

**COMMUNITY BOARD #18 MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE**

Cassandra Alvarez  
Johnny Arcentales  
Mohamed Azez  
Felina Backer  
Alan Bash  
Roosevelt Boursiquot  
Lisa Callender-Wilson  
Jamaal Carryl  
Kimberley Coke  
Charmaine Corney-Antoine  
Donna Mae Crossfield  
Paul Curiale  
Gil Cygler  
Marie Delus  
Stanley Delva  
Nigel Dupree  
Ariel Freeman  
Maria Garrett  
Denise Gordon

Denise Gourdine  
Francesca Griffth  
Sara Hendrix  
Kenny Jean-Baptiste  
Naomi Hopkins  
Naomi Lehrer  
Rob Mazzuchin  
Doodley Plaisival  
David Price  
Yolaine Ridore  
Michelle Sealey  
Akis Sinesi  
Julius Stukes  
Annette Tomlin  
Jennifer Troman  
Arnelle Williams  
Sharene Williams  
Maria Willis  
Valerie Woodford

Grace Zwillenberg

**GUESTS:**

Hon. Farah Louis  
Hon. Mercedes Narcisse  
Sabrina Dieujuste  
Stephanie Laine  
Donald Cranston  
Sharon Long  
Jennifer Horsford  
Sergey Chuprik  
Asad Bell  
Tanisha Johnson  
Roopesh Ramjit  
Detective Thomas Podd  
P.O. Nicole Rostant  
Eric Peterson  
Robert Eardley  
Maryam Sam  
Herbert Fair  
Juan Ardila  
Dan Keyes

Council Member, 45<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Council Member, 46<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Representing Council Member Farah Louis, 45<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Representing NYS Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Representing NYS Assembly Member Jaime Williams, 59<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
Representing NYC Comptroller Mark Levine  
Representing Assembly Member Nikki Lucas, 60<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez  
63<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct  
69<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
NYC Parks Marine Park  
NYC Parks  
HES  
Brooklyn Public Library  
Proud Nation/Urban Zone  
Green Meadow Farms

**7:06 P.M.**

Chairperson Naomi Hopkins called the meeting to order and noted that due to the recent blizzard, the meeting was being held virtually and will continue to follow the same procedures used during in-person meetings. Chair Hopkins advised that public comments would be submitted through the chat function and acknowledged that the CB18 staff will be monitoring the chat during the meeting.

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 January 21, 2026. There being none, a motion to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Council Member Farah Louis extended condolences to the families of Board Members Barbara Bieber and Tomas Hernandez. She acknowledged recent Black History Month programming in the district and provided an update on the preliminary budget announcement by the Mayor regarding a proposed 9.5% property tax increase which the Council Member opposed. Council Member Louis also announced the opening of the Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center in East Flatbush. She expressed interest in working with state and local partners to explore opportunities for similar capital projects within the Community Board 18 district. Lastly, she highlighted a recently passed mental health bill requiring the city to collect and report suicide data, including information related to veterans, youth, and methods to help inform prevention programs following an increase in suicide-related losses in the district since the pandemic.

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse thanked the Community Board for its continued work and engagement with residents. She provided an update on recent snow removal efforts, noting that her office worked with local youth volunteers to assist residents, particularly seniors who were unable to clear snow from their properties. The Council Member also addressed the Mayor's proposed 9.5% property tax increase, stating that she is opposed and noted that many residents in her district are already facing financial hardships, and expressed concern about the additional burden placed on families. She stated that she and several of her colleagues are advocating alternative ways to balance the City's budget while maintaining essential services. She also extended condolences to Board Members Barbara Bieber and Tomas Hernandez on their losses.

Board Member Maria Garrett raised concerns regarding snow removal and pedestrian safety following the recent storm, particularly at the intersection of Kings Highway and Farragut Road. Board Member Garrett explained that due to the speed and design of Kings Highway, crossing the street can be challenging, especially during inclement weather when snow and ice accumulate near crosswalks. Council Member Farah Louis requested that the concern be forwarded to her office.

