

# THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 3



## MINUTES OF THE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP. 1368 FULTON STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11216

### Attendance:

#### Members Present:

Felicia Alexander, Tywan Anthony, Monique Antoine, Lillian Bowman, Anthony Buissereth, Michael Catlyn, Evelyn Collier, Pastor Gwendolyn Dingle, Taina Evans, Marc Abou-Faissal, Richard Flateau, Sharon Forbes, Keith Forest, Gregory Glasgow, Shia Greenfeld, Mary Jemison-Head, Abitzel Robinson-Hobson, Everett Hughes, Victor Iroh, Keisha Jerryman, Edna Johnson, Dr. Kerliene Johnson, Dr. Debra Lamb, Lisa Lewis, Marion Little, Hardy "Joe" Long, Dovie Matthews, Kenneth Mbonu, Ellen Miller, Melissa Plowden-Norman, Santana Payton, Simone Pratt, Wendy Robinson, Stacey Ruffin, Suzette Sheppard, Jamella Swift, Alice Walton, Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, TJ Wilson

**Members Absent/Excused:** Babatunde Akowe, Dr. Kim Best, Vanessa Clark, Ivy Gamble-Cobb, Oma Holloway, Dionicio Liz, C. Doris Pinn, Karen Rhau, Carolyn Richburg, Chinyelu Udoh, Douglas Williams

#### Elected Officials/Reps:

Stefani Zinerman – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery, Karen Cherry – Hon. Erik Dilan, Nickolas Perry – Hon. Scott Stringer, Christopher LeBron – Hon. Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Det. Conrad Narcisse – 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct, Daniel Fisher – 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct Community Council, Taina Evans – Brooklyn Public Library, James Durrah – Brooklyn Neighborhood Services, Brian Johnson – Mercy College

### REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Richard Flateau

Mr. Flateau welcomed everyone back from summer break. He gave an update on some of the events he attended during the summer:

- Borough Board meeting
- On Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, he held a new Community Board 3 Member Orientation along with the District Manager, Henry Butler to discuss the by-laws, committee assignments, parliamentary procedure, community board role in the Capital & Expense Budget and an introduction into zoning and land use.
- The Board was successfully audited by the City for compliance following the completion of a sexual harassment training by the staff.
- On Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, he attended a hearing held by the NYS Empire State Development Corp. on the Master Lease Renewal Extension requested by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. He testified in favor of the five-year lease extension.
- As a result of a supplemental allocation of funds from City Council to community boards in the last fiscal year, the Board was able to host a few events, staff training and development, purchase zoning handbooks for the board members.

- During the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a presentation by the founder of the Doe Fund. The Doe Fund is in the process of closing on the purchase of the Paul J. Cooper's property at 510 Gates Avenue. In the future, they will be seeking a letter of support for the construction of a new facility that will provide supportive housing and occupational training for the homeless.

Mr. Flateau read the agenda into the record. He also informed the audience that Council Member Cornegy, Jr. will be hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the Third-Party Transfer Program and deed theft. It will be held at the First Church of God in Christ, 221 Kingston Avenue, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### **Hon. Eric Gonzalez – Kings County District Attorney**

District Attorney Gonzalez informed the audience that he will be hosting a Law & Justice Town Hall on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, along with the NYS Attorney General, Letitia James. It will be held at Pratt Institute at 6:30 p.m. It will be moderated by NY1's, Jeanine Ramirez. They will be discussing topics that impact the community. He added that overall, crime is down and Brooklyn is doing okay.

Since he was elected as district attorney he had turned around the "Bail System". He is currently working on a Criminal Reform Package which will be released in January. In addition, he stated that some of his budget will be allocated to support After School Programs. Please contact his office with any issues.

### **Hon. Robert Cornegy, Jr. – Council Member**

Council Member Cornegy stated that the Third-Party Transfer Program (TPT) is racist as it relates to communities of color. He added that of the 420 properties taken through the program, only 210 were in distress. There were none in Staten Island. He stated that this is a 30-year program that was designed to aid large buildings that were absentee landlord and needed services. The building would be transferred to a third party to be renovated and managed. It would then be turned over to the tenant at below market rates.

