

**ATTENDANCE**

Rosamond Alvaranga  
Sallie Viola Bennett  
Barbara Bieber  
Gardy Brazela  
Melba Brown  
James Buchanan  
Salvatore Calise  
Lucina Clarke  
Paul Curiale  
Gil Cygler  
Amar Dyal

Reeves Eisen  
Maria Garrett  
Ian Gaynor  
Joan Gilbert  
Stuart Heier  
Tomas Hernandez, Jr.  
Michael Ien  
Kenny Jean-Baptiste  
Jean Joseph  
Leon Kizer  
Judy Newton

Mitchell Partnow  
Anne Richards  
Violette Roberty  
Jeff Rodus  
Michelle Sealey  
Nancy Walby  
Sylvia Whiteside  
Bishop Nathan Williams  
Valerie Woodford

**GUESTS:**

La Shawn Paul  
Brittany Richards  
Ben Schwed  
Diana Soriano  
Chris Brunson  
Dr. Jackie Cody  
Cindy J.  
Debbie Louis  
Arlene Perkins  
Rev. Edward  
Ezra Pean  
Hon. Farah Louis  
Frank Kopylov  
Ancilla Friday  
Frieda Menos  
Gerard Brewster  
Capt. Genevieve Isom  
Harriet Wieber  
Nigel Thomas  
Jenika McCrayer  
Jerry Toussaint  
Karen Wharton  
Kim Robinson  
Kimberly Vick  
Linda Steinmuller  
Michael Benjamin  
Jodieann Nelsen  
Nadine Letts  
Elba Melendez  
Orlando Ross  
Hon. Roxanne Persaud  
Raymond Boyce  
Reeves Eisen

Area Resident  
Area Resident  
NYC DOT  
NYC DOT  
Area Resident  
CodyCares  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Council Member Farah Louis  
Council Member  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries  
Utica 2 Flatbush  
Commanding Officer, 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct  
Holy Trinity  
Area Resident  
Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Canarsie Courier  
Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Area Resident  
Representing Congress Woman Clarke  
Member, NYS Senate  
Area Resident  
Representing Senator Andrew Gounardes

Ronald Kroening	Area Resident
P.O. Ronette Benjamin	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
P.O. Thomas Podd	63 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct
Rose Cherubin	Area Resident
Roxanne Nedd-Ervin	Area Resident
Ricardo Parker	Area Resident
Shirley Paul	Area Resident
Jerry Theodat	Brooklyn Estates Center Industries Inc.
Roger Lutchman	Brooklyn Estates Center Industries Inc.
Venessa Harry	Area Resident
Yoreel Fraser	NYC Health Department
Zahid Shah	Brooklyn Public Library
Sue Ann Partnow	District Leader, 59 <sup>th</sup> A.D.

**7:11 P.M.**

Chairperson Michael Ien opened the Virtual Board Meeting of Community Board #18 at 7:11 P.M. Chairperson Ien thanked the Board for supporting him for the position of Chairperson and congratulated the newly elected officers. He thanked all the Board Members for their outstanding dedication and commitment to the maintenance of the quality of life for all our communities and looks forward to working with them as Chairperson to achieve those goals. Board Member Jim Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**7:13 P.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chairperson Michael Ien asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the Community Board Meeting held on December 16, 2020. There being none, Board Member Jeff Rodus made a Motion that the Minutes be accepted as written. Board Member Sylvia Whiteside seconded the Motion and the Motion passed unanimously with 31 Yes – 0 No – 0 Abstention Votes.

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

Chairperson Michael Ien introduced Diana Soriano and Ben Schwed, Project Manager, New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) who presented and discussed the traffic calming safety improvements for motorists, and pedestrians on Kings Highway between Avenue J and East 98 Street. He stated that this proposal specifically is a long stretch of Kings Highway and it goes between Avenue J and East 98 Street and almost three miles long. Its primarily a residential corridor and this portion of Kings Highway with a few limited commercial areas. The B7 bus runs on Kings Highway and its divided between Community Board 17 and 18 at the Bay Ridge Branch train track. This presentation will focus on the portion that's in Community Board 18 tonight and a truck route which is also worth mentioning south of Foster Avenue which is pretty much the entirety of the Community Board 18 portion. His role at The New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) is on safety projects and programs team and they look at where crashes, injuries and fatalities are happening and make it safer. Kings Highway is in a Vision Zero priority area due to the high number of pedestrians suffering severe injuries on this portion of the corridor. With about seven pedestrians with severe injuries and thirteen people who are killed or severely injured per mile. Unfortunately, they also see that there are a lot of crashes, and injuries along Kings Highway with

more than 1200 total injuries in the most recent five-year period and more than 30 severe injuries as well. In the last decade there have been nine fatalities along Kings Highway. This is cause for their attention when they look at how people are getting injured. They also see that there are a lot of injuries occurring from left turn crashes. Disproportionate compared to how many people are getting injured in other parts of the borough. They see way more drivers getting hurt from left turn crashes here and so, when they take these numbers into consideration, they look at the corridor conditions, and they see a couple of issues that they are hoping to be able to address with this proposal. There are long crossing distances across the whole corridor. Kings Highway is a particularly wide road with a main road, service road and could be more than 150 feet long to get across. It can be really challenging if you're someone who walks a little bit slower, for whatever reason, you have limited mobility getting across the whole street in a one-minute signal. Compounding that, there are no mid crossing refuges anywhere along the corridor. So that means that if you can't make it across in one light, you don't have a safe ADA compliance space to wait at while you're crossing the street. Your kind of in the roadway or must get up onto the medians that don't come out into the intersections and by not coming out into the intersections at all, they allow for faster, more dangerous turns for vehicles onto it, kind of compounding the dangers that they see for pedestrians. When they look at it specifically the issues that's on the service road, they see that there's a lack of markings leading to a disorganization unpredictability and it presents danger in that sense. There are merges between the service road and the side roads that are unclear. It's unclear where you're supposed to park and where you're supposed to drive in those locations. Also, a lack of markings where they have slip lanes, where you transition between the main road, and the service road. It can be unclear which direction they're supposed to go when you're in a slip lane and when you're out of it. These are all the issues that they're seeing for vehicles on the service road. He mentioned that at the beginning that they saw a lot of left turn injuries. This is something that they're going to focus on in this presentation tonight. When they're looking at the left turns, and the reason why there are so many left turn injuries on the corridor what they see is if you're making a left turn, particularly off of Kings Highway, motorists must yield to multiple streams of traffic and pedestrians, all at the same time, when you're attempting to make your left turns. Motorists must deal with oncoming traffic in the main road, oncoming traffic into the service road and then at the same time, you must look for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Compounding that you have the medians, which can be blocking your visibility making it hard to see beyond the immediate intersection. The turn distances are long so by the time you've looked for cars and notice that you're clear there might be a new pedestrian in the crosswalk. A lot of times it's due to the nature of the street grid, and the way that Kings Highway cuts and many left turns have low volumes and tight volumes, triangles, and some of them are closer to U turns than left turns. The last thing that they notice on the corridor as a problem is with the bus stops, most of the bus stops are along a narrow, concrete median between the main road and the service road. Many of the bus stops medians are not ADA compliant with no ramp access, to get up to them. If you're using a wheelchair or need to use the ramp for any other reason, there are poles in the middle of them that block the space and they're not wide enough to allow for if you're using a wheelchair and you need to use the bus ramp to access the bus. They're not wide enough for the bus to deploy its ramp and for someone in a wheelchair to get on and off the bus. The narrow median, is also just an unsafe place to stand and wait for the bus. You're waiting directly between two moving lanes in a very narrow, unprotected median which creates an unsafe waiting experience for riders. So, these are all the problems and kinds of issues that they've seen and now this is the proposal for what they're looking to propose along Kings Highway, to make it a safer street. Starting with the markings upgrades that they're looking to do, they're proposing to add painted median tips. To give it a clear location where if you need to wait, you have designated space in which you're able to. So, it shortens the crossing distances by giving you these kinds of great places, where it can be broken up. In addition, they're looking to those to also help tighten

