



Donovan Richards
Borough President

Kahleel Bragg
Director of Community Boards

Queens Community Board 13

219-41 Jamaica Avenue
Queens Village, NY 11428
718.464.9700
qcb13.org



Bryan J. Block
Chair

Mark McMillan
District Manager

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 22, 2024 Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Robert Alleyne; Rachelle Antoine; Angela Augugliaro; Maximus Barton; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Kyle Bragg; Barbara Clements; Bobbie Cole; Sylvia Cothia; Marissa Cronin; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Stephanie Delia; Charles Farruggia; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Michael Mallia; Sophia Mighty; Kangela Moore; Curlene Nelson; Loleta Beckett-Nicholson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Cinnamon Paltoo; Lenroy Pascall; David Pecoraro; Latchman Persaud; Sandra Persaud; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Ashok Satkalmi; Ronald Summers; Steven Taylor; Koshy Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia

Absent:

Tanya Cruz (R); Nicholette Emptage; Jaslin Kaur; Peter Richards; Sheila Beverly-Skinner; Jackie Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 pm by Chair Bryan Block.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Block.

Chair's Report

The Chair details the events/meetings attended since the last General Board Meeting.

- States Bill Perkins' mother has passed away.
- States Dexter King (son of Martin Luther King) passed away today.

BM David Pecoraro moves to accept. BM Kyle Bragg seconds. Unanimous "yes" voice vote to accept.

DM Report (written)

BM David Pecoraro motions to accept, seconded by BM Michael Mallia. Unanimous “yes” voice vote to accept.

NYPD Patrol Borough South (PBQS) Commanding Officer, Assistant Chief Kevin Williams – End of Year Report

- Gives year end crime statistics for the 7 major felonies.
 - Increases in felony assaults and Grand Larceny Auto (GLAs).
 - Shooting incidents are down 43%.
 - 2023 is the second consecutive summer with no violence from house parties.
 - All precincts are focused on “quality of life” issues.
 - Increased focus on overnight commercial vehicle parking:
 - Problem with the storage of trucks.
 - NYPD has been booting illegally parked trucks.
 - There is an increased seizure of motor bikes.
- The 105 Precinct has 5 of the 7 categories up, however for the calendar year there were only 7 shooting incidents.
- GLA is driving crime stats up; do leave your car running when exiting.
 - There is a social media craze that instructs and challenges on the stealing of Hondas and Kias.
- PBQS has 5 new precinct commanders.
 - ...including the 105 Precinct with Captain Jean Beauvoir.
- The 116 Precinct is slated to be completed 3Q 2024:
 - Interior and staffing is in process.

Council Member Sevena Brooks-Powers

- CM Adrienne Adams was re-elected City Council Speaker
- She was re-elected as Transportation Committee Chair with oversight over the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC).
- Two bills: Intro 586A (How Many Stops) and 549A (Ban on Solitary Confinement in NYC Jails):
 - Both will be vetoed by the mayor after support in the City Council of a supermajority.
 - Explains the process of making city laws.
 - Expands on 586A –
 - It does not include Level 1 Stops
 - It is an “app”
 - Expands on 549A –
 - Explains her perspective on solitary confinement.
 - Supports both bills because they help all New Yorkers and have transparency.
- Has done “ride-alongs” and would do so in the future.

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

- States there has been a lot of misinformation put out regarding the two City Council bills.
- 586A does not have any paperwork; it is done completely on phone apps.
- It has been important to get data for “stop and frisk” in the past.
- 25% of stops are unconstitutional.
- Need to have data showing who is being stopped and why.
- The bill does not interrupt police work; but it is police work according to the Patrol Guide.
- Explains reasons for supporting 549A to eliminate isolation with certain other measures.

Tiffany Rasberry, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Mayor

- The mayor believes both bills are well-intentioned but did not quite make the mark.
- The Federal Monitor has concerns with 549A – lists specifics.
- The mayor is saddened by the recent death at Riker Island – this inmate struggled with mental health issues.
- Much of 586A the mayor agrees with, however,
 - He does not support Level 1 stops.
 - An example is the police investigating a serial stabber would qualify as Level 1:
 - Paperwork here would have delayed apprehension of this individual.
 - Mayor agrees on reporting for levels 2 & 3.
 - The mayor requests the City Council to reconsider and remove Level 1 stops from the legislation.

CM Brooks-Powers (responds) –

- 586A is legislating for data.
- The City Council wrote to the Federal Monitor who never responded until the bill had passed the Council.

CM Nantasha Williams:

- Her views side with her fellow council members.

