

Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – 6:30 P.M. – St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

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

Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Ali Lula ab
Mohan Radhakrishna ex
Alina Nevradakis ex
Friday Ogbewe
Ernest Paige
Francine Reali
Joshua Renta
Cindy Salzillo
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil
Nicholas Siclari
Jaclyn Tacoronte ab
George Turner
Steven Williams

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Marie LaFrancesca, Michael Arvanites, Makeda Campbell, Dawn Clarity, Agnes McBeth, Elena Brady, Cathleen Kenny, Nicole Brooks, Lisa Crosby, RV Augusty, Andrew Dorman, Scott Kerr, Sean DeMarco, Michael Morrell, Mary Habstritt, Terry Troia, Maria Mendez, Nancy Walby, Thomas Fehmy, Elena Brady, Lorri Senk

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

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 – After the City of Yes proposals, we have DOB to clean up violations. Steps to setting up ADU’s. Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex, Saturday, May 17th, 10AM to 3PM. DOB will be there for homeowners and tenants.

Con Ed Resource Fair on Friday, May 16th Borough Hall. Billing questions or audit for your home to make sure you are getting efficiency in your home. Yesterday we broke ground on the 500-unit waterfront housing development for SI North Shore. Largest mass timber construction in the five boroughs with the Stapleton Project using wood-based building materials for much of its interior. Largest in NYS and one of the largest in the country. One of the components of the North Shore Action Plan. Including the Mary Cali Center, first inclusionary housing project at 475 Bay Street. Front Street is getting sewers, infrastructure with a lot of affordable housing and market-rate housing.

Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office – The NYS Budget has finally passed and enacted. It's the largest NYS has ever passed, \$254 Billion. Sam Pirozzolo voted against the entire budget as it does not go nearly as far as it should at protecting New Yorkers from crime, rapidly inflating costs, or improving the quality of New York's education system all while spending more than has ever been spent in our state's history. His greatest fear is that the positive aspects in paying down the debt that we owe, income rebate checks, and other savings to New Yorker's could be removed through increased payroll taxes, MTA taxes, etc. before it passes in June. He will oppose those also. The budget contains no new innovations, no thinking outside the box, just money into a system that we know does not work. It is unacceptable that the majority in Albany believe this is an acceptable budget. Assemblyman Pirozzolo will continue to fight for safety, fiscal sanity and common sense. Last week our office stood with Graniteville and Mariner's Harbor in opposing Battery Storage Sites planned for 2166 Forest Avenue. Not safe in residential neighborhoods and ignored by community input. When we change the clocks, it is a good thing to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. We had a great presentation with the FDNY on Lithium batteries. Bikes and scooters should not be placed by exit doors. I am a flight attendant and my main words are EXITS.

Agnes McBeth, Community & Youth Liaison, Office of DA McMahon's office – with ADA Jack Parlo. In respect to Cathleen's announcement, there was an outstanding addition that passed in this state's budget, Discovery Reform. The reforms were enacted in this budget. It will keep Staten Islanders safe because cases will not be passed because of needless irrelevant discovery issues. We are excited for this win. The governor promised to keep New Yorkers safer and she has proven to do this by enacting this in this year's budget. In 2022, there was a shooting in front of Tottenville High School. Last month, our office along with NYPD announced the indictment of seven gang affiliated involved in that non fatal shooting. We will not rest until all those are prosecuted especially gun-related. That day, they also did several other things also stealing a delivery truck.

Events: we have partnered with Senator Scarcella-Spanton's office for a free shred event on this Sunday, May 18th at 315 Forest Avenue, Temple Israel Reform Congregation. Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force, 3rd Annual Multi-Cultural Food Festival on Sunday, June 8th 1-4 pm, Sacred Heart School Gym, 301 North Burgher Avenue.

Jeanne Raleigh - West Brighton resident. Loitering outside legal weed dispensaries. Friday, May 2nd on Forest Avenue, Nughub, 1350 Forest Avenue. Three gentleman were sitting on beach and sand chairs on the sidewalk with their motorcycle, one was rolling a joint and one was smoking a bong. It's a vibrant area with strollers and walkers. Across the way, we have Stop&Shop, bus stops, pizzerias, day care center. It is an eyesore on Forest Avenue. Nobody else was on the sidewalk looking down the block. I suggested he would put a sign up no loitering. Not sure if that is legal? Chairman Nick Siclari said we will email OCM right away about this.

Mary Habstritt - Museum Director of the Lilac Preservation Project. Non-Profit. Also a resident of St. George. We are eagerly awaiting the building of Pier One. Instead of life coming to Pier One, it died. I attended the Pier One and Esplanade workshop. EDC said it was infeasible to build the off-shore portion of the pier leaving it only 330 feet long for docking small vessels. Many ships could not dock there. City Planning declared the pier a priority/activity zone but EDC is not prioritizing it for Maritime Activities. EDC is telling us to "take a walk down a short pier." Unacceptable.