terms bombs going off of Kings Highway which mean that vehicles turning off they'll make those terms slower and that increases the likelihood that they'll yield to pedestrians at crosswalks as they're supposed to. They're looking to also upgrade some of the markings, putting in parking lanes on the service road, and upgrading all of the slip lane markings, just to improve roadway organization, make it more predictable, and clear. When the runways are more organized things are more predictable, and safer. Improve marking predictability, roadway organization and adding some painted curb extensions, at a couple of locations, most notably for CB 18 at Foster Avenue. These will help slow turning vehicles at that intersection, reduce crosswalk distances and provide some additional pedestrian space. If everyone is familiar, there's a Target being constructed right there at Kings Highway and Foster Avenue so they're anticipating pedestrians meeting in that location in the near future. He also mentioned that another part of this proposal is the addition of protected left turns on Kings Highway and looking to add dedicated fully protected left turn phases at all the intersections at Kings Highway with left turns. So, that means a green left turn arrow, a yellow left turn arrow, and a red left turn arrow, and what this does is when you're making a left turn off of Kings Highway you have to look for vehicles coming against you in the main road and the service road, and then look for pedestrians. So, what this will do is make it much safer for drivers and for pedestrians by removing these conflicts. When you have a green turn arrow traffic in the opposite direction is for pedestrians who are crossing and you can just make your turn, when you're a pedestrian crossing you know that vehicles aren't going to be making left turns into that crosswalk and trying to rush across to be in two different conflicting traffic, so these left turn phases that they'll put in everywhere along where they're keeping left turns on Kings Highway, and make it a lot safer for what they see as one of the biggest challenges and biggest safety issues on the street. In order to put in these left turn phases, due to the low volumes that they see at some of the other locations the proposals are select in banning select left turns. Certain left turns off Kings Highway will be banned. Banned turns North bound Kings Highway to westbound Glenwood Road. The left turns off Kings Highway at Avenue H, I, and J northbound and southbound. There are a couple of reasons that this is necessary, and one is to note that these are low volume turns and tight angles in the street grid. The reason they banned these turns is because their signal engineers don't allow them to put left turn arrows for such low volume left turns and so what they can do is consolidate the left turns at a couple of locations. So, consolidate them to Utica Avenue, Schenectady Avenue and Avenue K where you see these easy reroutes that don't take you out of your way and allows them to put in safe left turns at those select locations. And by banning and consolidating the left turns from where they have these low volumes they make sure that they have left turns that are safe and that they're direct and that they serve and let people get to where they need to go. All of these have direct alternatives without having to go out of your way as a driver. In addition, they're looking to improve bus stop medians along King Highway. This year as part of the end 2021 their proposal is to upgrade the bus stop medians at Avenue H in CB 18 and at Church Avenue in CB 17. These expanded medians will be fully ADA compliant. They'll have accessible ramps up to them and there will be sufficient space for riders, and a comfortable waiting area that's wide enough between so that you can wait comfortably between two moving lanes. MTA buses will have no problems deploying the ramps and yields riders and wheelchairs or with mobility issues and can easily get on and off the bus. They're working in coordination with the MTA to identify corridor bus stop upgrade priorities moving forward, but this is to say this year the initial two bus stops along the corridor that they're looking to upgrade are at Avenue H and at Church Avenue. Improve markings along the service road at all the transition points just so that people always know where they're allowed to park and where the merge is happening and where the moving lane is at Avenue H. To just kind of sum up the benefits of this proposal, the left turn signals and consolidating of the left turns are really reducing these conflicts at all these locations. And these are the conflicts that they see leading to a disproportionate amount of the injuries on Kings Highway. This proposal makes that dangerous

movement safer for both drivers and pedestrians. The bus stop improvements provide important accessibility and safety upgrades for riders. It makes bus stops ADA compliant so that riders can get onto and off of the bus, the median tips, and the curb extensions create shorter and safer pedestrian crossings, giving refuge to pedestrians where they may or may not need it on these long crossing distances. And encouraging vehicles to make these turns at slower, safer speeds and yield more to the pedestrians. The parking lane and slip lane markings help to organize the roadway, improve vehicle predictability, and making it safer for all of them and encourage slower safer speeds throughout the corridor, especially as vehicles are coming onto and off of Kings Highway.

Board Member Violine Roberty asked why they are banning the left turns because that's one block from her house and now she must go to Schenectady to make a left turn. Ben Schwed, Project Manager, New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) explained that the reason why the left turns are being banned is because of the low amount of people who are making those turns as well as the need to consolidate the left turns to fewer intersections so that they can put in the left turn signals. They see that at Avenue I there are not a lot of people making those turns. They see two people making the southbound left turn, fifteen making the northbound left turn, and so by removing that which is at this tight angle they can consolidate the left turns to alleviate if you're coming from the north, you can make the left turn at Schenectady if you're coming from the south you would make the left turn at Avenue K and it allows them to provide safe left turns at those intersections. Board Member Sallie Bennett agreed with Board Member Roberty and stated that she travels that way all the time and there are a lot of cars that make the left turn from Kings Highway onto Avenue I and for them to have to go all the way down and come back to East 45<sup>th</sup> Street that's ridiculous. Both Board Member Bennett and Roberty stated that they disagree with the proposal to ban the left turn.

