

Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Michelle Akyempong ab
Tatiana Arguello ex
Vincent Atkinson ex
Dora Berksteiner
Doreen Berksteiner
Allison Brown ab
Telee Brown
Christopher Campbell
Loretta Cauldwell
Andre Ciprut ex
Katheleen Coen
Christopher Corbo ab
Anthony Cosentino
Claudette Duff
Salvatore Fabozzi
Samir Farag ab
Selina Grey ab
John Guzzo
Robert Holst
Anthony Illardi
Sunny Jain
Linda Juarbe
Lillian Lagazzo ex
Peter Lisi
Mohan Radhakrishna
Friday Ogbewe
Francine Reali
Joshua Renta
Cindy Salzillo ab
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil
Nicholas Siclari
George Turner
Steven Williams

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

New Board Members

Matthew Lesieur
Christine DeHart
Michael DiBartolo
Dolores A. Brennan-Pritchard ex

Guests:

Marie LaFrancesca, John Rinaudo, Nicole Malliotakis' office, Makeda Campbell, Elena Brady, Diana Switaj, Nancy DeLorenzo, Patty Sarantakos, Elyse Foladore, Joe Pollack, Richard Mojras, Jax Preyer, Carlos Gonzalez, Michael Morrell, Andrew Dorman, Kelly Yim, Esperanza Santiago, Victoria Carstensen, Donna Meritta, Robert Reic, Anita Duka, Cheryl Nadeau, Eileen Martin, John Shea, Tommy Bond, Carrie Ann Trubenstein, MaryAnn McGowan, Kwynn Hogan, John Conte, Rena Parisi, Maria Mendez, Agnes McBeth, Jacqueline Eisenberg.

Meeting called to order by Nicholas Siclari, Chair –
Pledge of Allegiance

Public Session -

Makeda Campbell – Special Projects Director for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – Makeda said she was personally happy about starting the school year with no cell phones. Senator Spanton proposed a bill which would legalize Pepper Spray in New York State. Shredding Event, September 17th 9-12, Parking lot #6 Father Capodanno Blvd. We still have Mobile offices throughout the year. Today we were at PS 9 & PS 48. Flyers in the back.

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Hanks Office – Thank you to the new members for serving. We are now a subtropical climate with 5 monsoon-type storms this year with more ponding issues in front of properties. Issues in Rosebank, Grymes Hill, and Livingston. Alison Pond Park dredging, two years since the last one. Along with Councilman Carr's office. The Blue Belt drains all the water. This storm sewer system accepts about an inch an hour. We are now getting two inches or more an hour. We are putting out a transit study back in March which will be out next month. Please speak up on any bus overcrowding, bus bunching, or any issues on mass transit with including rapid transit even though that is the MTA. We agree with the Pepper Spray and need to feel safe.

Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office – Not present.

Agnes McBeth, Community & Youth Liaison, Office of DA McMahon's office – Along with Carlos Gonzalez, ADA. Index crimes across the city are down 4.4%. Juvenile crimes are up and felony assaults are down. Domestic violence assaults are up. We want to thank the NYPD for all the incredible work they do. Last Friday, defendant Roberto Martinez was sentenced 25 years to life after pleading guilty to murder in the second degree. A 24-year old Mariner's Harbor murder, man who killed his girlfriend stabbing her 49 times. This defendant fled to Michigan but was caught thanks to the NYPD working with us. Another shred event on October 11th in partnership with the Zoo. Copies of our 2024 Annual Report in the back.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – two problematic deli's that are acting accordingly after they were issued thousands of fines. Two cannabis dispensaries were told to seek a location elsewhere. 1465 Forest Avenue and 921 Richmond Avenue. Successfully planted 100 plantars along Port Richmond Avenue from the Terrace to Forest Avenue thanks to funding and cooperation from DOT. Victor Scalici street renaming submitted and passed by city council. Will happen in the next few weeks. The hotel is successful with no vacancies. Families are coming in for weddings and other events. The top floor which is empty will now be a venue space which has two unobstructive views of the Freedom Tower and Bayonne Bridge. The 120 Precinct helped us out with a couple of homeowners on Alaska Avenue with abandoned vehicles. The homeowners can now park their cars in front of their own homes. Thanks to DOT they prioritized a dead-end street that has not been paved in 32 years. Three new businesses have opened up. A Ukrainian Café and Children's uniform store has opened with communion clothes etc. A gift shop opened on Port Richmond Avenue. Crime continues to go down thanks to the 121 Precinct and DA's office.

Kelly Yim – Manager, Stapleton Library – Executive Director, Jermaine Smith of Staten Island Arts. Mom served on CB4 in Brooklyn while I was growing up. We want local artists to come and get funding for projects from Grants. We have a culture calendar with events.

Cheryl Nadeau – Staten Island Action Coalition. We are encouraging people to register to vote. The deadline for registration is October 25th where it must be received by the Board of Elections.