December General Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by BM Kyle Bragg and seconded by BM Anup Ramnauth. All “Yes” votes except 1 “No” vote by BM David Pecoraro.

Voting Item: City of Yes for Economic Opportunity Text Amendment

- Land Use Committee Chair Michael Mallia briefly summarizes there are 4 goals and 19 points to this legislation.

- The LU Chair gives his concerns.
- The LU Committee voted 11-0 against supporting it because it is all or nothing in its view.
- Motion: To support (with recommendation to oppose per the LU Committee vote).
- Discussion:
 - Various board members think this should have been brought to the full board – it is unfair.
 - They do not understand the details.
 - The District Manager and LUC Chair responded that there were two presentations at two different LU Committee meetings – November 2023 and January 2024 – where a PowerPoint on the details were shown.
 - The District Manager stated the General Board Meetings do not have the time to do detailed meetings like this – that is what committees are for.
 - Discussion on some of the points in the text amendment – it is very complex.
- Vote on the motion: Yes 0, No 44, Abstaining 1. Motion to support fails.

Roll Call

Voting Item: QCB13 Resolution Opposing Empire State Development (ESD) Proposal for Housing on Creedmoor Campus

- Land Use Sub-Committee Chair Corey Bearak reviews special committee meetings.
 - From these meeting discussions, the Resolution is formed.
 - The background of this site is summarized.
 - Details 6 priorities and 5 community needs as stated in a document by neighborhood civic associations to ESD early 2023 in the “imaging” process.
 - Details 3 objections.
 - Relevant portion of Resolution read.
 - BM David Pecoraro wants to acknowledge BP Richards letter of support for the ESD Plan.
 - Q&A
 - Motion: To support the Resolution as stated by BM Corey Bearak, seconded by BM Michael Mallia.
- Vote on the motion: Yes 31, No 8, 0 Abstentions. Motion passes.

Elected Officials

Nathaniel Hezekiah – **Congressman Gregory Meeks’ Office**
 Georgia Katsalis – **Queens Borough President Donovan Richard’s Office**
 Elizabeth Sowumni – **State Senator Leroy Comrie’s Office**
 Ajani Pridgeon – **State Senator James Sanders Jr.’s Office**
 Irene Chung – **Assembly Member Ed Braunstein’s Office**

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe:

- New 105 Precinct CO Captain Beauvoir spoke.
- Listed establishments with letter of support for liquor licenses.
- Listed cannabis applications received.

Transportation Committee – Committee Chair Mohamood Ishmael:

- MTA Presentation on Queens Bus Redesign.

Youth, Education & Libraries Committee – Committee Chair Rhonda Kontner:

- Nigel Pugh, Founding Principal of Queens High School for Teaching, spoke.
 - Presently, he is working at the Department of Education Leadership Academy.
- PowerPoint Presentation by DDC on the renovation of the Laurelton Library.

Parks & Environment – Committee Chair Fay Hill:

- Parks came for approval to change 1 tennis court to 2 Pickleball courts in Alley Pond Park.
- PowerPoint Presentation on design review of East Springfield Playground (aka 147 Street Playground).
 - CM Nantasha Williams allocated \$6.1 M.
 - Cambria Heights Civic Association will have the same presentation at its February 2024 meeting.
- "Let's Green NYC" gave a presentation.
 - This program helps New Yorker's mental health.
 - They are looking for volunteers.

Health & Hospitals Committee – Committee Co-Chair Marcia O'Brien:

- Dr. Tabinder Anwar gave a presentation on dental health.

Seniors & Special Needs Committee – Committee Chair Kangela Moore:

- She did not have the opportunity to report in December on the November meeting:
 - A presentation by Melissa Marcus, Executive Director of the AKA Senior Center on its programs.
 - Issue of the mayor's proposed cuts to Aging brought up.
 - Wants to propose Resolution opposing said cuts.

New Business

- James Johnson, Executive Director of Gateway JFK, alerts about an illegal smoke shop behind Rockaway DMV.
 - There has been an influx of trucks illegally parked in front of the FAA Building on Rockaway Boulevard.
 - Will be doing a walk-thru with the BP, DOB and DSNY for the development of an "alternate side of the street parking" rule in the area.
- BM Curlene Nelson:

- Trucks are once again parking around Springfield Park.
- Queens DA Melinda Katz is coming to the SpringGar Civic Association to speak about illegal smoke shops.

Public Speaking

BM David Pecoraro thankful record corrected in Minutes. He wants to talk between meetings and avoid conflict.

Harry Lature reviews bus redesign proposals.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McMillan
District Manager
Queens Community Board 13