

**Virtual Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 11th – 6:30 P.M.
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue, SI, NY 10310**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

Joe Ahlstrom
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow, Ab
Joseph Bird, Ex
Allison Brown, Ex
Telee Brown
Christopher Campbell
Sandy Carles, Ab
Loretta Cauldwell
Andre Ciprut
Kathleen Coen, Ex
Christopher Corbo, Ab
Anthony Cosentino
George Doyle
Claudette Duff
Linda Eskenas, Ab
Samir Farag, Ab
Omar Ferriera, Ab
Timothy Forsyth, Ex
John Guzzo, Ab
Celeste Holmes, Ex
Robert Holst, Ex
Vincent Innocente
Sunny Jain

Linda Juarbe
Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Ali Mir Masum
John McBeth
David McGoy
Mohan Radhakrishna
Friday Ogbewe
Ernest Paige, Ab
Francine Reali, Ex
Chris Rooney
Catherine Schiavone
Anthony Scutari, Ab
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil, Ex
Nicholas Siclari
Jaclyn Tacoronte
George Turner
James West, Ab
Daniel Williams, Ab
Siyda Williams, Ex
Steven Williams, Ex
Camille Zarrelli
Nicholas Zvegintzov

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

Guests

Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Umamah Masum, Senator Scarcella-Spanton's Office, David Pena, CM Kamillah Hank's Office, Angela Olsen, AM Sam Pirozzolo's Office, Elena Brady, CM David Carr.

Mario Bruno, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Environmental Protection, Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications, Heeja Pang, National Grid, Susan Montano, National Grid, Nicole Brooks, Jermaine Williams, Prince Cobbina, Ada Rodriguez, Rose Uscianowski, Michael Morrell, Sandra Ramos, Pablo Hidalgo, Starr Kent, Rev. Marilyn Landry, Andy Levison, Bruce Lauria,

Meeting to Order 6:35 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Nick Siclari said we are doing an exploratory search for a new meeting place and this one (St. Mary's) is geographically in the heart of our district. There will be a vote in June with a full quorum and decide which place we would like to proceed with. In May, we will be at Salem Church. Looking for a place for June (St. Mary's). A lot of churches can't commit to us.

Public Session

Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Community Liaison for DA Michael McMahon – Free Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Event (our second one) with etching of the catalytic converter. Friday, April 14th at 2:00 PM, Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex. Earth Day we will have an electronic data disposal and a shred event on Saturday, April 22nd at 11:00 AM at the SI Mall in the parking lot. I received an email from Linda Maffeo (with photos) regarding information sent to her anonymously about graffiti in the area from tags of the MS-13 Gang. There are similar tags were I live on Van Name Avenue by Forest Avenue. Our office has been

alerted to it and have referred this to Captain Waldhelm of the 121 Precinct. If you see any of these similar markings, it is not the original MS-13 Gang but a less violent off-shoot of that group. NYPD will need to make a note of the location and will need to document it. If you need to know what the tags look like I will show you the photos. Ann O'Connor, ADA was supposed to be here tonight to be introduced.

David Pena, CM Hanks' Office – Want to thank this wonderful venue for hosting us. On April 29th, second annual Women in Business Expo at Empire Outlets. All female-owned businesses are invited. If you know of any, I will have a table for them. Secondly, we are working on legislation with city council and the mayor for greater funding for CMS Organizations on Staten Island and throughout the city. We want to prevent crime before it happens. Lastly, a condominium in Mariner's Harbor was having difficulty with the Department of Finance, the way they process the taxes there. We are working on legislation with city council to make the process more transparent. There was a mix-up with addresses and communication. We are trying to streamline the process so it doesn't happen again. I don't have an address but it's the place with the pool and tennis courts.