In the 36<sup>th</sup> District, there were ten properties in the program, five were not supposed to be in the program and they were returned to the owners and two were vacant lots. He stated that he wrote six legislations to prevent this from happening again:

1. To remove all Tax Class I (1-4 family) properties from the program;
2. Require that HPD clean up all data as violations when counting properties as distressed;
3. Require City Council to reform the program every five years;
4. Properties should not be transferred unless they have \$100,000 worth of violations;
5. Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of City of New York. Require the Department of Finance Commissioner to provide documentation of all outstanding arrears for any property subject to TPT;

This will be rolling list of all the properties in arrears for tax or water and his office in conjunction with the local not-for-profit will contact these homeowners so that they will not be placed on the list. His office will also review all the homes that were transferred over the past 20 years to ensure no one was defrauded of their properties.

### **P.O. Christopher Charles – 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

Officer Charles invited everyone to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Det. Liu and Ramos Community Day on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be held on Myrtle Avenue between Marcy and Nostrand Avenues from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Det. Conrad Narcisse – 81<sup>st</sup> Precinct**

The next Precinct Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 1958 Fulton Street at 7:00 p.m. On Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Clergy Council meeting will be held at Good Tidings Gospel Chapel, 345 Malcom X Blvd and Fulton Street, at 7:00 p.m.

**Stefani Zinerman – Hon. Velmanette Montgomery**

Ms. Zinerman announced a rally in support of homeowners on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Interfaith Medical Center, at 11:30 a.m.

**Taina Evans – Brooklyn Public Library**

Ms. Evans announced that all public libraries will be hosting an open house on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The library will also be hosting an Exceptional Child Resource Fair on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Central Branch.

**Hon. Latrice Walker**

Assembly Member Walker informed the audience that at the next election, voters will have to flip the ballot again. One of the questions will be about “Rank Choice Voting”. She explained what this means and encouraged everyone to do their own research to determine how they will make their selection.

In addition, Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, will start process for petitioning for presidential delegates.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Henry L. Butler**

[Y:DM Report for September 2019.docx](#)

**I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION**

**A. Capital & Expense Budget Committee:**

Anthony Buissereth and T.J. Wilson gave a brief presentation on the upcoming Capital and Expense Budget request for Fiscal Year 2021.

They asked committees to discuss the budget at their next meeting. Anyone with ideas and suggestion are welcome to share them. The public can provide input at the October meeting. The committee is soliciting community request via a survey online and copies will also be available. Deadline to submit will be the mid October.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Swowakz LLC, located at 283 Nostrand Avenue (Clifton Place & Greene Avenue)

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced the owner, Jillian Wowak*

Swowakz LLC, dba Paul’s., is a 22-seat restaurant with a 12-seat bar food counter. The previous restaurant of this location was Lucha Lucha. The layout will be the same. The hours of operation will be Sunday through Thursday: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.; Friday and Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. There will be background music. There will be no outside seating. Ms. Wowak is the owner and will work at the restaurant. She has been in the industry for 20 years. She will be hiring seven to nine employees and have contacted Jobs Plus for this process.

She will be purchasing fish from Shipwreck Gourmet Fish Boutique and local herbs from Services for the Underserved. Her family owns a farm on Long Island which she will acquiring her fresh vegetables from them. Desserts will come from a local Chocolatier.

Ms. Wowak added that she has partnered with Services for the Underserved and another program at the Marcy Houses. Once a month she will donate her tips to the formerly homeless adults with disabilities. Support letters and signatures from residents were provided.

**B. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Chipotle Mexican Grill, located at 774 Broadway & Marcus Garvey Blvd

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Lee Cox, District Manager*

Mr. Cox stated that Chipotle has nine restaurants in Brooklyn. The restaurant at this location have been opened since March 2019. They will be serving beer, wine and margaritas. The hours of operation will be from 10:45 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Mr. Cox added that they are not hiring minors to work at this location.

