

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman, Ex.
Anthony Cosentino, 1st Vice Chair, Acting Chairman**

Members

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

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

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Presentations & Public Session Speakers:

Claudette Duff & Patricia Williams, John Kilcullen, Diane Malagrecia, Warren McKenzie, Nina Salerno, Ryan Crimmins, Jermaine Williams, Charlie Olson, Jonaphan Malihan, Mario Buonviaggio, Aidan Rivera, Cathleen Kenny, Jack Bolembach, Teele Brown
Marie LaFrancesca, Patrick, CTV, Michael Morrell, Elena Brady, Kelly Vilar, Rosemary Algeria, Casey Brown, Carol Reilly, Ricia Augusty.

Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting called to order: 6:32 PM

Public Session – Friday Ogbewe

Nina Salerno – Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – Earth Day Contest until the end of the month. Grant for Community Against Hate Crime. The deadline is May 17th. NYS passed the budget with the Staten Island Residents' Discount Program and funding for the Community Against Hate Crimes. Also included working families tax credit, tenant and homeowner protection and advancement in education funding. The senator supports Veterans' programs, Holocaust Survivor Initiative and the American Red Cross. Free mammogram events for women ages 40-79. If you want to be part of our newsletter, please let me know.

Ryan Crimmins – Speaking for DA McMahon, filling in for Agnes McBeth who is being honored tonight by the Wagner College Holocaust Center. Crime is down 5% on Staten Island. Low on homicides, only 5 this year. We are doing the best in all boroughs on stolen cars, down 40%. DA McMahon testified before city council about our funding for Fiscal Year 2025. We asked for more NYPD officers on Staten Island and a Community Justice Center on Staten Island. We had more officers in 1968 with ½ the population than we do today. Every other borough except for the Bronx has a justice center. We are hopeful for more funding in 2025. We had a successful prosecution for poison peddler. Back in 2022, Coty Hartley sold drugs to undercover cops on six occasions and received a 6-year sentence. We want to make sure we are giving sizable sentences to these people who are selling drugs on our streets. Thoughts and prayers for the fallen NYPD officer, Jonathan Diller. Port Richmond High School slashing incident where all the perpetrators are juvenile, but we are fighting with Albany for these cases to go through our office. Our "Stand Up, Stop Bullying" contest headed by Agnes McBeth. Our ceremony is coming up soon. For Spring cleaning, if you know any graffiti spots, let us know. Multi-cultural food festival coming up on May 19th, Sacred Heart School Gym from 1PM to 4PM. Free food, dancing, etc.

Jermaine Williams – We want to thank Chief Gullotta for spearheading a task force that monitors the bridges of NYC when it comes to car thefts. The Mayor will be on Staten Island on April 30th for a small business resource fair, 9:00am-1:00pm at the College of Staten Island, 28 Victory Blvd. The NYPD is having their annual baby shower at 59 Wright Street, May 18th from 12:00PM – 3:00PM.

Charlie Olson – I have been on the committees for 7 months. I wanted to join the Environmental Committee, but there is no such committee. CB2&3 have one. Yesterday, we had an eclipse and Earth Day on April 22nd. We could have gone down Forest Avenue with floats for Earth Day and handed out glasses to for the eclipse. Please look into creating an Environmental Committee.

Jonaphan Malihan – Workforce One, Industrial & Transportation Sector. We offer no cost recruitment centers funded by NYC. We are located at 120 Stuyvesant Place if you're looking for employment.

Mario Buonviaggio – Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – Between the Yankees & Mets NYEDC will be generating \$950 Million but have done nothing to clean the North Shore Rail by John Street & Nicholas Avenue. The Homeowners are being neglected by the CEO. The homeowners of all nationalities are having health hazards. They are getting fines from the health department for rat moles. They can't fix the mess in their own backyard. They are heading the 1/2 billion dollar north shore waterfront project. "It's going to get ugly". Let Andrew Kimball decide how ugly it wants to get. He wanted a park across the street from his building to be monitored to be cleaned because he didn't want to see garbage. Shame on the council member for not responding. I sent her numerous emails with no response or acknowledgement. You can't fix a quarter of a mile strip. I am told to go there and tell them where a tree fell and getting yelled at by the homeowners. I don't collect a salary. This is going on 13 months. I am asking CB1 for EDC to come and explain to us why they are doing nothing.

