

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 VIRTUAL FULL BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

Nicholas Siclari, Chairman

MEMBERS

Vincent Accornero
Joe Ahlstrom
Anjail Ameen-Rice
Larry Beslow, Excused
Joseph Bird
Telee Brown
Sandy Carles, Leave
Loretta Cauldwell
Anastasia Ciluffo, leave
Anthony Cosentino
Megan Delmar
George Doyle
Claudette Duff
Linda Eskenas, Absent
Timothy Forsyth
John Guzzo, Absent
Celeste Holmes, Absent
Robert Holst
Sunny Jain
Lisa Lattanzio
Norman Light
Ali Mir Masum
John McBeth
Pearl Minsky, Excused
Friday Ogbewe
Ole Olsen
Ernest Paige
Catherine Paradiso
Amy Poirer
Mohan Radharkrishn
Fran Reali
Chris Rooney
James Samuels, Leave
Anthony Scaturi
Nicholas Siclari
George Sona
George Turner
Kevin Washington
Daniel Williams
Steven Williams
Camille Zarrelli
Nicholas Zvegintzov

GUESTS

Edward Jackson, Rep. Mayor DeBlasio
Donald DeRosa, Rep. Comptroller Stringer
Troy McGhie, Rep. Councilwoman Rose
Elena Brady, Rep. Councilman Matteo
Lisa Thompson, Rep. District Attorney McMahon
Hanae Dbjat, Rep. Assemblywoman Malliotakis
Francisco Morales, NYC Health & Hospitals/Gotham Health
Robert Gibbs, NYPL, St. George Library
Frank Fontana, Dept. of Buildings
Joan Cusack, Exec. Director Dept. of Social Services
Ahmed Kargbo, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Joseph Helferty, Department of City Planning
Mary Bullock, Port Richmond Strong
Mark Anderson, Pres. Westerleigh Improvement Society
Michael Morrell, Westerleigh Improvement Society
Carol Donovan, Richmondtown
Theresa Doherty, NYC Test and Trace
Jennifer Grey-Brumskine, NYC Test and Trace
Nicole Brooks, Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Ernie Selitto
Marsha Russell, Bay Street Landing
Sarah Gowell, Bay Street Landing
Eric Paterson
Andrew Dorman
Sharon Pope, NYC Bike
Andy Levison, SICTV
Additional Guests on File

OFFICE STAFF

Joseph Carroll, District Manager
Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

Chairman Nicholas Siclari called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance
Secretary Loretta Caldwell took roll call attendance, quorum present.
Motion made seconded and approved to accept November 2020 Full Board Minutes

PUBLIC SESSION

Daniel DeRosa representing Comptroller Stringer gave two quick updates Making the Grade. We grade NYC as a whole. Minority owned businesses. City gets a letter grade of a C. They only get 4.9% of the total allocated money. Holding city agencies accountable.

Workplace equity survey. We are trying to get a broad representation so we can crunch the numbers to see what the workplace, working from home looks like.

Troy McGhie representing Councilwoman Debi Rose invited everyone to attend the Cromwell Center Visioning Meeting Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6pm. Go to NYC Parks.com to register. New Cromwell Center Building 92 Million Dollars.

Mr. McGhie also urged everyone to take part in the MTA meetings regarding the Verrazano Bridge toll discounts ending. December 9th at 5:30 and December 14th at 5:30 and December 21st at 10:00am. All Virtual.

If any Civic Associations are in need of PPE's or Masks. Call us at 718-249-8013. Limited amounts.

Frank Fontana from the Department of Buildings spoke of Local Law 152. Gas inspections. Any building except for the 1-2 family homes. Coming due December 31st.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors in your home as well as smoke detectors.

Carol Donovan - Richmondtown Civic Association spoke of the proposal City Planning has for the Flood Resiliency. We raised questions and submitted to City Planning. Proposals can be implemented throughout SI to the Special Districts. Question: Are these newly imposed regulations going to be imposed in our area? It will be problematic. Exclusively residential area. Ground-floor stores? Confuses us, if this were to become a plan for special districts, where does that fit into this scheme? This should be a consideration that is made.

Mary Bullock - Port Richmond Strong - First small business Meeting, Tuesday, December 1st. We spoke on issues of zoning and effects on the business corridor. Attracting customers from other parts of SI and from Bayonne. We thank all who attended.

Cops Care for Kids - Holiday Care Drive at Staten Island Police Precincts through December 4th for gifts for SI hospital. CopsCareforkids.org.

Home Decorating Contest. Send picture of your decorated home to PortRichmondStrong@gmail.com. Winner gets a picture of their home in picture frame.

