

# Community Board 1 Virtual Full Board Meeting-September 13, 2022

## **Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

### **Members**

Joe Ahlstrom  
Anjail Ameen-Rice  
Larry Beslow, Excused  
Joseph Bird  
Telee Brown, Absent  
Celeste Bute-Holmes  
Christopher Campbell  
Sandy Carles, Absent  
Loretta Cauldwell, Excused  
Kathleen Coen  
Christopher Corbo  
Anthony Cosentino  
George Doyle, Excused  
Claudette Duff  
Linda Eskenas  
Samir Farag  
Timothy Forsyth  
John Guzzo, Absent  
Robert Holst  
Sunny Jain  
Lillian Lagazzo  
Ali Mir Masum  
John McBeth  
Friday Ogbewe  
Ernest Paige  
Mohan Radhakrishna  
Francine Reali  
Chris Rooney  
Anthony Scutari  
Nicholas Siclari  
George Turner  
Kevin Washington  
James West, Excused  
Daniel Williams, Absent  
Steven Williams  
Camille Zarrelli  
Nicholas Zvegintzov

### **Office Staff**

Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator  
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

### **Guests**

Donald DeRosa, NYC Comptroller's Office  
Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President's Office  
Hanane Dbajat, AM Michael Tannousis Office  
Elena Brady, CM David Carr's Office  
David Pena, CW Kamillah Hank's Office  
Sherry Diamond, CW Nicole Malliotakis  
Agnes McBeth, RCDA  
John Stepensky, ADA  
Dan Messina, RUMC  
Victoria Carstensen, DOT  
Adam Beckerman, DCP  
Frank Fontana, DOB  
Richard Day, DSNY  
Nicole Brooks, Parks Department  
Martha Bromelmeier  
Scott Kerr  
Bruce Lauria  
Andy Levison  
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improv. Society  
Jason Price  
Everett Wattley  
Computer Sam  
Rogelio Ramos  
Angela Ramos  
Raymond Tam  
Mary Bullock  
Fitim Shabani  
Deirdre Carroll-Morris  
Eric Carroll  
Joseph Caffrey  
Evelyn Kormanik  
Ann Lawrence  
Charlene Wagner - CB3  
Bridgette Ingraham-Roberts  
Chandra  
Crystal Montalvo, CSI  
Yashim  
Ron Rizzotti  
Ruby  
Ms. Newton

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Presentation:

Dan Messina: Thank you and CB1 for the invite and their support. Joe was a special human being. Planning the expansion, renovation, and financing to make this a reality. Thanked Debi Rose, Steve Matteo, Jimmy Oddo & Diane Savino. \$250 million in construction opening the new critical care unit with a 14- bed medical ICU. We are finalizing the ribbon-cutting for the new Emergency Room with tentative date, October 25th. All Community Boards and Elected Officials will be invited. Staffing in the ER is supplied by Mount Sinai effective August 1, 2022. Second floor of the new building is a new Surgical Department with 10 new OR rooms, 6 general OR's, 4 specialty OR's, all new recovery room space, family space and this will be completed in late Spring. Renovations of the mother/Baby Units will be private suites and semi-private. We are replacing 700 windows through FEMA which will allow construction of the exterior with \$45 million. Coming off the grid and manufacture our own electric for storms though not in a flood zone. We continue to work more closely with Mount Sinai. Hospital consolidation continues, like NYU or New York Presbyterian and Montefiore and over the Verrazzano Bridge there is Lutheran (NYU). We need two successful hospitals to take care of the 500,000 people with more on the cancer side. One of the few organizations that are National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated with approx. 50 in the United States with more on the Oncology and Cardiac side. Just finished the Medical ICU and then the Surgical ICU with the NICU and Pediatric ICU next. Renovation of the Cardiology Department. Replacement of a 2nd Cath Lab with a Hybrid for Stroke Care. Working with Neuromuscular Group that does clot removal. Financial stability dramatically improved. DPT Program with the state post-Covid, a rate program for hospitals. We have been here for 118 years and will continue.

Discussion about providing good jobs and supporting unions. Everyone thanked Dan Messina for being involved in the community. He was born on SI. Started in Doctors' Hospital, then to Hackensack and then to Freehold.

Chairman Siclari noted that hopefully the Mount Sinai addition will make it more efficient because it's been tough running that hospital. Anyone interested in the tour, get in touch with Fran Reali.