Board Member Nancy Walby asked how and when DOT collected the data on maximum turn volumes per hour shown on page 10 of their presentation. Ben Schwed, Project Manager, New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) stated that the data was collected last year and so those were pre Covid counts. They also did video data and processed it all and those are the numbers that they have. He also stated that he could get her the exact time but not off the top of his head exactly because he doesn't remember but they were pre Covid numbers. Board Member Walby stated that she would be interested in knowing what time of year, month, hours, and what day of the week that they collected the data and got this average. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that he would get her the specifics but usually their data is from an average of a couple of weekdays, travel times, and during the rush hours so when they talk about the maximum numbers that she referred to those are not averages those are the maximums. However, he would get her that information. Board Member Walby stated that especially during the weekend when people do a lot of shopping and the traffic pattern might be a little different so as much as she's interested, she's sure that other members of the board would also like to see that information.

Board Member Roberty asked what's going to be done to mitigate the extra traffic that they're going to have on Schenectady Avenue now that everyone will have to turn on Schenectady Avenue which is normally a quiet block. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that any proposal like this where they talk about turn bans and rerouting of any vehicles it goes through an extensive analysis to make sure that their aren't undo impacts to any of the roads that are being impacted. So, they've done extensive analysis, traffic to make sure that there won't be impacts to Schenectady Avenue.

Kim Robinson an Area Resident who lives on Schenectady Avenue stated that as a result of the recent changes that were done on Utica Avenue, she has seen an increase of traffic in volumes

on her block and a large amount of speeding. So, this proposal brings a great deal of concern when they have a lot of small children on this block. Residents on her block have petitioned the last couple of years to get a speed bump but because its on Schenectady and it's the largest thoroughway next to Utica Avenue they haven't been successful. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) responded and stated that they can look into putting in speed bumps on Schenectady Avenue if that's something that they all would want.

Gerard Brewster an Area Resident asked Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) with all off the studies and researches that were conducted did they ever ask any residents or were they considered in this process as they are coming up with these theories on what will make traffic work. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) responded and stated that they combat this from the Vision Zero Safety Team and so what they're looking at with these proposals is why are people getting injured and being killed on Kings Highway and what they can do to make it safer. So that's been their priority in developing this proposal and how do they make Kings Highway safer. Gerard Brewster an Area Resident stated that his question was directed towards Schenectady Avenue nearby Kings Highway where this new traffic is now going to be directed did anyone there get questioned and is that part of the process. He also stated that as NYC DOT is looking to develop these programs for new flows for traffic to make us safer with Vision Zero are the residents considered, questioned or serving at all in the process particularly the left turn at Schenectady Avenue. Diana Soriano, New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) stated that when they bring the proposals to the Community Board, they come to hear everyone's opinions and suggestions and for an open line of communication. So please if you feel that there are things that they need to look into they're here to listen.

Board Member Violine Roberty asked are they also banning the turns on the service road. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that there are no changes to turns from the service road.

Kim Robinson an Area Resident suggested to Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) that in their studies they should consider the neighboring communities. Although she understands the initiative of Vision Zero, they should also consider other streets that will be impacted. Kings Highway is a major thoroughway but so are the other streets that will be impacted as well. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) agreed and stated that that's part of it and that's why when they look at this and really the left turn issues that it's really a safety improvement.

Board Member Violine Roberty asked Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) if there isn't a lot of traffic and only sixteen cars, what are the safety issues and what records do, they have of accidents being caused by that left turn that they now have to drive several blocks down, to come back around and out of their way when everyone lives near Avenue I and J and putting themselves further away and ore at risk for more accidents just to get to their homes. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that they look at and review all the crash reports. He also stated that with all the turn bans none of them require going past and coming back. They all have direct options to make the left turn before the location and go directly to the street. He also stated that if you are trying to turn onto Avenue I or J coming north you can make the turn onto Avenue K and go up to Albany Avenue. Board Member Roberty mentioned that Albany Avenue is a very crazy street with all the Select buses and traffic. It's like traffic going in ten different directions there already and this is where the turn is allowed supposedly to be safer. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that by adding these left turn arrows and removing the conflicts when you're making the left turns, you're going to now have a clearer left turn to make. so, this is focused on making all these left turns as safe as possible.

Board Member Nancy Walby stated that as some of the other board members pointed out

that if you're banning left turns on one intersection that means you're pushing the traffic into another area. When she looks at the diagram on page 3 where they indicate the number of injuries, severe injuries and fatalities and on page 10 it looks fairly quiet and not too many accidents over a four year period and conceivably the traffic is going to be pushed into if its north up to Avenue H in the direction of Glenwood Road where there are many more accidents. Therefore, she is not following NYC DOT's logic. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) stated that the idea here and the main goal of the left turn treatments that they're doing is to put in these protective left turn phases where people have the green left turn arrows with no conflicts. So the reason that they're banning these left turns is not because it would be fun and that they want to annoy people but what they end up seeing at a lot of these locations that have these tight angles and low volume turns, in order for them to put in the green turn arrows so that there are no conflicts and that all the left turns are safer. There's no way that NYC DOT can put in those turn arrows with the turn volumes that are that low. So, by consolidating them, they allow them to may be pushed into these intersections that will now have higher volumes of left turns but they're confident that by putting in these left turn signals these left turns become much safer even if there are more of them at an intersection. By having the left turn bays with the left turn signals, and what they see as the most dangerous movement you no longer have to look for a gap in oncoming traffic in both the service road and pedestrians. Board Member Walby stated that she understood their logic with that but do they feel that by banning the left turns and all the other things that they are doing that they're actually going to reduce the number of injuries of pedestrians and other motor vehicle occupants. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) responded yes and ultimately that's what it comes down to because they see a lot of people getting injured because of these left turns and by making these protective phases it will reduce the accidents and the injuries. Left turn crashes generally are one of the biggest challenges in NYC and on Kings Highway and it stood out for many more left turn crashes there were compared to most roads in the city and Brooklyn. Board Member Walby asked if the safety data that's on page 3 is from left turns. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) responded and said those numbers are overall. Board Member Walby asked but not necessarily left turns. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) responded that those numbers are overall and that those are the injuries at these locations, and they include left turns but also other injuries.

Board Member Violine Roberty asked if they could get in touch with Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) after this presentation by email etc. Diana Soriano (NYC DOT) responded and said that they could reach out to Dorothy Paul at the Community Board 18 Office with any questions and she will get back to her with any answers to their questions. Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) mentioned that they will be posting the presentation online tomorrow and Diana Soriano (NYC DOT) could provide the link to it as well. Board Member Roberty mentioned that she is also with the Flatlands Flatbush Civic and that they will put something together from the community and send it over to them. Diana Soriano (NYC DOT) and Ben Schwed (NYC DOT) thanked everyone for their time tonight.

