

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting (In Person/Salem Church), November 10, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

**Members**

Joe Ahlstrom  
Anjail Ameen-Rice  
Larry Beslow  
Joseph Bird, Excused  
Allison Brown  
Telee Brown, Absent  
Christopher Campbell  
Sandy Carles, Absent  
Loretta Cauldwell, Excused  
Andre Ciprut  
Kathleen Coen, Absent  
Christopher Corbo  
Anthony Cosentino, Excused  
George Doyle  
Claudette Duff  
Linda Eskenas, Absent  
Samir Farag  
Omar Ferriera, Absent  
Timothy Forsyth  
John Guzzo  
Celeste Holmes  
Robert Holst  
Vincent Innocente  
Sunny Jain  
Linda Juarbe  
Lillian Lagazzo, Excused  
Peter Lisi  
Ali Mir Masum  
John McBeth  
Friday Ogbewe, Excused  
Ernest Paige  
Mohan Radhakrishna  
Francine Reali, Excused  
Chris Rooney  
Catherine Schiavone  
Anthony Scutari, Excused  
Anthony Sgarlato  
Sean Sheil  
Nicholas Siclari  
Jaclyn Tacoronte  
George Turner  
Kevin Washington  
James West  
Daniel Williams  
Siyda Williams  
Steven Williams, Absent  
Camille Zarrelli  
Nicholas Zvegintzov, Excused

**Guests**

Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President Vito Fossella's Office  
Elena Brady, Councilman David Carr's Office  
Agnes McBeth, RCDA  
Amelia Fanelli, RCDA  
Annmarie Cantasano, DOT  
Jermaine Williams, NYPD  
Prince Cobbina, CCRB  
Debi Rose, Former Councilwoman  
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement  
Lisa Wallace, Port Richmond Strong  
Lisa Crosby, Community Board 1  
Michael Gaynor  
Dolores Brennan  
Cheryl Moller  
Shellise Rogers

**Office Staff**

Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

**Candidates for District Manager: Joan Cusack & Meda Joy Corda**

Meeting to Order: 6:30 P.M. & Pledge of Allegiance

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman: Our first in-person meeting. Thank you to Pastor Josiah of Salem Church. Chairman Siclari introduced the panel to the new members and welcomed them. Timothy Forsyth, Second Vice-Chair, Larry Beslow, Treasurer, Linda Maffeo who has sent you emails along with Lisa Crosby.

Roll Call attendance by Linda Maffeo

Marie LaFrancesca from the Borough President's Office did the swearing in of new community board members.

A motion to accept the minutes.

**Public Session** – Timothy Forsyth filling in for Friday Ogbewe.

John McBeth – “For those of you who know me, I am a strong advocate for justice and a strong advocate for fairness and an advocate for my community. I advocate for people in need and I advocate for the North Shore of Staten Island and Community Board 1. Today, I rise to speak to the specific absence of Lisa Crosby’s consideration for the position of District Manager.” Mr. McBeth talked about three specific points but reminded his fellow board members new and seasoned alike, among all the wonderful properties of Joe Carroll, his chief was his unwavering consistence of fairness to all. Mr. McBeth said there was no doubt that he would consider this exclusion unfair as grossly as I do. “She did the job when he was sick, she’s been doing the job since before he passed, and she’s done the job up until this very moment.” He went on to say, he respects the work of the committee. “I am not here to disqualify anyone.” Here are the three points.” Mr. McBeth said, Ms. Crosby has been an integral part of this community for 35 years and intimate experience matters. “Ms. Crosby has developed intimate strong relationships with elected officials, business piers, and appointed city service commissioners, and that access also matters.” “There is no introductions needed, no learning curve, and no breaking period if she were hired to be our District Manager. Preparedness also matters.” Mr. McBeth said he is not disillusioned to the likely outcome of tonight’s vote. “I pray that all of my fellow board members only have the best interest of this community board and our community at heart in their decision and are not voting the way they choose for any other reason.” Mr. McBeth made a motion to specifically add her name. Mr. McBeth said even if you as a board member decide not to vote for Ms. Crosby, that you at least consider her as a candidate. “To add some facts to this motion, Lisa Crosby meets the qualifications.” McBeth said there is no reason to delay or reconvene. “It is the fair thing to do.” “I would like to make a motion that Lisa Crosby’s name be included as a choice for tonight’s consideration for District Manager and that she be given the same consideration as the other candidates.”

