

FULL BOARD MEETING MARCH 12, 2019 – 7:30 P.M. THE STAATEN, 697 FOREST AVENUE

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Joe Ahlstrom
Ali Mir Masum
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow
Joseph Bird, Absent
Telee Brown, Absent
Sandy Carles
Loretta Cauldwell
Anastasia Ciluffo
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar
George Doyle
Claudette Duff
Linda Eskenas
Timothy Forsyth
Victoria Gillen
John Guzzo, Excused sick
Celeste Holmes
Robert Holst
Sunny Jain
Lisa Lattanzio
Norman Light
Priscilla Marco
John McBeth
Pearl Minsky
Mohan Radharkrishn
Friday Ogbewe
Ole Olsen
Ernest Paige, Excused
Catherine Paradiso
Amy Poirer
Fran Reali
Chris Rooney, Excused sick
Marjorie Ryan, Absent
James Samuels, Absent
Anthony Scutari
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona
Hakan Tale
George Turner
Kevin Washington
Daniel Williams
Camille Zarrelli
Bob Zion, Excused
Nicholas Zvegintzov, Excused Away

GUESTS

Hon. Debi Rose
Christine Quinn, President and CEO WIN
Deputy Commissioner Jackie Bray DHS
Assistant Commissioner Karen Ford, DHS
Deputy Commissioner Erin Drinkwater, DHS
Patrick Lewis, Rep. Mayor Bill DeBlasio, CAU
Lisa Thompson, Rep. Governor Andrew Cuomo
Roland Stewart, Rep. Borough President James Oddo
Saman Malimood, Rep. Congressman Max Rose
Marcy Biship, Rep. District Attorney Michael McMahon
Michael Arvanites, Rep. Senator Savino
Cara Buonmcontei, Rep. MOA Nicole Malliotakis
Elena Brady, Councilman Steven Matteo
Vincent Grangnani, Rep. Councilwoman Debi Rose
Joe Helferty, Department of City Planning
Jorge Ventura, Department of City Planning
Joan Cusack, Director Human Resources Administration
Nicole Brooks, NYC Parks & Recreation
400 Residents and Civic Associations on file at the Board Office

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call attendance taken.

Motion made seconded and approved to accept February 2019 Board Minutes.

Chairman Siclari explained that we need to handle regular board business prior to going into item of the proposed homeless shelter at 44 Victory Blvd. where the Christine Quinn, President and CEO of WIN and representatives from the Department of Homeless Services will address the members and over 350 members of Civic Associations, residents and Elected Official representatives.

Chairman Siclari welcomed Hon. Debi Rose, Councilwoman for the 49th District.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRWOMAN, MEGAN DELMAR – The Steering Committee minutes were included in the packet.

The following motion was read, discussed, and voted on as follows:

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 STATEN ISLAND

MOTION TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 2019 FULL BOARD MEETING

WHEREAS, Social justice implies fair treatment, an impartial sharing of social, environmental, and economic benefits and fair distribution of advantages and disadvantages within our society, regardless of background or status; and

WHEREAS, In 1989 the City of New York revised the City Charter, adding "Fair share" provisions (New York City Charter Ch. 8 Sections 203 and 204), in response to the uneven distribution of various essential City services among New York City neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York has consistently failed to perform the duties required under the "Fair Share Criteria" with respect to social service facilities and transient housing proposed to be sited in the area served by Community Board #1 of Staten Island, resulting in an over-saturation of such services within that area;

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, THAT: Community Board #1, Staten Island requests that The Attorney General, The Mayor's Office, The NYC Corporation Counsel and the NY City Council require compliance with the Fair Share Criteria by every entity proposing to site a "City Facility" as that term is defined in the Fair Share Criteria in the area covered by Community Board #1 area, and to that end, Community Board 1 does hereby request a moratorium on the placement of such services within its jurisdiction until such time as:

- **Required Fair-Share standards are met in the siting of any projects operated or funded by the City, or directly under the auspices of any City, State or Federal Agency;**
- **An accurate and current census of Federal, State, or local programs in the proposed siting district(s) is provided;**
- **Clear and readily accessible publication of the algorithms, metrics and all other information used to determine the location of proposed sites in real time is supplied to the local community as provided for in the Fair Share Criteria and/or at least 90 days prior to the construction, purchase or lease of any structure that is proposed to be used for such purposes; and**

- Adequate community notification and involvement is performed, at the very least compliance with the New York General City Law Section 66 (Open Meeting Rule)

Roll call vote taken, vote passed unanimously.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN – CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – No report.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – No report.

SECRETARY, ANJAIL AMEEN-RICE – No report.

TREASURER, LARRY BESLOW- The report is in the packet.

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – No report.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – No report.

PUBLIC SESSION – OTHER THAN 44 VICTORY BLVD.

Ms. Cynthia Mailman spoke of the Stapleton Waterfront and reminded everyone the agreement reached by the City for waterfront access and not to be built for low income housing. She also restated the need for SI Secession Ms. Mailman's full testimony is on file at the Board Office.

All Area Committee and Functional Committees were called upon, minutes were in the packet for each committee if they met and they were accepted.

Motion made to suspend the rules to allow Christine Quinn and representatives from the Department of Homeless Services.

Deputy Commissioner Jackie Gray, First Deputy Commissioner of Department of Homeless Services, who is responsible for the day to day operations and for siting new homeless shelters. Ms. Gray was joined by Assistant Commissioner Karen Ford, Department of Homeless Services who is responsible for Family Services and Family Intake.

Deputy Commissioner Jackie Gray mentioned that there are more kids 6 and under that are housed in the NYC Shelter system than homeless men.

The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) tries to prevent homelessness, replace inadequate/bad shelters, tries to house the homeless in the Borough where they live and to re-house as fast and responsible as possible.

Eviction has gone up 37% over the last 5 years.

Less than 11% are homeless due to eviction. DHS has helped in two ways: people facing eviction are represented in housing court, and if families have hit hard times and can continue to pay their rent, but have fallen behind, DHS will pay the back rent to help catch them up.

DOH is looking to open up 90 new high quality shelters and close bad, commercial hotels and scattered temporary housing. Community Board #1 is the first to announce of the 90 to open.

DHS is looking to move toward borough-based shelters which entail opening shelters in every borough in every Community Board. Right now families are uprooted from their communities, from their schools and from their job, Grandma, and house of worship.

The figures were checked before coming to the meeting tonight by DOH there are 1,332 people whose last address listed were from Staten Island.

Ms. Christine Quinn, CEO and President of WIN spoke of the new proposed homeless shelter at 44 Victory Blvd. for 200 families.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that they are the largest provider of homeless population and permanent supporting housing throughout the 5 Boroughs. They have 11 homeless facilities.

The Board had provided articles where Ms. Quinn was in opposition to a homeless shelter in her district.

Ms. Quinn said that she would still oppose the shelter because it is for 200 men which is too many. 70% homeless people are families with at least one child. 92% are single woman. 53% are working woman. 86% of the families that leave the shelters do not return.

The site at 44 Victory Blvd. will have all services at the facility – child care afterschool homework help camp for the children in the summer and school breaks. Social workers for the entire family, housing coordinators to help find permanent housing and income specialist to help the mothers find a good paying job to enable them to get and keep permanent housing. There will be 200 units with 3.2 persons in each unit.

Ms. Quinn said that the North Shore of Staten Island the rate of which is Staten Islanders are entering shelters in average higher than parts of the Bronx and is slightly below the entire City average.

Many questions were asked and answered.

DOH stated they look at records from HRA to see where the people lived where they received their public assistance prior to the 2 years before entering the shelter.

A list of the 1,342 people that are homeless were in possession of DHS and was not available to give out.