Jermaine Williams – NYPD with a new initiative on Q-Teams with Quality of Life Concerns and non-911 Concerns. These will be monitored and more responsive to 311 complaints. We have a new Lieutenant, J. Gomez.

Chairman Nicholas Siclari brought up Marie LaFrancesca, BP's Office to swear in new Board Members, Christine DeHart, Michael DiBartolo & Matthew Lesieur.

Chairman Nick said thank you for serving on the board and this is the frontline of defense. We are all volunteers and anything you can do to help us is a God send. Every little bit helps and we won't take too much of your time. Come to board meetings and find a committee you are interested in.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Attendance taken and we have a quorum.

Chairman Nick and Motion to accept the minutes in the packet.

Presentation:

Diana Switaj, Vice President, Government & Community Relations, NYCEDC

Judah Asimov, Vice President, Neighborhood Strategies, NYCEDC

Nancy DeLorenzo, Community construction Liaison, Tompkinsville Esplanade Project

Patty Sarantakos, Construction Community Liaison, New Stapleton Waterfront Project

Action Plan Quarterly Update - Updates on all North Shore Action Plan Projects.

Tompkinsville & Stapleton Construction Updates (Including Stapleton Signage).

-Updates from Tompkinsville & Stapleton Construction Teams on status, next steps of Construction.

Future of St. George Waterfront – Presentation & Discussion.

(See Handout attached).

Q&A –

Any plans for a public boat ramp? Not is this project. We have other initiatives like the future of St. George where we will continue to build out the waterfront.

Pier 1 – Shortening of the Pier? We do not want it to be shortened. What are those plans? We are still in very early stages of the plan and we hear the concerns. The shutting down of the Empire Outlets have mixed reviews. What do you mean by affordable housing? We are looking into what kind we need. Youth, Adult, rental versus homeownership, AMI incomes, etc. We are in the beginning stages with no timeline. It was said that last engagement there was no Q&A. We will have more at our next engagement in September. Heard from a young woman from Think Tank. Have a survey. We need a grocery store. Has there been a developer chosen yet? Renaming the Wheel site? Diana Switaj of EDC said they have a survey that is still ongoing. Trying to see what is possible and not possible. Land use

process, environmental review, one developer or multiple? We are totally open to a grocery store-type place. Question on timeline of construction, what time of day? Where? No definite timeline yet. Question about Bay Street that is continually left out of the North Shore Action Plan where there was funding included. We have heard this mentioned at the New Brighton Meeting and understand the concern. We want to see what we need on the upper and lower portion. It is not forgotten. We are in discussions for future work. Question of affordable housing artist-based. Question about Lighthouse Pointe? Revitalizing the historic buildings in the area is the priority. Garbage and vegetation by Lighthouse Pointe are a concern. Peter Lisi mentioned how large-scaled of a project this is. 18-22 individual projects going on simultaneously including our dilapidated pier (waiting 50+ years), park, school, housing, etc. This is happening due to the Community Board, EDC, BP Vito Fossella, Councilmember Kamillah Hanks as well as the NYC Mayor Eric Adams. "This is getting completed and looking beautiful".

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari said he's been a Board Chair going on 11 years and by far EDC is the most forthright and I want to thank them for coming.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Welcome back and welcome new board members.

Second Vice-Chairman – Catherine Schiavone – Daylighting City Council Bill. We should oppose one size fits all and agree to a case by case basis. Daylighting is taking away 20 feet at every corner with no parking. Kamillah Hanks opposes Daylighting as well as BP Fossella. It would be a loss of 300,000 parking spots citywide and 49,000 in Staten Island. 15,000 more injuries predicted due to cars speeding up at turns. Each intersection would lose 16 spaces. It was brought up that it would be safer protected with barriers but then rebutted with there is no evidence of that. Motion to send a letter passed unanimously.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe – Welcome back area chairs and looking forward to working with you. We have been having many absentees at the area committee meetings. It is hard to have a quorum and vote on issues. Your presence is very important for us to move forward.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Welcome back. Asked that new board members come up to the desk and check with her since she doesn't recognize all of you yet for attendance.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Chairman Nick said it's very important to have a quorum and this meeting is the only in person meeting besides Stapleton's Hybrid meeting.

District Manager, Joan Cusack – Welcome back. Thank you to the new board members for volunteering their time.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – 428 St. Mark's Place – St. George development voted on in 2017. Reduction size of building from 1375 sq. ft. to 1241 sq. ft. and need to reapply for approval. Land Use did not have a quorum so no vote was taken. Elyse of Eric Palatnik's office said St. George Civic has no problem with this development. Term expired in 2020 and then Covid began.

Catherine Schiavone explained voting an abstention is functionally equivalent to a no vote. Abstaining for Cause is a no vote that doesn't count and ineligible is also not counted.

Recommendation to approve with 28-0-0 in favor – passed unanimously.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – The EDC presentation sums up what needs to be said. The Brooklyn “Hornblower” Ferry, They will put a line in between St. George and Brooklyn. We need an update. Diane of EDC could not make the Waterfront meeting in September but will come in October.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – No meeting, no report. Please let us know if you have any sanitation issues.

