

**Brooklyn Community Board 9  
890 Nostrand Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Transportation Committee  
March 11, 2026**

Location: In-Person, CB9 Office

Chair: Ethan Norville; Vice Chair: Andrew Magnus; Secretary: Paco Abraham

**Attendance (Board Members):** Ethan Norville; Andrew Magnus; Felice Robertson; Isaiah Pecou; Theresa Westerdahl

**Attendance (Community Resident Members):** Paco Abraham; Valerie Fleming; Calista DeJesus

**Absent (Board Members):** Khurshid Abdul-Mutakabbir; Vadim Gaboys; Hasaan Qazi

**Absent (Community Resident Members):** None

**Guests:** Onida Coward Mayers; Jimmy McCormpels; Gregorio Mayers; Maria C. Willis; David Kupferberg, NYC Passengers United

**CB9 Staff:** Allison Henry, Community Associate

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- I. Welcome/Greetings
    - a. Meeting is called to order at 7:20 pm. Quick introductions are offered.
  
  - II. Approval of February Minutes
    - a. Review of past meeting minutes.
    - b. Paco Abraham moves to approve the February minutes. Andrew Magnus seconds.  
**Passed by unanimous consent.**
  
  - III. Street Co-Naming Request 1: Franklin Avenue (Eastern Parkway- President Street to Little Panama (10m)
    - a. The presentation is led by Gregorio Mayers of the Panama 507 Roundtable thinktank. As an attorney, Professor at local Medgar Evers College, and former CB committee today he gives overview of the longtime Panamanian presence established in the neighborhood, along on Franklin Avenue. They estimate about 75,000 people of Panamanian descent in the city. This stretch of Franklin has been a gathering spot since the 1950's and the constituency wants a street co-naming here to honor the community.
    - b. The biggest event is the Panamanian Day Parade held on Franklin Avenue each October. It is an economic boost for local businesses, not just the few Panamanian ones, and draws about 30,000 people. This year they're expecting the president of Panama to come in person as well. The co-naming request already has written

letters of support from many local elected officials including Assembly Members Brian Cunningham & Nikki Lucas, State Senator Myrie, and City Council leaders Crystal Hudson and Sandy Nurse.

- c. Jimmy McCormpels speaks in support of this and the positive effect it has for businesses.
- d. Onida Mayers gives historical perspective and notes that the Governor recognized last year was the 30th anniversary of the parade already. They're now looking to complete the mission and give the street a permanent co-naming.
- e. Chairman Norville asks to clarify and confirm the request is for a co-naming, not a re-naming. The group concurs.
- f. Andrew Magnus asks if they've presented to CB8 yet as CB9 only covers 2 blocks of the requested corridor. The group says they started with CB9 as the President Street intersection is the main gathering spot during the parade and within our district. But they hear the concern and will also follow up with CB8 for approval.
- g. Chairman Norville notes his appreciation for this co-naming request as a spotlight on something very positive in the community. He asks if it is also just historical or does a Panamanian presence remain strongly. The presenters note there are still many seniors in the area, and this co-naming would help serve as a cultural bridge between generations.
- h. Valerie comments that she interprets this ask as seeking sankofa - the importance of learning from the past to inform the future. She asks about the Panamanian population being undercounted & how it affects resources. The representatives note that the expected numbers after the next census will show a rise in Panamanian heritage as the survey choices have expanded and can better represent the true population in NYC.
- i. Felice Robertson moves to approve the co-naming as requested. Valerie Flemming seconds. **Passed by unanimous consent.**

#### IV. Committee Action Status Review (20m)

- a. Chairman Norville shares a newly updated grid of projects the committee has worked on over the years, organized by status of completion.
- b. Theresa notes the car share concerns of her and her neighbors on/ near Sullivan Place are not listed, though the issue is not resolved. Group discussion about what was fixed vs what was not. Chairman Norville notes the concerns can be added back on until they are fully resolved. Theresa notes she will keep bringing it up as neighbors remain concerned about tickets, towing, and parking confusion.
- c. Group discussion about committee action, vs full board action, vs district office action. Chairman Norville notes single issue concerns can often be handled by the office itself sending communications to appropriate agencies. Bigger, more widespread issues can be resolutions from the committee that get a full board vote.
- d. As the list of topics is long, the group agreed to revisit just the first three items next month and focus on advancing those.
- e. Andrew asked for more clarity about the Remsen Avenue request on the list. Paco said it was a request for NYC DOT to come up with updates about new/current

traffic patterns since the [2015 presentation](#) and implementation of intersection redesign at Remsen & Utica Avenue.

- V. Review Brooklyn Bus Network redesign, determine ideal plan and district needs (60m)
  - a. David Kupferberg offers his insights from Passengers United & shared a printed document of his group's take on the MTA proposal.
  - b. Chairman Norville said we have reviewed specific bus lines in each of the last few meetings and so we can table this topic this month, but come back again next time seeking resolutions that would offer general guidelines for the bus service we want to see in our district.

VI. New Business

- a. Marc Mann is a 25-year resident of Ocean Avenue, between Parkside Ave and Lincoln Road and concerned that vehicle drivers are not following the existing traffic signal controls in front of 231 Ocean Avenue. He notes there is a substantial increase in pedestrian foot traffic in the last half decade and walks in fear for himself, his dog, and neighbors by the amount of vehicles blowing through lights. He asks for the CB to amplify his request for more enforcement, perhaps with a red light camera placed there.
  - i. Andrew Magnus notes there is a plan to reconfigure the park side stretch of Ocean Avenue over the next few months which may impact the situation.
  - ii. Paco Abraham moves for the committee to support the request and have the board office send a letter to DOT & NYPD about red-light running in front of 231 Ocean Avenue. Calista seconds. **Passed by unanimous consent.**
- b. Hector Robertson raises concern about the upcoming half marathon which will again barricade Washington Avenue residents into their homes. He wants to know why organizers of the race have not presented to the CB in so many years and why they also seem so intent on using Washington Avenue. He notes emergency access concerns by the residential block being shut down. When asking what it takes to actually get the marathon organizer to show up, Chairman Norville acknowledges the concern and says it needs more stakeholders involved.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Norville moves to adjourn at 9:02p. Paco seconds. **Passed by unanimous consent.**