

Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Thursday, February 16, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

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

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

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

Guests

Edward Jackson, Mayor's Office – CAU, **Michael McMahon, Richmond District Attorney – Presentation**, Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Marie LaFrancesca, Borough President's Office, Vanesa Limani, Senator Scarcella-Spanton's Office, Lily Zafaranloo, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis' Office, David Pena, CM Kamillah Hank's Office, Griffin Fossella, CM Carr's Office, Hanane Dbajat, AM Tannousis' Office, Nick Robbins, AM Sam Pirozzolo's Office, Eric Shuffler, Michael Colacurto, Prince Cobbina, Colleen Siuzdak, Catie Ferrara Iannitto, Michael Duffy, Andy Levison, Kelly Yim, Michael Morrell, Mary Bullock, Charlene Burke, Everett Wattley, Miriam Arnold, Amy Rose Napolitano, **David Mandel – Public Art Presentation, Greta McLain, Anthony Hill – NY Power Authority Presentation, Kaela Mainsah, Matt Caruso**, Ashleigh Owens, Charlene Burke, Cola Vera, David Lem, Everett Wattley, Frank Vega, Genevieve Davis, Jason Price, Jazzalyn Villodas, Logan Verkamp, Martha Bromelmeier, Michael Duffy, Kristin Dalton, Leslie Williams, Logan Verkamp, Mark Nevers, Penny Pun, Peter Levine, Sheila Lin, Peter Levine, Tory Kaso, Veronica Ballard, Annabelle Meunier, Leslie Williams, Sharon Matthews, Sarah Slocum.

Meeting to Order 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call attendance, Loretta Cauldwell – Quorum Present

Speaker

Michael McMahon – Richmond County District Attorney – The members of the community board have a special place in my heart. I was on the community board back in the 80's and 90's. Thank you for all the hard work you do. Power point presentation started by Ms. McVey. The State of Public Safety. We gathered the data from the police department from Zoom, Ring, Citizen App, etc. Staten Island Crime is up 29.7% through 2022. Murder down 33.3%, Rape down 24.5%, Felony Assault up 28.1%, Robbery up 36.9%, Burglary up 72.4%, Grand Larceny up 17.2%, Grand Larceny Auto up 77.7%. As of December 31st, 2022, SI Arrests up 14.7%. It's a relative increase from the year before. 2019 had the lowest crime in any year since keeping statistics. In Staten Island, we still are the safest community. Gun crime is down and gun arrests are up. Homicides are down. Combatting the Opioid Epidemic. 2019 was low and then 2022 was high. It has to do with Fentanyl. Please talk to the young people about this. Pills, Heroin, Methamphetamines, Cocaine are all can be mixed with Fentanyl. One misuse can result in death. It's 200 x stronger. We treat every overdose like a crime scene. We need to get evidence to find the drug dealers and when someone survives with Narcan, we try to save the lives of the individuals who are addicted. We started the HOPE Program. If someone is arrested for possession of Narcotics, they are met at the Precinct by a peer mentor. If they follow the program, their case is dismissed and they are connected to services. Close to 2,000 Staten Islanders have availed their self to that, avoided a criminal record and are still alive today. That program has been followed in the other boroughs and across the country. The White House included it in their report as a model the rest of the country should follow.

We are focused on Quality of Life issues. Neighborhood conditions and Illegal dumping. Gun buy backs, Cash for Guns Program. Taken close to 500 guns. A lot of work in graffiti and litter, organized clean-ups. If someone is arrested for graffiti, I try to get them to clean up graffiti to have a positive outcome to bad behavior. Operation Illegal Sign Take Down. We take them down and go after those who post them. Illegal Dumping Initiative. Cameras are up to catch these people dumping and they are prosecuted.

RCDA Focus Areas for 2023 – Advocating to Albany Leaders to fix broken laws, School Safety and Youth Violence, Educating the public about Scams, Neighborhood Improvements and Action Plans, Rebuilding trust in the Justice System, Domestic Violence and Victims of Crime, Early Intervention with Mental Health needs and Strengthening protection for animals. Community Board members thanked DA McMahon for all the work they do and commended Agnes McBeth for her work and information to the Community Board.

Chairman Nicholas Siclari introduced Marie LaFrancesca to swear in our new Board Member, David McGoy. Everyone welcomed him.

