

**Community Board 1 Full Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 12th – 6:30 P.M.
Salem Church, 634 Clove Road**

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

Members

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

Lillian Lagazzo
Peter Lisi
Ali Lula
David McGoy Ex
Mohan Radhakrishna
Friday Ogbewe
Ernest Paige Ab
Francine Reali
Joshua Renta
Catherine Schiavone Ex
Anthony Scutari Ab
Anthony Sgarlato
Sean Sheil Ex
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

Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo Speaker, Cathleen Kenny, Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo's office, Makeda Campbell, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's Office, Agnes McBeth, RCDA, Marie Carmody-LaFrancesca, BP Vito Fossella's Office, David Pena, Councilmember, Kamillah Hank's Office, Ousmane Diallo, Assemblyman, Charles Fall's Office, Roseann Caruana, DOT Commissioner, Prince Cobbina, Jermaine Williams, Nicole Brooks, Stephen Spataro, Michael Morrell, Dolores A. Brennan-Prichard, Will Deautriell, Mary Bullock, John McBeth, George Doyle, Eric Patterson, Andrew Dorman, Charlie Olson, Eric Leven, Maria Smart, Peter Levine, Greta McLain, Terry Troia, Jessica Gorman, SI Advance, **David Mandel, Community Liaison Percent for Art Presentation**, Teresa Tokarska, Shanelle Monroe..

Meeting to Order 6:35 PM
Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Siclari introduced Assemblyman, Sam Pirozzolo.

Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo talked about the Hungerford School with migrants. He toured the school before and went back again after the migrants were there. I was threatened with an ethics violation because I took pictures. If you see something horrible, you are not allowed to "blow the whistle". The place was not suitable. The Commissioner of Emergency Management said that St. John's Villa was not deemed habitable for these migrants but they felt because we don't have any choice they were okay now. Article 28 allows the city to bypass any type of community board regulation. There are a lot of rumors out there. That's part of the problem. Snug Harbor, The Armory, The Christmas Tree Shop, etc. We called for a special meeting. The Governor cannot spend state money putting migrants in schools, hotels, community shelters, etc. and we are trying to restrict that. I was told The Armory is not being used for migrants today and they will not be in the future. I was told it was a headquarters for NYC Emissions. Was told it was off the table but we were told that about St. John's Villa too.

Question: As far as the protests, every elected official was at St. John's Villa but not at the three shelters that we have in the North Shore. AM Pirozzolo said I can't choose who has a rally and who doesn't.

Question: Right to shelter requirements/laws - how is your office leading the legislative charge? How are you adjusting those laws?

AM Pirozzolo said during 1979-1983, the Koch administration who was sued because of a homeless man in the Bowery. There was a consent agreement. NYC with the coalition of the homeless came to an agreement that they would provide shelter for every homeless man who went through a certain criteria and there were no limits on that. That is a consent decree. It's a private agreement between two organizations instead of going to a trial. This includes homeless women. We can't change that. Mayor Adams can say he doesn't want to provide this. They can then sue to get it changed.

Statement: NYC & NYS are not working together on this.

AM Pirozzolo said we would like to get every dollar from the Federal Government and the state be audited by the comptrollers' office to see how the money is being spent. We would like to have migrants registered in NYC to make sure their backgrounds are legitimate, etc. It is not a state issue at the moment. The state sets the law and the city gets to do whatever they want within the guidelines of the state. It's between the Mayor and the Coalition of the Homeless.

AM Pirozzolo said that if you want a rally you have to organize it yourself and the elected officials will show up.

Question about the green spaces on Staten Island. We are trying to save them from overdevelopment. One in community board #1 is the Serpentine Commons and there are 120 more throughout SI. These spaces are mainly not privately-owned and we would like representatives to look at them. They are owned by DOT, DCP, DEP and DEC. Keep these areas a green space. We have a video of 20 minutes we would like to send you.

