

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 9th – 6:30 P.M.  
Salem Church, 634 Clove Road, 10310**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

**Members**

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

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

**Office Staff**

Joan Cusack, District Manager  
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

**Guests**

Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Umamah Masum, Senator Scarcella-Spanton's Office, Marie Carmody-LaFrancesca, BP Fossella's Office, David Pena, CM Kamillah Hank's Office, Cathleen Kenny, AM Sam Pirozzolo's Office, Elena Brady, CM David Carr, Nicole Brooks, Prince Cobbina, Michael Morrell, Odette Wilkens, Kelly Yim, David Shehadeh, Mary Bullock, Debbie Klingele, Berenice Suchilt. Joseph Harris, FDNY Division 8 Commander, Michael Maiz, Battalion Chief, HazMat, FDNY, Presenters, Michael Gertelman, Owner & Founder, Dispensary, 1975 Victory Blvd., Capt. James McCue, FDNY/EMS, Eric Patterson, Joe Pozzolano, CTV, Bruce Lauria, Mark Anderson, Dolores A. Brennan-Prichard, Antoinette Kirk, Jodian Brown, Gloria Scitutto, Carolyn Lombardo, Will Deautriell, DOT, Jason Price.

Meeting to Order 6:35 P.M.  
Pledge of Allegiance

## **Public Session**

Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Community Liaison for DA Michael McMahon – The state has approved its budget. There are legislative asks that are connected to these budgetary line items, like bail reform. We will continue to work with the Governor and others to ensure those items go far enough to help the public safety of Staten Island residents.

If you notice on social media instances of cruelty to animals or endangerment of animals, don't just like, comment or share, please make a police report. Our office cannot get involved until a police report is made and we have various resources at our disposal in this regard.

Graduation season is almost upon us. I'm happy to announce that RCDA has begun our Annual "Champion of Justice" search to every school on Staten Island. The "Champion of Justice" award is given to a graduating student who has performed exceptional acts of justice on behalf of their peers, and have gone above and beyond to be a friend to the vulnerable. COJ's are nominated by their school. Be on the lookout for these posts to our social media platforms.

Lastly, with the warmer weather, we will be increasing our beautification efforts. If you know of an area that needs graffiti removal or excessive trash or dumping cleanup, let us know.

Prince Cobbina, CCRB –Outreach Coordinator – In March we appeared to City Council for Budgetary meetings to make sure we have the means for the responses of the complaints. Later that month in March, our Executive Director Jonathan, also testified to Council in favor of a bill 09382023 which is sponsored by Mayor Adams. If this bill is passed CCRB we will have access to the body camera footage. We released our 2022 annual report which covers our CCRB activities throughout the year including complaint activities, investigations, etc. Addition to the resolution of 541, calls for the NY Legislator to give CCRB access to sealed records in order to do our job expediently. This bill is sponsored by Assemblymember Cruz and Senator Bailey. To see the report, go to [nyc.gov/CCRB](https://nyc.gov/CCRB).

Odette Wilkens, President and General Council of Wired Broadband. I am also a Technology Attorney for over 20 years. We are a nonprofit who focuses on safe technology. We are located in Forest Hills, Queens. I know the benefits of technology but also know the risks. We are facing the issue of 5G Cell Towers, 3 stories high with 5 bays (top two 5G, middle two 4G and free WIFI) that are being placed in NYC. Many community boards disapproved and are against installation. SICB2 is against these towers. Our district is slated to get the highest number of cell towers, 117. This is just the first step. A number of questions haven't been answered. The impacts, privacy and security, placement in historic districts, health and environmental impact. The developer, CityBridge just notified by the Federal Communications Commission for having violated two federal laws. They were supposed to engage in review of the environmental impacts and impacts on historical districts. Our recommendation is that you disapprove and request moratorium until we get these questions answered. Also for the Borough President to send a letter to OTI and the Mayor and ask for a slow-down. Mark Levine, Borough President of Manhattan sent a letter as well as many councilmembers came out against it. Senator put out a bill in the Senate to control the placement of these towers. (Will be giving a full presentation at the next Health & Human Services meeting with Fran Reali).

Umamah Masum of NY Senator, Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – The Senator was able to get a few pieces of legislation passed as well as a property tax exemption for active military members in New York State as well as getting rid of the Governor's housing initiative to end homelessness. Working the discounts on the bridges for Staten Islanders. Working to help Correction Officers. We have two mobile offices this week, one at the Stapleton Senior Center on Thursday and one at P.S. 22. For more information, check our social media for updates.