Lisa Crosby, Director of Constituent and Support Services in Assemblyman Charles Fall's office - Real ID reached the deadline but you can still sign up. The budget was passed with a lot of

good things. Retirement for the police, etc. You can find it on the Assemblyman's website. Even though the Battery Storage Units are not in the Assemblyman's district, we understand the communities concerns for safety and transparency and is monitoring the situation. It should have community input. We recommend reaching out to the NYS Research Development Commission to submit your concerns.

Terry Troia - Wearing a T-shirt for the Civic Engagement Commission of NYC. For the last three years, Adam's administration, they have provided participatory budgeting for ongoing projects on the North Shore of SI, Task Force on Racial Inclusion and Equity. City council do participatory budgeting for capital projects. These are the ones that you vote for the project you want to fund. Tomorrow the ballots go out. Not sure what the five projects are. We will have the ballots for the June meeting.

Loretta Cauldwell with roll call and we have a quorum.

Presentations:

Victoria Carstensen Deputy Borough Commissioner DOT with Will Deautriell, Chief of Staff and Hayes Lord, Project Manager and Transportation Manager. Traffic safety proposal for Richmond Terrace between Snug Harbor Road and Tysen Street. We have been receiving requests for bicycle infrastructure along this corridor to commute to the ferry and recreational purposes. We are also implementing slowing down vehicles along this stretch.

Hayes Lord - Back in 2010 we installed shared lanes. It has taken us 15 years to evolve. Speeding is an issue where this stretch of road is 44 feet wide. (Video cut off).

Teresa Cunningham Dept. of Sanitation - Composting is still mandatory citywide. Outreach and education. Summoning is postponed through the end of the year. Larger buildings, multiple dwellings will be issued warnings and for repeat offenders you will get a summons. Separate your food and yard waste. The brown bin is not mandatory. Any bin less than 55 gal. With a lid can be used with the orange decal. You can use a clear bag that you use for recycling inside the bin.

Questions: Regular garbage and composting going in the same truck? No, we have split body trucks/two compartments. Compost goes on one side of the truck and remains separated. Report if that is not the case. What happens when the bin is stolen? And why didn't we get a free recycling bin? Recycling bins from the city are not required. It can be placed out with a clear bag. Boxes can be flattened and tied. The city bin for regular garbage is required but not until June 2026. Until then use any container with a lid. You will not get a summons for not putting the compost out for example if you're on vacation. What happens to the free bins with the STAR program? It is still under review. It hasn't been signed. Please send us the powerpoint presentation. If your garbage bin gets stolen, report it to NYPD.

Director of Quality of Life Mayor's Community Affairs, Vanessa Limani - I used to be Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's SI Director but I am now with the Mayor's office. Director Ray Carrero, Neighborhood Support Teams Project - Been with the Mayor's office for 33 years. Put in an application to help us help the community. Local Law 102 in 2016 made into law. Quality of life issues from the agencies. REI, Request for Expressions of Interest. Local Law 102 requires the city to develop a list of no fewer than three (3) geographic areas that would benefit from interagency collaboration in addressing issues such as sanitation services, transportation, social service needs, public health issues, and public safety concerns. If you remember the Graffiti Task Force, that was processed under Mayor Bloomberg. From 2016-2022 there were none.

2023 we had three in Brooklyn and three in Manhattan, three in Queens and Bronx. We weren't able to get a submission from Staten Island. Last year we did three NST's in all the boroughs but not Staten Island. We want city-related issues. We aren't looking at capital projects. The deadline of submission is June 2nd. I would take all submissions and create 1 NST for Staten Island.

Officers' Reports in the packet.

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Excused.

Second Vice-Chairman -

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe - No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Only nomination for 2nd Vice Chair is Catherine Schiavone. Taking nominations from the floor.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Chairman Nick Siclari spoke about Land Use and Landmark Preservation. It is the hardest thing because it's a person's home. I know they moved to a Landmark home but you're really invading their privacy. Why they pick a certain stone for example. They are trying to build value on it with improvements that should make the community happy. Trying to make Staten Island a better community. I feel bad for the applicants.

District Manager, Joan Cusack – Great to be back. I have been back to work. The office has not stopped running. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Functional Committee Reports:

Land Use, George Turner – 172 St. Paul's Avenue (railing and porch on the side - the owner knew it was a landmarked building) & 106 Carroll Place (re-stoned with a modern-looking stone and heat pump on the side of the building -the owners didn't know it was a landmarked building), 10301- Landmarks started in 1968 because of tearing down Penn Station. As an architect, that bothered a lot of us. Some of these buildings marked for Landmark are nothing special. Landmarks could say they don't like the stone they put in. Neither one of these two projects filed with Department of Buildings. When you buy the building that comes up in your title report. Sometimes they landmark certain buildings and sometimes an area. We don't want to encourage people to ask for forgiveness after they make changes. They may be able to get a grant to fix it.

Motions to approve as presented provided it is cleared with buildings and both passed unanimously at Land Use Meeting.