Public Session

David Pena, CM Hanks' Office – Happy belated Valentine's Day. Fiscal year '24 Budget applications is currently open if you know any Not for Profits, tell them to apply. We brought \$24 million dollars into our District from City Council Discretionary Funding for Not for Profits to thrive in the community. The application process will be closing on February 22nd. In honor of Black History month, we are hosting an event with Assemblyman, Charles Fall to honor black educators on SI on February 25th at the College of Staten Island. City Council is processing 9 street names one of which is the most admired Joseph Carroll. Details regarding ceremony to follow.

Eric Shuffler – Team President and Co-Owner of Staten Island Ferry Hawks – End of year report for year 2. The first year we had 100,000 visitors into the stadium between our home games, 6 graduations, a lot of Little League, College Baseball, Flag Football, a Boxing match, Winter Lantern Festival, Over 100 Charity Partners work with a team and raised \$50,000. Year #2, we expect a lot more. Our goal is year round use for the community. For our baseball league, we won the Community Service Award. Our home opener is April 28th. The city is putting in new seats. We have NYU & Wagner College baseball right now. We have two non-profit festivals planned. We were selected for the Savannah Bananas who are the Harlem Globetrotters of baseball on August 11-12th.

Michael Colacurto – Department of Sanitation – Community Affairs Liaison – Starting April 1st, set out times for garbage will change. Right now it's 4:00 PM. If you have a container with a sealed lid, put it out at 6:00 PM until midnight and if you have bags, place it out from 8:00 PM until midnight. For buildings with 9 or more residences, new set out times for 4:00 AM to 7:00 AM. For businesses, with a container with a lid, put it out 1 hour before closing or after 8:00 PM in bags. We are doing outreach to inform residences and businesses. Sending out mailers and media coverage.

Catie Ferrara Iannitto – Director of the Staten Island Office for the Department of City Planning – We were without a formal Director for 6 months of last year. A couple of things we want to work with the community board on, Community Engagement Kick-off Planning Initiative across the North Shore. The goal is to pick up where a lot of studies have left off. Opportunities for better Land Use Planning. Needs and wants in terms of residential, commercial, jobs across the area. We kicked it off in December with a great conversation cohosted by St. George Civic, New Brighton Civic. Going forward we want to get other voices to talk about planning, development and regulations for buildings along this area. We will be leading this initiative in the Spring. Conversations with Land Use and this committee going forward.

Colleen Siuzdak – New Administration Coordinator for Parks Department Commissioner Linda Ricciardone – Nicole Brooks is your main contact but you can also reach out to me. There are a few capital projects coming up. Thank you.

Vanesa Limani – Senator Scarcella-Spanton – Just introducing myself. If there are any issues for the Senator please contact us.

Michael Duffy – Member of Local 3 – Graduate of Ralph R. McKee Technical Education High School. I went through a pre-Apprenticeship Program called Construction Skills. It's an amazing program. Helps our youth to join a Construction Trade Union. It's an example of the working people and government working together to create programs that benefit young people in the community. Many of our schools are in need of appliance upgrades. Many of our schools were without working air-conditioning systems. Children and teachers were sitting in 100 degree classrooms. These ideas should have been implemented a long time ago. Our schools running on solar power would be an amazing thing to accomplish to reduce carbon emissions. We should be teaching the younger generation on how to preserve the environment. It would save money too and create union jobs.

Penny Pun, Jenna Chrisphonte's Associate – Director of Civic Alliances at the Programming Performing Arts Center – under construction at the World Trade Center site. I wanted to invite the members to a Hard Hat Tour to the construction site. We have four days available. They are on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM on February 22, March 22, April 5 and April 19th. Thank you.

Mary Bullock – Port Richmond Strong - Banner's Program. We closed the Class of 2023 on January 31st. We have 53 Banners from 2021 and 2022, 30 from 2023 and already 5 for 2024. We have two families who have 5-6 veterans that are participating in the program. We have a special veteran, John Carroll who was shot down over Romania in August of 1943. His remains were identified last October. We contacted his son who is a retired colonel in the Air Force to come to the ceremony. It will be May 20th at Veteran's Park. If you go to our website you can see the bio's and applications. 2024 is open.

Prince Cobbina, CCRB – Outreach Coordinator of Intergovernmental Affairs. City agency, independent from the NYPD. We investigate and mediate complaints given by NYPD Officers and members in a neutral and unbiased manner. We investigate allegations of use of force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, offensive language, biased-based policing, and racial profiling to name a few. If anyone witnesses any misconduct, you are welcomed to file a complaint and we will investigate. Go to NYC.Gov/Complaint or go to any local police precinct. You can also go to 100 Church Street in Manhattan or on social media outlets, Instagram, Facebook, etc.

