Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting and Public Hearing

Held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at

The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, New York

Present: Bart Allegretti, Sofia Annunziata, Matt Bromme, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Sal D’Alessio, Linda Dalton, Eric DiNapoli, Marc D’Ottavio, Charles Farrauto, Yonah Glatzer, William R. Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, Caleb Pan, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Rocco Buonpane, Karina Cardozo, Warren Chan, Wai Cheung, Steve Chung, Priscilla Consolo, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Ligia Guallapa, James Orlando, Salvatore Rao, Barry Sanchez, Nayeem Siddique

Excused: Ross Brady, Ruben Colon, Mafalda DiMango, Anthony Grigos, Robert Yee

Guests: Jodi Sparacio, Guzal Pulatova, Jeannine Cherichetti – Councilman Treyger, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Becky Stern – Councilman Greenfield, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Michael Bove – Neighborhood Improvement Association, Mary Placanica – Assemblyman Colton, Sylvia Ancrum – Civilian Complaint Review Board, Anthony Colorafi, Jenny Fischman – Public Advocate’s Office, Jicheng Chan, Philip Smallman – Senator Golden, Sonia Pryce – Rep. Donovan, Paul Derewenda – Bensonhurst Ambulance, Jacob Cohen – Bensonhurst Ambulance, Michael Marquez – Bensonhurst Ambulance

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting and Public Hearing

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The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,

1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, New York

The general meeting and public hearing of Community Board 11 was opened with Monsignor David Cassato having the honor of the pledge.

Public Hearing

Agency Responses on the Fiscal Year 2017 Preliminary Capital and Expense Budget Submissions.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition on this matter. Hearing none, a motion was made by Antonio Troia to close the public hearing. Seconded by Matthew Bromme. Unanimously adopted.

Public Portion

Jodi Sparacio, an area resident, spoke regarding the lack of 10 day notification by the contractor for upcoming demolition at 8121 21 Avenue. She further stated that complaints were filed with the Department of Buildings and no violations have been issued and does not believe this project should be in a residential area.

Mary Placanica, representing Assemblyman Colton, spoke regarding the need for additional transportation alternatives during the N line rehabilitation work. Petitions to submit to the MTA are available. Blue ribbons are available to show solidarity with police officers.

Representatives from the Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service advised that they were in continuous operation during the blizzard. They thanked the uniformed services for their work.

Sylvia Ancrum, representing the Civilian Complaint Review Board, spoke regarding the role of her agency that handles complaints of alleged police misconduct.

Jenny Fischman, representing Public Advocate James, advised that informational literature is available for those interested.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Antonio Troia to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman’s Report

William R. Guarinello spoke regarding the Waldbaum’s bankruptcy and the courts awarding the winning bid that was submitted by J-Mart, which currently operates a supermarket in Flushing, Queens. He advised that a meeting is being scheduled to discuss the needs of the community.

The Chairman stated that while he understands the community’s frustration over shopping options he is very disturbed by comments that have circulated on social media. He stated that this community board will not tolerate any divisiveness, discrimination or derogatory comments towards any members of our community.

Mr. Guarinello advised that the New York State Comptroller’s Office is conducting a survey on noise in New York City neighborhoods. They have requested that the community board assist in sharing the survey. We will post the survey links on the board’s website.

The Chairman advised that next month’s meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th.

Mr. Guarinello addressed the issue of 8121 21 Avenue. He advised that as of right development does not come before the community board and will have the District Manager contact the Department of Buildings regarding the lack of demolition notification.

Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman spoke regarding the history of Bensonhurst’s immigrant community and the current demographic changes. He reminded the public of when Italian Americans moved into the neighborhood and people were upset when they saw different foods on display. He further stated that he is confident that the new owners of the Waldbaums site would carry dairy, papers goods and other essentials.

Assemblyman Abbate commended the men and women of the 62nd Precinct for their work.

He further discussed the upcoming budget and the importance of funding healthcare in Brooklyn, and school space for additional seats. Additionally, while not within Community Board 11 but nearby, the site of Mercy First that occupies a city block, is up for sale.

Monsignor Cassato inquired on the status of tax credits to private and parochial schools. Assemblyman Abbate advised that it was in the budget.

Councilman Treyger

Councilman Treyger spoke regarding the damages that Coney Island Hospital incurred during Super Storm Sandy and the inequity of reimbursements from FEMA as compared to private hospitals. As Chairman of the NYC Council’s Resiliency and Recovery committee, he scheduled a public hearing on the Sandy reimbursements; however, before that happened FEMA announced that Coney Island Hospital would be receiving $923 million dollars.

The Councilman spoke regarding the greatness of Bensonhurst’s diversity, addressed concerns for the employees that have lost their jobs due to Waldbaum’s closing, and would like to further discuss the issues with the resident regarding 8121 21 Avenue.

Councilman Treyger commended the 62nd Precinct and thanked them and Marnee Elias-Pavia, for their participation at a meeting of the 86th Street merchants.

Disposition of Public Hearing

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the responses of the fiscal year 2017 preliminary capital and expense budget submissions. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

Man Wai Lau commended Marnee Elias-Pavia on the compilation of the budget submissions.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that since our last meeting, two pedestrians were killed in crashes. She offered condolences to the families. She advised that she is working with the Department of Transportation to organize a safety and education workshop. She thanked Father Gelfant of Saint Finbar for providing space for the workshop.

The District Manager provided an update on the safety concerns at the B1 bus stop at 86th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. New York City Transit reviewed the passenger data at the location and based on usage they will not move or eliminate the bus stop. Their road operations unit will make observations and once completed will advise the board of their determination.

She further advised that the Department of Transportation will be installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Bay 29th Street and 86th Street. Installation will be performed by contract and the work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by May 31st.

The Partnership for Parks will be holding a free workshop on how to start a community park group or join an existing group. The event will be held on February 18, from 6:30 -8:30 PM, at the YMCA, 225 Atlantic Avenue.

Alternate Side Parking is suspended on February 12, for Lincoln’s birthday. The Department of Sanitation will be collecting trash and recycling.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the New York City Police Department is holding a blood drive on March 29th and the 62nd Precinct Community Council is meeting on February 16th. Those interested in decorating the precinct with hearts should arrive at noon tomorrow. Fliers are available.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to adjourn. Seconded by Monsignor Cassato.