

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom	Lillian Lagazzo
Michelle Akyempong ab	Peter Lisi
Arguello, Tatiana	Ali Lula
Berksteiner, Dora	Nicole Meyers ab
Berksteiner, Doreen	Mohan Radhakrishna
Joseph Bird ab	Alina Nevradakis
Allison Brown ex	Friday Ogbewe
Telee Brown ab	Ernest Paige
Christopher Campbell	Francine Reali
Loretta Cauldwell	Joshua Renta
Andre Ciprut	Cindy Salzillo ab
Kathleen Coen	Catherine Schiavone
Christopher Corbo ab	Anthony Scutari
Anthony Cosentino	Anthony Sgarlato ex
Claudette Duff	Sean Sheil
Samir Farag ab	Nicholas Siclari
Timothy Forsyth	Jaclyn Tacoronte ex
Selina Grey ab	George Turner ex
John Guzzo ab	Steven Williams ex
Robert Holst	
Linda Huff ab	
Sunny Jain	
Linda Juarbe ex	

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager ex
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Mike Arvanites, Councilmember Kamillah Hanks Office, Agnes McBeth, DA McMahon's office (with new ADA, Denise Trerotola), Makeda Campbell, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office, Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador, Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office, Andrew Dorman, Neil Anastasio, FRRCA, Prince Cobbina, Elena Brady, Councilmember Carr's Office, RV Augusty, Vincent D'Antuono, Xin-Rui, Lee, Mario Buonviaggio, Laura McCarthy, Pam Silvestri, Nicole Brooks, Andrew Dorman, Diane Duberstein, Denise Fruchlich, Kiernan Brown, Tracey Walton, Maria Mendez, William Deautriell, Jillian Baldassare, Robert Grosso.

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

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Robert Holst

Skipping the roll call/attendance – 3 members short of a quorum.

Public Session - Friday Ogbewe

Agnes McBeth, Education and Youth Liaison in DA McMahon's office with ADA Denise Trerotola in Criminal Court – Denise graduated Law School in May 2024. We handle low-level crimes and misdemeanors.

Agnes McBeth – Staten Island crime numbers are down. Index crime numbers continue to trend down in double digits. Staten Island continues to be the safest borough in the city and safest community of its size in the country. We owe that to the men and woman in law enforcement. We look at each case individually. Misdemeanors are up and across the city are up 20%. We have 750 officers on SI. Back in

the 1990's and 2000's we had 1,000 officers. Although we received 37 new officers we are not keeping up with the trend and need.

The tragic stabbing in West Brighton is pending investigation so I can't talk about it. But we know the dispute started amongst young people. We have to do more to invest in our young people and families. To give parents resources. We have the Saturday Night Lights Program is an incredible program and not just a sports program. It's a mentoring program between kids and teens, a place to play sports and video games with police officers YCO's (Youth Coordination Officers) developing a partnership while being served food and tutored by coaches.

The DA is the President of DASNY (District Attorney Association of the State of New York). He is taking on Discovery Reform. He is making that a priority between the police and our office.

Antonio Wade, who unlawfully entered his then girlfriend's apartment in Stapleton by forcing his way in. He put her in a headlock and shot her with his illegal firearm hitting her in the face and body. He pled guilty to the top charge of assault in the first degree. Last month was sentenced to 10-1/2 years in prison.

Makeda Campbell, Community Liaison and Special Projects Director for Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office - We do mobile offices where we go out to the community and make ourselves present about any concerns you may have (please see flyer of dates). We will be hosting a Black History Month Celebration in collaboration with Councilmember Kamillah Hanks. This will be at Port Richmond High School on February 13th at 6:00 PM. We would like to honor those who are doing things in the community.

Legislation – Thank you Agnes for mentioning the Discovery. The Senator partnered with the DA's office. We hope to see the victims of crimes getting the justice they deserve. Thank you, Governor Hochul for mentioning that in her State of the State Address. Crime victims and severe mental illnesses should get the care they need and make our community safer.

Fran Reali – CB1 Board Member – Speaking about the SIBOR (Staten Island Board of Realtors). Being a Breast Cancer Survivor for 9 years. I am grateful for early detection. Because of Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, I saw a flyer a while back about a mobile van that does free mammograms. We secured a van for 1150 South Avenue. The date will be Thursday, February 13th. Call 718-619-2023. We will do this again to raise awareness. This could be an early Valentine's Day gift to a woman that you love.

Nicole Brooks, Parks Department – Happy New Year. Here to talk about the Lifeguards. Summer will be here before you know it. February 2nd and March 10th we will be doing qualifying tests at Curtis High School. If you know anyone interested, please sign-up.

Jermaine Williams, NYPD Ambassador for SI – Happy New Year. We have a Citizen's Academy, a 6-week program, every Tuesday, starts at 6PM. Call Jermaine for more information.

Congestion Pricing is now in effect. There may be a lot of trucks parked illegally. Please call 311 with the information. 19 of the 37 NYPD officers will be placed in the 120 Precinct. They will be out in the cold, a hello and congratulations go a long way.