Agnes McBeth, RCDA – Nice to see everyone in person and Happy Veteran’s Day. We salute you for your service to our country. The District Attorney, Borough President, NYPD and representative from DOE got together to talk about school safety. Proposing some initiatives to DOE and when it is revised we will present it. We are aware of the Issues at Andros Avenue Auto Body Shops and construction at 400 Lake Avenue. We are working with the 121 Precinct in regards to Andros Avenue to address the Quality of Life issues and monitoring the issues regarding Lake Avenue. We are working with the NYPD to host a Catalytic Converter Registration Event. As soon as we have the speakers and the information we will share it with you.

Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society – A long time attendee of CB1 meetings. Commented on the search for District Manager for the late Joe Carroll. Mr. Carroll is sorely missed. Much of the work was placed on Lisa Crosby after he passed. “Ms. Crosby always took my calls and provided guidance with all the city agencies at her fingertips.” He added, Ms. Crosby should have been appointed Interim District Manager as suggested by a board member and should be compensated for the months she served. I feel recognition and compensation is long overdue for the work of a deserving civil servant Ms. Crosby.

Michael Gaynor, Retired NYPD Homicide Detective – Started a business on Staten Island and had to move to another location and get approvals from many city departments. Mr. Gaynor wasn't approved by the Buildings Department and spoke with Joseph Carroll and Lisa Crosby at Community Board. They listened to my situation and within a day or two after, Ms. Crosby came to my office, took pictures, and said she would get back in touch with me. Within days, I was approved by the Buildings Department and have been in business ever since, providing services to the community with Pro Bono investigations and helping people get jobs in the security industry. Mr. Gaynor recommend Ms. Crosby for the District Manager position because she is a woman of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

George Doyle – "I have been a member of this community board for 43 years. Two years as a non-board member, and 41 years as a member of the board. Never have I ever seen more interference coming from the Borough President's office in the hiring of people that the board is responsible for hiring." Mr. Doyle said at Joe Carroll's wake, "the fix was in". "I was told at that wake, that the borough president had somebody already in mind. We have a board member who has sponsored at least nine board members to pack this community board. We were always independent thinkers back in the day. We never had a borough president or city council person come to us and tell us what to do. That is being done now. I sat on the search committee and five members on the board were picked. We had two interviews. Then all of a sudden we had two more committee members. One, asked by the borough president to be on the committee who had an agenda for one of the candidates that they were looking at. This committee did not, did not, consider Lisa Crosby. This one community board member said she didn't have a supervisory position as part of the requirement, because she didn't sign timesheets. I have supervised hundreds of workers in my lifetime and not once did I sign a timesheet. This person that is being considered is a fix. Who is she going to report to? Is she going to report to mini-Trump Fossella, Jim Molinaro, or Land Planning. There's not going to be any allegiance to the community board."

Shellise Rogers – Staten Island SCORE member, Staten Island Black Minority Chamber of Commerce Member and Executive Director of NYC Normal. I would like to second the motion for Lisa Crosby as District Manager.

Ms. Rogers said If community board meetings are in person, we also show up virtually. It's good that people interact. We need all different backgrounds and different parts of Staten Island come together as a community board. Additionally, Cannabis legalization has started and is underway in the State of NY. As Executive Director of NYC Normal, community board members are not taking part on how we are going to deal with this. There are already people here consuming. We should be taking proactive steps or it will come here without your approval.