Aiden Rivera - Case Manager, (co-worker Samson, also a Case Manager is also here). Central Family life center - Victims of Crime Advocates Program working with NY State. We offer compensation, referrals & accompaniment for victims of crime. If you have a broken lock or lost your glasses for example, in the act of a crime, you can be compensated. For additional information and services contact The VOCA Initiative VOCA@CentralFamilyLifeCenter.org or 718-273-8414 Ext.315.

Jack Bolembach - Came back to speak about the Serpentine Ridge and ask for a letter of support. Want to clear up the confusion. **Security** will be like any park in Staten Island open from dawn to dusk. **Housing**, Staten Island needs housing and they are building a high-rise apartment on Bay Street. We need to get a nature preserve in that neighborhood because there is none. With the Environmental Bond Act passed, there is money available. We have the land that we can manage. **Steep Slope** - it's dangerous to build there and there is also asbestos in the bedrock, rare plants and wildlife. **Eminent Domain** - Government taking over the property is not going to happen. The private owners will be offered a fair market value for their home by NYC EDC. They can accept it or decline it. We need a letter of support right away. We have Senator Scarcella-Spanton, Assemblyman, Tannousis on board. The Land Use Committee voted unanimously in favor of it. I know you want to table this for May. Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office - He is working in Albany on the Budget. On Thursday, April 11th, he will be hosting a blood drive held at the JCC from 1-7PM.

Telee Brown - CB1 member and work with Department of Social Services - People receive benefits such as food stamps, etc. Many have been scammed. For SNAP and WICK, you can log in your card for security.

End of Public Session

Chair, Nicholas Siclari talked about starting an Environmental Committee, brought up by Charlie Olson. If you get one member to chair, you can have that committee. Answering to Mario Buonviaggio, Diana Switaj will be at May's meeting and we will ask her. As far as Serpentine Ridge, we asked for more information and we will vote in May.

Roll Call with a Quorum.

Motion to accept the minutes in the packet. Motion to accept by Robert Holst and seconded by John Guzzo.

Presentations:

1. **Claudette Duff, CB1 Board Member** – Requesting a Center for the Blind and Visually-Impaired needed on Staten Island. When I first joined the board, I had better vision and was able to drive. In the last three years have become legally blind. Now have only central 4% vision. It was a very traumatic experience for me. I am used to being very independent and helping people everywhere. Now I am disabled and dependent. The first couple of years, I stayed home. I was ashamed, embarrassed and vulnerable. Eventually I was able to get services. Somewhere in the process I needed a place on Staten Island and there was no place to go. The nearest place was Manhattan. This is not fair. I found out years ago there was a center on Staten Island and it was taken away. I spoke with Anna Marie (who will also speak) who runs a support group. She is the most positive person I ever met. I met other people in the blind community that are doing good work. Kim who has a blind daughter. About 6 months ago, we started meeting in my apartment. Asking for a letter of support from all three community boards. There are over 8,000 people in Staten Island who are blind and they are afraid to go out. There is nowhere to go. In Manhattan, they go on trips, support groups for diabetes, nutrition, medication management, breakfast and dinner groups, computer labs, they have bowling, yoga, line dancing, and teach us how to get around our apartment with a cane.

Patricia Williams - For 30 years, my support has been in Manhattan. The commute is 2 hours. I think about the young people coming up. Let's get something started on Staten Island. Name chosen is the **Staten Island Center of Light**.

Annamarie - (couldn't hear her)

Chairman Nicholas Siclari said Claudette Duff is an asset to this community board. Motion for a letter of support for Staten Island Center of Light.