Nicole Brooks, Project Manager of the North Shore, NYC Parks – Thank you for attending the Mahoney Playground Reconstruction Community Input meeting on April 4th. We appreciate the comments and there is still time to make comments. Go to our website, put in Mahoney and submit your comments or call, 718-390-8005. We are hiring at NYC Parks. We have many postings on our website, NYCGovParks.org/opportunities. Walker Park and the Silver Lake Tennis House only open during the day. Nobody to man them at night for meetings.

Umamah Masum of NY Senator, Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – Our mobile offices are open this week. If you have any concerns you can come to the Mariner's Harbor Library on South Avenue tomorrow, April 12th from 12:00 to 2:00 PM or Muslim American Society at 180 Burgher Avenue on Friday. We have information on our Social Media pages.

Ada Rodriguez, Emblem Health – We have two offices in Staten Island, 1050 Clove Road (old HIP Center) and 4771 Hylan Blvd., where we offer in-person customer service to our members (easy because your profile is in our system) and nonmembers as well. Claims issues, ID cards, authorizations, etc. We have help with financial instability, food instability, assist with housing, You don't need an appointment. We also offer fitness classes at the 4771 Hylan Blvd. location. We offer free Zumba, meditation classes, stretch and breathe, arts & crafts and other fitness classes as well. Brochures are available. Joan Cusack asked about the questions of the transition for city employees to Advantage Care. Ms. Rodriguez has cards with numbers to call for customer care.

George Doyle – State Legislature City Government is trying to pass bills that make us pay for parking on our city streets. We should write all of our city and state legislatures to deny this. It's another tax of the people of NYC especially on Staten Island. Speaking regarding Joe Carroll. Mr. Doyle was in touch with the family and up until today, they received his back pay. Gone almost a year and it has taken this long for his estate to be settled with the City of New York. This is not right for his family. District Manager Joan Cusack said it is a long process and takes time.

Rose Uscianowski of Transportation Alternatives and New Brighton Assistance Committee – hosting a cleanup later this month, the same day as Councilwoman Hanks, Women in Business Expo. It will be on Bank Street which is adjacent to Richmond Terrace that was shutoff when work started for the wheel that never happened. The street went downhill since then. The city won't do it so we are working with EDC. The first will be on April 29th at 2:00 PM. Please share the information.

Prince Cobbina, CCRB –Outreach Coordinator – We are a city agency that investigates allegations of police misconduct. Abuse of authority, abuse of power, racial profiling, offensive language, etc. We investigate and prosecute. We have a monthly community board meeting where you can bring your concerns or ideas to our board members. Go to our website, NYC.Gov/CCRB. The meetings are every other month in the office and then in the community. Tomorrow is our office meeting and then next month in the community in Brooklyn. The next Staten Island Community Meeting will be in September perhaps at the JCC on Jersey Street.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mario Bruno, NYC Environmental Protection, Assistant Commissioner - DEP Amnesty Program. Last time I came here I got married. We are offering a one-time Amnesty which ends on April 30th for eligible water and sewer customers with 100% interest forgiveness and for delinquent accounts also. To see if you qualify, go to NYC.Gov/DEP/Amnesty. Just put in your DEP

account number. You can also call 718-595-7000 or email, Amnesty@DEP.NYC.GOV. You can visit our office Mon.-Fri. 8:00 AM-7:00 PM, 60 Bay Street, 6th Floor. Chairman Siclari said letters went out from DEP saying the lines need to be inspected. Mr. Bruno will look into it. A resident said she had to pay \$310 for the glass on the meter which was shattered. Also told Mr. Bruno will look into it.

