

Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue

PLEASE NOTE: The Videotape from CTV did not have Audio.

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Michelle Akyempong ex
Tatiana Arguello
Vincent Atkinson ex
Dora Berksteiner
Doreen Berksteiner ab
Joseph Bird ex
Allison Brown ab
Telee Brown ab
Christopher Campbell
Loretta Cauldwell
Andre Ciprut ex
Katheleen Coen
Christopher Corbo ab
Anthony Cosentino
Claudette Duff ex
Samir Farag ab
Selina Grey
John Guzzo
Robert Holst ex
Sunny Jain
Linda Juarbe ex

Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Mohan Radhakrishna
Alina Nevradakis x
Friday Ogbewe
Francine Reali ex
Joshua Renta
Cindy Salzillo
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari
Anthony Sgarlato ex
Sean Sheil
Nicholas Siclari
George Turner
Steven Williams

Anthony Illardi – New Member
Salvatore Fabozzi – New Member

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Marie LaFrancesca, Vanesa Limani, Michael Arvanites, Makeda Campbell, Agnes McBeth, Victoria Carstensen, Steve Clohessy Speaker NYCEM Emergency Management CERT), Nicole Brooks, RV Augusty, Andrew Dorman, Scott Kerr, Michael Morrell, Terry Troia, Nancy Walby (CERT), Scott Kerr, Det. Conner, NYPD, Andrew Dorman, Cara Buonincontri, Neil Anastasio, Dorothea Ceruera, Elijah Muhammid, Chris Dowling, Bruce Lavria, Michael Morrell, Frank Mara, James Smith, Christine Crouch-Burke, John Burke, Amita Duka, Robert Olivari, John Ostrowski, Mario Buonviaggio, Leora Neons, Sarah Fellar, Jorge Reyes, RV Augusty.

Meeting called to order by Nicholas Siclari, Chair – 6:30PM
Pledge of Allegiance

I.S. 61 Student, Sebastian Pietrangelo was presented with a Certificate of Recognition. Sebastian was Councilmember for the Day by Kamillah Hanks on Career Day. Sebastian delivered a compelling presentation focused on Community Involvement, Environmental Sustainability & Civic Responsibility for the Waterfront. The plan focuses on seeing the North Shore Waterfront restored for future generations.

Public Session - Friday Ogbewe

Makeda Campbell, Special Projects Director for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton’s office – Waiting for Makeda to send the transcript (cut off the video).

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Hanks Office –

Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office –

Agnes McBeth, Community & Youth Liaison, Office of DA McMahon's office –

Introducing ADA Brianna Joerger. Brianna had previously attending CB1 meetings; she greeted everyone and spoke briefly about her work at RCDA. Agnes gave the following updates:

We are ending the school year, and our office is honoring graduating students across the Island with Champion of Justice Awards. This award, which the D.A. created, recognizes students for standing up for justice in their school and community, for going above and beyond to be a friend and for speaking out against injustice. We thank teachers for making tolerance a part of their curriculum and for nominating a student for this special recognition.

Percentage of major index crimes continues to be stable across the Island. Shootings on Staten Island are at a historic low, and gun arrests are up 20%. June is Gun Violence Awareness Month, and our office will be partnering with NYPD, P.S. 78, I.S. 49 and the Eagle Academy for a ribbon-tying event on Monday, June 16th at P.S. 78, where school students will tie orange ribbons along the fence of school to raise awareness of gun violence across our borough. RCDA maintains a zero-tolerance policy for those who commit gun violence in our borough, where will request bail and jail for nearly every case involving an illegal gun.

This past Sunday, June 8th, our office hosted our 3rd Annual Multicultural Food Festival at Sacred Heart Gym. It was another, wildly successful event, with THOUSANDS of people attending, vendors and lots of food! We're delighted to see the community come together in such a strong way, and we're grateful for those of you who participated in the event. Please mark your calendars for next year!

