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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Community Board 2
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

Regular Monthly Meeting of Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.
Joan & Alan Bernikow JCC of Staten Island
1466 Manor Road
Staten Island, New York 10314

Fred R. Guinta opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with a pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attendance Roll Call - Secretary Shawn Abraham called the roll. A quorum was not present.

Board Members Present: Igor Baboshkin, Rosanne Clift, Benjamin D'Amato, Simone DiTrapani, Anselmo S. Genovese, Fred R. Guinta, Gurdev S. Kang, Diane L. McNamara, Dr. Alan B. Perel, Stephen W. Zaderiko, Steven J. Zboinski.

Board Members Absent: Shawn Abraham, Olu A. Ajayi, Dr. Deborah Cognata, Zafer Durmaz, Roy J. Garlisi, Jordan Hafizi, Dr. Mohammad Khalid, Michael Lanza, Mendy Mirocznik, Dr. Ramanathan Raju, Gerard J. Ruggiero.

Staff Present: Debra A. Derrico, District Manager.

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:

Barbara Fischetti for State Senator Andrew J. Lanza, Nina Salerno for State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton, Bonita Sussman for Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo, Dylan Fossella for Council Member Joseph Borelli, Michael J. Pardo for Council Member David M. Carr, Ambassador for NYPD Jermaine Williams, Jennifer Miller for NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Fiore Baptise for Mayor Eric Adams.

Public Session Speakers:

Jennifer Miller, Department of Parks and Recreation mentioned there are seasonal job openings for maintenance, recreation and security. If anyone is interested in becoming a NYC lifeguard, they should look into getting training now. There are a number of events that will be coming up, all can be found on the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation website at www.nyc.gov/parks.

Michael J. Pardo read Council Member David M. Carr 's testimony regarding NYC Department of Transportation's proposed Lincoln Avenue Safety Improvements Project. Good evening Mr. Chairman and Members of Community Board 2. We are testifying in opposition to the portion of this proposal that would reduce Lincoln Avenue between Hylan Boulevard and South Railroad Avenue to one travel lane and add a conventional bicycle lane beside it. The remainder of the strip would have dedicated parking lanes adjacent to the curbs on either side of the street as a result of this change.

The reduction to one lane of traffic for this section of roadway is to no purpose. The same reduction proposed between Boundary Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard is in order to justify the installation of speed humps in the **vicinity** of PS 38 because **agency** rules preclude their use on multi-lane streets. There is no such proposal for speed humps for the stretch of roadway above Hylan.

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) asserts that there have been 19 traffic injuries above Hylan Boulevard during the four-year study period, but almost half of those took place at the railroads where no such reduction is proposed. In addition, there are already four traffic signals after Hylan Boulevard up until and including North Railroad Avenue, which leads us to believe that any traffic or accident issues are not going to be solved by a reduction in traffic lanes but rather by more frequent enforcement by the New York City Police Department. Indeed, no amount design or engineering work can overcome the poor judgment of a reckless driver.

Additionally, DOT's own estimates place the volume for this stretch of Lincoln Avenue at 526 vehicles per hour. This is already over three-quarters of the way to their own standard of a congested road. If anything, our history suggests that roads only become more congested over time, and we should count ourselves fortunate that we have a piece of roadway that in theory could accommodate additional vehicles. However, we remain concerned that while DOT's definition of congested may seem remote to them that does not mean it will not delay drive time for Staten Islanders. We are particularly concerned about the surge of traffic that takes place during the evening rush.

Finally, we also oppose the bicycle lane because it is based on the misconception that cycling is a viable commuting or travel alternative to personal vehicles, carpooling, and mass transit. In this borough, we understand that cycling is a recreational activity to be encouraged in our parks and other open spaces and not to compete with vehicular traffic that endangers the lives of cyclists and impedes vehicle flow.

It also may be prudent to for this portion of the project to be considered a separate phase. If the portions between Boundary Avenue and Father Capodanno Boulevard are implemented, then the corridor above Lincoln Avenue should be restudied to see if it has had an effect on volume or accidents.

We appreciate the partnership we have with our Borough Commissioner and the undertakings she has made to monitor this situation, but we ask that the Board include either opposition to the parts of the proposal that pertain to the area between Hylan Boulevard and South Railroad Avenue or that it be delayed in order to see the effects of the speed humps and traffic changes below Boundary Avenue.

Jermaine Williams, Ambassador of the New York City Police Department reported that Grand Theft Auto is up. People are leaving their keys in their cars, windows open and doors unlocked. If you do any of these things, thieves are going in the car and taking anything they find inside.

Also, beware of scams. If you get a call from someone who says they have your loved one and you need to send them money, or if they claim to represent Con Ed and say they need to collect money from you or your power will be shut off, do not send money. Be mindful and verify. Lastly, the PD is having a second annual baby shower on May 20 from 12pm to 3pm.