Mario Buonviaggio, VP Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – We are having our 5th Annual Banners Celebration. We are honoring Corporal Thompson this year. I received a phone call at 8AM on Sunday. The city has contracted a not-for-profit social service in Port Richmond to house the homeless in the new Port Richmond Hotel. This is coming from the mismanagement of Project Hospitality. It's time for Board Members whether you're up in Todt Hill or other parts of the North Shore, you need to feel the heat of what you want in our community. We hope the Community Board and Elected Officials support in fighting this. Another project that's coming up that has been in the works for 2 years from the same non-profit

organizations that we have in Port Richmond thinking they're doing good but destroying our hard-working middle-class community. "The Fight Goes On".

Michael Arvanites, Councilmember Kamillah Hank's Office – We just passed a bill that if you take a Lifeguard training class, you don't have to take PE in High School. Congestion pricing has started. The S46 bus line on the North Shore has 4 extra buses. We are handing out surveys on bus services on Staten Island. Scan the QR code. We will be at bus stops and the ferry terminal. Bus service is going to increase by 11% by the MTA's numbers.

Prince Cobbina, Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB – Independent agency investigates police misconduct. Last year we received 5,709 complaints compared to 2023 with 5,442 complaints. Out of the 2024 complaints, 60% was fully investigated and 40% were not fully investigated due to different circumstances. We investigate use of force, abuse of authority, discourtesy as well as offensive language and racial profiling. Use of force we received 30% of the complaints. 48% abuse of authority, 16% was discourtesy and offensive language was 3%. We don't get a lot of complaints on Staten Island. Out of the 5 boroughs, SI only had 4%. Brooklyn had 32%, Manhattan 25%, Bronx 23% and Queens 15%. As far as our Precincts. 120 Precinct received 100 complaints, 34 of them were excessive use of force, abuse of authority, 78, discourtesy was 26. 121 Precinct, 67 complaints, 29 for force, 49 for abuse of authority, discourtesy was 14, abuse of language 3. 122 Precinct, 37 complaints and 123 Precinct, 18 complaints. CCRB is a city agency but independent from NYPD. Website: NYC.Gov/CCRB.

Vincent D'Antuono of Pastosa – 755 Forest Avenue, Cannabis Dispensary which is the closed Victory State Bank. It does not belong in our neighborhood. It has a Flintstone theme. A playground not too far away and schools right near us. We have enough Opioid problems on Staten Island. I'm in business nearly 60 years. If they open that business, it would cost them \$20,000 per month. It's almost impossible. We can't have them open until 8PM. "It's very important that we leave it out of this wonderful neighborhood". We have 40,000 homeless veterans. Let's take care of them please.

Agnes McBeth said the DA McMahon is vehemently opposed to this Cannabis Dispensary. He is willing to write a letter of opposition. (Agnes was directed by the DA to bang on the table).

Robert Grosso, Program Coordinator for Non-Profit Staten Island – Brand new initiative starting today called Community Climate Core (for Climate Resilience). We will be looking at neighborhoods across the island affected by excessive flooding, excessive heat (Port Richmond, West Brighton, New Dorp, etc.). We want to bring awareness and action along with set up projects, distribute resources, bringing community groups and members together for a plan of action in case of a natural disaster. Obviously like what is going on in California presently. We may not have wildfires but another hurricane like Sandy will always be there. We are looking for people interested in this project to help out in any way.

Laura McCarthy of FRRCA (West Brighton Civic Association) – We object to the Cannabis License of 755 Forest Avenue. The site is 200 yards away from a Child Care Center which has programs for young toddlers and preschoolers throughout the day. The property is a C2-1 Zone designated to serve the local retail needs of the community. We have high traffic and commercial businesses and feel this dispensary would attract additional traffic. The area businesses close-down during the dismissal of IS27. The block is completely flooded with middle-school children. They take the buses, socialize, visit Dunkin Donuts, hanging around which makes the dispensary an inappropriate area. Some businesses close during dismissal time because of trouble they have had. This is why we oppose this.

Xin-Rai Lee, Community Engagement Specialist with New York City Independent Budget Office – IBO – We are an independent agency who does not report to Elected Officials. We provide Data-Driven Insights. We do this through mandated reports. We will be releasing a Preliminary Budget. We also publish reports throughout the year on various city matters such as Education, Sanitation, NYPD, etc. We can analyze it. We accept requests from the public and non-profits. IBO.NYC.GOV. We recently

published Affordable Housing Strategies, Report on Safe Hotels Act. We host regular presentations. We just presented at CB7 in Brooklyn about the Affordable Housing Strategies. We also have trainings on Budget 101.

End of Public Session

Chairman Nicholas Siclari said we now have a quorum. Meeting called to order.
Roll Call Attendance by Loretta Cauldwell, Secretary.