Reverse roll call, passes unanimously. Since this meeting, the letter has been sent out to all the elected officials.

2. **Bayley Seton, Then & Now – John Kilcullen, VP, Board of Directors for PLSI**, with colleagues of the Preservation League, Warren McKenzie & Diane Malagrega. Present to the community the state of the Bayley Seton Campus on Bay Street, two Historic Landmarks. The Preservation League has been around since 1977. We advocate for recognition, care and restoration of Historic Properties. We are looking for Adaptive Reuse when it comes to Bayley Seton which dates back to 1831. Designated a NYC Landmark in 1985, Staten Island's first Public Health Facility originally known as The Seaman's Retreat. It is threatened with Demolition by Neglect. There is The Seaman's Retreat, The Physician's House and the Main Hospital. The Seaman's Retreat at Bay Street and Vanderbilt (R3-2), copper trimmed which is no longer present. Windows are broken and graffiti is present. We have written letters to LPC to secure the building better. Landmark doesn't include the inside of the building. Current owner (dual ownership) is the Bayley Seton Hospital Corporation. The Physician's House, owned by the Salvation Army with the same R3-2 zoning. As of January, the porch is off the building. Trying to sell it and make it a separate tax lot. We are pushing for adaptive reuse. No information on what is happening. In 1887, Dr. Joseph James Kinyoun did research in this building and was able to isolate the Cholera gene to come up with an inoculation for it. We are asking for CB1 support to get Landmarks to step up their act. They have the resources. Copies of our journal from the 45th Anniversary Gala. Good information of what the League has done. This Sunday, Reformed Church on Port Richmond Avenue, Annual Reward Ceremony. Honoring buildings in Staten Island. Everyone is welcome.

Chair, Nicholas Siclari thanked John Kilcullen. He said he used to ride his bike as a kid around Bayley Seton. When James Oddo was BP, we tried to contact the Salvation Army, Bayley Seton, there is no answer. We would love to utilize the buildings. That would be a great place for Claudette's Center of Light. Tony Sgarato said he did his residency there. Many studies were done there. John Guzzo said Sisters of Charity left the building like that. Maybe a lawsuit. George Turner said we need to enforce that the building doesn't deteriorate.
Motion to send a letter - Reverse Roll Call - Votte 27 yes with 1 abstention.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Letter in packet of enforcement of Local Law 18. We had a presentation last month. Lillian Lagazzo said people want to make money but what about us, your neighbors, people coming and going with short-term rentals. It was inactive for a reason. Timothy Forsyth questioned the propriety of the board advocating for this private entity. RHOAR is not a public entity. Should we be advocating for a political change in the law on behalf of it? Jeanne Raleigh who originally gave the presentation said I want the right to use my home as a tax paying homeowner.

Motion to approve the letter: Vote: 9 yes, 14 no, 4 abstentions, 0 intelligible.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – No report.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Call for Candidates forms. If you'd like to run for a position, they need to be returned to the office before the May meeting. At our May meeting we will also take nominations from the floor.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Want to thank everyone for my well wishes. I thank Tony Cosentino for taking over the last meeting.

District Manager, Joan Cusack: Thank you for sending the emails to both Linda and myself. It is working well.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, George Turner – 1707 Richmond Terrace. An architect who wanted our endorsement for an auto repair/painting body shop on Richmond Terrace. He couldn't get a C/O on the building because the street was not final mapped. He has to go to BSA so they can approve connection to an unmapped street. We sent him back to get more information. There was no vote.

Bayley Seton Hospital: John Kilcullen. Great presentation was given. We want to support a letter that landmarks will come in and help enforce just the level that the building doesn't deteriorate anymore. Was voted on already and we will send a letter.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Jonathan Diller, Police Officer and 2014 graduate at SUNY Maritime where I teach. I had him as a student. He was a great man. Moment of Silence for him.

Next Waterfront meeting on April 23rd, in person at the CB1 Office. EDC will discuss Pier 1 and the parking by the ferry. You have to keep EDC accountable.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – No report.