Wreaths Across America. At Reform Church on Port Richmond Avenue. Saturday, Dec. 19th at 12 noon. Lay Wreaths on the graves of 50 veterans 1696 Burial Ground, Revolutionary War of 1812 and Civil War.

Commented [1]:

We will honor all those serving today also. Arlington National Cemetery, simultaneous ceremonies there.

Ms. Megan Scanlan spoke of the kids that don't know one day from the next what they are doing with school. The kids want to go back to school.

Mr. Robert Gibbs - Managing Librarian for St. George Library Center mentioned that some libraries are open for limited grab and go service. For holds pickup only. Stapleton, Todt Hill and Westerly libraries also. Additionally, New Dorp, Richmondtown and Huguenot Park Libraries are temporarily closed. To request library material to place on hold, visit our website at NYPL.org or call us at 917-AskNYPL (917-275-6975). To sign up for a library card, visitors can either stop by one of these locations or go to our website simplyE available for IOS and Android. Library recently introduced Shelf help which is a selection help for readers to select books of interests. Visit the location for form or fill out the form on our website or call us. Participants will receive up to 5 hand-picked book titles curated by our librarians and place on hold for them. When the books are ready, you will receive an email letting you know you can pick up your book at the location of your choice.

Ms. Sharon Pope - Bike NY thanked Councilmember Debi Rose who participated in distributing free bike lights to cyclists by the SI Ferry. It is the law after dark to have a front and back lights. Bike NY launched Street Action Now, - participants access their home/street conditions. If you live on a block with no curb-cut and one is needed, we will work with you to work with the transportation community and the community board. The deadline was December 2nd. We are extending it. The classes are 30 minutes. We talk about street design. No cost. We have representation throughout the city. We would like to get some Staten Islanders. Contact me at: slope@bike.nyc. Please wear your mask and social distance.

Theresa Doherty - Deputy Director of Test and Trace Corp. shared a power point presentation Outreach team. Jennifer is our organizer. Project Hospitality, etc. we are supporting their efforts. COVID-19 cases are 6 to 9% in Staten Island. This is due to household transmission. Not super-spreader issue. We have masks to distribute to Staten Islanders. Our contact information will be in the chat as well as helpful hints. We have palm cards in multiple languages.

Lisa Thompson, representing District Attorney Michael McMahon announced that there will be a meeting this Thursday at 5 pm on Zoom. NYS Department of Labor will be talking about another platform the state has launched and online courses and free certificate courses available.

Pet Calendars are in print and will be going out soon. Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

Chairman Siclari allowed members to ask Ms. Doherty from Test and Trace questions they are as follows:

Chairman Siclari - I waited online for a COVID-19 test. We can't wait an hour to get tested at SI Ferry Terminal. We need home testing. Nobody is waiting 2-3 hours for a test. Speed the lines up

Ms. Loretta Caldwell - People will wait. My daughter had to wait.

Ms. Catherine Paradiso stated if you are sick you have to stand in line, go inside and risk infecting others.

Ms. Doherty Theresa - It's because it's a rapid test. There are additional sites you can go to. I will give you a list. Mt. Loretto has a testing site. Additional testing sites, not rapid testing. We saw a lot longer lines around Thanksgiving. Trying to get Self-test kits at a site given by health care workers. Those are not rapid tests. Contact tracing. For example, I had dinner with Jennifer, and they will send a home test kit if she wants it if and is unable to leave her home. Those who are already sick, you can contact 212-Covid19. You can self-report. I came into contact with this person who had COVID-19, etc. You can leave a message or talk to someone. They will ask if you can isolate at home safely. If not, we will offer you a Quarantine Hotel. It's a nice hotel. Regardless of insurance status. Free hotel, free meal delivery, someone will go to your home and walk your dog. Many resources. We are converting more sites to Rapid test sites. Greenbelt Recreation site location became a rapid test last Thursday.

Ms. Paradiso - If you're really sick, you are shedding the virus even with a mask on.

Ms. Doherty - Call the number. There are doctors and nurses who will take care of you.

Mr. Carroll - At the Ferry you don't have enough administrative personnel. Can you contact the not-for-profit?

Ms. Doherty - The administrative paperwork is taking a long time. I will try to get more people for that.

Someone asked what the accuracy is of the rapid test.

Ms. Doherty responded 95% effective on the rapid tests.

Two days return on testing is the self-test sites.

Getting a test and getting a negative result is not a passport. You won't turn positive after contracting COVID-19 for another 2-3 days after contracting. There is a continuous exposure.

Francisco Morales who is part of the Outreach Team with NYC Health and Hospitals. Vanderbilt Clinic and 2040 Forest Avenue, they have their own labs. Results come back that much faster.

Someone said - We need express PCR capability.