For upcoming events, we will be hosting a FREE Dog Grooming, pop up spa for dogs on Sunday, June 22nd, from 11am-3p, at Midland Beach, Parking Lot 8. This type of event doesn't just provide beautification for our fur babies, but if an animal is brought in with matted fur and other forms of neglect, then we can investigate. We vigorously prosecute animal cruelty.

On the prosecutorial front, you may remember the antisemitic attack last year in Mariners Harbor. Well last week, Obadiah Lashley pled guilty in this case to Assault in the 2nd Degree as a Hate Crime for the attack, and he will be sentenced to 3 ½ years in prison. Our office is proud to continue our longstanding policy that once someone is indicted on a hate crime charge, the defendant cannot plead out that charge.

Nicole Brooks –

Theresa Tokarska –

Lindy Peter Crescitelli – The need to focus on Bank Street and Richmond Terrace as much as Front Street and Bay Street has been focused on in recent years. New Brighton Civic officially voted this year to make Bank Street and Richmond Terrace a top priority and main focus this year and I invited all to our annual “We Love New Brighton Day!” on Richmond Terrace beginning at the Westervelt Avenue entrance of the North Shore Esplanade. We will install 4 New Large Beautification Planters at the New Brighton World War II Planters along Richmond Terrace from there all the way to Snug Harbor.

Christopher Dowling –

Aiden Rivera –

Pete Battista –

Jermaine Williams – Spoke about Harmony Day and NNO National Night Out Event.

Robert Olivari – Con Edison – I am the newest member of the Con Edison Staten Island Regional Community Affairs Team. I had previously worked with the Board in my capacity at DEP prior to Con Edison for six-and one-half years. I look forward to continuing working with the Community Board and helping fellow Staten Islanders.

Terry Troia – Talked about the CB1 members through voting for categories to be funded \$190K.

Neil Anastasio, FRRCA President - Completed the beautification of Forest Avenue and Castleton Ave. by Forest Regional Residents' Civic Assn (FRRCA) thanks to a grant from CM Hanks.

FRRCA sponsored two clean-ups in Silver Lake Park with 75 participants in total, very successfully cleaning areas untouched for many years

Despite unanimous community and political opposition, cannabis shops at Card and Bagel spot on Forest as well as old Victory State Bank are proceeding. We urge residents to contact OCM via their web site and complain. Addresses are 465 Forest and 755 Forest

FRRCA collects food, books, clothing and eyeglasses in a donation bin at the driveway on 500 Bard, white house next to CVS

We urge DOT to consider the parking spots to be lost if there is a bus only lane on victory between Eddy Street and Forest. There are 45 spots on the south side and 57 on the north side that would be eliminated for the rush hours. That must be taken into account by DOT.

Cara Buonincontri, Council and Community Liaison to the Office of Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis – I worked for her for 15 years through the NYS Assembly (10 years) to 5 years in Congress.

The Congresswoman had secured a 5.75 million-dollar grant for St. George Ferry Terminal upgrades. The bus ramps and the terminal itself will be upgraded.

As a caseworker in the office I worked on very complex federal issues including IRS, Social Security, just to name a few. I was also involved in some NYS and NYC cases working with our local electeds on these issues. My office number is 718-568-2870.

Jorge Reyes -

Loretta Cauldwell with roll call and we have a quorum.

Presentations:

Speaker, Steve Clohessy NYCEM (NYC Emergency Management) Pre-Heat Presentation.

Lillian Lagazzo - At CB #1's June 10th full board meeting, Vice Chair Anthony Cosentino was introducing a resolution on behalf of Transportation Chair, Joseph Bird who was absent.

Anthony Cosentino was going to read and present a resolution to the full Board with regard to voting to implement beginning this July the DOT's proposed Victory Blvd. Bus Transit Lane. Lillian Lagazzo raised her hand to speak and asked for clarification. She indicated she was away on March 11, 2025 at Full Board when DOT made this presentation to members. Lillian asked how this parking scenario would work.