Roll call taken, quorum present. .

Bridgett Ingraham-Roberts: Coney Island Hospital opening a new hospital with many upgrades later this year in the Fall. It will be called NYC Health and Hospitals, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital, G&T Buildings.

Chairman and many members of CB1 did not think this hospital pertained to Staten Island. CB1 has been allocating for an HHC Hospital for years on Staten Island.

### **Public Session:**

Richard Day, DSNY - Fall leaf collection November 27 and December 11 turned into compost. Leaves out the night before in an unlined container or a paper bag. For more information go to [NYC.gov/leafcollection](http://NYC.gov/leafcollection). A mailer will be sent out.

Scott Kerr - St. Patrick's Day Parade. Popularity going down due to not allowing LGBTQ to march. Last year's parade only 1 down from 2-1/2 hours.

Ann Lawrence - New SI Liaison for United Cerebral Palsy. 11 group homes ranging from apartments to private homes. A Day Program on Forest Avenue, the Cora Hoffman Center providing services for the Disability community. Metro 1 which is attached is used by residents without disabilities. Provide speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy and emotional therapy. We have a Greenhouse business there where the residents grow peppers and bottle pepper sauce to sell it. We have innovative equipment.

Agnes McBeth, DA McMahon's Office: Summer has passed, and car thefts are still up. Lock your cars, be mindful of scams. Inform us of any dirty locations or illegal dumping spots. Continue to clean-up. We are actively prosecuting the Husky case in Tompkinsville. The man who had 24 Huskies in deplorable conditions. Protecting our Pets Photo Contest until Friday September 23. Go to: [agnes.mcbeth@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:agnes.mcbeth@rcda.nyc.gov). First annual Domestic Violence Awareness Run Walk Roll Family Day on Sunday, October 2nd at 12 P.M. in Willowbrook Park.

John Stepensky, ADA McMahon's Office: With the criminal court and handle misdemeanors including assaults, DWI's, small theft, drug possession and graffiti. Went to Brooklyn Law School and graduated last year and with the office 1 year.

Frank Fontana, SI Liaison DOB: Buildings After Hours. Property owner/tenant with questions about violations on properties, records and job applications come by Tuesday night from 4-7 P.M. and speak to a plan examiner. No appointment needed at 10 Richmond Terrace. Commissioner Ulrich announced our first Dedicated Sustainability Bureau overseeing sustainability, energy efforts including Local Law 97 regulating carbon emissions. Laura Papa is the Deputy Commissioner working with the Mayor Adam's office for a carbon neutral city. You can also look on DOB Now for new applications.

Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong Civic Association: Port Richmond North Shore Alliance work extends beyond Port Richmond. 2022, vehicles removed by DSNY NYPD 67, Illegal dumpers apprehended 2, DSNY summonses at various locations 9, NYPD commercial summonses 140, overnight parking. Second annual Port Richmond Food and Craft Festival 400 guests. Second annual Port Richmond Military Veterans Banner Event and Forest Avenue Memorial Day Parade. Extended flower baskets on Port Richmond Avenue. Street renaming's in Port Richmond 3. Worked with DOT for Speed Reducers, installed on Catherine Street. Abandoned lots cleaned 3, Port Richmond cleaners and good will ambassadors 2. Employment opportunities to Port Richmond residents 6. City Council redistricting testimony picked up by Politico. National Night Out Against Crime on SI. Our VP received an award from NYC's Police Commissioner who remarked, "thank you for what you do for the community". Participated in a SI Safety meeting in Stapleton. Brought the Banner's Program to the Richmond County Fair on Saturday, September 3rd. Exhibited our Memorial Day Banners for Veterans killed in action, including Father Capodanno and Michael Wallace. We support local small businesses. Mario Buonviaggio, our VP and "man on the street", at 2 A.M. on Saturday, September 3rd, Mario was removing derelict vehicles and cleaning up John Street with the NYPD and DSNY. He was threatened with a knife twice which resulted in one arrest.