Debi Rose, former Councilwoman – Thanked the community board for its service and working with them for 12 years in office. Ms. Rose said she was remiss and dismayed that Lisa Crosby wasn't considered for the District Manager position. "I was a member of the community board 28 years before I was in City Council. During that time, Lisa Crosby was the right-hand person to the District Manager". Ms. Rose said she was the person you would speak to and often times this negated the need to speak with the District Manager. It didn't take a number of calls to get something resolved. "I was an elected official and I didn't even get that kind of response from many of my colleagues offices". Ms. Rose said her dear friend, Ed Burke in the Borough President's office, has served in several administrations because of his institutional knowledge. She said Ms. Crosby has a level of knowledge and to not even give her consideration, is blatantly inappropriate. We have by-laws and we were always an independent body and respected the communities ideas. "It's important that you don't allow personal agendas, politics or any other distraction in making not only the right and just decision but the decision that is going to continue to allow us to build on the accomplishments that were made and good leadership here at Community Board 1".

End of Public Session

## **Officers' Reports**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** – Excused

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** – Reminded members as we transition back to live meetings, attendance at your respective committees become important which were easier to do on Zoom. We need to make more of an effort. Waterfront, Budget, and Land Use who make critical decisions and should be prepared to do so. For the area committees as well. If there is a site in question, you can drive by or Google map it.

**Treasurer, Larry Beslow** – Report is in the packet.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** – “I’ve been chair since 2015 and I hate wasting people’s time”. The meetings end before 9:30 P.M. “We went seven months without a District Manager. I’ve been here 12-13 years and for the first time, we did not submit our budget to the City of New York”. We received many emails. “We all came out that day for the Budget meeting with Anthony Cosentino to submit the Statement of Needs”. Chairman Siclari said he hoped the District Manager vote gets resolved tonight. The new board members took the oath and are non-paid city employees. “Please be respectful when we go into election at the end of this meeting”. Because Chris Rooney was volunteered to be on the Search Committee, Christopher Corbo volunteered to come up for Robert’s Rules of Order. He is an Adjunct professor at Wagner College. Joseph Ahlstrom volunteered to be Sergeant of Arms. At the end of the meeting, we will entertain John McBeth’s motion.

## **Functional Committee Reports**

**Land Use, George Turner** –

Board of Standards and Appeals Application No. 820-67-BZ – request an extension of a variance for the continued use of an automotive repair station at **41 Barker Street** which expired on November 8, 2021.

Land Use Committee voted 7-0-0.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ydhngwrw67ksxv4x/AAA84kImD4iUWhPLpN3YOkRa?dl=0>

A renewal of a BSA Variance for use for the Auto Body Shop at 41 Barker Street. It’s an existing business with a variance that has to be renewed every ten years. It had expired last year but there was a grace period involved. It was voted unanimously by our committee agree to the extension of the use variance with the following caveats: 1) There would be no parking on the sidewalk of any extra cars, 2) they don’t drop the cars off in the middle of the night and disturb residents, 3) property cleanup with the garbage situation and not be left on the street. 4) Mindful of the noise.

Motion to have their variance extended for the next 10 years. George Doyle said it would actually be 9 years because it expired last year. John McBeth asked if there any controls there and can we reduce the time to ensure that they comply with the steps we are asking. George Turner said they have a 10-year time span. If there were complaints brought up they would get reviewed on some level. One thing about these body shops is the paint smells and fire hazard. These are heavily regulated by the fire department. They also have filters for the smell of paint. There are no complaints that we know of. We heard they are a valuable neighbor and very well accepted there.

Motion to accept this and approve. The motion seconded by George Doyle.

George Doyle said we have 14 members on Land Use. Not everyone is showing up. That negates a Quorum. We may need to lower the amount of people on Land Use. Chairman Siclari said hopefully with the new members, they will want to be on Land Use.

Vote: 32-0-1 Abstention.

**Waterfront, Joseph Ahlstrom:** Thanked the new board members for coming on board especially from Bay Street Landing. Thanked Lisa Crosby for arranging these meetings. Meeting with the NYC EDC on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will get answers on Pier 1. We will hear about the Mary Cali Dalton Recreational Facility as opposed to replace Cromwell Center. We will also discuss the Cannabis issue by the waterfront as well.