Kelly Yim – Stapleton Library – This Saturday, February 18th, Vinyl Record Club Program, DJ Kitty from Makerpark Radio at 12:00 PM. We have a wonderful opportunity at St. George Library called Project Code. 12-week course that teaches Web Development. The virtual information session will be this Saturday, February 18th. Also at St. George Library, there is a Mobile Printing Pilot. Come to the library with your own laptop or cell phone and print. West New Brighton will be opening its new Teen Center on Thursday, March 30th. The launch party from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM.

Amy Rose Napolitano - Assemblyman Tannousis' Office – He is up in Albany attending session. Feel free to reach out to our office with any concerns. Hope you all had a great Valentine's Day and Happy Black History Month. Thank you.

PRESENTATIONS:

David Mandel, Community Liaison, Public Art, Department of Cultural Affairs – Percent of Art Program for Project, Port Richmond Library, Artwork Conceptual Design. Artist: Greta McLain – I'm hoping you can provide a letter of support. Public hearing is in May 2023. In 1982, Local Law 65, Percent for Art Program gets 1% of funding for Art for buildings. Percent for Art can be in Court Houses, Parks, Cultural Institutions, Police Precincts, Libraries and Schools. We commission our artists with a process of panel meetings. We start with 40 artists and narrow it down to 4 finalists who come in with proposals to which one artist is then selected. This panel took place in 2019 and Greta McLain was selected. She will now share her idea with the community.

Greta McLain – Port Richmond Library is the project site. The main lobby will be the Artwork site for the mural on the main back wall. I am the founder of GoodSpace Murals. We do paint parties off site with communities and glue them up like wallpaper. In Springfield, MA we had a project with over 600 community members. Another in St. Paul, MN and other areas as well. We have 5 phases of the artwork. Concept Development, Community Enhanced Design, Community Engaged Fabrication, studio paintings and portraits, touch-ups and Installation and Celebration. February and March 2023 we will be at different locations such as PS 20, PS 68, Anderson Senior Center, St. Phillips Ministry and Neighborhood Touring.

Anthony Hill, Director of Community & Government Affairs – SENY – New York Power Authority, joined by Kaela Mainsah, VP of NYPA's Environmental Justice Program to discuss community engagement and literacy programs. The presentation will highlight potential career pathways in environmental leadership.

Kaela Mainsah – Environmental Justice Update (Power Point Presentation) – STEM Education – Promoting curiosity and learning. Basic electricity, Renewable energy, Generation and Transmission, Environmental Stewardship, Electric Transportation. We have been to PS 10 and McKee High School and will be at more schools in the future. We have donated an electric vehicle to McKee High School. P-Tech, students earn a High School Diploma and Associate's Degree. We have partnered with Port Richmond High School and CUNY of Staten Island. We are offering paid internships for students at McKee High School. After the age of 18 with 12 college credits. We offer \$10,000 scholarships based on financial needs and academics. We had two students from Staten Island. Hydroponic Science Labs (Green classrooms). The students get to grow healthy food. We teach climate change and growing food locally and importance of nutritious food.

Matt Caruso – Program Manager of the Power Authority – Adult Energy Literacy and Weatherization Workshops. We bring hands on learning. We have been to the Archdiocese of NY. We were at Blessed Sacrament and the Family Life Center. Piloting Solar Workshops. EJ Community Volunteer Corps. Contact us: Environmental.justice@nyopa.gov or 914-287-3084. www.nyopa.gov/communities/nyopa-engagement/environmentaljustice.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – Tim Forsyth entered the letter (resolution) in the packet.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – No report.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – No report.

Treasurer, Larry Beslow – Absent.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – I see the end of Zoom. The logistics of the new District Manager and ability to sign checks has been resolved. We have 4 new sites. At the June meeting the board will decide as a vote where you want to meet in person for the new year come September.

District Manager, Joan Cusack -. Joan was on Zoom but couldn't speak due to being sick.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, George Turner – Absent - Chairman Siclari said March/April/May Meetings will be busy with Land Use. Linda will get a handbook to you soon with the rules and regulations.

George Doyle said he read the Statement of Needs in the packet. Asked if that goes through Land Use for us to pick and choose what agencies we want in Community Board 1? Chairman Siclari said we submitted our budget in October to each individual agency it pertains to. Chris Rooney said the Statement of Needs go through Steering. George Doyle said with the guidance of Land Use. It should be a joint meeting between Land Use and Steering. Chris Rooney said Land Use made contributions. Chairman Siclari said we will speak to the Parliamentarian and figure it out.

