

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public  
Hearings held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at  
Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation, 1740 84<sup>th</sup> Street

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Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Matt Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Maria Campanella, Dr. Joseph Caruana, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Warren Chan, Vincent Chirico, Steve Chung, Sal D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Marc D'Ottavio, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, William Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Vito Marinelli, Nicholas Miraglia, Barbara Parisi, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Sal Rao, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong, Robert Yee

Excused: Albert Campanelli, Louis Crispiano, Eric DiNapoli, Albert Milone, Dr. Raymond Mollica

Absent: Gerald Bertuna, Jerry Chiapetta, Don Clark, Mafalda DiMango, Yoketing Eng, Ligia Guallapa, Vito Marangelli, Michael Marks, Vincent Nativo, James Orlando,

Guests: Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Lenny Cheng – Brooklyn Chinese Planning Council, Eunice Huang – Brooklyn Chinese Planning Council, Maria Scarpati – State Senator Golden, Moshe Friedman – Friedman P.E., Mary Placanica – Assemblyman Colton, Lisa Garvey, Susan Grossman – CB 11, Liam McCabe – Rep. Grimm, Michael Nacmias, Esq. – Eric Palatnik, P.C., Eric Jankiewicz, Ilona Szegedi, Al Fazio – Assemblyman Abbate, Andrew Gounardes – B.P. Adams, Julia Knobloch – CAU FDNY, Misham Morgan, Jannine Cherichett – Councilman Treyger, Detective Agosta – 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct.

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The meeting was opened with Congressman Jerrold Nadler having the honor of the Pledge.

Public Hearings

- I. BSA Cal. No. 921-57-BZ  
6602 New Utrecht Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York

The applicant is seeking to extend an existing variance for a period of ten (10) years to utilize the location as an automotive repair shop.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Rabbi Pollack to close the public hearing. Seconded by Matt Bromme. Unanimously adopted.

- II. BSA Calendar No. 30-14-BZ  
6101 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York

The applicant is seeking a proposed enlargement to an existing school building.

Mr. Guarinello recognized the many people from the community present and inquired if anyone wanted to speak in opposition to the application. Hearing none, a motion was made by Bart Allegretti to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Congressman Nadler

Congressman Jerrold Nadler spoke regarding the federal budget. He explained that budget resolutions are broad guidelines for spending and the appropriation bills determine the actual spending in summary form. The Congressman stated that the Republican budget resolution calls for draconian cuts to transportation, education, Medicare and Medicaid, amongst others, which the Senate will not approve; therefore, each bill would have to be done separately.

Congressman Nadler stated his concerns regarding Transportation Funding, which derives its funding from gasoline tax. With reductions in gasoline consumption and inflation, funding could be depleted by August.

In closing, the Congressman was pleased to announce that after serving 21 years on the House Judiciary Committee, he was selected as the Ranking Democrat on the Court, Intellectual Property, and Internet Subcommittee.

### Comptroller Scott Stringer

Comptroller Stringer addressed the board regarding the role of the Comptroller's Office. He spoke of the importance of Community Boards and the need to increase their budgets.

He further discussed the work that is being done to ensure that IT contracts do not have overruns and are not overbilling the city. Additionally, a new directive has been issued requiring that time sheets be submitted for all IT contracts.

Comptroller Stringer advised that he had just released a new report, "State of the Arts, A Plan to Boost Arts Education in New York City Schools". He stated that arts education is more relevant today, as New York City's economy is increasingly focused on industries that value creativity, innovation, and problem solving. However, the report shows reductions have fallen disproportionately on the City's lower income neighborhoods. He will be working with the Department of Education to identify challenges that exist to restoring arts education to all of our neighborhoods.

### Public Portion

Jane Carey, representing Councilman Greenfield, advised that in its second year of participatory budgeting in the 44<sup>th</sup> Council District, over 1,200 people voted for projects in their community. Councilman Greenfield minutes ago announced the winning projects, they are: tech upgrades for the Midwood, Mapleton and Ryder libraries; and street resurfacing in Bensonhurst, Borough Park and Midwood.

Ms. Carey, voiced her support on behalf of Councilman Greenfield, for the application filed for 6101 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Maria Scarpati, representing State Senator Golden, announced that as part of the 2014-2015 State Budget, the income eligibility to qualify for Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption was raised from \$28,000 to \$50,000. In addition, the expansion of the New York State EPIC Prescription Drug Program income eligibility was raised from \$35,000 to \$75,000 for single persons, and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for married seniors.

Jonathan Viguers, Brooklyn Borough Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, explained the role of the Community Affairs Unit and vowed that our community would have a voice in City Hall. He further advised that he would be attending meetings often, especially when it comes to moving the Mayor's agenda.

Sara Steinweiss, representing Councilman Gentile, spoke regarding the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption and the raised income guidelines. If anyone has questions or needs additional information, they can contact the district office at 718-748-5200.

Mary Placanica, representing Assemblyman Colton, invited the community to attend the Women of Distinction Award ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Community Room at 29 Bay 25<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:30 PM.

She further advised that there would be a rally opposing the Marine Transfer Station on June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11AM, on Bay Parkway at the promenade.

Liam McCabe, representing Congressman Grimm, advised that the Congressman is critical of the way the funding is being distributed through the Build It Back Program. The Congressman hopes that the new administration distributes the funding in a fair and equitable manner.

He additionally advised that the Congressman's Flood Insurance bill has been signed, which prevents large increases to premiums.