Ms. Poirier - 7.3% of what? What about school safety?

Ms. Doherty - 7.3% of 1,000 people. We have been invited to schools to give them direct information for each school's safety plan. There may be an approval required by the state. What are the standards for COVID-19 safety plans? Depends on the building size, etc. How can parents be assured that every school is meeting the standards. We are pushing for the correct answer.

Mr. Carroll - We get no information from the DOE? We are spinning our wheels.

Ms. Doherty - We are happy to try to advocate on your behalf regarding the schools. School notification, sanitizing, etc. Flow of information. Where parents or people can turn to for information.

Mr. Accornero - Testing protocols for the DOE? All students returning has to have testing. District 75 schools don't understand how the procedure would work.

Ms. Doherty - Doing saliva-based testing for children with special needs. For better testing experiences. Shorter swabs. Let us know if you're not receiving the parental consent letters. Healthcare workers would administer the tests for District 75.

Mr. Accornero Multiple positives with asymptomatic results. As far as repeated testing how is that computed.

Chairman Siclari - You deserve an A. Can you make yourself available every month for CB#1? We don't hear about this information on the news.

Ms. Doherty - I live in Pelham Bay, Bronx and it's happening there too. Everything we do impacts how other people behave. It sounds simple, wash your hands, social distance, etc. We learn more every day. We have inspectors going to businesses to educate, etc.

M. Rooney - Are the catholic schools getting the same resources?

Ms. Doherty - Yes, they are. One question I get asked about vaccines for kids. None at the moment. Sometime in 2021. Health and hospitals don't have your information unless you come in and do the paperwork. Amy asked why on FB people will say they got off the line and got a test result. You need to at least give an email address to get a result. Website where you can check the wait time. Not fully accurate. Site reports that every two hours.

Chairman Siclari - I can't thank you enough. Staten Islanders hate lines. Employers need the rapid test results. I appreciate your time. You will be our special guest speaker.

Mr. John McBeth - My wife waited online for hours at Mt. Loretto and they lost her paperwork. Never got a result.

Ms. Doherty - We did get complaints at one of the high school testing sites. Let me know where that testing site was.

Francisco Morales - PowerPoint Presentation - NYC Health and Hospitals - Gotham's Health Works. I will be in Staten Island at Mariner's Harbor and Vanderbilt. We offer employee health services. Podiatry and mental health. Depression rates have risen. We want community and small businesses to enroll. For business owners we have distance barriers and window decals, etc. There is a referral form to fill out. NYC Care, insurance for anyone that doesn't qualify for insurance. Call or email - GothamHealthworkswell@nychhc.org or call, 646-614-4217 or 646-614-4215.

Chairman Siclari - Why is Staten Island always last on the list?

Mr. Morales- We have been working with a lot of different communities. We will be on Staten Island shortly.

Mr. Ahmed Kargbo, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs – showed a PowerPoint Presentation – He will reach out to DOE to speak to you if that would help. Many frontline workers are immigrants. Home Health aides, cooks, etc. Black people die twice more than whites. IDNYC card for NYC residents. 10 years of age to adults. Validate your photo and address. You can apply online. NYC.GOV/IDNYC. Anyone has immigration issues go to NYC.gov/ Immigrants: 800-375-5283. Free representation. Tenants helpline for eviction and harassment etc. Call 311 for other phone numbers. The FASTEN Program. It helps you stay in your home. Helping to get a job or get a new home. Just for being a NYC resident. Doesn't take into account your immigration status. Homebase locations on the presentation. Free meals to many school locations. If you can't get out of the house, NYC will deliver the food for you for a month. NYC.gov/getfood. Cab drivers can make money delivering the food. Free online classes, English language, NYC.gov/ wespeaknyc. You can contact me, Ahmed Kargbo, AKargbo@moia.nyc.gov. MOIA hotline: 212-788-7654.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, ANTHONY COSENTINO – I would like to answer Megan's question. Mayor is announcing the opening and closing of schools. The orange zone. Public schools of District 31, started Monday, December 7th. K-5 opens tomorrow, December 9th. If you are a mother, be part of the PTA. You will always have someone to contact.

SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN, TIMOTHY FORSYTH – Mr. Forsyth told everyone to stay safe and wished all happy holidays.

THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN, FRIDAY OGBEWELE – Mr. Ogbewele thanked the area chairs for their work and wished everyone happy holidays.

SECRETARY, LORETTA CAULDWELL – Ms. Cauldwell reiterated the previous sentiments.

TREASURER, LARRY BESLOW – The Treasurer's report was sent with the packet to all the members.

CHAIRMAN, NICHOLAS SICLARI – Chairman Siclari Theresa Doherty from NYC Test and Trace for all of the information provided. Hopefully with the vaccine coming we will be back to meeting in person sooner rather than later.