AM Pirozzolo talked about Battery Energy Storage Facilities - they are popping up all over the place. I just saw an article that the city planning commission is taking away the authority from the community boards on these sites. It's a big Tesla battery. When electricity is less expensive, they want to charge these batteries. When electricity costs a lot and there is a strain on the grid, they want to sell it back to the cities or municipalities for more money. Not one coal plant or energy plant will be closed. There is a large site planned for Travis on Victory Blvd. That is slated for a 650 Megawatt electricity battery site. There is a site on Virginia Avenue that is supposed to be the largest in the city. This site is over 50 times bigger than that. They want to get two personnel 24/7 to monitor it. The city of New York, as of right, has given their permission to these battery companies without planning or community board approval to open battery sites wherever they want. They can do it on the ground in residential areas and on tops of buildings. I say there are two types, those that are on fire and those that are not on fire yet. They create their own oxygen and you cannot put them out. Just recently in Warwick, NY, there were two independent battery site fires that we learned they cannot put water on them. The water becomes toxic and poisons the ground. If they put water and it becomes electrified, that is a problem for firefighters. The standard procedure is to watch them burn until they die out. How do we organize this fight?

Question: A resident who lives across the street from the Con Edison Lithium Ion battery storage system. We were all unaware in our residential community. We saw an email in June 2023 about the Fox Hills energy storage system and the smart grid. It never mentioned about this being a Lithium Ion battery storage system. The many benefits were elaborated but the whole truth was not told. The SI Advance had an article days before this was put up. We want answers to the questions that we have. What safety procedures are in place? Will Con Ed and the FDNY meet with us to give us some reassurances?

AM Pirozzolo said to give his office a call with these issues.

Marie LaFrancesca swore in and welcomed two new board members, Dora Berksteiner and Doreen Berksteiner.

Chairman Siclari welcomed the new members.

Roll Call & Attendance

Chairman Siclari introduced Roseann Caruana, DOT Commissioner to the meeting.

Public Session

David Pena – Office of Councilmember Kamillah Hank's Office – During the summer, we helped with a \$2.2 million dollar donation to Walker Park. We've been having extensive conversations with the Parks Department about Green Space throughout all our Parks on the North Shore. We gave out over 1,000 backpacks to students going back to school. We are in constant communication with the DOE. We opened several streets events in partnership with DOT. We are trying to revitalize the Waterfront. We will be announcing a large investment to the North Shore. Any questions, please reach out to our office.

Nicole Brooks – Project Manager for the North Shore of the Parks Department – Corporal Thompson Track & Field is now reopened which has been closed since the Spring. It's a brand new track and turf field. Borough President Fossella and Councilwoman Hanks have allocated funding for a playground and basketball courts to be reconstructed at Walker Park. On Sunday, we are having Raptorfest at Schmul Park in Fresh Kills from noon to 3:00 PM. Urban Park Ranger will be there with Falcons, Hawks, Owls and more.

Agnes McBeth – Community Liaison for DA McMahon – Today is his birthday! We had a busy summer. RCDA partnered with the Borough Presidents office and the NYPD to crack down on illegal smoke shops. This is a quality of life issue. Many of these shops are targeting young people with advertising, marketing and packaging. We are prosecuting landlords who are knowingly renting out to these businesses for illegal smoke shops. In addition, the DA, BP and local leaders have begun a Staten Island Fentanyl Task Force. Last year, 100,000 Americans died of a substance overdose. 146 of them died on Staten Island. Since the DA took office in 2016, 838 of our neighbors lost their lives to drug overdose. This is a big problem in our city and in Staten Island. 80% of those cases had Fentanyl poisoning. My only sister died of a Fentanyl overdose in 2021. We have to eradicate it. Fund the entities that are on the front lines fighting against it. On October 1st, we have our Second Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk/Roll Gathering at Willowbrook Park.. I will send the flyer. As the Education Liaison, now that school is back in session, I will start my annual efforts with workshops against bullying, anti-drug workshop, to schools, students, parents, teachers and communities.

Jermaine Williams – Community Outreach Liaison/Community Affairs Bureau/NYPD - Sales Force Program about Quality of Life Concerns. Agencies involved such as Homelessness, Smoke Shops, Trucks overnight parking, etc. Getting stuff done is a collaborative effort. We are a partnership with the Community Board.

