

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
In Person, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 347 Davis Avenue.**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

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

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

Office Staff

Joan Cusack, District Manager
Linda Maffeo, Community Coordinator

Guests:

Roseann Caruana, Jessica Cronstein, & Rene Franqui of DOT, Alicea Posner, Elena Brady, George Todorovic, Casey Brown, Cathleen Kenny, Catie Ferrara-Iannitto, Mary Ann McGowan, Diana Switaj, E. Marra, Anise Bektshi, R. Cenara, Charlie Olson, Prince Cobbina, John Mauch, Will Deautriell, Neil Anastasio, Pam Minkoff, Ricia V. Augusty, Agnes McBeth, Jack Bolembach, Michael Arvanitis.

Presentations & Public Session Speakers:

Meeting called to order: 6:30 PM
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Anthony Scutari

Public Session – Friday Ogbewe

Mark Anderson – We were present at the Land Use meeting on May 7th. We have read through the 1,300 plus pages of the City of Yes – Housing Opportunity proposal. How many dwelling units in excess of what we already have can our current zoning handle? We believe it will be 4x what it is today. With the accessory dwelling units, probably double. The North Shore can potentially have about a million and a half people. We hope the Community Board votes no on this proposal. We will hand in our worksheet.

Cathleen Kenny of Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office – Hope everyone had a Happy Mother's Day. Prisoner of War and Veteran Memorial intersection of Targee Street and Narrows Road North by St. Sylvester's and the Firehouse in Concord. It had pre-existing damage. Currently, National Grid is completing Federally and local mandated work which has worsened the disrepair of that memorial. Sam spoke to them and they committed to upgrading and beautifying the area and monument. Should be completed by October 2025. Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo is resoundingly opposed to the City of Yes. He vehemently objects to placing hazardous battery-energy storage systems in residential areas. He will not support any proposals that seek to bypass the will of our community members. These are our neighborhoods and our voice.

Andrew Jacobson – Civil Engineer in training. New York City's proposal to lower the base speed limit to 20 mph. This does not make sense everywhere. Staten Island has the most varied roads in NYC. Lane width, lateral clearance, presence of bikes and pedestrians, etc. Driving slower does not necessarily increase safety. More tailgating and more aggressive passing. We need more crosswalks in the middle of blocks, more striping, actuated pedestrian signals, etc. Please think about this DOT.

Nina Salerno – Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – Four more free mammogram events to screen for breast cancer. Staten Island Job Fair at the Stapleton Library. OATH Event on June 5th at the St. George Library. Recent legislation passed the Senate today. S5502 Additional rights to crime victims by providing victims with an informational sheet explaining their rights. S8995 introduced boost homeowner rights to prevent squatting. (Flyers were available).

Elizabeth Smith, Manager Mariner's Harbor Library – Restore funding to one of New York's most vital resources; our public libraries. Please go to our website and fill out a form for Libraries are for Everyone, No Cuts to Libraries.

Mario Buonviaggio, Port Richmond North Shore Alliance – 4th Annual Military Banner Event, Saturday, May 18th, 11:00 AM, Multiple Guest Speakers. We received news from Diana Switaj of NYCEDC, Diane Savino, Roseann Caruana, DOT, updated information regarding the North Shore Railway is being cleaned up, more than a mile and a ½. We received an update from the Borough Commissioner, Roseann Caruana and Diane Savino, Senior Advisor to Mayor Adams. They removed over 40 tons of dirt, debris and garbage. Started at Nicholas Avenue and going to the Mariner's Harbor area. Thank you to the CB1 office, Joan and Linda. Ms. Grey and Ms. Dora in partnership. Borough President, Vito Fossella's office conducted two meetings, one with NYCEDC and one with us. This was a health issue for the community and now it's being corrected. I want to concur the words that came out of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, we do not approve any of the City of Yes. We voted, 148 opposed with 1 yes.

Lisa Crosby of Canvas Institute – Ballots were handed out to vote for the Participatory Budget, the money the Council gives out where you have a say as to where the money goes to. Not specific to any group or agency.