The plan was to eliminate ALL parking along Victory Blvd, in the Silver Lake community from Highland Avenue to Forest Avenue. A "bus lane only" would be created on the upside of Victory Blvd. This would be implemented from 7-9 am. (The reverse would happen on the Silver Lake Golf Course side of Victory in the evenings from 4-7pm, similarly residents at the 937 Victory Blvd. Apartments would be impacted). She asked where the approximately 150 cars on the residential side of the street (buildings at 800, 750, 700, 650, 630, 610 Victory Blvd. and the Notre Dame students and faculty) would park. This would be problematic for many mobility impaired seniors, parents with baby carriages, Access-A-Ride, deliveries. etc. Vehicles would be forced to move to residential streets: Eddy Street, Teresa Place, Grymes Hill, Berta Place, etc.

Another Board member, Sean Sheil, said that there are many individuals living in these apartment complexes that are in the medical field and they work alternate schedules. To extend and implement this as proposed by DOT from 6-9 am would mean that residents would have to move their vehicles prior to 6AM, especially in the dark winter months.

Other Board members and Civic Chairs chimed in to express concerns about the lack of notification to the area residents and to the Notre Dame faculty and students who park on Victory closer to Forest Avenue. New Brighton Civic cited that they had no prior notification of these proposals and that DOT did not come to present to their Civic. Area Building residents in the 1000s would have no clue until the RED LANE MARKINGS would be painted.

DOT personnel came to the front of the meeting to insist that DOT did in fact present to the full Board on March 11th. DOT representatives also said they presented at the ZOOM Transportation Committee with DOT Commissioner and staff present on May 28th, where the "five" 5 members of the Transportation Committee voted to introduce a resolution to the full board in June.

DOT indicated that their "priority is the 25,000 plus riders."

DOT expressed their plan to implement this in July.

Due to the numerous and vocal discussions ensuing in the room about proper notification to the community, the Chairman called for a vote.

This DOT plan was tabled for further discussion in September 2025 and the plan would NOT be implemented in July.

Victoria Carstensen Deputy Borough Commissioner DOT answered questions regarding the Victory Blvd. Bus Lanes. No vote was taken. It was tabled.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino –

Second Vice-Chairman -

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe -

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell –

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari –

District Manager, Joan Cusack –

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – Victory Blvd Bus Lanes was discussed and tabled.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Committee adamantly opposes reducing length of Pier 1 as was mentioned in EDC presentation. Local fisherman and potential historic vessel berthing or charters need pier to remain the same length. This coincides with long piers around the city. Little island pier and Pier 17 Manhattan and fishing pier on Staten Island at South Beach off FDR boardwalk.

Strongly support NYC Ferry Route from Staten Island to Brooklyn. Glad to hear it's moving along.

Several complaints of buses not waiting for Ferry at St. George Terminal forcing commuters and travelers to wait an additional 30 minutes. Will pass along to Transportation Committee.

Following progress on North Shore Esplanade and awaiting progress on progress heading west from Ferry especially along Bank Street and near Ball Park.

Public Services, Sunny Jain –

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Minutes in the packet.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino –

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino –

Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone –

Transportation, Joseph Bird –

Small Business & Non-Profit, -

Labor, Robert Holst –

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino –

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato –

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali –

West Brighton/Randall Manor, Anthony Cosentino –

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – Report in the packet.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Grymes Hill/Westerleigh/Willowbrook, Joe Ahlstrom - CB1 voted unanimously to support renovation of baseball field in Clove Lakes Park. Power point on project supplied to the Board. Thanks to the Parks Department for an informative presentation. Would have put forth motion to close Silver Lake Road on weekends as before COVID but the issue was resolved before the Board meeting. Again a special Thank you to the Parks Department. Lighting in Clove Lakes Park needs to be improved. Several areas along pedestrian pathways are unlit. Ongoing project to improve pathways noted. Area looks great. Bus lanes along Victory Blvd not discussed but look forward to new information from Transportation Department.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo –

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner - Report in the packet.

Stapleton/Clifton/Concord, Peter Lisi-

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned – 8:14 PM