Comments and statements were made by employees of Chipotle and members of Local 32BJ. Questions were also asked and answered.

**C. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Lucky's Cocktail Lounge, located at 334 Marcus Garvey Blvd. (Madison & Putnam)

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Niokquae Williams, Owner*

Ms. Williams stated that she has 10 years of experience. This will be a lounge. The hours of operation will be every day from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. She will be serving tapas, beer, wine and cocktails. The capacity is 74. She will be utilizing the backyard space, however, it will be closed at 10:00 p.m. There will be no music in the backyard. There will be a staff of 15.

Questions were asked and answered.

**D. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Filthy Diamond, located at 409 Greene Ave. (Bedford & Nostrand Avenues)

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Erin Boyd, Owner*

This is a small establishment with 60 seats, 18 tables with an outdoor patio. The capacity is 70 people. She will have a flower shop in the front of the business. She stated that she will be working with Exalt Youth who will be providing internships. She will also have books for rent.

Ms. Boyd added that she will be partnering with Groundswell who will create a mural in the backyard. She will have 10 employees who will be tip certified with training on how to serve alcohol. She will soundproof the establishment. The hours of operation will be from 12:00 pm – 4:00 a.m. The patio will close at 10:00 p.m. The food will be pizza, cupcakes, and patties.

Questions were asked and answered.

**E. Economic Development Committee:**

Alcohol Beverage Control License Application for Greenings Fine Foods, located at 676 Flushing Ave (Throop & Tompkins Avenues)

*Tywan Anthony, Committee Chair introduced Dana Lavin*

This will be an all-day cafe serving farm-to-table cuisine breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. – midnight.

A question was asked by a board member and answered

### **III. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ray Ray made an announcement about Dr. William Mackey, Jr., at 103 Quincy Street.

### **IV. ROLL CALL**

There were 39 members present and 11 absent.

### **V. COMMITTEE UPDATES & RESOLUTIONS**

The following Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs made announcements about their next meetings: Monique Antoine – Education & Youth, Gregory Glasgow – Transportation, Sanitation & Environment, Stacey Ruffin – Civic & Public Safety, Tywan Anthony – Economic & Development and Edna Johnson – Health & Social Services

### **VI. ACTION ON THE PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **A. Swowakz LLC request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License**

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **SUPPORT**. A motion was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Gregory Glasgow.  
[Y:\Vote for Swowakz LLC.pdf](#)

#### **B. Chipotle Mexican Grill request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License.**

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **NON-SUPPORT**. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Taina Evans.  
[..\Vote for Chipolte.pdf](#)

#### **C. Lucky's Cocktail Lounge request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License**

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **SUPPORT**. A motion was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Marion Little.  
[Y:\Vote for Lucky's Cocktail.pdf](#)

#### **D. Filthy Diamond request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License**

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **SUPPORT** with two contingencies:

- 1) Close at 3:00 a.m. on weekends
- 2) Close at 1:00 a.m. on weekdays

He added that the applicant accepted the changes. A motion was made by Gregory Glasgow and seconded by Edna Johnson.

[Y:\Vote for Filthy Diamond.pdf](#)

- E. Greenings Fine Foods request for a letter of support for an Alcohol Beverage Control License

Tywan Anthony stated that the committee's recommendation is to give a letter of **SUPPORT**. A motion was made by Edna Johnson and seconded by Evelyn Collier.

[Y:\Vote for Greenings Fine Food.pdf](#)

**VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Richard Fleteau**

Mr. Fleteau announced that the Personnel Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. The Board is waiting for guidelines on how to utilize the supplemental money (\$42,500) from City Council.

**VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE 24, 2019 MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Taina Evans and seconded by Marion Little.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Beryl Nyack  
September 25, 2019

Reviewed and edited by:  
Stacey Ruffin, Executive Secretary  
Friday, September 27, 2019 @ 1:30 pm