**7:26 P.M.**

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Daniel Keyes of Green Meadows Farm provided a presentation regarding the organization's programming at Floyd Bennett Field. Mr. Keyes explained that Green Meadows Farm has been operating educational and recreational farm programs at Floyd Bennett Field since 2014. The farm offers interactive agricultural experiences, seasonal activities, and opportunities for families, schools, and community groups to learn about farming and animal care. Mr. Keyes also shared a video presentation highlighting the farm's programs and activities and the different ways in which the organization engages children and families through hands-on programming and community events. Mr. Keyes explained how the closure of the Aviator Sports Center concession affected the operations of Green Meadows Farm. He noted that until a new operator is selected by National Parks Services, Green Meadows Farm is unable to plan future operations at the site and would need to negotiate with the new operator to continue its programs. Mr. Keyes stated that Green Meadows Farm has received significant community support for its continued presence at Floyd Bennett Field and that the National Park Service has received numerous letters of support from residents, community organizations, and stakeholders advocating the continuation of the farm's programming. He requested that Community Board 18 lend their voices with a letter of support for Green Meadows Farm so they may continue providing its educational and recreational programs at Floyd Bennett Field. Chair Hopkins stated that the Board would

proceed with considering whether Community Board 18 would issue a letter of support advocating Green Meadows Farm. The Chair noted that the matter had been discussed following the presentation and subsequent questions and comments from Board members had been entertained. Chair Hopkins stated that she would now entertain a motion regarding the request for a letter of support for Green Meadows Farm to continue operating at Floyd Bennett Field following the expiration of the Aviator Sports Center concession contract. Board Member Naomi Lehrer moved the motion that Community Board 18 approve issuing a letter of support for Green Meadows Farm to continue operating at Floyd Bennett Field once the Aviator Sports Center concession contract expires. Board Member Nigel Dupree seconded the motion. The motion passed with 34 votes.

Jennifer Horsford, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud, 19<sup>th</sup> S.D. provided updates on several upcoming events and initiatives taking place in the district. She announced that the Senator's office will be hosting an upcoming Easter Egg Hunt for families and children in the community. Ms. Horsford also spoke about the office's ongoing "Not for Sale" sign initiative, which provides homeowners with signs to place on their properties. The program is intended to help residents address unsolicited offers from real estate investors. In addition, she shared updates on other community programs and services offered through the Senator's office and encouraged residents to reach out if they require snow removal assistance or would like more information about events and resources available in the district.

### **8:03 P.M.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Parks Chair Paul Curiale introduced Juan Ardila, Government/Public Affairs Specialist from BSC Management representing Proud Nation/Urban Zone, regarding a proposal for Floyd Bennett Field. He noted that the presenting organization was the only group that reached out to Community Board 18 to discuss its proposal to continue services at the Aviator Sports facility. He stated the Parks Committee met with the organization to review the proposal. The committee found the presentation informative and recommended they present before the full Board. Chair Hopkins explained that the Aviator Sports Center concession contract has expired, and the facility will no longer operate under the previous agreement. She noted that the National Park Service issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for organizations interested in operating programming and services at Floyd Bennett Field. Mr. Ardila explained that the proposal was submitted as part of the National Park Service RFP process for the future use of Floyd Bennett Field. He emphasized partnerships with local organizations and increased access to community programming for residents, including those within Community Board 18. He also stated that the proposal included a commitment of more than \$10 million toward restoration and improvements at the site and noted that the organization had conducted outreach to Community Board 18, local elected officials, and community stakeholders. Mr. Ardila also addressed the status of the proposal in the National Park Service review process. He stated that the organization had been informed that its proposal was deemed "non-responsive," which he believed may have resulted from an incorrect email address included in the submission. He indicated that the organization made several attempts to contact the National Park Service through letters, emails, and phone calls seeking clarification but did not receive responses prior to the determination. Before opening the floor to questions, Chairperson Hopkins addressed the Board for the sake of transparency. She explained that when Mr. Ardila referenced conversations with members of the Board, he was referring to the Parks Committee, as the organization had followed the Community Board's established process by first meeting with the committee before being referred to the full Board for a presentation. Chair Hopkins further explained that because Floyd Bennett Field is federal property managed by the National Park Service, the agency is not required to consult with Community Board 18 regarding its plans or decisions. She noted that multiple organizations had responded to the RFP; however, Community Board 18 had only received outreach from this organization regarding its proposal. She added that it had come to the Board's attention that the National Park Service may have already selected a new operator for Floyd Bennett Field, and it appeared that Mr. Ardila's organization had not received confirmation that it had been selected. She stated that the Board had originally intended to hold a public hearing and consider whether to issue a letter of support, which had been advertised in the City Record, but that the Board would not be taking a vote at this time. If circumstances change, the Board may revisit the matter at a future meeting. Following the presentation, Board Members

asked several questions. Mr. Ardila later stated that his organization had recently been notified that its proposal had not been selected. He reiterated that the organization had committed more than \$10 million in improvements, exceeding the minimum RFP requirement, and noted that they had made several attempts to contact the National Park Service for updates prior to receiving the notification. Mr. Ardila explained that the application is a joint proposal and noted that Proud Nation is a nonprofit organization led by Melissa Gregory, a former Olympic Champion figure skater who serves as the public-facing representative of the organization. He further stated that the other partner in the proposal is a private real estate developer associated with a trampoline and bounce house facility in Staten Island.