Heeja Pang, Consumer Advocate for National Grid, EAP Energy Affordability Program – We take care of Staten Island, parts of Queens and Brooklyn. Programs we cover are HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), a federally funded grant (not a National Grid Program), available for all heating customers once a year. You can apply if you meet the income guidelines. This past year in November was \$500 for regular HEAP. This closed on March 31st. Emergency HEAP is still open which is \$400. You can get two grants between now and April 28th. Once you get HEAP, National Grid will place you on a monthly discount for a year and then you can reapply for HEAP. You can then be put on a EAP (Energy Affordability Program) monthly program through National Grid. Once you get the HEAP discount, you get a National Grid Grant which is another \$200. Regular HEAP opens up in November of every year to apply. Emergency HEAP opens in January of every year. If you don't meet the guidelines for HEAP, National Grid created two new funds for moderate income. The Hope and Warmth Fund. It will give you \$200 towards your bill. Hearts Fighting Hunger where you can get \$150 towards groceries. If you forget to call any of these, there is still Temporary Assistance Help which is a Federal Grant where you receive temporary assistance or a one-shot deal. There is also an Energy Efficiency Program if you meet the guidelines, Empower New York or the Weatherization Assistance Program. In May HEAP also provides a cooling component called Cooling Assistance where you can get a free window air conditioner or a fan. It used to be you had to have a medical condition but that has been waived. Also you maybe able to get a new heating system from HEAP or a brand new boiler and service your heating equipment. New York State Low Income Water Assistance Program where you can get \$2,500 or \$5,000 for combined water and sewage. Senator Lanza's office will help Senior Citizens fill out applications. A question came up about having issues with getting online with a password with National Grid. Ms. Pang said she will refer them to someone at National Grid. She also said she will do other presentations if needed. Senator Lanza is having an event that National Grid will attend on Friday, May 5th.

Susan Montano – National Grid – Safety Stakeholder Engagement Team – In April there is a major promotion. You need to call 811 before you dig. 40% of people who dig, do not call 811 first and what happens is billions of dollars of damages to the infrastructure. She will send the flyers to the office.

Loretta Cauldwell - Roll Call Attendance – Quorum present.

Chairman Nick Siclari said we are trying places to find a home that we can all vote on in June. St. Mary's Episcopal Church is the heart of our district.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – Excused.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – No report.

Treasurer, Larry Beslow – Report in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Want to thank everyone for coming. I know it's a rough week due to the Easter holiday. If you like the information electronically, you won't get a packet. As far as the River North Project. We all saw it in the Staten Island Advance. I was elected Chairman and promised this community board I wouldn't waste your time. The people from Madison Capital and River North, they wasted our time. If I had known this, I wouldn't have entertained their motion. They promised 17 story buildings and it was all a farse. They will be building it 25 feet higher than as-of-right. It was said that maybe the city council can rescind this.

District Manager, Joan Cusack - As far as the packets, we will have less people who will want the printed reports.

George Doyle said he wasn't a big fan about how things were done for the District Manager's job but Joan and Linda are running a very efficient office and doing great things for the community.

Chairman Siclari said It's good being in person. If one person saves money with HEAP, we accomplished our goal. We are here for the people.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, George Turner – No meeting this month. Some of these projects that are submitted for our approval, we get railroaded from these folks anyway. We need to continue to raise our objections and fight for the community to get the appropriate architecture and densities that we all want.

George Doyle said he's been on Land Use a long time and he has never seen developers like Madison and River North do this to us. We've had some sleazy developers and we've had some good developers like Eric Palatnik and Phil Rampulla. When they come before us and say they will do something and they do it. I still would like to see River North and Madison dropped from building on Staten Island.

Chairman Siclari said the developers know we are advisory only. We are the first stage of a three-stage process. We have 90 days to comment on the Land Use item. It then goes to Borough Board and City Council. They said they needed these buildings a certain size for it to be successful. Chris Rooney proposed a motion to be voted on tonight to restating our objection to the entire project in the first place. To call on the City Council to rescind their approval of the River North Project and rescind the zoning resolution for them to go forward so it would not be as-of-right.

Lillian Lagazzo asked what the elected officials are saying about this.

George Doyle said they promised Councilwoman Rose everything and anything and this is what they do to us after she's gone. I think Mr. Pena should bring back to Councilwoman Hanks our disapproval of this project.