Chairman Siclari said he knows traffic is a nightmare. We will wait until after for a Roll Call.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Calling a new Steering Committee Meeting. The Executive Board and all the chairs of the committees as well as the Elected Officials or a representative for the Elected Officials. We want Cannabis Management there. Once OCM says they can be there, I will announce a date.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – No report. Happy New Year.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe - No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Welcome back and looking forward to a prosperous working year.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Happy New Year. The Treasurer report is in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – I want to thank everyone for your expression of condolences for my mom. We are a family. I would like to add a new Executive Member, Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone. It will help with the letters not to be out of compliance. I would like to follow-up with our garbage cans. We can wait to buy the garbage cans because we have until June 2026. Our friend and former Borough President maybe the new Sanitation Commissioner. I would like to reopen that case and ask for a letter from this board that Staten Island be exempt from purchasing the new garbage cans. Michael Arvanites said if there is no latch, they can fine you \$55. Jermaine Williams to write your address on the new cans. If yours gets stolen, call 311. Fran Reali said we should have air tags on the garbage cans. I have seen air tags on Christmas decorations. What is happening on Staten Island? Tony Scutari said they come to pick up all the garbage with only 1 truck. We need the three garbage cans, a neighbor got a ticket because he had no room in the garbage can around Christmas time. Chairman Nick said I would like to know who picked this company's garbage cans.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – Absent.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – The next CB1 Meeting in February will have an update from EDC on the Waterfront Project. In two weeks 1/28, We invited the SI Ferry to talk about concessions/schedules (this was moved to the February 25th meeting- January meeting was cancelled). Mr. Garvey is the COO.

Public Services, Sunny Jain –We have been lucky with the weather. Sanitation has been prepared 6-7 hours before the forecast of snow. If you have any issues, please let us know.

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – No report.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth – No report.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone -

Transportation, Joseph Bird – Absent

Small Business & Non-Profit - Excused

Labor, Robert Holst – No report.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – No report. I have a copy of the District Needs (Budget). Right at the top it says Fiscal Year 26. We are in Fiscal Year 25. These are projections.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato –

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – No report.

West Brighton/Randall Manor, Anthony Cosentino – Draft letter to OCM. We are going to eliminate the owner of the property. We have the letter from Parks to refer to. The proposed location cannot be within 500 feet of a Daycare Facility or facility serving children. That is what the Parks Department supported us on. Reverse roll call to send the letter. Motion to deny the Cannabis Dispensary at 755 Forest Avenue. Vote passes unanimously. Chairman Nick said a lot of people can't wrap their heads around Cannabis Dispensaries, but they are legal now. If you say no, you have to have reasons why with the information behind it. We are advisory only but maybe they will listen to us. Hopefully we can get a representative from OCM to one of our meetings.

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – We had a meeting last month. We had a representative from the MTA. We are dealing with the Tompkinsville Train Station Ramps. Drugs, paraphernalia, homeless, We need the ramps for the disabled like myself. The ramp has broken bottles, needles, etc. William Deautriell from DOT came to hear what we had to say. They will have a meeting and come back to update us.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Grymes Hill/Westerleigh/Willowbrook, Timothy Forsyth – No meeting or minutes. No meeting scheduled for this month. We do have progress on the removal of Clove Lakes Park Martling Avenue Dam Bridge Fence.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo – Absent.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – Dora said no meeting (Zoom Issues), no minutes but there will be a meeting next week.

Stapleton/Clifton/Concord, Peter Lisi– Welcome everyone! CB1 and community activists. If you're not one, I hope we rub off on you. We meet every third Thursday of every month at the Stapleton Library and on Zoom (Hybrid). Due to the holiday, this month is on January 23rd, 4th Thursday. We had two liquor license renewals. One Change of Operation (we are late with the minutes). The Law in NY is you can open to 4:00 AM. Our motto is that nothing good happens at 4:00 AM. They only asked for 2:00 AM and we had no issues with that with no prior complaints. The second issue is Cannabis. The Cannabis Law was made with no notification or input from any Elected Official. I don't know about the success of it with this process. There should be an Advisory Board. Also, if we the public see something, we have to say something. Shout out to the Parks Department regarding Tappan Park. The fountain is now working for a few years and we are getting a new roof to the building. We need a community access facility there and we won't stop until Tappan Park is fully revitalized. The North Shore doesn't get the full attention like the South Shore does. We had complaints of derelict vehicles, no plates, no tires. Many garbage complaints. We need more sanitation clean-ups along with community clean-ups. Our streets are dirty. A few traffic lights out. The Elected Officials spearheaded the North Shore Action Plan. We are going to one day walk from the Ferry Terminal to Edgewater Plaza. A mayor said it would be all the way to South Beach. "What can one do to help his community, a school, adopt a block, love a park, clean a corner, see something, say something and volunteer on behalf of others". Peter Lisi.

Pam Silvestri of the SI Advance asked for a roll call of the Elected Officials and/or representatives in the room. Marie La Francesca from Borough Hall, Makeda Campbell from Senator Scarcella-Spanton, Cathleen Kenny from Sam Pirozzolo's office, Michael Arvanites from Councilmember Kamillah Hanks office, Representative from Councilman Carr's office, Agnes McBeth from the DA's office, Jermaine Williams, NYPD,

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Motion to Adjourn – 7:38PM