Michael Arvanitis, Councilwoman Hank's office – Thank you to Commissioner Roseann Caruana. They implemented signal priority and signal sync at much of our corridors. Allows buses to move a little faster and signals on major roads to be synced. The state is giving us these tools to fight the squatters. A bill on Thursday will be to have a task force to remove squatters. This task force will not have to use all the resources associated with the DA's office.

End of Public Session

Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell with a Quorum.

Motion to accept the minutes in the packet. Accepted by John Guzzo and seconded by Tony.

Chairman, Nick Siclari thanked Roseann Caruana for coming to our meeting.

Presentations:

Staten Island North Shore Action Plan, NYCEDC, Diana Switaj, Government and Communications Division along with Munro Johnson and Judah Asimov of EDC - We worked on this project with Councilwoman, Kamillah Hank's office. \$400 million dollars of investment into the Waterfront. We committed to coming back on a quarterly basis. I want to thank Staten Island DOT, Roseann Caruana and Anisa and Department of Sanitation with their work and partnership as Mario Buonviaggio mentioned regarding the North Shore

Railway. Judah spoke about the 10 milestones we envisioned. We already reached 8 of them in May 2024. Tompkinsville Esplanade, reached two land use approval milestones for beginning construction later this year. New Stapleton Waterfront, 35-acre Navy Homeport which will be transformed into a mixed-use community of housing, retail and open space. Earlier this year demolition was completed and beginning construction this Fall. Mary Cali Dalton Recreation Center, Parks and Department of Design and Construction broke ground earlier this year. To be completed in 2025. Staten Island Pier 1, has been partially closed since 2017. Reopening and renovating the Pier, beginning design later this year. St. George Esplanade, in front of the former NY Wheel site, beginning design later this year. Lighthouse Point, first phase is just about complete. Anticipating a Ribbon-Cutting this summer. RFP Commitments, two for housing, HPD has already released an RFP for the Jersey Street site, the former Sanitation garage. EDC released an RFP for the southernmost two parcels Stapleton Waterfront for housing. We have a submission deadline in June. RFP for the Northshore Entertainment and Amusement site, the former NY Wheel site. Year-round programming and amusement. RFP closed in April. Two RFP's for the Staten Island Ferry. Concessions on the boat later this year. Open RFP for the St. George Ferry Terminal leasing. Fill some of the empty spaces with new businesses. The RFP closes this summer.

Q&A – Lighthouse Point, Phase I is residential, affordable housing going up via NYC Housing Connect (Portal). It's a very thorough process. You should get started right away. Other uses: Early childhood development center, Tech Incubator for CSI. Evan from Triangle Equities (the developer) is in contact with you about the garage, and tenanting, etc. More questions in the back of the church.

Roseann Caruana, Commissioner of DOT: Two presentations regarding pedestrian fatalities. Corson & Victory Blvd., and Narrows Road North & Fingerboard. My grandparents were killed together in 1958 on Hylan Blvd. by a car. I was put here for a reason to make sure no other family goes through what my family went through.

Narrows Road North & Fingerboard Road, Speaker: Alicea Posner, Deputy Director of Safety Projects and Programs. Off ramp of the Staten Island Expressway, busy hub for express buses with also being a local truck route. We focus on these areas with the highest incidences of crashes and high rate of severe injuries. This is a Vision Zero Priority intersection. Pedestrian fatality in 2021. There are mostly rear-end collisions due to speeding. For pedestrians with a wide roadway that lacks pedestrian refuge. Peak time as a baseline, there are 700 vehicles an hour per lane is what a congested lane is. This area is well below capacity. Proposal is constructing two concrete pedestrian islands or extensions for shorter, safer crossing distances, slow-turning vehicles to create more predictability. We are narrowing Narrows Road North to one lane. We will add more lane markings. We reviewed this proposal with our partners at the MTA & NYS DOT. Upgrading all pedestrian ramps to ADA accessibility. Questions were taken in the back of the room.