Detective Thomas Podd, Representing the 63rd Police Precinct, greeted everyone and provided updates regarding an increase in scams targeting older adults. Detective Podd asked that scam emails be forwarded to him or his partner Detective Navarro. He announced that the Precinct Community Council meeting was cancelled due to the recent snowstorm and that the next meeting will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the John Malone Center.

Police Officer Nicole Rostant, representing the 69th Police Precinct, greeted everyone and announced that the Precinct Community Council meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm and that the next meeting will take place on March 31 at 8:00 PM at H.E.S and if they have any concerns, please feel free to contact her and she provided her email address.

Donald Cranston, representing Assembly Member Jaime Williams, provided updates on their recent snow removal efforts in the district. On behalf of Assembly Member Williams, he expressed appreciation to East Flatbush Village for providing volunteers who assisted with those efforts. He also shared additional updates on initiatives and services available through the Assembly Member's office.

#### **8:45 P.M.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Naomi Hopkins

Good evening, everyone,

Before we begin tonight's business, I want to take a moment to acknowledge **Black History Month**. Black history is not a sidebar in the American story; it *is* the American story. It is innovation without credit, resilience without rest, leadership without permission. It is neighbors organizing on stoops, and in churches that double as strategy rooms, and families building wealth and stability despite structural barriers. As a community board, our responsibility is not just to celebrate history — it's to carry it forward. That means protecting access to housing, ensuring fair services, defending voting rights, and advocating for equitable investment in our neighborhoods. Black history reminds us that progress happens when everyday people insist on dignity and good governance.

And speaking of governance...

I want to briefly address the Mayor's proposed **9.5% increase on homeowners**. Our homeowners are not abstract line items in a spreadsheet; they are on fixed incomes. They are working families who stretched to purchase a home. They are multi-generational households trying to hold onto stability in an expensive city.

I appreciate that our City Council representatives have stood with homeowners in pushing back on this proposal. While I understand the city faces fiscal challenges, we cannot balance budgets on the backs of the middle class. Now, I've joked before that I'm not always enthusiastic about "tax the rich" because I plan to be rich one day. Let's keep ambition alive. But in all seriousness, funding government requires thoughtful, strategic solutions. We can explore efficiencies, close loopholes, prioritize spending, and pursue smarter revenue strategies without disproportionately burdening homeowners. There are options. We just need political will to examine them seriously.

Before we close, I also want to extend heartfelt condolences to Tom Hernandez and Barbara Bieber on the recent losses in their families. Please keep them in your prayers and reach out to let them know they are

loved and appreciated during this difficult time.

Thank you all. Let's proceed with tonight's agenda.

**8:53 P.M.**

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

**FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING**

**GOOD EVENING EVERYONE**

Thank you to our community organizations and our elected officials for providing so much important information, seminars, workshops, and free events for all the residents in CB18. I'm always happy to represent CB18 at these events.

**IN & AROUND COMMUNITY BOARD 18**

- Thanks to the major snowstorm we had there were watermain breaks at Flatbush Ave. and Flatlands Ave. and East 108<sup>th</sup> St. & Ave. N. I notified DEP and emergency crews were sent out.
- Sanitation was working overtime due to the snow, and we were able to help them out by notifying the residents of Ave. R to put their garbage and recycling in front of their homes instead of in the alley behind their houses. Sanitation trucks and plows could not access the area because of the snow and ice.
- This was no winter wonderland for homeowners who had to dig their properties out. Thanks to Assemblymember Jaime Williams and Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, they were able to offer snow removal during the storm.
- A traffic signal at Seaview Ave. and E. 80<sup>th</sup> St., has been approved.

**CB18 FEBRUARY CABINET MEETING**

**B82/SBS** – Construction on sidewalks and corners along Kings Highway and the bus stop at Kings Highway and Nostrand Ave. has been restored.

**69<sup>th</sup> Pct.** – Senior Valentine Celebration a huge success with 130 people in attendance. The old Canarsie Theatre on Avenue L to become a house of worship.