Michael Benjamin, Representing State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office greeted everyone and extended Happy New Year wishes to everyone on behalf of the Senator. He raised a concern about the NYC DOT about the traffic signals that they put in a few years ago that were changed to an LED lens which probably allows them to run much less electricity because the LED diffuses it. However, a lot of times you may see a green light but its not really a green light for you or you may still have a red light but you see what looks like a green light because sun illuminates these LED lights and its lenses and it's a situation that's going to cause a bad accident at some point because were all distracted when you're driving and doing other things and when you look up and what you think looks like a green light and it probably isn't. Unfortunately, the NYC DOT had already left and was not able to

address his concern. He also mentioned that if anyone wants to get on the Senator's weekly blast of community events they can write to [senatorpersaud@gmail.com](mailto:senatorpersaud@gmail.com) or go on the Senators webpage and sign up for this weekly newsletter that lets everyone know about things in the neighboring communities as well as likely where you live and it's a good resource.

Anne Richards, Representing Assembly Woman Jaime Williams' Office greeted everyone and wished everyone a Happy new Year on behalf of the Assembly Member. She informed the board that the Assembly Members office is open but not open to the public so if anyone has any issues of concern, they can contact their office at (718)252-2124. Last year they were able to do a lot of events which included a lot of food distributions with the State Senator Roxanne Persaud, Council Member Alan Maisel and Gardy Brazela the former Chairman of Community Board 18. So hopefully they will be able to continue that initiative in the new year because our communities are in need.

P.O. Ronette Benjamin, Representing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct greeted everyone and informed the board that they're having trouble and just received a 10/13 and Genevieve Isom, the Commanding Officer, 63<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct had to leave the meeting. Board Member Anne Richards asked P.O. Benjamin what is a 10/13. P.O. Benjamin responded when the police needs assistance.

Orlando Ross, Representing Congress Woman Yvette Clarke's Office greeted and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed the board that their office is open to virtual meetings only and they can be reached at (718)287-1142. He commended Community Board 18 for a great job on the DOT presentation this evening. He mentioned that the country now has a new President and Vice President and they have just been sworn in today. He also extended greetings on behalf of the Congress Woman. He informed the board that in Washington the Democrats have secured a crucial funding and policy changes to help small businesses including minority owned small businesses. The agreement includes 284 Billion for first and second forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans which are now available starting January 11<sup>th</sup> and they're looking for people to apply for their PPP loans. The PPP loans are forgivable grants but the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) are not but you are still eligible if you are nonprofits, churches, synagogues, small business or whatever you have please apply. It also includes \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions. \$20 billion for targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), which are critical to many smaller businesses on Main Street. They have funding education for childcare and students. The agreement provides \$82 Billion in funding for colleges and schools including support for HDAC, replacement and mitigate virus transmission and reopening classrooms. Another key point is that the Pell Grants has now been increased to 500 recipients if you are or was incarcerated are now eligible to take advantage of a Pell Grant so that they can rehabilitate themselves once they come out of jails. Another thing that has come through is the Broadband with the Cares Act that is coming out right now. They agree to invest \$7 Billion to increase access to Broadband including new emergency broadband benefits to help millions of students, families, and unemployed workers afford broadband as they are going through the pandemic. He mentioned that State, City, and local government is going through a situation regarding a budget deficit. These targeted funds they have now \$27 Billion for State highways struggling, State Transit agencies, Amtrak, Airport, \$22 Billion of health related expense State and Local tribal and territorial government and additional a year of eligibility for expenses under the



Cares Act. So, there is funding now coming from the pipeline. They're expecting to have more being that they have more control over the Senate, and they have now a Democratic President and Vice President. He mentioned that he will put a link in the chat box where everyone can check to see if they are eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination. They understand that there is an issue with a shortage of vaccines coming from the State, but they are trying to see how they can make that happen so that everyone can get the vaccine, although it's a Governor and State issue.

Council Woman Farah Louis greeted everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year and informed the board that she was appointed Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addictions at the NYC Council earlier this year so if anyone has any questions and would like to partner in any capacity to please feel free to reach out to her office. She also shared that the discretionary funding and expense applications filing period is now open and the last day will be February 16<sup>th</sup>, but they would like the applications in before the 16<sup>th</sup>. Because if you wait till the 16<sup>th</sup> there is nothing that any of their offices can do if you wait till the last minute to submit your applications. The application is several pages and there are several requirements to fill out the applications, so you must do it days in advance of the actual application deadline. She shared that the Community Board application is February 12<sup>th</sup> and encourages everyone to apply for that as well. In addition to that she mentioned that if everyone isn't already aware there is a Target that will be opening on the corridor of the Kings Highway area of Community Board 18. She knows that there is supposed to be an opening this Spring that has been delayed so she will be updating everyone soon. They're in contact with Economic Development/Business Services to find out the new day that they will be opening, and they included in that project Target, Five Below and Smashburger. So, all the opening dates for all those businesses will be a bit delayed to the end of Spring and the beginning of Summer. They look forward to working with the Community Board and all the civic associations moving forward.

Frieda Menos, Representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries' Office greeted everyone on behalf of the Congressman and as her colleague at Congress Woman Yvette Clarke's Office stated earlier today was Inauguration Day and we now have new leadership to come in and prepare for business. The Congressman, for all those who are aware, is also the Democratic Caucus Chair and he was reelected as Chair last month and he is looking forward to working with the Biden team to begin pushing on so many initiatives from infrastructure to healthcare. Pretty much everything that's been on the waste side and that was ignored by Senator McConnell will be back on the table and they will continue looking for ways that the Congressman can be impactful for the residents of the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. She also mentioned that they are getting people who are still reaching out about the stimulus checks, whether they didn't get their first check, or they didn't get their 2<sup>nd</sup> check. They just want to make sure that if you are getting calls to please let them know that they must file for that credit in their 2020 tax returns and IRS has indicated that at this point if you haven't received it and with the mail being slow it is an issue. So even if you have people who haven't received the deposits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stimulus check which was supposed to drop last Friday or mailing. If they didn't get the card or a check, she would give it two weeks and if you haven't gotten it still file come next month for the recovery rebate credit. Lastly, she mentioned that what's been on the top of the minds of many constituents and the Congressman was working with his colleagues which is part of the Cares Act that was mentioned earlier by her colleague the paycheck protection program. It did reopen last week originally for some of the community banks and it is now available for people who are taking

loans from larger banks. So, if you have a business its important for you to take advantage of these forgivable loans because if our communities don't apply for it, it will go somewhere else. Individuals can visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) to apply and if you have any issues with any other federal agencies don't hesitate to their office. Their office number is (718)373-8033 and she will also drop it in the chat box as well.