Corson Avenue & Victory Blvd, Roseann Caruana – Fatality occurred July 2023 with a call from PD at 5:00AM. Speaker: Jessica Cronstein, Director of Project Development and Delivery at DOT and Rene Franqui – Crossing intersection improvements. Rene: The project was brought to us by the local school and due to the fatality. There has also been 9 injuries. There is a pedestrian ramp without a clear partner ramp. Proposal will be granite blocks, planters, traffic signals, markings etc. Goal is to make the area safer with a pedestrian curb extension. Safety and mobility improvements include five new pedestrian ramps, three new crosswalks. At this intersection there are 20 parking spots which are not all used and some will be taken away to allow for the expansion of the project. In the summer, work starts on the signals. In the Fall, granite blocks and planters will be worked on. This area can use beautification. Questions in the back of the room.

Chairman Nick Siclari said he wanted to apologize for something that was sent out to them from the Westerleigh Improvement Society. We shouldn't hear anything until after the presentation. You will get a worksheet and information of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity. You have a month to look at it. We will vote on it in June. If you have any questions, please send them to the office. Fill out the worksheet.

City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, Catie Ferrara-Iannitto, Director, DCP – There is a housing crisis. People come to our office stating they want to enlarge their kitchen but zoning doesn't allow for it. Smaller lots that do not meet expectations of zoning lots due to yards and parking requirements. Elements of this proposal that are fixes to those problems. A proposal for families with young adults that are living with their families, look for a place to move in independently and are not finding it. Also a proposal for families with aging parents who want one floor living. The city says you can't rent out the unit until you have three parking spaces on your tiny lot and you don't need parking spaces if you live near a train station. This is a struggle of zoning.

George Todorovic, DCP – We had Carbon Neutrality & Economic Opportunity. This text amendment has nothing to do with battery storage. We had backlash about the corner stores. That will be removed from the proposal. We will take your feedback for this one. If there is something you don't like, it will be reviewed and possibly removed. City Council will be reviewing the worksheets. This is an opportunity for homeowners to add a little bit of housing to their property. It could make a big impact across the entire neighborhood. Instead of going tall on a single spot, it will go broadly with a little bit of a flex. A little bit of tweaks in zoning. Instead of burdening one neighborhood with a tall building do a couple of stories on a large geography. This analysis is a 15-year period. Housing production has decreased but the demand for housing has increased. Households are smaller today than they used to be. The same amount of people take up more space. 56% of Staten Island are rent burdened where over 30% of your paycheck goes to rent. There is a 1.4 vacancy rate.

(Please see the video for the rest of the presentation). Below is the Worksheet Parts of the Proposal:

City of Yes for Housing

Low-Density – Town Center Zoning, Transit-Oriented Development, Accessory Dwelling Units, District Fixes

Medium and High Density – Universal Affordability Preference

Citywide – Lift Costly Parking Mandates, convert non-residential buildings to Housing, Small and shared housing, Campus Infill.

Miscellaneous – New Zoning Districts, Update to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, Silver Law, Quality Housing Amenity Changes, Landmark Transferable Development Rights, Railroad Right-of-Way.

Questions taken in the back of the room.

Chairman Siclari said everyone has a packet and a worksheet. You have a month to look at this information. Email questions which will be sent to City Planning.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – No report.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – Excused.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – Call for Candidates forms were received. The current Executive Board have submitted their forms. Nominations from the floor. Nominations for Chair (3x) – None. Nominations for Chair are now closed. Nominations for First Vice Chair (3x) – None. Nominations are closed. Nominations for Second Vice Chair (3x) – None. Nominations are closed. Nominations for Third Vice Chair (3x) – None. Nominations are closed. Nominations for Secretary (3x) – None. Nominations are closed. Nominations for Treasurer (3x) – None. Nominations are closed.

Chairman Nicholas Siclari said thank you. We have a vote of confidence for our Executive Board.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – Report is in the packet.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – No further comment.

District Manager, Joan Cusack: No comments.