Kelly Yim, Stapleton Library Manager – We are still facing the proposed budget cut of \$36.2 million dollars. If we don't get help, some of our early learning programs such as story time will get cut as well as our teen centers. A lot of teens come to the library to get away from the streets. Also English as a second language class would be affected. Our cultural programs for families and the elderly would be affected. I am asking that you get your library card, a way to support your library. Also if you can come to the library and sign a letter of support.

David Shehadeh, Owner of Olive Tree Marketplace, 1490 Clove Road – I'm here to get the left turn reinstated on Clove Road and Tioga and Clove Road and Howard Avenue. DOT took away the left turn on both sides. It's a dangerous situation. A few weeks ago, a pedestrian was struck by a car and killed. In the past, there has been multiple car accidents. I've sent emails and photos to DOT. We have over 2,000 signatures on petitions. They rerouted traffic where parents are picking up their kids at school.

Will Deautriell, DOT – I think it's misleading to say because of the left turn restriction caused the accident. We spoke to Mr. Shehadeh on several occasions and we presented him with the data before and after. It reflected a positive affect to that location. DOT is a data-driven agency. There are other ways to get to the Marketplace.

Mike Morrell, Director of the Westerleigh Improvement Society – There was an in person meeting with the CB1 Westerleigh, Silver Lake, Sunnyside & Willowbrook Area Committee at Safari Realty last week with Camille Zarrelli and Timothy Forsyth. The topic was the establishment of a Cannabis Dispensary at Victory Blvd. and Jewett Avenue which we never had before. Although the community board does not have an input as to the siting of these businesses, we feel we should be apprised before they happen. The full board should know, not just the area committee. We should make sure the owners are good neighbors.

Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong – Banner's Program. We are in our third year of the Veterans banners. 80 banners on the entire length of Port Richmond Avenue. Thank you to the DOT and Roseann Caruana for getting this started. We are the only project in NYC. 19 veterans from the Class of 2021, 30 from 2022, and 31 new banners. We have a book, "Behind the Banners" and a website [PortRichmondStrong.com/Veterans](http://PortRichmondStrong.com/Veterans) and read about them. We have been doing this many years and this makes the community emotionally, physically and spiritually. The opening ceremony is May 20<sup>th</sup> at Veteran's Park, 11:00 AM.

Debbie Klingele, VP of the Elm Park North Shore Alliance – We have residential and commercial property mixed in our community. We also have a Cannabis Dispensary going up. We meet every Tuesday of every month at Bella Mama's Restaurant on Morningstar Road if you want to join us. We have a Facebook page and [ElmParkNorthShore@gmail.com](mailto:ElmParkNorthShore@gmail.com).

Nicole Brooks, Project Manager of the North Shore, NYC Parks – Skyline Playground in New Brighton, Community Input Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM. [NYC.GOV/Park/Input](http://NYC.GOV/Park/Input). We would like everyone's input for the reconstruction. Secondly, we have many jobs that are available. Design & Construction, Maintenance and Operation, Forestry and Environment and Security. Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Hiring Hall. Many agencies will be there. Beach opening ceremony is May 28<sup>th</sup> at South Beach.

Chairman Siclari called Loretta Cauldwell, Secretary for Roll Call and Attendance. We have a Quorum.

Chairman Siclari – Motion to Accept the Minutes.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Joseph Harris, FDNY Division 8 Commander – E-Bike Safety. We want to make sure people don't charge these bikes in their homes. Please charge outside and not near the entrance due to fires that are difficult to extinguish and are large fires. In 2022, we had 219 fires caused by the E-bikes with 6 fatalities and 147 injuries. So far in 2023 we've had 46 E-Bike fires with 3 fatalities and 46 injuries. The City Council just passed two amendments. Bike shops and repair shops can no longer sell non-UL rated batteries. The ones causing the fires are second market batteries, most purchased from China that don't meet the standards. There's a joint commission between fire prevention and fire marshals who are doing random inspections for the bike shops and issuing summonses if they are selling or doing repairs on these batteries.

Michael Maiz, Battalion Chief, HazMat, FDNY – Lithium Ion Battery Storage Systems – We have strict requirements in where they are installed. There are forms to be filled out and inspections. Many standards and regulations and permits passed before they get the C of A from the FDNY. The batteries they are storing are nothing like the e-bike batteries that are going on fire. They are using Tier 1 batteries. We have a storage unit on Richmond Terrace.

