes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9:25P.M.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dalton Robinson, Rep. NYS Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, 58th A.D., Herbert Fair, Representing the Paerdegat Library, Norine Medas, Representing Canarsie Merchants Association, Jonathon Arvalle, Representing Enough, Eric Peterson, Representing Parks Department, Venus Scantlebury, Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), and Maryam Sam, Representing HES greeted everyone and provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Greg Borruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board 18 Meeting. Board Member Mike Trotta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

End.....