Stephen Spataro – Commanding Officer, 120th Precinct - I started at the 120 Precinct with an Internship. Now I'm back at the 120 Precinct. My grandfather, father, brother were all at the 120 Precinct. It is home for us. Four Freedoms by FDR, paintings by Norman Rockwell. One of the freedoms, Freedom of Speech. There is an unbearded Abraham Lincoln in modern clothes standing up at a Town Hall meeting. Community Board meetings are where the "rubber meets the road". We also have community council meetings, I encourage everyone to go. They are the fourth Wednesday of the month. When I first came to the precinct we were up 40% in major index crime. We are down in police officers. We have a Mobile Field Force on foot. Officers from other boroughs. They are supplementing all of our hotspots. Park Hill, Stapleton, New Brighton and West Brighton. They are engaging with the community. Now we are up 25%. The last month we have 0 shootings, 0 homicides, felony assaults are down. Cars are being stolen to commit robberies. Lock your doors and take the keys out of the car. If you have a Kia or Hyundai, they are easily stolen. You can go to your dealership and they can help with a mechanism. Scams are up. Get a call that your relative has been arrested, send Apple Giftcards. They are using AI voices to mimic family members voices. Overall crime is trending in the right direction with added resources.

There were a few questions without the microphone. If a speaker wants to be heard, they must use the microphone.

We haven't seen a lot of crime associated with the migrant shelter. People drinking, urinating in public, they received summons. We can't address people who are not breaking laws. Loitering is not illegal. Some e-bikes do not require registration.

We don't issue summons if someone is making a delivery or dropping off the elderly, etc. Double-parking for a few seconds doesn't have to be enforced.

Question: Chicken store by 1958 Victory Blvd. that is opened until 3:00 AM. Parties in the parking lot, loud cars, mess left over, etc.

The 120th Precinct will pay a visit to the store and ask for their cooperation with cleaning up their parking lot. It's their responsibility.

Prince Cobbina – CCRB (Civilian Complaint Review Board) – Monthly Public Board Meeting here on Staten Island, tomorrow, September 13 at the Jersey Street JCC Center, 71 Jersey Street, 6:30 PM. Hybrid meeting, in person and virtual. Community comes out to share their concerns like what needs to be done and what's being done.

Teresa Tokarska – Provider Liaison/Community Coordinator for SI with the NYC Department of Health. We are expanding with our family home visits initiative. We want to connect with community organizations, pre-natal clinics and providers for pregnant and parenting families. There is a baby shower coming up on October 14th with the NYPD 120th Precinct. My colleague Shanelle Monroe is here to say we are trying to promote wellness to families.

Peter Levine – Port Richmond Library Renovation Update – By May/June 2024, we should be open. We have a bulletin showing where the project is at. We have a muralist who was hired through the Percent for Art Program where they put art in public places. We will have a mural placed at the Port Richmond Library. She is calling it a paint party at the Veterans Park on October 21st from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It starts off as a paint-by-numbers and then the artist finishes the mural. The artist is Greta McClain. We also have NYPL After School. There will be 5 North Shore branches offering homework help. St. George, Stapleton, Todt Hill/Westerleigh, West New Brighton and Mariner's Harbor Libraries. Thank you for supporting your libraries.

Mary Bullock – Port Richmond Strong – The holidays are coming up. Consider getting a Veteran's Banner for someone in your family who made tonight possible. Information on our website: PortRichmondStrong.com/Veterans. You can read the biographies of our 80+ veterans. People who had ordinary lives which are totally extraordinary. Wonderful stories. I hope you can add your family story to that.

George Doyle – I had spoken to Joe Carroll, Lisa Crosby, former Community Coordinator and Chairman Siclari, a year and a half ago about honoring someone that gave everything to the community. Without his help or compassion for this community board by giving his Zoom site for us to meet. I asked for him to be honored and so far it hasn't been done (A certificate to honor him has been sent to John McBeth following this meeting). In Land Use we are going to her about carbonation. One caught fire and smoked in Warwick, NY. 6 months ago, a car (Tesla) driving on the Brooklyn Bridge caught fire. It had to burn for 4 hours. City Planning says they are safe but they are putting them in residential areas and in gas stations. I have recommended they be put in Commercial zones. They put one at Caddell Dry Dock which is fine.

Makeda Campbell – Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office – My first time here. We do mobile offices just to be present to the community. We are partnering with the SI DA's office with a Scam Prevention Presentation on Thursday, September 28th, 11:00 AM at New Lane, Older Adults Center.