Helm Equities owns the site at 44 Victory Blvd. has owned it when there was a proposal for Walgreens and when Taco Bell was in the site.

WIN will receive a contract through an open RFP through DHS – they will lease the site from the developers as they do from all the sites.

The developers get paid rent from the WIN.

DHS sent out notices in mid-January. This is over 2 years notice. WIN called every Elected Official Office and Community Board #1 reached out to WIN once they were notified by DHS that they were approved.

Questions were asked what the kids were going to do in the neighborhood schools are overcrowded. There is nothing in this area to do with the kids.

Ms. Quinn said there is a substandard park immediately next to the site. Kids will go to local schools closest to the shelter. WIN will make every effort to help with the coalition to reclaim the park.

Statement was made $\frac{3}{4}$ the homeless population is being housed at that site, why not evenly distribute. North Shore has been waiting 10 years for the Sanitation garage to move, waiting for Cromwell Center to be rebuilt, how is a homeless shelter for 200 families in 2 to 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

DHS responded they look at the actual building and the provider. There are 100's of north shore Staten Islanders being housed in other Boroughs.

There is an open ended RFP, WIN made the proposal DHS rated the proposal. And they have been awarded the contract. No city money is being used to build the facility. WIN will run the shelter and pay rent. The open ended BIDS never close.

It was asked why they needed a 30 year lease at the site. DHS had to look into the future at the needs. From 2011-2014 there was a 39% increase due to the State taking away the Advantage Program. DHS estimates the needs are for at least the next decade.

Question was raised if union workers were to be used for the building – they are not building the building.

No EIS or EAS has been done for this site.

Lists of residents are on file at the Board Office who spoke. All are opposed to the size of the facility at one location, there are no recreational services in the area for the children, and the schools are overcrowded already. There is no Public Hospital in Staten Island.

Services to health care, mental health care is done by Bright Point. Bright Point comes to the shelter and picks up the clients and brings them to where they need to go and they bring them back.

Ms. Quinn stated that WIN had reached out to the Salvation Army to place the shelter at the old Bayley Seton site and other locations, nobody ever responded.

Community Board #1 had a map which had the locations of the community facilities which clearly shows CB#1 is oversaturated with social services.

Chairman Siclari asked anyone that did not have the opportunity to comment to send in written testimony to Community Board #1, 1 Edgewater Plaza, Suite #217, SI, NY 10305 and we will forward the comments to the Mayor and to DHS.

Councilwoman Debi Rose thanked everyone who attended tonight. She understood the frustration of the audience for having no input into the process. She herself is frustrated. The process is flawed. That is why everyone is angry. The way it is set up, there is an open RFP, that means anytime anyone comes up with a proposal for a homeless shelter it will be reviewed by DHS get vet it for viability not for the residents, not for the Community Board, or the community, but for the government and for DHS.

DHS is only required to inform the Board, inform the Elected Officials, and the residents 30 days prior to the shelter opening.

Councilwoman Rose is looking into legislation to change the process. Housing is the number one issue in her office. Permanent Housing is needed for low income, middle income housing, senior housing, and housing for people with disabilities. Her office gets called everyday about the homeless sleeping on the benches at the ferry terminal.

If you believe in affordable housing, I do not want to see the same faces at a meeting complaining about affordable housing. We need to look at the big picture, look at our neighbors in every economic stratum that need housing.

The Councilwoman Rose and her office are working with WIN at alternate sites, they will report back to her office. Councilwoman Rose will keep the community updated as it progresses.

Councilwoman Rose will not vote in favor of the Bay Street Corridor if the infrastructure is not included, schools, transportation, Cromwell.

Chairman Siclari ended the meeting by mentioning he has spoken to the Downtown Staten Island Alliance, The Jersey Street Merchants Association and the St. George Civic about pursuing a lawsuit to stop the shelter. Community Board #1 cannot sue the City because it is a City Agency.

Motion made to adjourn and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.