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Youth Services Committee meeting on September 24th. The Stella Adler Studio will be having a workshop for young people with economic disadvantages or attend schools with no arts program. They put on two shows during the school year. They train in public speaking, speech, and theatrical skills. A great program for several years. There are auditions and applications close on September 22nd. If interested, contact me. We will have someone at our meeting. We will also have a rep from the Parks Department. After school program from 3-6 pm focusing on academics and fitness. That begins on September 15th.

Catherine Schiavone addressed the new board members and asked if they have questions regarding Robert’s Rules or Bi-Laws, come see her after the meeting.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino/Catherine Schiavone – We are probably going to see more Cannabis Applications. We have been trying to get OCM to look at our list of qualifications. We have a draft and will send out definitive guidelines once we hear from OCM.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – On the first Monday of October we will have a Budget/Finance Committee Meeting for the North Shore Budget and Operating Budget. All the Functional Committee Chairs are required to be there and Executive Committee. 6:30PM at the Board Office.

Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone –

Transportation, Open Chair – Chairman Nick said Joe Bird resigned. If anyone is interested in chairing Transportation. Nicholas Zvegintzov was a very zealous advocate for this committee.

Small Business & Non-Profit, Christopher Campbell – No meeting, no report. Welcome back all. If anyone is interested in joining come see me.

Labor, Robert Holst – This past weekend was the Labor Day Parade. The waterfront project regardless how you feel, all the jobs are under a PLA. All construction jobs will have training, apprenticeship, opportunities and provide jobs to sustain Staten Island families. The national labor relations board are labor laws on the federal level. Workers are being defended. If your interested in joining the Labor Committee please call.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – Skyline Park is being renamed to Cottage Hill. Date Postponed. Faber Park Basketball courts will have their Ribbon-Cutting next month.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – No report.

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – State Senator Scarcella and Councilwoman Hanks have been instrumental in pushing forward an opportunity for all of the High School Freshman physical exams to include, if we can get it passed, to get an Echocardiogram and EKG. No meeting. I have been speaking with people through the hospitals about the higher rate of Emphysema and COPD on Staten Island. I would like to get a few people on my committee, please call me if you’re interested.

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – Welcome new board members. Please come to our meetings. We need quorums. The Voting Non-Board Members always show up. We would like to work with EDC with changing the Bike Tour route.

Chairman Nick said the Area Committee Meetings for board members is where you live or if you have a business in the area. That is the area committee meeting you would attend.

West Brighton/Randall Manor, Anthony Cosentino – Next Tuesday is our Virtual meeting. We have one liquor license. We make a decision on various factors.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Grymes Hill/Westerleigh/Willowbrook, Joe Ahlstrom - The area committee is on September 17. The Waterfront is on September 23. Clove Lakes Park, they are repaving the roadways. We talked about the illumination in June. Dakota Diner Cannabis issue. We voted that down. These Cannabis applications have to go to the area committees like the liquor licenses. Bus Lanes on Victory Blvd. We will be losing a lot of parking spaces. We have to keep an eye on this Bus Lane Initiative.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo -

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner - Dora spoke about meeting every third Tuesday of the month on Zoom which you will receive in an email. We see a lot of liquor licenses and Cannabis Dispensaries. Please join us.

Stapleton/Clifton/Concord, Peter Lisi- We need members. It's only me and Friday Ogbewe. Make sure you excuse yourself because the absences are recorded. If you have anyone interested in becoming a member please email the office. The licenses like liquor and cannabis know that we break for two months in the summer. They will put the application in right before we break. My committee will hold them until September, so if they need it, they have to wait. I am going to make some noise about a location near me. A multi-agency job, Flooding problem on Bay Street spewing out of Tappan Park. Pizzeria's making pizza in water, barbershops cutting hair in water. We have been waiting 8 years for this project. The problem starts at the bus stop at Prospect Street and Bay Street to Canal Street. Every single time it rains, it floods. The city is doing work on the corner of Canal Street and Bay Street but it is not enough up to Prospect Street. It's a DEP issue and also an MTA issue with a bus stop with 2 dozen law suits. New York City Open Streets in Stapleton. Program by the Department of Transportation. 185 streets in the 5 boroughs where they shut down a block. Every Saturday in September from 12-5 pm at the corner of Beach Street and Water Street. This Saturday is a free book-bag giveaway. Third Saturday is the Black Heritage Day Parade. Quote: "Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets so love the people who treat you right and forgive the ones who don't. Everything happens for a reason." By Dr. Seuss.

Old Business - Claudette Duff mentioned she has a Mental Health Company. There are many suicides. We are participating in a Suicide Prevention Walk on Sunday, 1 PM at Wolf's Pond Park. Free T-shirts. Thank you.

New Business -

Meeting Adjourned - 8:11 pm