**JAMAICA BAY GREENWAY PROJECT-** New water main, catch basins and manholes completed along E. 76<sup>th</sup> St. Old fences will be removed for new DOT bike lanes, new wrought iron fences will be installed.

**DOB** – Buildings after hours, every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from 4 pm – 7 pm. Is designed for homeowners, tenants, building managers, and small business owners to visit their local DOB borough office where staff can answer questions and provide the information needed to plan for a home renovation or construction project, address an open violation on a property, obtain more information about a property, or use online resources including the Buildings Information System (BIS) and DOB NOW.

**DEP** – If there is a water main break or any other DEP related issues, always call 311 first and then give CB18 the reference number for quicker responses.

**63<sup>rd</sup> Pct.** – Accepting Citizen Police Academy applications through Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**PARKS DEPT.** – Seasonal hiring. March outdoor nature center event. If you are planning an event in a park for the Spring or Summer, get your requests in because space is limited.

**DONALD CRANSTON, REPRESENTING ASSEMBLYMEMBER JAIME WILLIAMS** – The Assemblymember's bill to keep Ion-Battery Facilities away from homes, schools and religious institutes, has over 40 sponsors supporting the legislation.

**MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT** – Update on events for after school programs and for older adults.

**SABRINA DEJUISTE, REPRESENTING COUNCILWOMAN FARAH LOUIS** – Reconstruction of East 80<sup>th</sup> St. between Farragut & Foster pushed back. Complaints about the ads on the B41 bus promoting the Museum of Sex.

**GOOD & WELFARE**

Condolences to Board Member Barbara Bieber and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law

Condolences to Board Member Tom Hernandez and his family on the passing of his mother-in-law

Groundhog Day predicted 6 weeks of Winter on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we're down to 4 weeks

Happy Valentine's Day for those who have loved, found love or are still in love

President's Day Honoring Washington & Lincoln's birthdays

Happy Lunar New Year for those born 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002 or 2014, you were born in the year of the fire horse-symbolizing strength, speed, courage, loyalty, freedom and talent.

Ramadan observance – A time of prayer & reflection

Black History Month – 100-year observance of shaping identity, fostering pride, and fighting for equality.

### **9:00 P.M.**

**SLA & CANNABIS COMMITTEE** – Jamaal Carryl, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received - Vote

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

- GVP Caterers Inc., El Caribe Caterers, 5645 Strickland Avenue - 11234
- Marine Park Seaside Links, LLC, Marine Park Golf Course, 2882 Flatbush Avenue – 11234
- D&D Duet Inc., Duet, 6179/6181/6183 Strickland Avenue – 11234

Chair Jamaal Carryl acknowledged that representatives of the establishments listed on the evening's agenda were present in the chat and noted that any questions could be directed to them through the chat during the meeting.

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from GVP Caterers Inc., El Caribe Caterers, 5645 Strickland Avenue, 11234. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Chair Jamaal Carryl moved the motion that the Board approve the Renewal Application SLA license for GVP Caterers Inc., El Caribe Caterers, 5645 Strickland Avenue, 11234, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider. The motion passed with 31 yes, and 2 abstention votes.

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from Marine Park Seaside Links, LLC, Marine Park Golf Course, 2882 Flatbush Avenue, 11234. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Chair Jamaal Carryl moved the motion that the Board approve the Renewal Application SLA license for Marine Park Seaside Links, LLC, Marine Park Golf Course, 2882 Flatbush Avenue, 11234, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider. The motion passed with 31 yes, and 3 abstention votes.

Chair Carryl stated that the SLA/Cannabis Committee reviewed the application received from D&D Duet Inc., Duet, 6179/6181/6183 Strickland Avenue, 11234. The Board notified the local elected officials, civic associations, and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Chair Jamaal Carryl moved the motion that the Board approve the Renewal Application SLA license for D&D Duet Inc., Duet, 6179/6181/6183 Strickland Avenue, 11234, Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider. The motion passed with 32 yes, and 1 abstention votes.

### **9:19 P.M.**

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Tanisha Johnson, Representing Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, Sergey Chuprik,

Representing NYC Comptroller Mark Levine and Stephanie Laine, Representing Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, 46<sup>th</sup> C.D. who greeted everyone and provided information on programs and upcoming community events.

Chair Hopkins acknowledged Asad Bell, Representing Assembly Member Nikki Lucas, Roopesh Ramjit, Representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and Maryam Said, Representing HES.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Naomi Lehrer 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 9:29 PM.

*End.....*