Questions: There is a storage unit installed near a gas station on Hylan Blvd in Great Kills. Is that safe? They are tested to see where they can be placed. There is a 24/7 monitoring system to regulate the heat from these storage systems. Can CB1 be notified before a storage site is put in? We know the CB got involved with the storage unit put up by Moore H.S. CB2 turned down the site by Holterman's Bakery. DOB should notify the Community Boards. We will check on that. There are companies from all over manufacturing these systems. Tesla, etc. We are trying to ban the bikes being charged in the subways like in Europe.

Bernice Suchilt – Partnership for Parks. I'm from Mexico and live in Brooklyn. We activated five different species of apple trees. We planted types of oregano, blueberries and strawberries. We are having an event at Mahoney Park with free food. We also want to have our Waterfront Esplanade event back with a Food Truck Festival. Corporal Thompson Park is under construction but that's also one of our parks. We are giving out grants for health and wellness. We would like to get more Urban Farms activated.

Michael Gertelman, Founder & Owner of the Cannabis Dispensary at 1975 Victory Blvd. – Our main focus is safety and security. We have to follow strict protocols from the Management office. We do not permit loitering on our premises. There have been illegal shops opening on Staten Island where products are not tested. With us, everything is tracked by New York State. Cannabis is also taken for Pain Management and Anxiety not just recreational.

Questions: Hours from 8AM to 12AM? We are permitted to stay open for 18 hours a day, although my hours have not been set. I will probably close around 8PM or 9PM. We are ½ a mile from the closest school. Not opening for a few months but will have 25 employees with security to prevent loitering. Grown in NYS and is certified. To buy you need to be 21 and over. I have an account with Valley National Bank. There was a tax question. Mr. Gertelman said he believes the higher the potency the higher the tax.

#### **Officers' Reports**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** – Budget and Finance – Have to wait until next month for the Mayor's Final Budget in June. Around the third week of June. I am not optimistic. He's been cutting the Board of Education. No word on the 120 Precinct.

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** – Timothy Forsyth – Second Vice Chair – We don't have the authority to approve or disapprove these marijuana dispensaries. The liquor licenses are required to come before us and we have the authority to recommend an approval or disapproval to the SLA. I request we look into this with Rules & Legislation Committee. Joan Cusack, District Manager said they do have to notify us about the dispensaries.

**Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe** – I commend the Area Chairs for holding their meetings.

**Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell** – Call for Candidates – The current board has submitted their names for the current positions. Nominations from the floor. Any nominations for Chair (3x). There being none, nominations for Chair is now closed. Any nominations for First Vice-Chair (3x). There being none, nominations for First Vice-Chair are closed. Any nominations for Second Vice-Chair (3x). There being none, nominations for Second Vice-Chair are closed. Any nominations for Third Vice-Chair (3x). There being none, nominations for Third Vice-Chair are closed. Any nominations for Secretary (3x). There being none, nominations for Secretary are now closed. Any nominations for Treasurer (3x). There being none, nominations for Treasurer are now closed. Next month, we will cast the ballots for those positions.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** – Said from the beginning, this is a team effort. We are all interchangeable but part of a team of 50 board members. It's important to show up on time and have a quorum. We will have a vote next month where we will meet in September. George Doyle mentioned that St. Mary's Episcopal Church is not handicapped accessible. A wheelchair couldn't get up that ramp and are not ADA compliant. Chairman Siclari said we will find out.

**District Manager, Joan Cusack** -- Very busy with many meetings this month.

George Doyle mentioned silive having the Community Boards out of order when listed and CB1 didn't have an agenda. (Sometimes the agenda isn't confirmed before it has to go to silive). We will check with the silive.

**Land Use, George Turner** – Two items. One was a presentation and the other an application. The Department of Environmental Protection came and made a presentation about the Restoration of Silver Lake Park Reservoir. They will present at our Full Board Meeting when they get closer to starting their restoration. They will clean up the area and clear up the trees for a nice space we will have access to. They will remove the trees that are affecting the dam. Restore the architecture of the two gatehouses. There is a fence that goes around the entire reservoir, some 6 feet and some 3-1/2 feet. They will not change any of that even though we asked. We were told that was a Parks Department issue. It will be a 3 year process. We addressed concerns regarding a Habitat issue.

GCL36 BSA Application 2016-4142A thru 2016-4146A - 43 Cunard Avenue – Single two-Family Residence. The street is not mapped by the City of NY, therefore it is an automatic denial from Department of Buildings. No Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. Private driveway that connects to Cunard Avenue. The application seeks to permit the construction of a two-family residence, which does not front on a legally mapped street contrary to General City Law 36.