Fiore Baptiste of the Mayor's Office to end domestic and gender-based violence. Our office raises awareness about the services that we have that are for victims and survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, sex trafficking and gender-based violence. Those services can be received at our Family Justice Center. We have one in each Borough and the one for Staten Island is located at 126, Stuyvesant Avenue, and it's on the first floor. You do not need an appointment to receive those services. We are open, Monday to Fridays, 9 A.M to 5 P.M. and it's a walk-in center. This month we are raising awareness about Denim Day, which is Sexual Assault Day on May 25th. We will have the Denim Day March at the steps of Borough Hall from 3 P.M to 5 PM. Denim day started as a famous case whereby a sexual assault survivor was denied justice because the court system had a judge that decided that in order for her to have been sexually abused she had to have taken off her jeans because they were too tight. So, since then, we have been raising awareness with other city agencies and community-based organizations. We ask that if you join us, please wear your best denim and help us raise awareness. If you know someone or if you yourself are a survivor of either of the crimes that I mentioned before the number to call is 718-697-4300.

New York City Department of Transportation Borough Commissioner Rosanne Caruana said the Lincoln Avenue Safety Improvements project is going from Boundary Avenue to South Railroad Avenue between Boundary Avenue and Hylan Boulevard. We have PS 38 and IS 21, we have a park there and it's considered a Vision, Zero Corridor. We have a total of 78 crashes that have occurred in that span. The school has come to us and the community has come to us to try to reduce the speeding, and you know it's all about the kids-it's not about how to get somewhere faster. It's not about I don't want to go down to one traveling, it's about the kids. Sidewalks are narrow, the parents are literally waiting for their children at the edge of the curb, and now you have cars flying down that block. So, in an effort to address that we're putting in five speed humps along Lincoln Avenue and as we explained to the transportation committee meeting. So again, the criteria for the speed humps is they can only be installed in one way, one lane of travel so we're reducing the travel to one lane along Lincoln Avenue and we're putting back parking along the curb which the community is very happy about. It's a very dense area. So, again, what we're going to do is we're going down to one lane of travel, we're going to add some parking, we're putting a bike cycling into connect to South Railroad Avenue, we're not doing this because we want to put a bike lane in, but that's part of our road diet plan and again, we've had 19 crashes from Hylan Boulevard to South Railroad, that's not a long stretch to have 19 crashes. Furthermore, I know that there's a lot of traffic signals, so one of the things that I am committed to doing is we're going to change the signal timing so that we have more green during the rush hour, so cars can be processed through that intersection. What I've committed to doing above Hylan Boulevard is just markings. It's not anything concrete, so we're not putting anything. I live in New Dorp. I travel. I made my business to go down to come home from work along Fr. Capodanno Boulevard, down Lincoln Avenue for the last three weeks, I don't see any traffic

above the boulevard. That's my experience. If I see that there's traffic backup and that we can't process those cars, I don't want to see Hylan Boulevard impacted, it's already congested during the rush hour because we have our bus lane. So what I'm committed to doing is looking at that and if I see that the traffic is not being processed properly or quickly enough, I will then go back and go back to the drawing board, so that's committed, but we have to try. I want to also mention that we're not changing this design from Boundary to Hylan. You have two turning lanes. You have one straight through lane, we're not changing that, because I don't want to impact traffic, so that's not being changed.

Chair Guinta called for a motion to accept the proposed agenda. Motion was made and seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Chair Guinta called for a motion to accept the March 21, 2023 Full Board Minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Board Officers' Reports:

Chair - Fred R. Guinta: Chair Guinta said since there was testimony tonight from a representative of Council Member David Carr's office with other Elected Officials opposed to DOT's proposal is there any opposition to sending a letter asking them to do another study before anything is implemented? Chair Guinta reported that mitigation will be done on Travis Avenue from Victory Boulevard to Richmond Avenue. This will also impact the 12-inch gas line which will have to be moved. National Grid is going to move the gas line on Travis Avenue, Victory to Signs Road up Signs Road to Richmond Avenue.

First Vice-Chair: Gerard J. Ruggiero – No report

Second Vice-Chair: Rosanne Clift – No report

Third Vice-Chair: Ben D'Amato – No report

Secretary: Shawn Abraham – No report.

Treasurer's Report: Roy J. Garlisi – No report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Aging: Dr. Donna Seminara – No report.

Capital & Expense Budget: Roy J. Garlisi – No report.

Environmental Protection and Parks: Stephen W. Zaderiko reported that a joint meeting was held with the Traffic, Transportation and Public Services Committees. The committees did approve DOT's proposed Lincoln Avenue Safety Improvements Project. When the presentation was given, the committees were under the impression that some of the elected officials were in favor of the plan.

Chair Guinta mentioned that the board cannot vote tonight on DOT's proposed project since a quorum is not present.

Standing Committee Reports continued:

Health: Dr. Ram Raju – No report.

Land Use: Ben D'Amato –The committee did not meet. There are no issues to report.

Law, Legislative Review & Ethics: Mendy Mirocznik – No report.

Traffic, Transportation & Public Service: Gerard J. Ruggiero – No report.

Youth Services: Simone DiTrapani – Mr. DiTrapani asked if anyone is interested in joining the Youth Committee please reach out to District Manager Debbie Derrico. Mr. Di Trapani wants to start working on youth issues which also includes schools for September.

Chair Guinta mentioned the Board used to hold award ceremonies, holiday events for the youth before COVID and he would like the Board to start that up again.

Old Business: None

New Business: Board Member Diane McNamara asked if it was possible to take another vote about meeting virtual due to the low turnout at the meeting.

Chair Guinta said there is a low turnout tonight because of some holidays. As the chair of the board, I would like to have the board meetings in person.

Adjournment: Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.