

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
Held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at  
The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,  
1740 84<sup>th</sup> Street

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Present: Bart Allegretti, Thomas Andros, Matt Bromme, Rocco Buonpane, Msgr. David Cassato, Warren Chan, Jin Wing Chiu, Steve Chung, Priscilla Consolo, Claudio DeMeo, Marc D'Ottavio, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, Ligia Guallapa, William R. Guarinello, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas Miraglia, James Orlando, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Laurie Windsor, Victor Wong, Sai Chuen Yeung, Nicholas Zimmetti

Absent: Gerald Bertuna, Al Campanelli, Wai Cheung, Don Clark, Eric DiNapoli, Yonah Glatzer, Salvatore Rao,

Excused: Rosa Casella, Vincent Chirico, Louis Crispiano, Mafalda DiMango, Shirley Fineman, Anthony Grigos, Dr. Raymond Mollica, Robert Yee

Guests: Karima SA, Caleb Pan, Lisa Garvey, Ruben Colon, Tambe John – Brooklyn Public Library, Judge Genine Edwards, Arthur Sullivan – Walter Gorman, PC, Alexandra Larkin – Councilman Greenfield, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Trip Yang – D.A. Thompson, Cark D'Addora – Housing Assistance Corp, Ross Brady, Arthur Sullivan

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
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The general meeting of Community Board 11 was opened with Councilman Mark Treyger having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Hon. Genine D. Edwards, a judge of the Civil Court and an Acting Supreme Court Justice, provided an introduction to Civil Court. She advised that the Civil Court of the City of New York has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to \$25,000 and other civil matters referred to it by the Supreme Court. It includes a small claims part for informal dispositions of matters not exceeding \$5,000, and a landlord and tenant/housing part for landlord-tenant matters of unlimited amounts and housing code violations.

Trip Yang, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Thompson, spoke regarding the bureaus and units within the District Attorney's office. Informational flyers were made available to the public.

Jenny, representing Pubic Advocate James, introduced herself and provided informational material.

Ruben Colon spoke on behalf of neighbors of New Utrecht Avenue regarding the alternate side parking regulations. Due to parking difficulties, they are seeking a reduction of the street cleaning from 6 days to 3 days. He thanked the board for their past efforts in providing cleaning services to clean up New Utrecht Avenue.

Celine Mizrahi, Director of Community Relations for Congressman Nadler, introduced Elene Lazovsky, the new Brooklyn community representative.

Kenneth, representing Councilman Menchaca, advised that there are many upcoming community events. Informational flyers are available.

Julie Garcia, a community resident, spoke regarding the mechanic located on 84<sup>th</sup> Street and New Utrecht Avenue parking cars without plates on the street.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Matthew Bromme to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

A representative from the Mayor's Office spoke regarding the IDNYC program. The IDNYC is the new, free identification card for all New York City residents. Literature is available.

### Public Hearing

BSA Calendar # 318-14-BZ  
1672-1680 86<sup>th</sup> Street

The applicant seeks to reinstate a previously approved variance for an existing gas service station and accessory parking, which has lapsed.

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Man Wai Lau to close the public hearing. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

### Minutes

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting. Seconded by James Orlando. Unanimously adopted.

### Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence in honor of Governor Mario Cuomo, Detectives Liu and Ramos and Bridge and Tunnels Officer Thomas Choi.

The Chairman acknowledged the Police Officers present and offered this Community Boards' support to the men and women of the NYPD.

### Assemblyman Abbate

Assemblyman Abbate spoke regarding the need to invest in New York's infrastructure utilizing the \$5 billion from recent settlements. He stated that repairs to streets and bridges would create jobs and address aging infrastructure.

### Councilman Gentile

Councilman Gentile advised that he will be hosting the American Italian American Cancer Foundation's Mobile Care Clinic on Friday, January 9, 2015, in front of the District Office located at 8018 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, from 9AM – 4:30PM. No cost mammograms will be offered.

He further advised that he, Councilman Treyger and Assemblyman Colton will be forming a coalition to oppose the continued construction of the SW Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station. A letter writing campaign will be undertaken.

## Councilman Treyger

Councilman Treyger spoke regarding the assassinations of Detectives Liu and Ramos, and the personal connections that they had to this neighborhood. He advised that legislation has been introduced to rename West 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenue S and T in honor of Detective Liu, where he resided.

The Councilman spoke regarding the Southwest Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station. He stated that in order to operate the facility, Gravesend Bay needs to be dredged. He is very concerned regarding the chemicals and WW2 munitions that would be uncovered by dredging.

## Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello thanked Councilman Treyger for sponsoring the legislation to rename West 6<sup>th</sup> Street in honor of Detective Liu.

The Chairman addressed the residents of New Utrecht Avenue and advised them that Community Board 11 previously supported by resolution a reduction of street cleaning on a segment of New Utrecht Avenue. That resolution was sent to the Department of Sanitation.

He further advised that the matter regarding the mechanic parking unregistered vehicles on the street would be referred to the Police Department for action.

## Disposition of Public Hearing

Victor Wong, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, reported that the applicant seeks to reinstate a previously approved and now lapsed variance for an existing service station and accessory parking facility for a ten-year term.

The service station will largely remain as is with no increase in usage area. The only change is that the identification sign will be relocated to the corner of 86th Street and Bay 14th Street to comply with Department of Building (DOB) regulations. This matter will be handled in a separate DOB filing.

Site plans demonstrate that operation will not result in any on-site traffic congestion. Furthermore, there will continue to be no parking of vehicles on the sidewalk or in any way that would obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

Reinstatement of the lapsed variance for a 10-year extension would allow the applicant to secure a new certificate of occupancy and to operate in full compliance with DOB regulations. The gasoline service station has existed compatibly with the neighborhood for decades. Reinstatement of the variance would not negatively impact the community.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to approve the variance for an existing gas service station and accessory parking for a ten-year term. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.

### District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the Department of Homeless Services will be conducting its annual homeless outreach population estimate count on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. They are seeking volunteers to participate, of which they need approximately 3,000. If anyone is interested, contact the office for registration information.

The District Manager announced that the Gravesend and Bensonhurst NY Rising Community Reconstruction Committee will be hosting the final open house on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7PM – 9PM, at the Block Academy, 133 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At this meeting, the committee will be unveiling the final New York Rising Plan, which identifies community-developed projects supported by \$3 million in community development block grant disaster recovery funds through the US Housing and Urban Development to implement resiliency projects.

The projects are intended to protect our communities from flooding, strengthen emergency response capacity, protect telecommunications and energy grid, provide assistance to help protect homes from flooding and improve communication and coordination.

She further advised that the Department of Design and Construction has advised that 75% of the work is completed, except for 86<sup>th</sup> Street, on the upgrade of the water distribution main project.

The remaining work will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave between 85<sup>th</sup> St and 86<sup>th</sup> St, the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and Benson Ave, and the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and Bath Ave.

The District Manager advised that safety literature is available from the Department of Buildings and the Fire Department. She urged residents to please share the information.

### New Business

Monsignor Cassato announced that there will be a memorial mass held for Detectives Liu and Ramos at Saint Athanasius on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 PM. All are invited to attend.

Sonia Valentin announced that she has blue ribbons to show support of the NYPD available. She further announced that the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct and the community collaborated in a toy drive for Reaching Out Community Services. The effort raised over \$2,000.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else sought recognition. Hearing none, Laurie Windsor made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.