**PARKS COMMITTEE** – Nancy Walby, Chairperson

Chairperson Nancy Walby greeted everyone and informed the board that Tom Hernandez, President of the Fraser Civic Association had to cancel the McCarthy Triangle Memorial ceremony which they've had every single year weather permitting but they are going to try again this May on the Sunday after Mother's Day and before Memorial Day. Its planned for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tom Hernandez will provide more information as the date draws near. She encouraged everyone to get out to the park, they are still open and free. Stretch your legs and shake the cobwebs out of your head and still practice social distancing but it's a great place to get some fresh air.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE** – Sal Calise, Chairperson

1. State Liquor Authority Applications Received and Vote for the Following:

**NEW APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR LIQUOR, WINE, BEER & CIDER:**

- Brooklyn Estate Center Industries Inc., 1819 Utica Avenue – 11234

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

- Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., Seaview Avenue & Paerdegat Basin – 11236
- Hudson River Yacht Club, Hudson River Yacht Club, 2101 Bergen Avenue – 11234
- J.J. Mariners Inn, J.J. Mariners Inn, 3501 Avenue S – 11234

Chairperson Sal Calise congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment.

Chairperson Calise stated that the Community Board notified the Board Members, the local Civic Associations and the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct about the SLA Applications received and objections were received again for the Brooklyn Estate Center Industries Inc., N/A, 1819 Utica Avenue. Chairperson Calise asked if the Applicants or their Representatives were present. Both Roger Lutchman and Mr. Jerry Theodat from Brooklyn Estates Center, Inc. were present for the application. Chairperson Calise stated that the applicant was supposed to come back with some more information for the board. Roger Lutchman stated that they did submit the new application with the information and asked if the board received their email which had everything that was confirmed and discussed at the last meeting. He also stated that they also included pictures so that the board could get an idea of what the inside of the establishment looks like with some of the additions that they made such as the furniture layout with the tables and chairs, and the kitchen. Board Member Maria Garrett stated that she saw the layout, but the board also discussed their hours of operation which she didn't see the changes made on the new application. Jerry Theodat stated that he thought that when we last spoke at last month's meeting everyone agreed that they would do the earlier hours. Roger Theodat stated that he thought that all they needed to send in were the pictures and the layout. They're fine with the hours and feel that the hours are fine. Chairperson Calise stated that the applicant says that this establishment is going to be more of a restaurant, but the outside looks like the old establishment that they had before. Roger Lutchman asked if he was referring to the bricks. Chairperson Calise stated that bricks and the windows look the same. Roger Lutchman replied they weren't going to do anything to the bricks because all the action and stuff is

inside and not outside. He also stated that the pictures of the inside look nothing like the outside of the establishment. It's a nondescript building and would think that it blends in with the rest of the block. Gerard Brewster an Area Resident stated that it's not saying much considering the rest of the block is chop shops and a laundromat. Roger Lutchman replied and said that if you look at the inside its like night and day which kind of eludes to the energy that they put into it if you look at the inside. Jerry Theodat stated that there's not much that they can really do about the outside. The building is brick and they changed the brick according to the front of the building. Roger Lutchman stated that they're not even in there yet and maybe down the line they might do something with a glass façade or something like that, but they must get in there and start operating first before they can do those kinds of upgrades. P.O. Ronette Benjamin, Representing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct asked what these earlier hours would be. Roger Lutchman stated that he believes the latest hours would be 1 AM weekdays and 2 AM on weekends. Board Member Barbara Bieber stated that she does not believe those were the hours that were discussed at last month's board meeting. The board had different hours set in place. Jerry Theodat replied for the weekends the board said 2 AM. Board Member Bieber stated that the board said not till 1 AM during the week. The board suggested 11 PM during the week and 1 AM on the weekends. Chairperson Calise asked Roger Lutchman if he was part of the prior establishments that were there. Roger Lutchman stated that he was there when it was Venus and went through this at last months board meeting. Since they've been there have been two other locations after they left. They were there from 2007 to 2013 almost seven years. Board Member Bieber stated that on the application where does it state the hours of operation. She also stated that if it's not written on the application there is nothing for the applicant to abide by and it should've been included in the new application that was sent. Board Member Garrett agreed that she did not see the hours of operation included in the new application. Jerry Theodat stated that at the prior meeting they all had agreed on the early hours that the board recommended, and they were ok with it. Board Member Bieber stated that, but shouldn't it be on the application. She stated sorry to say that it's like a contract and you sign a contract and if you think something is in it and you just say okay, we're not going to worry about it and we're going to take his word. A contract is legally binding, so your application is legally binding. Roger Lutchman stated that he understood. P.O. Benjamin stated that the application needs to be revised. Roger Lutchman stated that they agree with that and their representative should've or would assume submitted that. He asked if the hours of operation were on any of the papers that were sent over. Board Member Garrett stated that she's looking at the final letter that was submitted and it does not have the hours of operation such as opening and closing time. All we have is the pictures of the layout, number of tables and seats, the occupancy of 299, two security guards, two cooks, two hosts/hostesses, two bartenders, one busser and one custodian. All of that is in there but sees nothing about the hours of operation, so that needs to be included. Roger Lutchman asked if he could send something over to the board this evening agreeing to the hours of operation that the board recommended. Board Member Bieber replied that the board wouldn't be able to vote on it since it wasn't presented to board right now. Chairperson Calise stated no we could not vote on it. P.O. Benjamin was asked if the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has a position on this application. P.O. Benjamin stated that she would let the Commanding Officer speak on it but the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precincts position on the application was sent over to the board for last month's board meeting. As far as opening, pictures, or there their hours of operation they weren't privy to that information and they didn't get an invite. Board Member Bieber stated that, that was one of the things that was discussed at last month's board meeting that when they would bring back the application to the board it would include the things that the board was looking for and agreed and so looking at this, this is what the expectation was all that was going to be written inside the application and now we don't see any of it. She stated that she knows that the Precinct might want to get inside but as a Community Board the biggest thing was the hours of operation and we felt if we put that time in place that would at least combat some of the issues that