Functional Committee Reports

Land Use, George Turner – Protectors for the Pine Oaks Letter of Support for the Conservation of the Serpentine Ridge. This was tabled one month ago to talk about it again. In their view, this is a quality-of-life issue. They say we are under serviced on the north shore for Park space. Beneficial for Public Education. Unique geology of the Serpentine stone itself. Most of these areas are on the steep slope and will not be able to be built on. They want to apply for the funds that is coming up. They want to purchase parcels of land but it is not something that people have to sell it. No government overreach.

Questions: Who is going to take care of this property? Most will be undisturbed wilderness. Who will take care of these improvements? Charlie Olson said these areas are on the Serpentine Ridge between Van Duzer Street and Howard Avenue, to the North of Wagner College and down by Heroes Park. All undeveloped and privately held at this time. One of the areas is owned by a not for profit. The Serpentine Arts and Common area. Has 3-4 trails that you can go on. We don't have an organization for caring yet. If we can get a foundation to come in otherwise it stays wild. That can be in 4 years or so when the properties get ok'd. We have a letter from all the elected officials. They are all for it. John Guzzo asked who would insure this property beside the taxpayer? No answer to that question.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell - Passes with 28 total members, 24 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions 0 Ineligible.

Chairman Nick Siclari said, next month we will vote on the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Thank you Diana for your presentation on the North Shore Plan. It looks good. Meeting on 6/28/24.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – No issues.

Youth Services, Katheleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna. – They are both excused. Minutes in the packet.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Anthony Cosentino & Timothy Forsyth – 5 Items. 1st. Assaults on School Teachers' letter to enact a law to make it a felony to protect them.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell – 27 yes, 1 no. Motion passes.

2nd. Want to thank Catherine Schiavone, Ernest Paige, Timothy Forsyth for their help for putting this together. Assessment for Cannabis Guidelines for Applications.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell – Motion passes unanimously.

3rd. Rules & Regulations for Liquor License Applications.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell – Motion passes Unanimously.

4th & 5th - By-Law changes. Two-month process. The proposal is made. It is read to you on the first month. On the second month the floor is open to questions. 1. Operating Procedures, notify all board members of scheduled meetings by email and posting on CB1 Website. 2. Contacting Corp. Council – A board member may apply for a 6-month leave of absence by-request of the Executive Committee. They shall not be counted in the Quorum. This is because we don't have quorums.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – The Mayor's Budget will be out next month.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov – We will have a Transportation committee meeting on Thursday, May 30th at 7:30 PM. We will speak about local transit. Hopefully the MTA will come and attend. (Melissa Farley did come and attend). Reliability questions. Richmond Terrace buses, S40 & S90. S66 and it's campus service. Coordination of the St. George Terminal. Secondly, "Death on Goethals Road North". The service road off the expressway. The section where it meets Jules Drive which has no guardrails on either side, no sidewalks on either side, no sound barriers. There's an exit and then an entrance 60 feet further to the freeway. Some cars are merging right while others are merging left. It's been like this for 60 years during which they painted lane markings and NYC put up a speed camera. It is said by the Staten Island Advance that this camera is the most lucrative in the city. In February 2024, a car off the freeway turned over and a homeowner came out of her house and found a dead passenger in her backyard. There was a petition of at least 86 signatures to say something has to be done. It was sent to the State DOT. We sent it to City DOT. The State DOT, I kid you not, said they cannot do this because the federal government wouldn't make them do it and wouldn't force them to do it, so they won't do it. The federal government does not say you can't do safety improvements. The City DOT said those homeowners should build their sidewalks which is their responsibility. What kind of excuse is that? I have rarely seen as Transportation Chair two side-by-side explanations with such lame excuses for not doing anything. I've heard a few more from DOT tonight but am not supposed to quote it. What are we going to do about safety on that service road? Opinions from the floor? I will make a motion that CB1 send a letter to both the Mayor and the Governor saying you have to get your department's attention to the question of safety on this segment of what is probably a state highway.

Someone spoke without a microphone. Couldn't hear it. I think it was a resident, John Mauch who lives on Jules Drive and he thanked Nicholas Z. for all his hard work in this matter.

Reverse Roll Call by Loretta Cauldwell – Motion passes unanimously.