Land Use Vote: Passed Unanimously – 10 Yes. Board vote: Passed unanimously.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain** – No information from CityBridges on the 5G Towers issue. Maybe they can come and make a presentation or send us the information. As far as Wagner College, they were going to give that property to the city to increase that right turn. DOT will explore that to see if it's still on the table? George Doyle asked if the FDNY had a CCRB component like the police department. Joan Cusack said they weren't sure what they would consider for that? They haven't answered us about that. George Doyle asked about getting a presentation by the Lithium Battery Storage Site people for our Land Use and Full Board Meetings. Chairman Siclari said they don't have to come before us. It was said it was DOB that would get the sites first. We can ask them. They went before Board 2 because they wanted to put a storage by Holtermann's on Arthur Kill Road and it was denied.

**Rules and Legislative, Chris Rooney** – There is a request for us to have the Cannabis Dispensary Application come before us just like the SLA application.

George Doyle said people are not coming to meetings, they are missing 3, 4, 5 meetings in a row and nothing is being done. The BI-laws say they should get a letter reminding them to come to the meetings. If they don't attend, they are terminated from the board. (Letters went out to those people).

**Transportation, Nicholas Z. Transportation** – Excused – George Doyle said when the Transportation Commissioner was at the Transportation meeting, I had a few words with her about Tompkins Avenue and Hylan Blvd traffic light and moving the traffic light away from the firehouse. Also no parking from Tompkins Avenue from Hylan Blvd. to Belair Road. The street is not wide enough for two-way traffic with parking. I asked to speak to her again and I haven't heard anything back. Joan Cusack said the Commissioner is very busy but the office will get back to you. Lillian Lagazzo spoke about getting in and out during the Five Borough Bike Race. Bay Street Landing, 500 families were in a lockdown community. On Bay Street and Hannah Street, some neighbors were coming back at 5PM, they were told the last rider didn't come over the bridge yet. She got to her house at 7:20PM with groceries and her dog, etc. "We cannot be held hostage". What's going to happen when the affordable housing comes on Front Street and the Recreation Center opens? We have a ½ Marathon in August and a Full Marathon in November. Someone with common sense should be stationed there. Joan Cusack said people can go through Bay Street if necessary.

**Small Business, Jaclyn Tacoronte** – Small Business – George Doyle wanted to thank Jaclyn for attending the Evelyn King Ceremony on Saturday. Jaclyn said she a lot of people from the Community showed up and she can't believe it's been 10 years.

1. Attended first public meeting at Flagship brewery discovered:
2. 9 steering board members have been working on this for 4 years and no woman, or minority owned businesses were included
3. 2nd public session was last week at Edgewater hall
  1. Attended small businesses, Judge Rob Gregg, District Leader Jasi Robinson, Shawnae and Alina from Tiny Treasures among cb1 members and Council member Hanks office
  2. SBS Disclosed that a redistricting of the map would mean to start all over which several community members are interested in starting their own.

Today attended the SIEDC BOA brownfield opportunity area program to assess, review and potentially acquire vacant buildings to support entrepreneurship, cultural, but based off of the community needs. Today was the 1st public session. Next public session is June 3 or 23rd but we will distribute information to Linda at CB to email everyone. Joan and I met with SIEDC CEO Mike Cusick and his team to gather some additional information on the project and process. Looking forward to collaborating and providing guidance.

Additionally, **RHA KIM GROSSMAN & MCILWAIN, LLP** approached me and Joan as they are working with NYC's **Commercial Lease Assistance Program** to help small business owners and small businesses with any legal issues related to commercial leases.

NYC small businesses or small business owners can call us on the phone, or speak with the attorneys via Zoom. They simply need to RSVP by emailing us at [jbyun@rhakimlaw.com](mailto:jbyun@rhakimlaw.com) or by calling us directly at **718-321-9797** to set up the appointment.

**Dates for Zoom or Phone Legal Clinics are:**

- Wednesday, May 10th, from 1-4 pm
- Friday, May 12th, from 7-9 pm
- Tuesday, May 16th, from 1-4 pm

Friday, May 19th, from 1-4 pm

Overall my assessment as the small business chair, is to have transparency and inclusion for all small businesses and all projects being presented.

I would like to request a formal letter from CB1 to request a breakdown of all accounting related to the Chamber of Commerce and BID (Business Improvement District).