the surrounding areas might have but its not in there so this presents a problem. P.O. Benjamin asked if the number of occupants is 299. Chairperson Calise stated yes and to be honest he doesn't know a restaurant that has that type of occupancy unless it's a nightclub. Roger Lutchman stated that unfortunately that's what the NYC Department of Buildings has it listed as and its not something that they came in and updated. If you look at the furniture layout, they don't have seating for 299. They're not entertaining that amount. Board Member Bieber stated that if that's the case then that needs to be removed from their application. Because it cannot state 299 people and it can't hold that many people. Jerry Theodat stated that legally the occupancy is 299 and they can hold 299. P.O. Benjamin asked as a restaurant or club. Roger Lutchman stated as a restaurant seated. Chairperson Calise stated that as he's looking at the tables and chairs that we're talking here, and it doesn't look like a restaurant seating but a nightclub seating. This is of you're going to have a snack while you're watching a club or you're watching somebody on stage or dancing. Board Member stated that she just can't see 300 people there. Roger Lutchman stated that there not setting up for 300 people. They're not doing a lounge and the component that they removed is the lounge aspect. There could've been lounge furniture seating but there none of that its strictly tables and chairs. They also have the banquet tables which are rectangle tables if they have larger groups. The seating is all tables and chairs and there isn't any lounge or nightclub furniture or anything. Chairperson Calise asked the applicant to explain what "Vibe Dining" is. Roger Lutchman stated that its when you're eating and there's an atmosphere that's established whether it be by music, performance artist, spoken word, or a band. It can be anything while you're dining. Chairperson Calise stated that so it's a nightclub. Roger Lutchman asked Chairperson Calise what's his definition of a nightclub. Board Member Joan Gilbert stated that the applicant didn't say that it was a nightclub. Roger Lutchman stated that a nightclub is dancing, loud music, and that's his definition of what a nightclub is and that's not what they're doing. There isn't loud music and they're not equipped with nightclub equipment, its not there and they're not using that. Board Member Bieber stated that this is what the Board Members are looking at and this is where they have an issue and she'll explain. If she goes to page 49 on one of the sheets and it says method of operation live music in detail rock bands, acoustic, jazz, open/comedy, patron dancing, other nothing is specified in the other box and they left it blank, Disc Jockey which is a DJ, and recorded music is different. So, the problem that the board is seeing unfortunately with the application is that with those things listed there but you're saying that you're not going to run it like that. She needs to stress to the applicant an important issue here is that if it's in the application and it gets approved and the board votes on it, they have nothing to say when that live DJ shows up with 300 people. That's the problem. There's a problem with the site so the board has stipulations and on the application here it doesn't adhere to what the board spoke to. You're saying that you're not going to do it, but you can. If we sign a contract and I say you know what I'm going to be home between 1 and 11 and I go out and I'm not home, I broke the contract. If you break the contract and nobody says anything, you know what, I'm already doing it my neighbors aren't going to complain and that's the problem with your establishment. If we say yes how easy is it to close you down after that it's not and then the neighbors are the ones that must suffer the consequences. Roger Lutchman stated that he understood but doesn't the closing time address all the boards concerns. Board Member Bieber stated that the ending time of 1 AM with live music, DJ, with like 300 people. She's very concerned over the time and it needs to be addressed in the application. She asked if anyone else had any comments. Chairperson Calise stated that he's going to be honest and he's looking at the entertainment type and it states that the applicant would like the ability to offer live music, DJ, acoustic music, patron dancing, one to three person acts such as a comedy show, instead of a traditional bar or lounge with entertainment. Then it says the applicant will focus on theme music such as jazz, reggae, and blues but you're going to have a DJ and its all very confusing. Roger Lutchman stated that its not confusing and he thinks its kind of ingenious because they're catering

to different segments of a market. Its not the same thing every day, and every day you can have a different experience. They're even keeping the option of maybe adding some things to their menu to fit in with whatever the theme is for the evening. Chairperson Calise asked if they believe they could operate there for one year without a liquor license. Roger Lutchman stated no not with the overhead. Jerry Theodat stated that as you all can see already with the occupancy of 299 people the rent is not cheap. So, they wouldn't be able to operate like that. Roger Lutchman again stated that they wouldn't use it as 299 occupants but that's what the NYC Department of Buildings has its occupancy as but that's not within their method of operation or plan on doing anything like that. Jerry Theodat stated that it's dining and they're not doing any real dancing and it's all just entertainment. Chairperson Michael Ien asked Planning and Zoning Chair Calise if he is ready to make a motion on the application because it's time to move on. Chairperson Calise stated that he doesn't have a fun feeling about the application, and it has the potential to go wrong and he's not in favor of the application. Chairperson Calise made a motion to disapprove the New Application received from Brooklyn Estate Center Industries Inc., TBD, 1819 Utica Avenue, 11234. Board Member Joan Gilbert asked doesn't the board members have a chance to state their own opinion. Jerry Theodat stated that before the board votes he would like to say that they are both residents of the community and own a successful liquor store in the community and they're experienced businessmen. They're not trying to trick anyone or go against their word. This is exactly what they're trying to do. That error with the hours of operation on their behalf they thought it was agreed upon and pretty sure that their attorney thought the same thing and, maybe that's why it wasn't in the application although he doesn't understand why because she made sure to give them a list of the things that they needed to have. Board Member Bieber asked if she could suggest to P.O. Benjamin, if the board tabled the application till next month and the precinct was able to go inside and see the establishment, speak to the owners, get a feel and vibe of the place and the applicant was to come back next month with the hours of operation in place on that application because technically it doesn't matter if he has a DJ that night or a comedian or whatever but if we set the time its conducive to the neighborhood because 11 PM during the week and 1 AM on the weekends because that's the only thing that she can say about this application. What does the Precinct think about that? Chairperson Calise stated that what if stays open pass 1 AM. Board Member Bieber stated that she understands but we must figure out an easier way to see whether or not he can come back with an application that's conducive to where we're accepting it. If they come back next month and Captain Isom and P.O. Benjamin come back and say that they're not happy then we can say no. The board doesn't have to do it this way she's just coming up with a suggestion. Captain Genevieve Isom from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct stated that she jumped on the line mid conversation and apologizes but also stated that she doesn't mind doing a little bit of leg work and meeting with this applicant and doing a site survey, bringing her people out and revisit this at a later date. She'll have her input and her feedback and then come down on a decision and give her professional opinion. But from what she understands this site has been problematic in the past but like she said this is the second time around for her and have been in charge with it in the past, so it might get a little boxed but she can wipe that slate clean. She doesn't know exactly what the application says but she thinks it said no dancing but you're going to have music till 1 AM. You're right what happens if it goes past 1 AM and then it becomes problematic on Utica Avenue and here we are, and the police must deal with this now. They can set up a time and a place and doesn't mind and willing to hear. Board Member Bieber asked if the board wants to table it or vote on the application. Chairperson Calise stated that now that we have a new wrinkle, we're going to have to table it till next months board meeting. Board Member Gilbert, Bennett and Richards stated that they support tabling the vote on this application. Chairperson Calise asked if anyone from that civic association on the meeting. Someone suggested that the Mill Basin Civic Association may cover that area. Board Member Paul Curiale asked for the exact location of the establishment. Board Member Violine

