



ROBERT P. COLLEGIO, P.E.
CHAIR

DEBRA A. DERRICO
DISTRICT MANAGER

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

EXECUTIVE SUITES AT THE PARK
900 SOUTH AVENUE, FL. 3, SUITE 28
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10314
PHONE: 718-568-3581
FAX: 718-568-3595

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Full Board Minutes
May 18, 2021
Virtual Video Conference

The regular monthly meeting of the Full Board was held by virtual video conference at 7pm on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Board Members Present: Olu A. Ajayi, Igor Baboshkin, Antoinette J. Balzano, Rosanne Clift, Dr. Deborah Cognata, Robert P. Collegio, Benjamin D'Amato, Dr. Victor E. Dolan, Julie Freeman, Roy J. Garlisi, Fred R. Guinta, Dr. Mohammad Khalid, Lillian Lagazzo, Michael Lanza, Joseph E. Markowski, Diane L. McNamara, Frank J. Ninivaggi, Robert Pacifici, Dr. Allan B. Perel, Dr. Ramanathan Raju, Gerard Ruggiero, David M. Santoro, Dr. Donna Seminara, Theresa Troiano, Stephen W. Zaderiko, Steven J. Zboinski.

Board Members Absent: Simone DiTrapani (Excused), Zafer Durmaz, Anselmo S. Genovese, Gurdev S. Kang (Excused), Mendy Mirocznik (Excused), Joel M. Traube (Excused), John Vischio,

Staff Present: Debra A. Derrico, District Manager

Representatives of Elected Officials Present:

Jeanne Collini for Senator Andrew Lanza

Councilman Joe Borelli

Michelle Landi for Council Member Joseph Borelli

Matthew Mirones, Former Assembly Member

Andrew Olson for NYC Recovery

Donald DeRosa for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Frank Fontana for Department of Buildings

Christine Tumbarello for NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

Carol Donovan, President of the Richmondtown & Clarke Avenue Civic Association

Joseph Carroll, District Manager of Community Board 1

Guests:

Carmen DeJesus, Susan Conlon, Laura Terranova, Alexia Dodd, Robert Mascali, Andrew Olson, Dayna Weisman, Susan Turner, Alyce Satriana, Yvette Kotic, Richard LoBasso, Joe Rybkiewicz, Lorenzo DeLuca, Jenine Mangini, Arony Youssef, Frank Fontana, Lenny Dimentman, Colleen Chioffe, Mario Naccarato, Councilman Joe Borelli, Michele Landi, Leonard Zinnanti, Martha Trivasas, Jim Bullock, Jahi Rose,

Presenters: David Woodlock, ICL, Erin Drinkwater, Dept. of Social Services, Amanda Nassner,

Chair Robert P. Collegio opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the pledge to the United States of America flag.

Theresa Troiano, Secretary called the roll. A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda: Chair Collegio called for a motion to accept the agenda. Motion was made and seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Acceptance of the April 20, 2021 Full Board Minutes: Chair Collegio called for a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Robert J. Collegio's Report: Announced that he attended the Borough Board meeting in April. NYC DOT presented their Master Plan.

Nominating Committee: Dr. Ram Raju announced that the Nominating committee met in executive session to elect a chair. Members of the nominating committee are Mendy Mirocznik, John Vichio, Joel Traube and myself. Joel Traube was selected to chair the nominating committee. Please forward your nominations to any of the nominating committee members. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the June 15 Full Board meeting.. Send your nomination to any of the

Presentation: Representative of the NYC Department of Homeless Services and The Institute for Community Living (ICL), a non-profit social services provider discussed their plan to open a shelter for single adult woman (age 50+) at 1055 Hylan Boulevard. This facility will provide 50 single adult woman over the age of 50 who are experiencing homelessness with safety, security, social services, and support in their time of need, with priority at this location offered to the individuals who have roots in this community and Staten Island more broadly. ICL will provide these essential social services to help clients as they get back on their feet.

Erin Drinkwater of New York City Department of Homeless Services spoke to the Mayor's Turning the Tides Plan, a comprehensive plan to address homelessness - [turning-the-tide-on-homelessness.pdf \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.nyc.gov/turning-the-tide-on-homelessness.pdf).

The Dept. of Homeless Services revealed the following:

- Only one bidder was considered for the property at 1055 Hylan Boulevard;
- The owner of the property is also the developer of the property;
- No alternative sites were considered;
- They have not visited the site;
- They did not consult with any elected officials or the community to discuss the site selection;
- The contract has been registered and the project is moving forward;
- ICL will work on the build out of the location for the eventual opening;
- Single adults stay in a shelter for one year;
- The women are not drug or alcohol tested. They follow a good neighbor policy;
- This is a borough based plan – priority will be given to women who live within the confines of CB2. The goal is to place individuals closer to their social networks (families, health care providers;
- Staten Island does not have a citywide hospital and this will add into a hospital that can't handle what we have.
- A security assessment is done before the shelter opens – how many are needed and where they will be placed.