Joe Ahlstrom asked why don't we ask Madison to come to our community board and explain. To say we were willing to work with you but you're not willing to work with us. Doing this motion will accomplish nothing.

Chairman Siclari said we are asking the City Council to rescind. The motion is to write the letter to City Council to deny and rescind the variance on Madison Capital.

Nicholas Zvegintzov said the motion should include to change the zoning law back.

Motion to write the letter to City Council to deny and rescind the variance on Madison Capital

Vote - 26 Yes

Waterfront, Joseph Ahlstrom – Meeting on March 28th. I'm pleased to announce we got a contract for the engineers on the Staten Island Ferry finally. It took 14 years. We have not gotten a contract for the workers. The captains and mates do not have a contract. Still working on that. We discussed the Mary Cali Dalton Center. We had the assemblyman join us via Zoom and expressed our concerns for Pier 1, the fishing pier and the walk. We will have a meeting in April via Zoom unless we have presenters in which we'll meet at the board office. We had a very productive meeting and thank you those who showed up.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – Mentioned the sanitation flyer starting April 1st with the new hours to put out your garbage. 6pm if it's in a lid container and 8pm if it's in an open container or garbage bag. Hopefully this will help with the rat situation.

George Doyle asked if the Fire Department has a CCRB like the Police Department.

Youth Services, - Chairman Siclari said we still have a vacancy for a chair. See Chairman Siclari or Joan Cusack if you're interested. We will also have youth on the committee.

Rules & Legislative, Chris Rooney – No report.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov – The report is in the packet and email. Meeting on March 28th. Report on the Carshare. Ten parking spaces for two companies in our district. We didn't get a report about the intersection of Watchogue and Jewett Avenues. Something was said about widening the street but nobody knows which side of the street.

We got a map of diversions of traffic in a so called open street from the Van Duzer Civic Association regarding Tappan Park.

Is there a new policy about street lighting from DOT and what capital projects are pending. We are looking for a model for all the traffic in our region. The borough commissioner said she doesn't think so because of the complexity. I believe there are such models.

District Manager, Joan Cusack said my father used to tell me that every borough in the city other than Staten Island was built with streets, numbers, etc. Staten Island was built with developments so streets didn't come as easily and carefully as the other boroughs. Everytime a section is built, they then build roads going in and out. You have to start another agency just to put a plan together. Traffic on Staten Island is horrible. We should have such an agency but I don't believe there is one. No one wants to take on that project.

Nick Zvegintzov said in our district, the street plan was more or less established before the 1900's and what we got is what we got.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – I prepared a letter of support for the Lt. Lia Playground in St. George. It is now in the hands of Parks.

Chairman Siclari said we heard from Nicole Brooks of Parks that they are closed at night. Our area committees used to go to Walker Park, Park House and Silver Lake Park. Mariner's Harbor found a space but are still waiting to hear. West Brighton/St. George will be in person next month.

West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell – We didn't have a meeting. We will be meeting next month in person on May 16th at 7PM at RUMC in the Auditorium. We are required to wear masks. Ours is the largest committee which includes West Brighton, New Brighton, St. George and Tompkinsville. If you're a new member, check with the office. We need the attendance because we do vote and we need a quorum.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli – No meeting. Camille Zarrelli said we are looking for a location. Maybe we can get into Parks in September. Any issues please call the office and Linda will forward to me.

DM Cusack said we have a wonderful person, John McBeth has been going above and beyond to offer his services for the virtual Zoom meetings. I want to thank you John because what you're doing is really great and appreciated. The lack of committee meetings is what made last months full board meeting so long. Talk to John McBeth. Ms.