Roberty stated that the establishment is right by the Rite Aid on Avenue J. Board Member Curiale stated that it's not the Mill Basin Civic Association and asked Board Member Roberty if it was her civic. Board Member Roberty stated that it's closer to the Flatlands Flatbush Civic Group. Her civic group doesn't reach that far but it's only a few blocks away from her house. She also stated that her issue with this application is the school and believes that the school may have an issue with it. She also believes that the school is within 200 feet and not sure who did the assessment because it's been turned down several times before in the past and the school was the reason. She asked where is the liquor store that they own located. Jerry Theodat stated that it's on Avenue L between Rockaway Parkway and east 96<sup>th</sup> Street. Board Member Roberty stated that she's open to tabling the vote on the application to give them the opportunity to come back with the proper hours but hopefully if the NY State Liquor Authority can put those stipulations in or maybe request that they put those stipulations in place. Board Member Garrett stated that her problem is that there are times when these establishments make these commitments and promise us the world and get in those locations, they're there for not even a year speaking from self-experience and then things start happening. Once they're in there it's not easy to shut it down. They make promises and they're not keeping them. Jerry Theodat stated that at that location there's been about five different owners and they were there for the longest period of time, about 7 years and it wasn't that they were closed down or anything it was that they ended up selling the business to the next owners. They did everything in their power to make sure that they kept a clean record. Board Member Roberty asked if when they were there was it a restaurant then because as much as she's heard of this and everything you've said even if the board decides to approve this, she doesn't believe it's going to be a restaurant. It's going to be a sitting type of lounge situation. Jerry Theodat stated that at that time it wasn't a restaurant but look how many years ago that was. Now they're older and more mature that's not the type of business that they're trying to do right now. At that time, they were a little bit younger and the club thing is what they were doing but now they're older and going for a whole different angle and more of a restaurant atmosphere with some entertainment with mature people. They don't need a whole bunch of people in there they just need the right people in there. They're trying to reach out to a certain level. Chairperson Calise asked if they have two security guards. Roger Lutchman responded yes, and he believes two hostesses, and all they're trying to do is direct the traffic. If you notice in the pictures you must try and navigate the tunnel to get to the dining area. So, they must make sure that the guests are navigated through the tunnel properly and must make sure that they're adhering to the current Covid guidelines. So, therefore they need to have the guards, but the hostesses also function as keeping everyone where they need to be. Chairperson Calise asked with the Covid guidelines and social distancing how many people could they have in there. Roger Lutchman stated that if you look at the pictures all the tables are more than six feet apart. Jerry Theodat stated that it depends on what they say the capacity is because they're basing it by percentage. If they say that they can start off with 25% then it would be that percentage of the 299. Roger Lutchman stated that if everything is spaced out by the proper distance which they have room for that. Which is why they were thinking the board wanted the pictures. Roger Theodat stated that he doesn't know if the board noticed it but there are two seating areas. They have a lower level and an upper level. Roger Lutchman stated that they have two dining areas and they have a separate bar area. Chairperson Calise stated that at this point the board is going to table the application. The board will table the application and he will get in touch with Captain Isom, the Community Affairs Officers and we're going to go over there and get their intake. He also wants to go back the civic association and get their input because they're going to be the ones that are going to suffer the most if this goes haywire. He's also going to the school and measure it himself and if it's less than 200 feet then there is going to be another issue. We can't keep dragging this on for another couple of months. Depending in those three results it's going to either be an approval or denial. Board Member Joan Gilbert asked what school this establishment is close to. Chairperson

Calise stated PS 328. P.O. Benjamin stated 1800 Utica Avenue is the address of the school. Chairperson Calise stated that the board will table the application till next month and he will get in touch with Captain Isom, and who the civic association is for that location and take all of the information and put it together and whatever we come up with that's when the decision is going to be made. Unfortunately, whether you're mature now or weren't mature before or whatever unfortunately that has gone on before is what's making everyone hesitant to do it again. Roger Lutchman stated that he understood. Roger Lutchman and Jerry Theodat stated that what happened before had nothing to do with them and had nothing to do with that. Chairperson Calise stated that we can keep going over this, but you said that you owned Venus and if he understands this was in 2013. Roger Lutchman stated yes but there were two owners after that. Chairperson Calise stated yes but were you the owners and leased it out to someone or what's the story. Roger Lutchman and Jerry Theodat state that they sold the business in 2013. Jerry Theodat asked how they will get in contact with Chairperson Calise to come and see the place. Chairperson Calise stated that he would be in contact with them and Captain Isom and pick a date and see if they are available with the date that they give you and we'll all meet there.

Chairperson Calise made a Motion that Community Board #18 table the vote for the New Application received from Brooklyn Estate Center Industries Inc., TBD, 1819 Utica Avenue, 11234. until next month's February 17, 2021 board meeting. Board Member Anne Richards Seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with 31 Yes Votes.

There being no further comments or questions concerning the applications Chairperson Sal Calise asked that Community Board #18 recommends approval of the Renewal Applications received for Midget Squadron of Jamaica Bay Inc., Seaview Avenue & Paerdegat Basin, 11236, Hudson River Yacht Club, Hudson River Yacht Club, 2101 Bergen Avenue, 11234, and J.J. Mariners Inn, J.J. Mariners Inn, 3501 Avenue S, 11234. Board Member Barbara Bieber made a motion to approve the Renewal Applications received. Board Member Sallie Bennett Seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously with 31 Yes Votes.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – Ian Gaynor, Chairperson

Chairperson Gaynor, Board Member Kenny Jean Baptiste provided the following information:

1. Traffic Calming Safety Improvements for motorists, and pedestrians on Kings Highway between Avenue J and East 98 Street, as presented and Vote.

There being no further discussion, comments or questions, Board Member Kenny Jean Baptiste made a Motion that Community Board #18 recommends denial of the Traffic Calming Safety Improvements for motorists, and pedestrians on Kings Highway between Avenue J and East 98 Street, as presented. Board Member Sal Calise seconded the Motion and the Motion passed unanimously with 29 Yes and 1 No, and 1 Abstention Votes.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION VIA WEBEX . . .**

Loretta Chin and Area Resident stated that just getting familiar with what a Community Board does and lives in this area of Flatlands and lives a few blocks away from an area that has so much graffiti up and down Flatbush Avenue. Some may know her as a reporter for the Canarsie Courier but she's not contacting the board in that capacity tonight. She's an independent journalist and has her own news and media website that she administers on Facebook called Flatlands Independent.