Reverse Roll Call: Passes unanimously with 1 Abstention.

**Labor, Robert Holst** – May 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM by the Vanderbilt, the Teachers are having a rally on the boardwalk.

**Mr. Rexa, Ferry workers**, meeting trying to find an agreement. DOT has not corrected the issues on the fire and Sandy Ground. NYCHA Castleton Avenue, prevailing wage laws so that people can't come from outside. Going to find a way to bring in the cheapest labor. NYS has seen a 68% increase in child labor violations.

**Parks, Tony Cosentino** – Support letter was sent out for Lt. Lia Park. (video cut off).

**Cultural Affairs, Anthony Scutari** - 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Notre Dame Food Drive on April 5-6<sup>th</sup>. Between Staten Island and Brooklyn, we collected 100,000 pieces of food. There were a lot of people from my union but I want to applaud the children. They helped us unload 11 box trucks of food and delivered to 27 recipients on Staten Island. Mike McMahon was there too. Next year it will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. I just recruited the Olive Tree Marketplace. Shoprite and Costco got involved.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow** – A comment on what George Doyle said. If you want to cure quorum issues, all the community board members should come to the required meetings. The minutes are in the packet. Next meeting at the Central Family Life Center next Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Treasury report is in the packet.

**West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell** – There will be a meeting on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at RUMC, Sipp Auditorium. Project Hospitality will be presenting regarding the Drop-In Center at 150 Richmond Terrace.

**Sunnyside/Westerleigh** – Camille Zarrelli and Timothy Forsyth – Minutes in the packet.

**Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond** – John McBeth – Minutes in the packet. Meeting next week. Thank you Joan Cusack for attending my last meeting. It was commented about John McBeth's agenda being one of the best and he met religiously throughout the Pandemic on Zoom.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton** – Larry Beslow – Treasury Report in the packet. If we want to cure quorum problems, it is advisable that all community board members to attend all their required meetings. Next Wednesday, 6/17 at 6:30PM meeting at the Central Family Life Center.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** George Doyle said he asked the office how many public hospitals there are in the City of New York. There were 11 public hospitals throughout the City of New York except Staten Island. Last week we heard about a new \$1 billion hospital that was in Brooklyn. Why can't we get one here. We have a perfectly good building on Vanderbilt Avenue. Chairman Siclari said we write letters, etc. Anthony Cosentino said every year the request is in the Capital Budget but the Mayor ignores us. Maybe we can prepare a letter. I sent a letter of Statement of Needs.

Claudette Duff - Disparity of the number of board members in each area. The councilwoman and BP's office have most of the members from the West Brighton/St. George area. Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond almost have the same population. Rosebank has even more people. The issue is representation. Joan Cusack said they are not getting applications. Ms. Duff said maybe they're not realizing where the people are from when they show an interest. Many people say they send an application and nobody gets back to them. We have to have more education and outreach in these areas.

Jaclyn Tacoronte said it seems like existing members are termed out. What's the process to renew a person's tenure? etc. Joan Cusack says the Councilwoman has 11 that were never reappointed. That is all the responsibility of the Councilwoman and BP's office.

George Doyle said Rosebank used to have many members but City Planning didn't like that they wanted to rezone. John Guzzo did everything he could to keep that committee going. Joan Cusack said she gets people coming up to her saying they are interested in applying.

Lillian Lagazzo said you have to ask business owners and ask around to see who is interested in joining the community.

We need to keep the count of the board members that are not showing up to consecutive meetings.

There are four, two-year terms.

When they fill out the forms, they should follow-up with calls. Camille Zarrelli said we do have non-board members who can come to three meetings and become a non-board voting member.

Robert Holst said we should find out how many applications have been filled out and are sitting somewhere and how many open appointments can be made. Can we get that basic information?

Send a letter to the Councilwoman and BP's office asking how many applications do you have presently.

Celeste Holmes said people who come to our meetings are interested. Maybe we can make an announcement at Public Session to see if there is interest. Also if we can go back to our 7PM time for a meeting start. Chairman Siclari said that wouldn't work. The late comers will always come late.

George Doyle said he received an email on May 5<sup>th</sup> about two shelters. One on Victory Blvd. and one on Hylan Blvd. We were never notified. They opened up on May 4<sup>th</sup>. There was legislature that the city has to notify us within 30 days. Chairman Siclari said not if they have an emergency clause to designate at the moment.

Adjourned at 8:46 PM.