DISTRICT MANAGER, JOSEPH CARROLL – Mr. Carroll thanked Lisa Crosby and Linda Maffeo for all of the work they have been doing through this pandemic. Mr. Carroll wished all a very happy holiday and a happy and healthy New Year.

Chairman Siclari also thanked Joe for all of the work and virtual meetings he has been doing throughout this pandemic.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAND USE, VINCENT ACCORNERO – Mr. Accornero spoke in reference to District 75 schools for special education. His sons' school is in Great Kills which is in a danger zone, the school is closed. The only satellite location that is open is P.S. 30 in Westerleigh.

The following items were heard at a virtual Land Use Public Hearing on December 2, 2020:

An application has been submitted to the Board of Standard's and Appeals under common law vesting of a semi-detached residential building constructed under the former R3-2 zoning regulations which never received a Certificate of Occupancy prior to an R3A zoning change at 90-92 Elm Street.

Motion to approve as submitted, motion passed 23-3-1.

Department of City Planning (Application No. N 210095 ZRY) is proposing a zoning text amendment Zoning Coastal Food Resiliency to update the Special Regulations Applying in Flood Hazard Areas.

Motion to approve as submitted, motion passed 22-4-1.

An application has been submitted to the Department of City Planning to request authorization for the development of 1 two-family residence within a steep slope within the Special Hillside Preservation District at 262 Brighton Avenue.

Motion to approve as submitted, motion passed 23-4-0.

Mr. Accornero mentioned the lease of the Richmond County Savings Bank Ballfield and that there is minor league SI Yankees anymore. Input should be taken from Staten Islanders for the use of the stadium. EDC oversees the site.

Many members mentioned the field could and should be used for multiple uses, cricket, soccer, concerts etc.

Mr. Carroll mentioned a cricket match was held there last year and it was sold out.

Mr. Accornero mentioned we need someone who is going to manage the site correctly and get things into the stadium and not let it go abandoned.

Mr. Carroll will speak to Will Fisher from EDC tomorrow.

Next month we have 3 applications, 51 and 53 Cortlandt Street and 71 Harborview Place, plus we will be meeting with the Transportation Committee to speak on proposed legislation on behalf of Councilmembers Matteo and Borelli to have private streets vetted.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AMY POIRER – Ms. Poirer mentioned she is in touch with RUMC on a daily basis with concerns with nurses and lack on PPE. Ms. Poirer had a conversation with Alex Lutz. He has reported that some services have been cut down or shut down. There have been no staff cuts. Ms. Poirer has been receiving conflicting reports regarding not enough PPE equipment from the nurses and are being asked to reuse. Mr. Lutz denied the allegation. RUMC is in the process union negotiations.

Ms. Poirer asked that we send a basic letter supporting the nurses, a very basic letter. There was a heated argument if the Board is permitted to send a letter while union negotiations are going on.

Ms. Paradiso mentioned we should get more information. There is a lot of heated energy on this meeting right now. It is not standard policy to reuse PPE. We should not take sides it is not our role and, the hospital is a private entity.

It was decided that a letter will be sent to RUMC supporting the nurses.

Ms. Poirer mentioned that SIUH 5th floor, which was once a psychiatric facility, is now a COVID-19 unit. Ambulances are bringing patients in several times a day. It is reported they have 189 COVID-19 cases.

WATERFRONT, OLE OLSEN-

PUBLIC SERVICES, SUNNY JAIN – Mr. Jain has been speaking with Office of Emergency Management and Sanitation on their winter snow plan, schedules have been posted on Facebook.

YOUTH SERVICES, ERNEST PAIGE – There was no meeting due to Election Day.

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CHRISTOPHER ROONEY – No meeting, no report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE, ANTHONY COSENTINO –

TRANSPORTATION, ANTHONY COSENTINO –

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

VETERANS – No report.

LABOR, ROBERT HOLST – No report.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, PEARL MINSKY – No meeting, no report.

PARKS AND RECREATION, NORMAN LIGHT – No meeting, no report.

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEST BRIGHTON/ST. GEORGE, LORETTA CAULDWELL –

SILVER LAKE/SUNNYSIDE/WESTERLEIGH/WILLOWBROOK, TIMOTHY FORSYTH, CAMILLE ZARRELLI – No meeting, no report. If anyone has any issues reach out to the Board Office.

ROSBANK/FT. WADSWORTH/SHORE ACRES, JOHN GUZZO –

MARINERS HARBOR/PORT RICHMOND, JOHN MCBETH –

CLIFTON/CONCORD, LARRY BESLOW – No meeting, no report.

Old Business

New Business

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