She posted pictures of a property on Flatbush Avenue. I understand that the program that the city used to have called Graffiti Free NYC has been suspended indefinitely due to lack of funding, but wanted to know if there is a way to have the elected officials report graffiti and have the owners contacted, especially on those properties that are closed up and for sale where the responsible parties are located outside of the neighborhood. Some of these abandoned properties have tape hanging over the front of them others are just with graffiti, and there are graffiti on construction sites on the wooden boards that they put up especially in and around her neighborhood on that corner of Nostrand Avenue and Avenue I and it's all covered with graffiti over the wooden paneling that's around the lot. It's just everywhere and wanted to know if the Community Board has been approached about this by anyone and also to let the community board know that as an independent journalist she does it as a voluntary service for the community to have this Facebook page. She's done nothing to get the word out but has about 100 to 150 people on there right now because of the posts that go up and some people take an interest in some of the things that she posts about so word gets around organically. She may make that into a website one day, but this is like a photo type just to see what the interest might be for this area. She thinks that Flatlands and on her side of Flatlands does not really get a lot of attention and trying to raise this profile. P.O. Officer Benjamin stated that graffiti is something that the precinct handles. She asked Ms. Chin to confirm the location again. Ms. Chin stated yes and that on Nostrand and Avenue I there's a construction site on the corner that's boarded up and covered with graffiti. P.O. Benjamin stated that the location is in the 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct and not the 63<sup>rd</sup> but she's sure that they can take the gander and if there's some graffiti that must be cleaned up, they can clean it up. But that does not belong to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. That side of the street is the 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct. One she did report to 311 and 911 was at 1925 Flatbush Avenue (formerly the After Dark Sports Bar and Lounge) and there's a gate around it but there's a lot of debris inside, there's mattresses thrown, a no parking sign thrown in the lot, there is an open and broken door and doesn't know if there is anyone in there. P.O. Benjamin stated that if they do clean up on someone's property, they must get permission from the owner of that property. Ms. Chin stated that she reported it to the graffiti coordinator at the precinct and he said that he would try to contact the property owner but that was just an example of one but if you go up and down Flatbush Avenue in the Flatlands jurisdiction there are plenty of other storefronts that are closed down, the gates are down and they're covered in graffiti and as homeowner in this area she's very concerned about the way it is perceived and if the property values are going down because of it. P.O. Benjamin stated that she would investigate it. Board Member Sylvia Whiteside stated that many times with graffiti it is very difficult, and the police need to look at it because they have officers to interpret what we call graffiti. She suggested that Ms. Chin contact the Crime Prevention Officer. Captain Isom stated that when they go out and visit these sites, they take pictures of it and they send it to this specific unit where they database all the tags and they can catalog them so they can help them decipher if they're gang overtones and if they know who the actual graffiti artists are sometimes. They do have a coordinator and she will follow up with them and see where they're at with the site on Flatbush Avenue and Flatlands Avenue and hopefully they can do some clean ups. She knows that they have been, and they typically do it on a regular basis, but she'll check in with him and see where they're at. Ms. Chin thanked Captain Isom and stated that she knows it's very difficult because there's not enough funding to address and the program that was once there to take care of this is no longer available. She thinks it's a matter of just asking the property owners if they can just clean it up but she doesn't want to do it and doesn't want to knock on people doors and say can you clean up your property even if it's a real estate holder I don't think a homeowner should get involved with that.

Reeves Eisen, Representing State Senator Andrew Gounardes Office extended greetings for a happy, healthy and a hopeful New Year from Senator Gounardes. She stated that the Senator is



working with the governor regarding the shortage of vaccines. The governor is trying to get some directly to New York so hopefully that shortage will be alleviated soon. She stated that something that came out today people who work part time and are getting unemployment for their other employment they'll be getting an email telling them how to claim. It will no longer be the number of days you worked per week and it will be the number of hours. If you have any questions, please call their office. They are in Monday through Friday from 10 Am to 6 PM. They are doing as much as they can remotely, and people are being seen by appointment only if it's necessary in person. On January 6<sup>th</sup> we all know about what happened at the capitol but in addition to that the state senate opened their sessions and Senator Gounardes' wife gave birth to an adorable baby boy named Evan. It was a very special day all around and her last question is for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Precinct the evac that you were just speaking about did that happen in or around Marine Park because there were helicopters above Marine Park for a good while. Captain Isom stated that she had two different emergencies going on at the same time. The 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct called for assistance that's when we all need to get on board and help our brothers. So, they did have helicopters up looking for a suspect in relation to a firearm, so the perp got away however, they know who he is so they're going to eventually get him. The area is safe, but they did have aviation to assist from above. But like she said there was no suspects in backyards, they cleared everything, and they believe that he got out before they had a perimeter set up. But like she said firearms were recovered and everyone is safe. The neighborhood can resume back to normal and she apologized for the inconvenience and all her officers are safe but thank you for inquiring. Everyone should be good now. Ms. Eisen asked if that was the one related to the 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct incident or was that a separate one. Captain Isom stated that it was in relation to the 70<sup>th</sup> Precinct and they share a border right over there so it's in the vicinity of East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Avenue L. However, when you're up in the sky aviation it looks like it's over Marine Park and relatively close, so they were up there for a while. Reeves Eisen stated that she's glad that everyone is safe and she's sure that they'll keep working to get the guy since you know who he is and thank you for everything that you've been doing under difficult circumstances.

Board Member Sylvia Whiteside shared a concern that was brought to her from people in the community and it relates to the parking on Seaview Avenue between East 98<sup>th</sup> Street and East 102<sup>nd</sup> Street. They put angle parking by the islands in the middle of the street. What was a three lane for traveling has now converted to a two lane and when the people get out of their cars if they park on Seaview Avenue, they cannot see the cars coming and its very easy for them to get hit especially pedestrians as well. They understand that this is supposed to be permanent and they are objecting to it and would like to ask them to investigate this problem. Community Assistant Dorothy Paul stated that her concern should be addressed with the NYC Department of Transportation, but they already left the meeting. However, she would reach out to them in the morning.

Zahid Shah, Neighborhood Library Supervisor for the Jamaica Bay Brooklyn Public Library greeted everyone and provided an update on libraries programs and activities.

Board Member Maria Garret shared that she's been working with the Fresh Creek Civic and she's also on the committee working with the Governor's Office on for Hurricane Sandy Recovery so they're going to present a proposal of what they're going to do with the project. It's called the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and they would like to come to the Community Board in March to present their project on what they want to do at the Fresh Creek. Community Assistant Dorothy Paul suggested that Board Member Maria Garrett call the office tomorrow and provide us with the contact information for the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery so we can set that up.

Board Member Jeff Rodus congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment to Chairman of the Community Board. He stated that Michael has served a long time and it's wonderful that you have this honor and it's well-deserved and only good things. Chairperson Ien thanked Board Member Rodus.

Board Member Tom Hernandez also congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment as Chairman of Community Board 18. He knows that he's going to do good things for the community board and he knows that he has waited a long time and he for one is totally in support and anything that he needs he can pick up the phone and give him a call. Chairperson Ien thanked Board Member Hernandez.

Board Member Maria Garrett congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment to Chairman of the Community Board. She informed him that she's there for him and will help him in anyway that she can and that he has her number to give a call and feel free. Chairperson Ien thanked Board Member Garrett.

Board Member Barbara Bieber asked Chairperson Ien what happened to their seats and how are they going to sit side by side anymore. Chairperson Ien stated that he doesn't know and laughed. Board Member Bieber stated that he will do great.

Board Member Nancy Walby congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment to Chairman of the Community Board and ditto what everyone else said. Chairperson Ien Thanked Board Member Walby.

Board Member Reeves Eisen congratulated Chairperson Michael Ien on his appointment to Chairman of the Community Board and looks forward to serving with him. Chairperson Ien thanked Reeves Eisen and congratulated Senator Gounardes on his baby.

There being no further business or discussion, Board Member Violine Roberty asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting of Community Board #18 and Board Member Reeves Eisen seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously with 30 Yes Votes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

*End.....*