Andrew Gounardes, representing Borough President Adams, advised that the Borough President recently hosted a meet and greet with Police Commissioner Bratton.

He further announced that the Borough President has declared the month of April, Financial Literacy Empowerment Month. Throughout the month of April, Borough President Adams will sponsor a series of free financial literacy workshops and seminars, on topics including budgeting, building one's credit score, family financial planning, identity theft and student loans. The highlight will be Financial Literacy Empowerment Day, held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, which will involve a full schedule of events across Brooklyn. Fliers are available.

He further advised the Borough President is holding an tax liens outreach session for homeowners to address tax liens on their property in advance of the annual lien sale conducted by the City. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM

Kathy Khatari, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Thompson, announced the public integrity and community action hotline is operational. She further advised that there was anti-bullying literature available.

Julia Knobloch, representing the Fire Department's Community Affairs Unit, advised that there was educational material available regarding Natural Gas and Summer Fire Safety.

She further advised that the Fire Safety Unit, which provides educational programs on fire safety, will come to block parties and community events. Literature is available.

She further discussed additional free programs that are available to the community.

Jannine Cherichett, representing Councilman Treyger, announced the opening of a new district office located at 2015 Stillwell Avenue. The phone number is 307-7151.

Mr. Frank, representing the Division of Child Support Enforcement, spoke regarding the programs and services provided.

Lenny Cheng, representing the Brooklyn Chinese American Planning Council, spoke regarding their work with the Smokefree Partnership whose primary goals are to promote a smoke free city. There will be a Healthcare event on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Literature is available.

Mr. Guarinello inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Laurie Windsor to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Paul DiSpirito. Unanimously adopted.

#### Moment of Silence

The Chairman requested a moment of silence for Police Officer Dennis Guerra who passed away yesterday from injuries while responding to a fire; and Lou Powsner a longtime resident and Coney Island community activist.

#### Minutes

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.

#### Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello appointed the following members to serve on the 2014-2015 Nominating Committee: Vincent Nativo, Chairman; Bart Allegretti, Al Campanelli, Dr. Joe Caruana, and Al Milone.

The Chairman advised that Modest Community Services has sent a second notification of their intent to develop a potential community residence at 2327 82<sup>nd</sup> Street. They advised that the property owner has requested a hearing to address the violations on the property. The Community Board has formally notified the agency that it will not begin the 40-day period pursuant to Site Selection Law until the building violations are resolved.

#### Disposition of Public Hearings

Ross Brady, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that 6602 New Utrecht Avenue was granted a variance to operate as a gasoline station in 1958. In August 2003, the variance was amended to permit change of use to permit automotive repairs with hand tools only. The committee recommends approval of the extension of the ten (10) year term with the condition that the property remain graffiti free.

A motion was made by Matt Bromme to approve the application as presented. Seconded by Rabbi Pollack. Unanimously adopted.

Yeshiva Bais Sorah located at 6101 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue seeks a special permit to expand the size of their building from 3 floors to six floors, in order to serve approximately 1500 students from grades K-12.

The location in question is zoned commercial M1-1 commercial manufacturing. The current configuration of the building was approved by special permit of the BSA in March 2005. The proposed building will have no yards and result in the building extending to the property line with no yards or set back. The committee considered the application and found that the proposed change would not have an adverse impact on the community, local businesses or the environment. The additional space will serve a need in the community and there are no reasonable alternatives to the expansion.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to approve the application as presented with the recommendation that an enclosed area be provided for garbage. Seconded by Antonio Troia. Unanimously adopted.

### District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that that the Bath Avenue sewer repairs are on schedule. Earlier in the week, Laurie Windsor, the District Manager and Councilman Gentile walked through the job site. The contractor advised they began working 24/7, and barring any unforeseen delays should be finishing on schedule. Within the next few weeks, as the pipe is repaired the contractor should be shortening the work area. DEP will meet with us in 2 weeks for an update.

The District Manager reported that she and the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee toured New Utrecht Avenue in response to the residents who came before the board requesting a reduction in the frequency of street cleaning from 6 days a week to three.

The area from 79<sup>th</sup> Street to 81<sup>st</sup> Street, which does not have a commercial overlay, should not see a reduction in cleanliness if a recommendation is supported to reduce cleaning by 2 days per week.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to recommend that the street cleaning regulations be reduced on New Utrecht Avenue between 79<sup>th</sup> Street to 81<sup>st</sup> Street to 4 days per week. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager advised that the Passover special collection will be on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6AM-2PM, in the following sections: Sections 1- 68th Street – 66<sup>th</sup> Street from 14th Avenue and Bay Parkway; 65th Street – 61<sup>st</sup> Street from 14th Avenue to McDonald Avenue, Section 3 - Bay Parkway to 14th Avenue from 86th Street to 78th Street and Section 5 - 20th Avenue - Bay Parkway from Shore Parkway - Bay Parkway and Bay Parkway to 26th Avenue from Shore Parkway to Avenue P/Kings Highway.

The District Manager advised that the MTA has advised that they have rejected the Community Board's recommendation to relocate the B6 bus layover on Harway Avenue between Bay 38<sup>th</sup> Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue across from the Ulmer Park bus depot. They have concluded that a new bus stop and layover for the B6 bus route would be established on Harway Avenue between Bay 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Bay 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

In closing, the District Manager announced that the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council will not meet during the month of April

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to adjourn. Seconded by Laurie Windsor.

Meeting adjourned.