Anthony Cosentino said Katheleen Coen submitted her Youth minutes with some errors. Sent the corrected version that were not in the packet. Paragraph three, lines 6&7, should say unique instruction should not be seen as an easy alternative to college.

Small Business & Non-Profit, Jaelyn Tacoronte – April 10th we had a meeting at La Colmena to hear about their merchant survey results. In partnership with NYC Small Business Services. The goal is to look at all the retail shops along Port Richmond to see what kind of services they need in order for the community to flourish. SIBOC will be offering a free Minority Business Certification Class on May 22nd. All the NYC EDC proposals (RFP's) presented, 30% must have minority business owner or minority business enterprise certificate holder applicants. Next meeting will be on Thursday, June 5th (The meeting was canceled).

Labor, Robert Holst – No report.

Parks & Recreation, Anthony Cosentino – In two days, Thursday, May 16th, we have a Parks Meeting via Zoom at 6:15 PM with two presentations.

Cultural Affairs - Anthony Sgarlato – The Committee has recognized 30 sites in the CB1 area which were put on the CB1 Website and Facebook page. The weather is nice, go check them out.

Health and Human Services, Fran Reali – Excused. Chairman Nick asked if anyone was interested in the Environmental Committee?

West Brighton/St. George, Claudette Duff & Anthony Cosentino – Claudette Duff spoke. We had a great meeting. We approved a number of liquor license renewals, one for Duffy's, Compass Group at Wagner College and Cinderella's Restaurant. Anthony Cosentino said there was a presentation by Staten Island Business Development to empower small businesses on Staten Island. Claudette Duff said she created a new Zoom so a Presentation can be shared which couldn't be done before. Do not use the old Zoom Account.

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

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo – No meeting, no minutes. We haven't had police representation which has been requested to come to our meetings.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park, Selina Grey & Dora Berksteiner – Selina Grey - Approvaof liquor license for CT Sports Bar, Joe Broadway Billiards and Sports Bar. Did not approve New Ranchito due to an issue of storing liquor in the basement. No Cannabis licenses. We have been getting more civics to our meeting. We have Port Richmond Strong, Elm Park Civic and Arlington Civic hasjoined. Trying to get Mariner's Harbor Civic. Arlington Civic is May 24th.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi- Next Zoom meeting on May 23rd. Meeting was held Thursday, April 18th at the Stapleton Library. NYC MTA. Councilmember Kamillah Hanks was requesting new bus shelter locations on the North Shore particularly Stapleton. Liquor license application for LIB International Sports Bar at 639 Bay Street. No objection to an amendment of a previously filed application to include security personnel. It was located five or more feet from three or more premises. Zero complaints from the community. Newly installed traffic light on the corner of Bay Street and Water Street. The committee didn't agree with it but DOT said there were two fatalities there and more than 60 vehicle collisions in the last decade. They are open to suggestions on how to improve it. Thanks to the NYPD with the Parks Department and Elected officials pushing them, Tappan Park has NYPD patrol and surveillance. National Grid and Con Edison did some work on Bay Street between Sand Street and Canal Street. Infrastructure construction repair leaving us with broken sidewalks, curbs and streets. The board put in a request and slowly it's being repaired. NYC MTA and NYC Design and Construction complaint near 536 Bay Street a bus stop with year long problem of water buildup with dozens of law suits for people and the disabled that can't get on and off buses safely. NYC DDC said the work should be starting soon. This was years ago. Request to NYC Parks about a missing tree in front of 534 Bay Street & 543 Bay Street. "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members", Coretta Scott King. Chairman Nick said the light on Bay Street just has to be timed. At the next Land Use meeting, I am opening up to the full board to discuss City of Yes for Housing Opportunity and come to the next Land Use virtually with questions. We will have all kinds of knowledge to bring to our next Full Board Meeting for the vote.

Old Business –

New Business – Joan Cusack asked for volunteers for a committee to help with the food for the next board meeting. Tatiana Arguello volunteered. Thank you Tatiana.

Flyers from the DA's office for a shredding event on Saturday, May 18th and a Multicultural Food Festival on Sunday, May 19th.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:41 PM