Roseann Caruana, Commissioner of DOT – The ferry contract has been approved. It took too many years for these workers to be rewarded for the good work that they do. We put the boulders in front of St. Paul's Church. We put an all-way stop on Cebra Avenue. We are putting all-way stops on Westervelt at St. Mark's and Nicholas, Louis Street and Howard Avenue. Safety improvements on Corson by Victory Blvd. Someone was killed there over the summer. A traffic signal has been approved for Victory & Corson where the dangerous slip is. Also a signal on Bay Street & Water Street where someone was killed last year.

PRESENTATIONS:

David Mandel, Community Liaison for Percent for Art, Department of Cultural Affairs - Update about the Mary Cali Dalton Recreational Facility located at 6 Victory Blvd. The two artists Miguel Braceli and Risa Puno that were selected are here. They are wonderful and talented and looking forward to sharing the design. I was told we like to table this for further down to a committee meeting. Then they will go to the Design Commission to get approval for their conceptual design and then to the fabrication/installation phase. It's a long process. Miguel is working with the outside of the building while Risa will activate the interior lobby. We ask the community board for a letter of support as we go to the Public Design Commission.

Chairman Siclari said let's build the building first.

Officers' Reports

First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino – No report. Welcome back.

Chairman Siclari said we're going to start the Sunshine Club.

Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth – No report. Welcome back.

Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewe – No report.

Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell – No report. I want to welcome the new members.

Treasurer, Sunny Jain – The report is in the package.

Chairman, Nicholas Siclari – Welcome aboard new board members. Thank you for your service. A hockey coach said if you're 10 minutes early, you're late. Everyone has to be here on time. New members don't have to vote for the Land Use items, you can abstain. You will have your Area Committee Meetings and sometime in the near future pick a Functional Committee.

District Manager, Joan Cusack - Keep those calls and emails coming in. Sometimes we have the right answer and sometimes it's an answer you don't want to hear but you will get an answer. I will listen to your story. I'm excited about the new members. Welcome and look at the committee lists and we really need your help. Thank you for joining the board.

Land Use, George Turner – We had an informal discussion about the battery sites. There are issues out there we don't understand and we asked for more information on that. We didn't vote on it. CB2 also asked for more information.

1. **Vanderbilt Avenue** - Convenience store/gas station. We recommended it be accepted but didn't vote on it due to not having a Quorum. **Motion to accept Vanderbilt as presented. Passed 25 yes, 1 no, 5 Abstentions, 0 Ineligible.**
2. **541-545 Bay Street** – Big building. They want to swap their original zoning and be included with the Bay Street Corridor Zoning. They want additional floor area. They will cut the building back about 20 feet and line it up with the new building next door. 27 additional apartments of which 25 would be affordable housing. Parking would increase from 29 to 42 spots. We recommend to accept this and Councilwoman Hanks is behind this as well. **Motion to accept as presented. Passed 24 yes, 3 no, 5 abstentions, 0 ineligible.**
3. **Carbon Neutrality – City of Yes** – We waived our right to review and comment. (Chairman Siclari explained that we get a Land Use and have 90 days to comment. Then it goes to City Council, to Borough President, Borough Board and then for a vote. They jumped ahead for us to comment on it. It is very obtuse and confusing. It had too many issues on one item.)
Motion to accept as presented. 2 Yes, 24 No, 5 abstentions.

Waterfront, Joe Ahlstrom – Welcoming Joshua Renta, Ferry Captain and student at Maritime. I asked at the Town Hall Meeting if the contract would be solved at the Ferry. He did (Mayor Adams) take care of it. I appreciate what he did after 13 years. I asked him to come to the Waterfront and I just got a call that he will be coming to visit the National Light House Museum and Pier 1. We will ask about Mary Cali Dalton also. The Waterfront in Manhattan and Brooklyn is beautiful. It's our turn. He will be with the EDC, just waiting for a date. Waterfront Committee Meeting will be on 9/26/23 at the Board Office, 1 Edgewater Plaza, Room 217.

Chairman Siclari said the next mission is the school bus drivers.

Public Services, Sunny Jain – Spoke without a microphone.

Rules & Legislative Affairs, Timothy Forsyth – Spoke without a microphone.

Youth Services – Kathleen Coen & Mohan Radhakrishna – Mohan spoke without a microphone. Chairman Siclari said thank you for taking on this role as co-chairs.

Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino – No microphone. Chairman Siclari said that Tony does a great job with the Budget. We've submitted the same thing for the last 15 years and we get back that it needs a further study. It's a thankless job.

Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov – Spoke without a microphone.

Small Business & Non-Profit Committee, Jaclyn Tacoronte – In July, SIEDC hosted an advisory meeting. I attended with Joan Cusack. Held at the St. George Theater, there was a list of properties presented. We advocated for properties under the 5-10 square foot for small businesses and nonprofits. The attendees were Claudette Duff, Peter Lisi, Christopher Campbell and Joan Cusack. In terms of the failed BID formation for the St. George District, we have reached out to Governor Hochol's officeto reallocate the \$1.9 million to form two separate entities. One for the St. George proposed Business Improvement District and one for the Stapleton Business Improvement District. This would fund up to 2 years for both of these businesses without imposing additional taxes for small businesses/nonprofits and the tenants that are there. Next week, September 21st is the auction for Empire Outlets. We are looking for MWBE's for estate, the Comptrollers' office will be hosting. If anyone knows any certified MWBE's or ones that are trying to get certified, please reach out. Chairman Siclari said Jaclyn took over a brand new committee and hit the ground running and doing a terrific job.

Labor, Robert Holst – Not present tonight. Chairman Siclari said he will be discussing the latest school strike with him.

Parks Committee, Anthony Cosentino – No meeting.

Cultural Affairs Committee, Anthony Scutari – No meeting.

Health & Human Services, Fran Realì – No meeting. Looking for a co-chair. I will have a meeting in October. Welcome to the new members.

West New Brighton/St. George Committee, Claudette Duff & Anthony Cosentino – Claudette said they met in June. We discussed the problem on Richmond Terrace with the Homeless and the Project Hospitality Drop-In Center. We are planning a walk through to see what's really going on there. I brought up at the Mayor's Town Hall that we need more supportive housing for people with mental illness and substance use issues. We have a meeting next week, 9/19/23 at RUMC, Sipp Auditorium. We hope to see you there.

Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh – Timothy Forsyth – Meeting next Wednesday, 9/20/23 at Fran Realì's office. Chairman Siclari thanked Fran for the use of her office. Normally our areas are in the Park Houses, Walker Park, etc. but the Parks Department won't let us in the house because there's no one there at night.

Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth/Shore Acres – John Guzzo – Chairman Siclari asked when there will be a meeting for the other members. John spoke about the Con Edison tower. If anything were to happen, we would lose the entire sub-station. We don't hear about it because it's As-of-Right. We may need an Ad-Hoc Committee for this or meet with CB2&3 because they will be placed all over Staten Island. John spoke about the migrants in the North Shore. We are the dumping ground. Scooters are up and down Tompkins Avenue with no control. Meeting next Tuesday, 9/19/23 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 7:00 PM.

Mariner's Harbor/Port Richmond/Elm Park/Arlington – In need of a chair. Chairman Siclari asked Selina Grey & Dora Bersteiner, new members and they were interested in being co-chairs. First meeting will be in October.

Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Peter Lisi – Was able to hear him without the microphone. Meetings will be in the Stapleton Library. Last meeting, we asked for recruitment of new non-board members. Waterfront revitalization was discussed and was also discussed at the Waterfront Committee meeting. Complaints about tractor-trailer trucks parked along Front Street with prostitution and drugs. High crime at Stapleton Park and NYPD increased patrols. Parks Department needs to do the same. First time in NYC, Methadone Clinic across the street from Tappan Park. Issue about migrants at Vanderbilt Avenue loitering and increase of scooters. Double parking issues on Broad Street from Tompkins Avenue to Targee Street. It has been addressed by the NYPD and we appreciate that.

Chairman Siclari said when he came on the board 10 years ago, board meeting used to be until 10:30 – 10:45 PM. I just want to do our business and let's go. We can be efficient and quick. 8:30 PM should be our end time. The most effective way is Joan Cusack & Linda Maffeo in the Board Office.

Old Business – Lillian Lagazzo said we need parking spaces on the Dalton site. We have not heard anything back. Chairman Siclari said EDC called before the meeting and there will be a big announcement in the next week or two regarding the entire Waterfront. There is no plan or time table.

New Business – Jermaine Williams wanted to give his cell number out to the new members. There will be a baby shower at the YMCA on October 14th at 651 Broadway.

Motion to adjourn – 8:39 PM.