Both pass unanimously at the Full Board Meeting.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – EDC made a presentation on Pier One. We do not want them to cut down the length of the pier. They haven't awarded the RFP yet so we still have time. That pier will be closed for the next couple of years when they get started working on it. They spoke about the

esplanade and the St. George Esplanade going the other way. We are going to try to get the coast guard at our next meeting for the rescue. Our next meeting is May 27th on Zoom.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – We had a DSNY here for a presentation. If there are any issues we can get agencies here to give presentations.

Youth Services, Katherine Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Professor Heather Butts will be speaking at our next meeting. She is an amazing advocate for the youth. Programs for the Spring, Summer and Fall. Our focus for next year are psychological aspects of troubled youth and pathways for treatment. I count on Agnes McBeth who has been a true friend to the youth services committee. We will work with the DA's office.

Chairman Nick Siclari said Kate and Mohan do an excellent job with the Youth Committee

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino – Excused.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – Excused.

Parliamentarian, Catherine Schiavone –

Transportation, Joseph Bird – MTA issue. Express bus 7-day Metro Card is no longer an option. We are waiting to hear from Melissa Farley. PS57 Parker Avenue very dangerous intersection was taken care of by DOT. Watchogue Road and Glascoe Avenue, Victoria of DOT is looking for a pedestrian signal. Bard Avenue and Forest Avenue, additional studies for a left turn signal. Meeting on May 28th. One way on Metropolitan Avenue. DOT will do a study. I'm on the Community Education Counsel. Running again if you want to vote.

Small Business & Non-Profit, -

Labor, Robert Holst – 500 Unit Project in St. George for the labor agreement. When the city goes this route it opens jobs to the young people who want to go into these trades.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – Excused.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – There are 30 cultural sites and spring is here. Go onto the CB1 website links. They will list their schedules.

Chairman Nick Siclari listed the names for the street co-naming to send a letter of support. Senator John Murphy, Annette Esposito, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Antonio Meucci, Thomas Magliocca, Meader's Family, Egon Salmon, Victor Scalici, Robert "Bobby" McGhie, Louis G. Gianvito, M.D. who I played tennis with and knew him very well. He was in his 90's. I will be attending his street naming.

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – No report.

West Brighton/Randall Manor, Anthony Cosentino – Excused.

New Brighton/St. George/Tompkinsville, Claudette Duff – I do walk in the park and would like if it were closed on the weekends. No meeting in June. We have old business with the five borough bike tour problems with getting to our homes and you can't get out of your house. These routes

were created 30 years ago before there were residents there. Tompkinsville Train Station Ramp is terrible. Urine smell, broken concrete, etc. I was told by DOT that it is a multi-agency involvement. Several months ago I presented for the Center of the Blind on SI. There will be a petition going around to gain support. We are looking at a few locations. We need support from our elected officials.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Grymes Hill/Westerleigh/Willowbrook, Joe Ahlstrom - This community board agreed to open silver lake road. I am for that. Before Covid, all these parks were closed on the weekend. We are a borough of parks. All the lights are out at Clove Lakes Park and half of the park is closed for construction. (Since this meeting, Silver Lake Park Road is now closed on weekends). Council member Kamillah Hanks will send a letter to parks requesting this.

Rosebank/Shore Acres, John Guzzo – had a meeting no quorum. Minutes in the packet.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – I apologize for not having the minutes in the packet. We get a lot of liquor licenses. Port Richmond Strong is pushing back on some of these licenses. We had some technical issues and some didn't show up.

Chairman Nick said our OCM meeting went well and they have their act together. We have the recording if you want it. Catherine Schiavone is updating the OCM Guidelines.

Stapleton/Clifton/Concord, Peter Lisi- We had a few liquor licenses. If they don't show up they come to our next months meeting. We like to get a connection. 381 Van Duzer Street a renewal was approved. Verizon work notification starting Monday at the waterfront to last a week or two. Front Street to Wave Street will be closed. Upgrading to 5G on Margo Loop and Van Duzer Street. National Grid notification work on Jackson Street and Beach Street between 9am-5pm. NYC Open Streets in Stapleton on Saturdays in June through September. 12-5 pm. On Water Street between Bay Street and Wright Street. Complaint to inspect an illegal business on Osgood Avenue. NYPD complaint near IS49. Homeowners placing cones to save parking spots. Corson Place multiple vehicles parked in front of a fire hydrant. No standing spot (daylighting) people parking there. Center of Family Representation. Free legal representation. Organization serving Stapleton and St. George. Stapleton has the highest investigations in ACS. A phone number on the minutes. My opinion recent years in the North Shore, things are getting done. DOT, DSNY, EDC etc. are running efficiently. Combination of Mayor Adams, Borough President Vito Fossella and Council member Kamillah Hanks. Also, this current Community Board 1 our office staff. Additional schools and public spaces are coming. Quote: "Don't ever give up on society. There are a lot of good people out there, you just have to find them through some bad ones. The world consists of more good than bad." By Peter Lisi.

Parliamentarian and 2nd Vice Chair said I need to accept the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned – 8:14 PM