A lot of issues we had with the ferry have been addressed as far as the lights, horns, etc. We met with John Garvey who is the Director of the Staten Island Ferry and the Transportation Commissioner for Staten Island. He had a mild stroke and we wish him a swift recovery. He did answer our questions. There is a shortage of 100 personnel on the Staten Island Ferry. That is why the night ferries are being canceled. We asked for a ticker of when the next ferry is coming. He said there are apps out there. They are putting an RFP for on the ferry. We will be getting vendors and there are vendors on the Manhattan side. We told them there was a problem with the toilets and were told it was due to lack of personnel. There are two plumbers on the Staten Island Ferry and there should be more. There is a shortage of engineers. The Labor Committee mentioned it before. The main issue is the contract which hasn't been resolved yet. The present contract is from 2009. Imagine living off a salary from 2009. Of the 150 city contracts, 149 have been resolved. This is the only one that hasn't been resolved. There are negotiations and we should have an answer by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, the Marine Chief Engineers will be resolved. As far as the lights, that has been resolved. They have to blow the horn before they get go, but not all night which has been resolved. The generator running all night has been resolved. I think a lot was done in that meeting.

They are starting a new school, Marine Oiler Trainee Program for Engineers. The concern was if they train them, they will leave for other areas. I believe they have to stay for a certain amount of time or they have to pay the money back. Thank you to our Veteran's for your service.

Chairman Siclari said he sent a personal email to John Garvey about the ferries but was told to send to 311 because there is a tracking number and they have to respond. It was good that we got them out to the meeting.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain:** Regarding snow. If anyone is on a street and they're not getting service, please email me and I will contact Sanitation. We are looking for Snow Removal Laborers. You can go to any of the 59 garages. Chairman Siclari said the weeks with holidays are very confusing as far as garbage pickup. This week we have Election Day and Veteran's Day. John McBeth said they are picking up on Veteran's Day. As far as the leaves, there are two specific dates which we don't have. They won't pick up the leaves on a garbage day.

**Youth Services, Ernest Paige:** I am a school social worker by day. I want to welcome the new board members. There was no meeting or minutes. If anyone is interested in coming on this committee let me know. Maybe we can have our youth serve on the community board in some capacity to get their ideas.

Chairman Siclari explained to the new board members how we meet on the second Tuesday of the month except for tonight due to Election Day this past Tuesday. We have Functional Committees to join and the area committee you belong to is based where you live.

**Rules & Legislative, Chris Rooney:** Nothing to discuss until later in the meeting.

**Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino:** Excused. Chairman Siclari mentioned how City Planning has been asking for the Statement of Needs which this is the first time it hasn't been submitted. We will get this resolved when we get a new District Manager.

**Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov:** Excused.

**Labor, Robert Holst:** Welcomed new board members. I'm a big fan of Chairman Siclari's idea of not wasting time. I spoke to the Treasurer of the ferry union and the administrative law judge said the pay scale should be the same as the shipping lines down there. It's in the comptroller's office and we are awaiting a decision. Secondly, the Starbucks on Forest Avenue is closed for renovations. That was one of the first Starbucks in the U.S. that asked for a union. They are renovating a store that didn't need to be renovated. They said to other employees they will pay

for college or maternity leave but not for you guys, because you asked for a union. They shut down the store as a punishment. There is nothing we can do as a community board but just remember this story. For a Starbucks worker against a multi-million-dollar corporation. If you want to join the Labor Committee and you have ideas, we can do them.

**Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino:** Excused.

**Cultural Affairs, Anthony Scutari:** Excused. About to have a grandchild.

**Health & Human Services, Fran Reali:** Excused.

**West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell:** Excused.

**Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli:** No meeting or minutes. We are talking about a location for our meetings going live. We are unable to use the Parks Building yet.

Chairman Siclari said the city should open-up. We'll have more information by November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo:** No minutes. Only three people came to the meeting. Myself, George Doyle and Chris Rooney have been on this board we watched a lot of us put a lot of effort into this board from 30+ years ago. When I first started, this board was not well-respected. No order, horrible leadership, etc. Leticia Remauro, Joseph Carroll and yourself Chairman Siclari brought us to a point of respect for our decisions and the way we conducted ourselves. Mr. Carroll was a true anchor. This choice we are making for District Manager, it's important that we pick someone who knows the business of this community board and knows how to deal with what we have in front of us. We cannot have builders telling us how to run our place. We cannot have people with any political clout forcing decisions one way or another against the community. Welcome to all the new board members.

**Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth:** There was a meeting where we discussed 400 Lake Avenue and Forest Avenue. the old Visiting Nurse Association. Myself, Lisa Crosby, and elected officials or representatives met with the owner developer. He is building as-of-right and wants to speak to the community to let us know his business plan. He has no intention of changing the site into a homeless shelter. The first floor would be a laundromat, with a separate entrance and lobby from the first floor. Second floor will be an adult daycare, third floor will be doctors' offices and the rest of the floors a hotel. A total of 7 stories. There is a zoning issue and we need a full comprehensive study of the zoning across the North Shore of Staten Island. There was some opposition from a community member at the meeting. Mr. McBeth assured her that there isn't any person that hasn't said the same thing about not wanting it. He went on to say, we can't tell him that he can't build there if it's his property and it is zoned correctly. We can propose other things and we have. John Guzzo said Rosebank has initiated a zoning overall overhaul. It was blocked. Everything we try to do, we have stumbling blocks. We put our own money into it, hired lawyers, etc. We don't have the political pull on Staten Island. We always were overwritten by borough engineers and City Planning in Manhattan. George Doyle said it is like Mount Manresa. Mr. McBeth said he is trying to arrange another meeting for them to come to our area committee meeting. Everyone will be welcomed to join. We meet the Tuesday after the Full Board Meeting. They are virtual but we are looking for a home. We have a place in mind.

Chairman Siclari said Port Richmond Strong asked if they can see their liquor licenses a week before the meeting. We should also, when we come in front of the full board, we will have the liquor licenses ready and the community board can vote on them before the meeting next week. We'll try to do all the areas.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow:** No meeting, no report. I would like to add if we continue to operate live, I'll schedule a meeting in the month of January. Here in this community board we have developed a point where we are all individual thinkers and we support the communities that we come from. All the new members, and future new members, I hope they can think for themselves and not let anybody think for them.

Chairman Siclari said he wanted to thank the Selection Committee for their time, members Sunny Jain, Camille Zarrelli, Chris Rooney, Joe Bird, Lillian Lagazzo, George Doyle and Kevin Washington.

Chairman Siclari said he will close this part of the meeting and bring up a Parliamentarian, Christopher Corbo, Sergeant of Arms, Joe Ahlstrom, the selection committee and Sunny Jain who will start the selection for District Manager.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Motion from John McBeth to add Lisa Crosby to the ballot.

Sunny Jain said he would like to clarify so much misinformation. He thanked Debi Rose, former Councilwoman for attending. A committee was formed by an approval of the full board. Seven members of the full board were selected. Anyone who wanted to be on that committee I included. Mr. Jain said Lisa's name was included in our candidates. We had a democratic process and she was interviewed. There was a voting process. We suggested two candidates. Ms. Crosby did not get enough votes but received full process. 50% of people who applied were interviewed. Just because someone is 30 years on the job, does not entitle them to get that job. There are job requirements and she did not have supervisory experience.

John McBeth said he respects the selection committee. Lisa Crosby meets the qualifications. The fact that she was interviewed says she meets the qualifications. Seven selected members made a decision.

Joe Ahlstrom said we should vote to put Lisa Crosby on the ballot.

Called the question and seconded. John McBeth said this should only be board members. Anjail Ameen-Rice asked that all board members come up front.

Camille Zarrelli asked if the remainder of the meeting should just be in executive session. Chris Rooney said it's not technically required by the By-Laws. Since this is a personnel matter, traditionally it should be in executive session. Christopher Corbo asked Chairman Siclari after we resolve the motion at hand, that we can take a vote from the committee to enter executive session.

Motion to add another candidate, Lisa Crosby to the ballot.

Roll Call vote taken. 15 yes, 17 no

John McBeth said he would like to add to this record that specifically all of the new members voted no. George Doyle said he wanted to add that these new board members should have abstained because they don't know anything.

Camille Zarrelli made a motion to go into executive session. Christopher Corbo did a reverse roll call. The motion carries to go into executive session. Anyone who is not a voting left the meeting.

This part of the meeting ended at 8:02 P.M.