



FRED R. GUINTA
CHAIR

DEBRA A. DERRICO
DISTRICT MANAGER

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

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Regular Monthly Meeting of the Full Board Minutes

January 21, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

Joan & Alan Bernikow JCC of Staten Island

1466 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY 10314

[https://youtube.com/live/ HN5WOPqxcw](https://youtube.com/live/HN5WOPqxcw)

Chair Fred R Guinta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attendance Roll Call:

Rosanne Clift conducted the attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

Shawn Abraham	[P]	Roy J. Garlsi	[A]	Florida Qello	[P]
Olu A. Ajayi	[P]	Andrew Guido	[A]	Leutrim Qoku	[P]
Valerie Aliffi- Maroney	[P]	Fred R. Guinta	[P]	Dr. Ram Raju	[A]
Marc Alvarez	[P]	Jordan Hafizi	[P]	Gerald J. Ruggiero	[A]
Igor Baboshkin	[P]	Gurdev S. Kang	[P]	Dr. Donna Seminara	[A]
Rosanne Clift	[P]	Dr. Mohammad Khalid	[P]	Joseph Torres	[P]
Dr. Debroah Cognata	[P]	Michael Lanza	[P]	Stephen W. Zaderiko	[A]
Benjamin D'Amato	[A]	Diane L. McNamara	[P]	Steven J. Zbonski	[P]
Simone DiTrapani	[P]	Mendy Mirocchnik	[P]		
Julie Freeman	[A]	Dr. Allan B. Perel	[P]		

Staff Present:

Debra A. Derrico, District Manager.

Elected Officials' Representatives Present:

State Senator Andrew Lanza: Robert Birkhead

State Senator Jessica Spanton-Scarcella: Kelly Henry

Congress Member Nicole Malliotakis: Lily Zafaranloo

Assembly Member Charles Fall

Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo: Nick Robbins

Continued: Elected Officials' Representatives Present:

Assembly Member Michael Reilly: Denise Pacheco

Assembly Member Michael Tannousis: Andrew Suarato

Council Member Joseph Borelli: Michelle Landi

Council Member David Carr: Loren Centineo

Borough President Vito Fossella: Marie Carmody-LaFrancesca

Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon: Sophie Selwood & Dominick Torchio

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander: Ruben Sibri NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli:

Guests Present:

NYC Civilian Complaint Board: Ruben Sibri

Staten Island NYPD Ambassador: Jermaine Williams

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation: Jennifer Miller

Pam Silvestry, SI Advance Food Editor

Acceptance of the Proposed Agenda.

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

Acceptance of December 17, 2024, Full Board Minutes

Chair Guinta called for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Officers' Reports:

Chair: Fred R. Chair – No report

Gerard J. Ruggiero: First Vice Chair – Absent

Roseanne Clift: Second Vice Chair - No report.

Ben D'Amato: Third Vice Chair - Absent

Shawn Abraham: Secretary - No report.

Roy J. Garlisi: Treasurer - Absent

Public Speakers' Session:

Sophie Selwood representing Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon

I would just like to pass over to some updates for you. So, while our work is continuous-and this is not the time for a Victory lap, Staten Islanders should be encouraged to know that in 2024 we saw a nearly double digit decrease in reported crime so far in the borough. That's due to part of our working relationship with the hard work of the NYPD as well as prosecutors in our office and we are remaining steadfast in our commitment to holding dangerous criminals accountable, while also ensuring those with mental health and addiction illness are diverted to life-saving treatment and rehabilitation programs. This past week, DA McMahon went to Albany to address Discovery reform and the unintended adverse consequences that the 2020 Discovery Statute has had, both in our police and prosecutors over the last four years. The impact of these reforms has forced dismisses of cases across the state due to loopholes and technicalities impeding our abilities to serve justice. We are encouraged by the Governor's State of the State remarks that announced that Discovery reform will be addressed in the year ahead. Last week, DA McMahon convened with local elected officials, representatives from the mayor and governor's office, as well as members of the NYPD to our annual legislative breakfast. DA McMahon provided an update on the overview of crime stats on Staten Island and briefed attendees on the urgent need to fix our criminal justice laws to restore public safety, and with that we also took the opportunity to thank our local elected officials for their help last year, where we were able to strengthen criminal justice laws with new laws to hold retail theft recipients accountable, shutting down illegal smoke, shops and charging squatters and perpetrators of hate crimes more of perpetrators of hate crimes. But it does remain clear that our laws do still need to be strengthened to restore public safety and peace of mind to New Yorkers, and we thank all our attendees last week for their collaboration and discussion on public safety legislation, and with that please feel free to ask any questions at the end.