Youth Services, Kathleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Ms. Ariana Topallaj comes from Literacy in Community. It's very important to read to our children, to engage in books and family time. They are funded and work with the NYC Parks Department, JCC, NYC Public Library System and they host events to teach parents how to teach children to read. This Saturday, at the Police Officer Gerard Carter Center, 230 Broad Street. The theme is Air Balloons. They will give out free age-appropriate books. Next meeting will focus on Youth opportunities on the skilled trades of unions. Robert Holst, the Chairman of Labor will address apprenticeship programs for young people to get involved in the process of becoming union members in skilled trades. We would like this to be a series. We would like to focus on Maritime trades.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth – Anthony and Timothy having a meeting next month.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov – While Nicholas is away, Christopher Campbell spoke on his behalf. Next meeting on Thursday, May 30th to review the transit on the North Shore. Next Full Board meeting, the Safety Improvement Project will be presented by DOT. DOT had a hearing on Daylighting, keeping a parking space open at the intersections mandated by New York State Law.

Outdoor dining is going from temporary to permanent. August 3rd is the deadline for applications. Portal for the District Manager to have access to and the code can be shared with office personnel. DM's can decide on their own or bring it to the board.

Open Streets on Minthorne Street, between Bay and Victory on April 19 through October 31st. Water Street between Beach and Canal, June 1st to September 28th.

Small Business & Non-Profit, Jaclyn Tacoronte – Last month meeting was at Mello Bistro, owned by a minority business owner. Michael from the Chamber of Commerce discussed additional services that SBS is providing. Tomorrow night is our next meeting where La Colmena at 774 Port Richmond Avenue will host. They will present the CDNA report (Commercial District Needs Assessment). Congratulations to Tatiana Arguello, who has been selected to sit on the Mayor's Nonprofit Committee Advisory Council.

Labor, Robert Holst – No report.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – Adam Ganser is looking for a support letter for 1% of the Mayor's Budget for Parks. The last we had was .6%.

Motion to approve: Approved unanimously with a reverse roll call.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – We've had two meetings so far and started looking at the cultural sites and organizations. We have recognized 30 of them. They will be listed on the website and FB. The links will show calendar of events.

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – Absent, no report.

West Brighton/St. George, Claudette Duff & Anthony Cosentino – Minutes in the packet.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth - Minutes in the packet.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo – Minutes in the packet. We have a request from the community to have NYPD come to our meeting to get complaints from the community answered.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – No chair present, minutes in the packet.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi- We have Hybrid meetings, on Zoom and in person at the Stapleton Library, 132 Canal Street. We are looking for new members. We invited DSNY and they didn't show up. We have a list of areas that need cleaning. The areas get cleaned and then get dirty again. On Bay Street, property owners get ticketed. Something bigger needs to be done. DOT Open Streets Program – Stapleton Saturdays with a detour of traffic from June to September, 12-5 pm on Water Street between Beach and Canal Streets. There is a demolition of a garage at 154 Wright Street. Complaints of derelict vehicles, unplatd, no registration or inspection with 6 on one street and 2 on the other. I want to thank the community board. Community starts with people like yourselves. Don't stop until the problem is solved.

Chairman Nicholas Siclari said to try to attend your area committees. In September, we want to split up New/West Brighton & St. George Area Committees to allow for a quorum. We had a motion a few months ago. We have a new carpet in our CB1 building thanks to Joan Cusack. I missed all of you last month and it's great to be back.

Old Business – Timothy Forsyth – We approach our summer swimming season. I request the DM to reach out to the Children's Aid Society. Chairman Nick said the plans are in the works but the indoor pool will not be ready for this summer.

New Business – Loretta Cauldwell – We have the Precinct Council Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next one will be at Brighton Heights Reformed Church. Seargeant Spataro retired and will be back for a proper send off.

Jaclyn Tacoronte mentioned May 3rd, Community Media of SI. I will host a Q&A Session with Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:21 PM