Ms. Deirdre Carroll-Morris, daughter was in attendance with her brother and sister. Mr. Carroll worked tirelessly for Staten Island and the North Shore giving up evenings and weekends when needed. He worked for over 40 years for Community Board 1 and loved Staten Island, was here to help anyone at any time. Before CB1 he worked for RCA which ran a program to teach disadvantaged adults job skills. Later in life I met one of his students. She told me how much my dad had changed her life for the better. As kids, we would get annoyed that everywhere we went, he knew someone. As adults we came to appreciate and respect that he knew people everywhere we went. To know him was to love his kindhearted spirit, his ways and various interests. You all know my dad and know the strong impact he has had in the community. We ask that you help us get the street renamed at Clove Road and Victory Blvd in his honor. Thank you for your time.

Crystal Montalvo, Director of Community Educational Engagement at CSI and a resident of CB1. Two life-long learning programs at CSI for non-credit bearing programs. Creative Exchange and Life Skills Program. Must be a resident of NYC. Our semester just started and is free. Evening program, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. The second program is Options for adults over 55. In person and virtual. Non-degree program for people to develop relationships and stay active.

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/creative>. \$99 for the semester for many courses. Contact [crystal.montalvo@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:crystal.montalvo@csi.cuny.edu).

Evelyn Kormanik, Staten Island Giving Circle, [sigivingcircle@aol.com](mailto:sigivingcircle@aol.com), [statenislandgivingcircle.org](http://statenislandgivingcircle.org). Thanked Celeste Holmes, Lillian Escobar for this opportunity. I know Fran Reali, Claudette Duff. I work with Cerebral Palsy, Marlene Whitman. I founded the Giving Circle in 2008. Assist underserved children, seniors, military and homeless. We have a Weekend Food Backpack Program. We give kids the backpack on Friday, and they return it on Monday. We have donors for the project on a smaller scale. We launched a food pantry for military families on Staten Island. Literacy is another program of ours.

**Public session closed**

Motion to accept June 2022 Board minutes, motion accepted, no objection.

Chairman Siclari stated, the city ended the State of Emergency for Covid but extended it for Monkey Pox.

### **Officers' Reports**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** - No report. As the Budget & Finance Chair, October 3rd, I will hold the Budget Public Hearing location to be determined. If any committee chair has any items to put on the Capital and Expense budget, please let the office know.

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** – No report.

**Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele** - No report. Would like to welcome all back from summer recess.

**Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell** – No report.

**Treasurer, Larry Beslow** – No report.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** - To Deirdre and family, I miss calling Joe and waking him up. I wish you can give me your phone number so I can at least talk to a Carroll. I miss him every day and glad he wasn't present for the Health and Hospitals presentation. He would have been worse than me. We still have no District Manager.

### **Functional Committee Reports**

**Land Use, George Turner** – There were two applications as follows:

Board of Standard & Appeals Application No. 2022-36-A - Variance request for the enlargement of an existing building within widening line of Richmond Terrace requiring a GCL 35 approval located at **814 Richmond Terrace**.

**Motion to approve 814 Richmond terrace with confirmation the appropriate city agency that there are no dangerous conditions at the site due to the former use of cleaning chemicals made at the site and if the city ever wants to widen Richmond terrace at that location, the owner will be responsible for all expenses incurred.**

**Roll Call vote taken, vote passed unanimously, 30-0-0.**

Board of Standard & Appeals Application No. 2022-40-BZ - Variance request to construct a new two-family detached home contrary to minimum lot width regulations located at **334 Van Duzer Street**.

**Motion to approve as submitted. Roll call vote taken, vote passed 15-13-1 Abstention.**

**Waterfront Committee, Joseph Ahlstrom**: Met virtually last Tuesday. Motion about the Staten Island Ferry that Nicholas Zvegintzov will bring up in Transportation. Not able to provide full service in the evening. Haven't had a contract in 11 years, the crews of the ferry are our neighbors and friends. Maybe the city should settle that contract.

All the other Community Boards have a fishing pier working and we don't have Pier 1 which is closed due to structural problems. I have a meeting to find out progress. The parking in Lighthouse Plaza has been suspended. A lot of issues for our active Waterfront Committee.

Discussion followed regarding Lighthouse Museum and parking and your cars will be ticketed and towed. Using the Muni Lot. Pier has been closed since 2017.

Ms. Crosby said there will be a joint meeting on Thursday, October 6, time to be determined with Land Use, Waterfront & West Brighton/St. George. Everyone is invited. A link will be sent out.