Jermaine Williams, SI Ambassador for the NYPD

My name is Jermaine Williams. I'm the NYPD Ambassador for Staten Island. I am happy to say that we received 37 new officers for Staten Island. Most will of course go into to the 120 precinct and then it'll be broken down between the one 121, 122 and 123. If you see any new officers out there, please give them a warm welcome because it is cold, and they are kind of hitting the streets hands on deck. Now is the time to be mindful when you are warming up your car, know where your keys are - it's a lot easier for people to know if your car is still running or if it's on, especially if you happen to leave the keys in it because you can see the exhaust coming up.

The other thing is that because of congestion pricing, I have been trying to monitor a lot of the overnight parking with vehicles, especially the trucks and RVs. Now with congestion pricing, I'm, assuming it's going to get a lot worse. If you see something, please make a 311 call, because once you call me, the first thing we have to do is make sure that this has been an ongoing complaint before we send a large force to do enforcement. So far it hasn't been too bad. We did notice a large amount of overnight trucks parking in certain areas, especially in Ocean Breeze. We ticketed four vehicles, and one person was in an RV.

Continued: Public Speakers' Session

Nick Robbins representing Assembly Member Sam Pirozzolo's Office

Hello, everybody. Good evening, I'm Nick Robbins from Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo's office. Happy New Year. We're glad to be back. The legislative session just kicked off, so there's not too much I can report that's definitive from Albany. The governor has recently delivered her State of the State Address and unveiled her \$ 252 billion budget. You might have guessed it that it is the largest budget it's ever been, and it fails to meet the needs of New Yorkers where they're at, so look forward to a big budget fight. I'm, not saying look forward to it in a good way but of course look forward to it because there's more to come. That number you're seeing now is not going to be the one that sticks. The Assemblyman is also excited to announce that he has been appointed to the Energy Committee, which is going to be pivotal in the intensifying fight this year against battery energy storage stations. And, lastly, the assemblyman wants to send his thanks to the Borough President Vito Fossella, Councilwoman Hanks, Councilmembers David Carr Joe Borrelli for their work in getting that ridiculous fence on Martling Avenue taken down today and that's all the updates I have for today. Thank you.

Jennifer Miller, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

My name is Jennifer Miller. I am with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. I have just a few quick updates on events that we have coming up. For those of you who like to get out into the woods, there's going to be an adult's hike on January 23rd at High Rock Park at 11:00 a.m. For those of you who are interested in Astronomy, on January 25th at Clove Lakes Park, there's going to be an event called Planetary Parade, that's going to start at 5:00 p.m. You'll learn some of the basics of Astronomy. This week marks the start of a rare, limited opportunity to view Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus in the same Sky. For those of you who like to celebrate Groundhog's Day we're going to have a Groundhog Day hibernation hike on February, 2nd, also at Clove Lakes Park, that's going to start at 10:00 a.m. and for those of you who have children or know some kids that are looking to get out into our Parks .It's going to be kids week the week of February 19th at the Greenbelt, Nature Center. They're, going to do a nature Origami Art Program at 11:00 a.m. On February 19th and on February 20th at Willowbrook Park you can play nature bingo with the urban park rangers. I know it's about 10 degrees outside, but I'm going to talk about lifeguards. For the summer we have qualifying tests in Staten Island coming up at Curtis, High School. The first one is on February 2nd and the second and final chance in Staten Island is on March 10th. Requirements are to be at least 16 years of age by the start of employment, have 20/30 vision in one eye and 40 vision in the other eye, be able to swim 50 yards in 50 seconds or less with proper form.

Kelly Henry representing State Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

My name is Kelly Henry. I'm from Senator Jessica, Scarcella-Spanton's office. Happy New Year. I have just a couple of updates from our office. We spent 37 Days holding mobile offices across Staten, Island and southern Brooklyn to bring district services to constituents directly. We closed