David Woodlock of The Institute for Community Living (ICL) spoke about the ICL program), [Home - ICL \(iclinc.org\)](https://www.iclinc.org)

ICL submitted the application for the shelter which was accepted;
Waiting for the developer to send his draft design which they will share with members of the board;
The shelter itself is for women designated as general population – women who need to get stable, find employment and return to permanent housing, and unify with their family members;

Public Session Speakers:

David Carr, Chief of Staff to Council Member Steven Matteo read testimony on CM Matteo's behalf

Michelle Land read testimony on behalf of Council Member Joseph Borelli

Assembly Member Michael Tannousis spoke to his opposition to the location

Former Assembly Member of 64 District, Matthew Mirones spoke to his opposition to the location

Jennifer Sammartino read a letter that BP Oddo sent to Steven Banks, Commissioner of NYC Department of Homeless Services

The above-noted elected officials spoke to their opposition to the homeless shelter for 50 single women at 1055 Hylan Boulevard.

Leticia Remauro – SI Downtown Alliance – “I want to urge everyone here to vote against this project and this site because homeless shelters do not belong anywhere on Staten Island. Turning the Tides is a last minute scramble from the de Blasio administration to cover up the fact that they had a failed housing policy all these years. I want to ask 89 shelters have been built have we reduced homelessness in New York City. What is the cost per night, per individual for this shelter in this spot and shelters throughout New York City. And, lastly when we will get the documents that we requested through FOIA through Alexia Dodd. I am working with a large group of Grasmere Homeowners and Staten Islanders who want information and I urge this Board to make their voices heard on this project because there is no transparency in this. The 2018 RFP under an emergency guise should never have been funded by the city council because I don't believe it has not reduced homelessness one bit. Miss Drinkwater, you can answer that question - - how much has homelessness gone down since these 89 shelters have opened?”

Richard LoBasso area resident submitted questions below: As residents of a quiet family oriented community in close proximity to several catholic and public schools, we feel we are entitled to a reasonable explanation of the following issues

- * Why wasn't there any previous notification during the decision making process?
- * What is the security plan that will be put in place? What are the staffing levels for security?
Is Security 24/7?
- * What are the staffing needs and operating protocols for dealing with emotionally disturbed residents?

Lorenzo DeLuca of Cameron park Homeowners – concerned with the building and the relative size of which we do not have any information. He used to live at 1027 Hylan Boulevard which is 2 doors away and right next door to a group home. The group home is 5,000 square feet and there are 9 residents. I think those are the mental health rules that only permit that number of people. So it is rather remarkable to think that a building of a smaller size can house 50 people with much larger staff. And living next door to that facility even though the staff was smaller and the number of people the issues were with the staff with parking because there is never enough. People were always parking in our driveway, driving over our lawn doing all those kinds of things that will happen again if there are that many more people.

Susan Turner - While I am sympathetic to homelessness, placing 50 mentally ill homeless women in a quiet, residential area with no surrounding necessary services is not only poor planning, but shows no respect to the residents of this area who have had their property taxes increased substantially over the years. Given there are vacant buildings at South Beach Psychiatric Facility, near to a hospital, and not in a residential area, seems to be a more logical choice. I ask our local SI officials to step in and prevent this.

Aarony Youssef – I am a resident of the area. I can open my window and see the building and I park my car in front of that location.. Why is this homeless shelter being opened in front of my residence without any knowledge of how community to vote on it?

Lenny Dimentmam
Janine Mangini
Alexia Dodd

Announcements:
Jahi Rose, NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board

Frank Fontana – Local Law 1152

Jermaine Williams of NYC Department of Social Services/HRA shared this information via email- The **HEAP Cooling Assistance Component (CAC)** will open on Monday, May 3, 2021. Applications for the 2021 HEAP Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) will be accepted starting on Monday, May 3, 2021. Benefits will be provided on a first come, first served basis to eligible applicants through Tuesday, August 31, 2021, or until funding allocated to this component is exhausted. 212-331-3126 for application by mail. The regular and emergency HEAP benefit components have been extended, and the HEAP program is accepting applications until August 31, 2020 or until funds are exhausted.

The [HEAP heating application](#) is also available as a fillable form email if you like copy williamsje@dss.nyc.gov. Applications can be emailed to SerranoL@hra.nyc.gov

As a reminder, to be eligible for a CAC benefit, the HEAP eligible households must contain at least one individual with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat.

Medicaid Renewal Extensions

Medicaid cases with authorization ending in July, August, September, October, November and December 2020 and January, February, March, April, May and June 2021 will be automatically extended for 12 months.

Motion: The Board voted to oppose NYC DSS's plan to open a women's shelter at 1055 Hylan Boulevard for the 50 single adult woman (age 50+) at 1055 Hylan Boulevard who are experiencing homelessness.

Full Board Members' Vote: 0-In Favor; 23-Opposed; 0-Abstentions; 1-Not Entitled

The Board opposed the homeless shelter at 1055 Hylan Boulevard for the following reasons:

The building structure at 1055 Hylan Boulevard is not conducive to housing 50 women;

The Building is located near a dangerous intersection – there have been 45 accidents at this intersection;

A traffic study of the area was not conducted;

There are only 13 parking spaces at 1055 Hylan Boulevard which is inadequate parking for staff, medical staff, etc.;

There is no outdoor space or green space to promote improved health and happiness;

The Building Use is out of character with the surrounding community of 1-family, detached homes;

The Building Use is contrary to zoning – located in R2 district;

Only one bidder was considered for the property at 1055 Hylan Boulevard;

The developer of the project is also the landlord of the property;

No alternative borough sites were considered;

NYC Department of Homeless Service never visited the site nor consulted with Staten Island's elected officials or the community to discuss their site selection.

The building is directly next door to a group home

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.