Zarrelli said the members have to attend. John McBeth said he has the largest area with the smallest crew but members need to attend their area committees.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo – Absent. Chairman Siclari said we have Anthony Sgarlato on the committee. Mr. Guzzo in the past used LaBetti Post for his meetings. Maybe that can start up again.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth – There was a meeting with not much going on. We will have another next week, Tuesday, April 18th. We are slated for virtual but I will reach out to Project Hospitality to see when their room will be ready.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow – Absent. George Doyle said Larry Beslow asked me to thank Joan, Linda and John McBeth for hooking him up with his virtual meeting this month. We are having the people from the men's shelter at 119 Tompkins Avenue coming to speak. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Old Business: George Doyle asked about the progress of Mount Manresa? Chairman Siclari and DM Cusack said nothing is going on there. Also Abba house on the property at St. John's University and selling property like Mount Manresa. DM Cusack said there was a St. John's meeting on April 26th in the St. John's library.

Jermaine Williams, SI NYPD Ambassador – We are having a Baby Shower on May 20th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at the Central Family Life Center 59 Wright Street. This is the 2nd year we are doing this on Staten Island. There were so many expected moms who came out last time. There are so many things you need and we have things that will always come in handy. Please see the flyer for a QR code.

There are many overdoses happening. Many people are taking the Narcan training and a lot of lives have been saved. Please register to take the training. Marijuana is going to be everywhere. This is what can be laced with substances.

New Business:

Jaclyn Tacoronte spoke. April 18th 11:00 AM at Flagship, Downtown Business Improvement District Meeting (BID). Many small businesses or minority women businesses that are in that district know anything about a new BID. During the height of Covid over 37% of brick and mortar businesses that were managed by minorities or women businesses that were in Stapleton were completely closed. Although we have five active business improvement districts that are managed very well by SIEDC. Business improvement districts beautify streets, etc. When you have an organized panel that is not people who work in your community, live in your community, employ in your community, I have a problem. If you live or own a business in the Stapleton, St. George, North Shore area, two dates of meetings are April 18th at 11:00 AM and the second is May 3rd at 5:30 PM at Edgewater Hall.

Ms. Tacoronte wants to propose a Small Business Committee/Nonprofit Sector like we have for the Functional Committees. Developers and businesses are coming in presenting the world to us and leave and we are left "with a bag with a hole". We need to be proactive. Ms. Uscianowski said there are Columbia University students part of the outreach efforts. Ms. Tacoronte said that's like saying, "we messed up so now we will get young adults out there to get the communities feedback".

When multiple developers and businesses are calling asking if you heard about this. If I didn't hear about this and I'm in the press world for almost twenty years, that means my sisters don't know, my business owners don't know, my community members don't know. We don't like to be in the "not know". "Everything in darkness comes to light". You would be shocked who is on the committee. Not one woman business owner, not one minority and it's disgraceful and a waste of our taxpayers dollars.

Reverse Roll Call for a new Functional Committee being established with Jaclyn Tacoronte as the Chair.

Passed unanimously.

Claudette Duff said she just heard Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Arlington are not adequately represented. Can the board compose a letter to the borough president and Councilwoman. Many people don't know how to get on the board. DM Joan Cusack said you go to the BP's website and the application is there. Ms. Duff said it's not advertised anywhere.

Chairman Siclari said it's the amount of applications and who applies to the board. If they come to three consecutive area committee meetings, can be voting non-board members.

Ms. Uscianowski said the same law that created term limits for community board members, has to do with purposely adequately recruiting people in the communities they serve.

George Doyle said the BP' office and Councilwoman's office put forward the applications to become members of the board.

Joe Ahlstrom he agrees with what's being said but he wants members to show up. We barely have a quorum tonight. Find people in the community that are interested. John McBeth said every email invite he sends out has an application.

DM Joan Cusack said it's a Citywide problem right now. Brooklyn & Bronx Community boards are having a tough time getting diversity. I spoke to approximately 15 people about getting on the board and only two applied. Members should not be interested just for their own personal issues where they live. That is a City Charter Law.

Lillian Lagazzo said Staten Island is a year-round application. Other places, there are deadlines.

Chairman Siclari said we are supposed to be limited out, four two-year terms. We haven't heard anything yet.

Adjourned 8:08 PM.