Continued: Public Speakers' Session

Kelly Henry representing State Senator Jessica Scarcella–Spanton

850 cases with some of our major cases, including helping acquire a location for the Father Capodanno Statue Memorial with plans for installation in summer 2025. The senator last year sponsored 36 bills that passed in the Senate, including eight Public Safety bills, four labor bills and two Public Health bills. Four (4) of those were sponsored 14 of those bills that she sponsored were signed into law by the Governor with bills such as the providing accidental death benefits to the family of Anthony Varvaro and expanding the veteran's tuition assistance program to provide access to more veterans in the budget. Last year, the senator was also able to secure wins for critical public safety measures such as making assaulting a retail worker a felony like Sophie mentioned earlier. Also, giving new powers for local authorities to shut down illegal cannabis stores and impose penalties. This year we are going to continue to work even harder, and the senator will continue to fight for our constituents. In Albany last week, the governor had given the State of the State Address, and she was able to partner with the DA's office to make sure that this year the Discovery process will be a priority in making reform. The senator was also proud to have her bill included to help with the senseless acts of violence that we've been seeing in New York City and helping those that are suffering from severe mental illnesses. Some events that are coming up for our office include partnering with Council Member Camila Hanks for a Black History Month celebration on February 13th at 6:00 p.m. and it's going to be at Port, Richmond High School. You can call our office if you would like to attend. We also will be having our mobile offices this week at the Staten Island Zoo, the Anderson Senior Center and the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center. We will also be having a virtual mobile office for anybody to attend if they have any issues. That's going to be on zoom on Wednesday January 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. if you have any questions or you would like specific dates to sign up. You can just come to me at the end. Thank you.

Ruben Sibri representing the New York State Comptroller's Office

Hello, everyone. This is Ruben coming to you from the NY State Comptroller's office. I just wanted to give a little bit of some post-holiday updates from the comptroller. Every year he urges folks to spend the gift cards that you were given over the holidays. Out of the entire New York City, residents of the entire State are usually the ones that end up having these gift cards go into what we call Unclaimed Funds. It usually totals around \$48 million. So, if you don't want to see those gift cards go to unclaimed funds, we urge you to please use them. We also urge you to register them. That makes it easier in case you do lose them or lose track of them, and they will eventually be returned to you through our office. I also want to let everyone know that in 2025, new legislation is going to allow our office to return certain newly acquired unclaimed funds, accounts, of \$250 or less without folks having to fill out an application. So, if you receive a letter from our office saying that we were able to confirm certain information about you and that you have a check coming to you, that is completely legit. It's like I said, it'll probably be under \$ 250 and we're going to be seeing that roll out real soon. It's going to be a new initiative that we're doing and hopefully it will be successful and we'll be able to backtrack and do some older funds

Continued: Public Speakers' Session

Ruben Sibri representing the New York State Comptroller's Office

that we have on our website. Every day we return \$15 million. So, if you haven't checked in the last few months, please go to /unclaimed funds and check for yourself, your family members, your friends and I'm, going to send some of the stuff to the CB2 folks, just as a reminder, so they can send it out to everybody else, as well as my information. If anybody would like me to come to an event and help people out fill out unclaimed funds. if you're part of any organization, let me know and I'll be happy to give you guys a hand. We'll be able to backtrack and do some older funds that we have on our website. Every day we return \$15 million. So, if you haven't checked in the last few months, please go to osc.ny.gov unclaimed funds and check for yourself, your family members, your friends and I'm, going to send some of the stuff to the CB2 folks, just as a reminder, so they can send it out to everybody else, as well as my information. If anybody would like me to come to an event and help people out fill out unclaimed funds, if you're part of any organization, let me know and I'll be happy to give you guys a hand thanks.

Hanane Dbajat representing the New York State Minority Leader

Hi everyone. I don't have any updates, just wanted to say hello and Happy New Year to all. Some of you might know me I'm, the former Chief Staff to Assemblyman Michael Tannousis. I have now moved on. I work for the New York State Assembly Minority Leader. However I tend to represent our Staten Island delegation, which consists of Assemblyman Mike, Riley, Assemblyman Michael Tannousis, and Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo. So, Happy New Year all. Looking forward to a successful 2025. Thank you.

Robert Birkhead representing State Senator Andrew Lanza.

I'm Robert Birkhead from Senator Lanza's office. I just wanted to wish everybody a Happy New Year and stay warm. I don't have any updates from the Senator's office. He's in session right now, and that's it.

Andrew Suarato representing Assembly Member Michael Tannousis.

My name is Andrew SP. I'm, a constituent liaison from the office of Assemblyman Michael Tannousis. For some of you this is your first time meeting me, so I just want to introduce myself say hello to everyone. The assembly is in legislative session, so I currently have no updates, but I just want to let you know if you guys have any questions or concerns or anything that may be able to help you with let me know. you. Thank you.

Continued: Public Speakers' Session

Lily Zafaranloo representing Congress Member Nicole Malliotakis

I am the Director of Community Affairs for Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis. I am happy to see all of you. Big things are happening on the federal level. Obviously, yesterday was a change of administration. The congresswoman is so excited. She's had some meetings with President Trump, and one of the things that she discussed very recently was bringing some tax Lily Zafaranloo representing Congress Member Nicole Malliotakis

Old Business

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred R. Guinta, Chair