Chairman Siclari said it's no longer Triangle Equities. Sunny will touch upon our District Manager search.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain:** No meeting or issues. On the DM issue we are moving slowly but surely. Have some resumes and will be conducting interviews at the end of this week or beginning of next week. Hopefully at the next meeting, we will have a recommendation. The opening is posted on Staten Island USA on August 9th and is still there, the Borough CB1 office wall and every city agency job posting.

**Youth Services, Ernest Paige:** Thank you for your support. First meeting last Tuesday. We reviewed passed agendas to focus on things to work on this upcoming year. One theme that kept on repeating itself was what's happening with Cromwell and continue to monitor about the women and children shelter, education on the North Shore and our youth. Trying to get youth on CB1 itself. Anthony Casentino's upcoming budget meeting to have a discussion on things we would like to see.

**Rules & Legislative Affairs, Christopher Cooney-** No meeting, or report.

**Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov** - New member, Kathleen Coen. No meeting but active. I filed a statement for what the committee does for you to read. Will talk to other transportation chairs to learn more. There is a new City and Borough Commissioner of DOT with good support. We learned what to do about a one-way street request. Other than working on project already, we need to figure how much community support there is and not just one complaint. DOT will do a study. We haven't had a very organized follow-up to these questions from residents.

Ms. Crosby said a letter was sent out in August. The Waterfront Committee would like something added to that letter. Motion was sent. A version of the letter was sent in August 2021. Mr. Zvegintzov said we urge the city and the union to solve this. The lack of service is on the night travelers and urging they go back to the bargaining table and get a contract out. Send out as a board letter and not a transportation letter. Ms. Crosby asked if there was any opposition to add a portion that was on the motion page to add and resend the letter.

Discussion followed about getting involved with labor issues and supporting our Staten Islanders. The issue has gone to mediation. No need to get involved.

**Reverse roll call on rewriting the letter.**

**Motion to send original letter with the added paragraph on the motion page. Anybody opposed to the motion?**

**Motion passes 30-0-0.**

Mr. Zvegintzov said DOT is applying for money from FEDS to upgrade the engines on some of the ferries to be combined diesel and electric and using some money for converting the Governor's Island Ferry to electric with a charging station. They are asking for support.

**Reverse roll call motion passed 30-0-0.**

**Labor, Robert Holst:** My intention was to let you know about the ferry. I would love to have a meeting and explain to me why we can't support workers.

**Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino:** No meeting.

**Cultural Affairs, Anthony Scutari:** No meeting.

**Health & Human Services, Fran Reali:** No meeting. I met with Dan Messina and asked him to come to enlighten us which he did. Date of the ribbon-cutting is tentatively October 25. Invited by Dan Messina to attend as a Community Board to the hospital for dinner and tour. Any interest on joining the Health Committee please reach out. Please text me if you have any concerns about health in the area.

**West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell** – No meeting no report.

**Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli** – No meeting, no report.

**Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo** – A meeting will be held next Tuesday, September 20th, 7 P.M. at Mt. Carmel Hall, 36 Amity Steet.

**Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth** - No meetings over the summer. We will be meeting next week with a presentation from DEP for the Mersereau Avenue Pump Project.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Below** - No meeting, no report.

Chairman Siclari said he went to the Mayor's Town Hall at the Gerard Carter Center. It took me 5 years to realize this. Everyone sends an idea or question to Lisa and Linda and then it gets forgotten. I get a job, get a ticket and follow through. E-mails go out with no answers back. Better system needed. Maybe DOITT can help. Complaint, generate a ticket, send to the correct city agency and follow-up instead of falling through the cracks.

Discussion followed with suggestions of 311 request and Joe Bird said he knows a ticketing system he will share.

Chairman Siclari answered he emailed the Commissioner of Ferries about an issue that he canceled boats consecutively in the middle of the pandemic. I was instructed to no longer contact him and to go through 311. So that's two, Health and Hospitals and SI Ferries. City agencies can't talk to each other.

**Old Business** -

**New Business** - **Ms. Crosby made a motion to ask on behalf of Community Board 1 and the Carroll Family, to have an honorary street name sign placed at the corner of Victory Blvd. and Clove Road, Joseph Carroll Way There were no objections.**

Lillian Lagazzo complained on St. Paul's just opposite to where the shelter will be there is a crosswalk where it says, Stop, Yield to Peds. Chairman Siclari said they have the same thing on the West Side Highway, and I almost get killed every time. They mean Peds to Yield.

Motion to Adjourn.