Waterfront, Joseph Ahlstrom – He had to leave. Chairman Siclari said he will be having a meeting. Tim Forsyth said he has a proposed letter to the crew of Sandy Ground Ferry commending them for a safe evacuation. Chairman Siclari said we will send it. Tim Forsyth has been very influential about the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the LGBTQ+.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – No report. We are lucky with the weather. Sanitation is saving money.

George Doyle said he would like to have letters sent to all three council members to support Councilmember Borelli's bills for EMT and self-defense. Chairman Siclari asked if anyone opposed. Sunny Jain said we should get a copy of the draft of the bill and make a vote next meeting.

Youth Services, Ernest Paige – Chairman Siclari said we need a new Youth Services chair. Ernest Paige is stepping down.

Rules & Legislative, Chris Rooney – There was a bill passed years ago that requires the agencies to notify the public officials of any upcoming proposals for shelters and notify the local community boards. Exception for very short-term shelters. We will take up in the future is the DA's proposal in the bail laws.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino –

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov – Trying to get a virtual meeting together on March 28th. (That has been done). Traffic at 2010 Victory Blvd which is being redeveloped. DOT told us they couldn't comment on some things. You cannot find out when the next ferry is leaving and they are working on it. There were two days in February where there was no service at 2:00 AM and there was a 2-hour wait in the ferry terminal. We need to put pressure on them to get that contract signed. They need full staffing. Construction on Hannah Street and Murray Hulbert Avenue. The Bay Street Landing occupants are very concerned with construction projects coming up. Joe Ahlstrom needs to get in touch with those agencies involved.

Labor, Robert Holst – Resolution for retrofitting of schools all over NYC. This request is not about particularly how the job or where the job is going to be done. We agree to use green energy on city buildings. Solar panels, high efficiency air conditioning, Carbon neutral. The upside is through the Labor Committee. We must ensure there is a career as an electrician. I would like to make that vote now. David McGoy abstained. The resolution passed. Robert Holst thanked everyone.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – Excused. Chairman Siclari said we have a new Parks liaison.

Cultural Affairs, Anthony Scutari – No report. Letter for support for the Public Art for the Port Richmond Library. We will table it to see if the artist is from Staten Island and other questions. John McBeth said they will be at our Area Committee.

Health & Human Services, Fran Reali – We had a meeting January 25th. We are focusing on helping our youth who are the future of Staten Island and world. We are looking into the issues of mental health. Resocialization of the children who didn't go to school during Covid and having a lot of issues. We have committee members who are doing research and waiting to hear their feedback. Next meeting will be via Zoom until we get a place. I am running the Staten Island Board of Realtors Expo. We have Ronald McDonald House. We are the only borough who doesn't have one to assist children and their families with cancer. They are looking to partner with either one of the hospitals. In 2024 they are looking to open up a House. They will be joining us on March 30th with information for the community at the Hilton. I heard from Chairman Siclari about a complaint about RUMC at the new ER. I know that things are starting to move along. There is still an open invitation to go to RUMC and see what's going on and have dinner in the cafeteria. Chairman Siclari thanked Ms. Reali and said the hospital situation is very important on Staten Island.

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

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

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo –

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth – We had a meeting. No minutes. We had Liquor License Applications. If you live in the area or not, you are welcomed to join. Chairman Siclari said John McBeth has been here with no absences.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow – No meeting.

Old Business: George Doyle said Hamilton Avenue and Richmond Terrace has contaminated soil. I'm assuming there is a stop work order. We need information from City Planning or DEC on what will happen on the site. The parade, I totally agree with Mr. Forsyth. We missed the mark by not including the elected officials on the island. Three council people can bring up funding for non-inclusion. We should send letters. We would get a response from them. Mr. Forsyth said they were cc'd.

New Business – Friday Ogbewele said the garbage recycling bags at the new school PS 84 usually get blown onto the streets which is a potential for accidents. They have to contain their recycles. Chairman Siclari said we will ask the Sanitation liaison about it.

Chairman Siclari said new board members, get to know the number 718-981-6900 at the office. If you need the handbook please reach out. Land Use is one of the most important issues. We had a full agenda and a lot of information.

Fran Reali said Victoria of DOT helped us fix the corner of Martling Avenue and Manor Road where we needed to separate the people turning and they did it. The traffic is now moving. I wanted to thank her.

Catherine Schiavone said I had a couple of issues for Joan and Linda and it was done quickly.

Sarah Slocum said she is part of our youth and is learning a lot and thank you.

Chairman Siclari said next meeting in person.

Meeting ended 8:33 PM.