

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
Held on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at  
The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare  
1740 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

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Present: Bart Allegretti, Ross Brady, Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, John Garvey, William R. Guarinello, Peter Joseph, Roy Jung, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Nicholas J. Miraglia, James Orlando, Caleb Pan, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Nicholas Zimmitti

Absent: Thomas Andros, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Priscilla Consolo, Eric DiNapoli, Yonah Glatzer, Anthony Grigos, Ligia Gualpa, Antonio Troia, Robert Whittaker, Robert Yee, Sai Chuen Yeung

Excused: Matthew Bromme, Rosa Casella, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Mafalda DiMango, Sonia Valentin, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor

Guests: Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library, William Vitale – CERT 10/11, Victor Kyi, Nancy Tong – Assemblyman Colton, Jeffrey Krauss – Senator Golden, Fran Vella Marrone – Dyker Heights Civic Association, Laura Multari, Mary Sade, Angela Allaporti, Paul Esposito – Guardians, Mathylde Frontus, Angelo Cucuzza, Mary Jo Tipaldo, Dong Ming Yang, Sayed Sayedy – Baruch Student, Michael Marquez – Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance, Robert Birkhead – Congressman Donovan, Michael Konovalov – Baruch Student, Jacob Zhornitsky – Baruch Student, Angelina Dahab – Councilman Brannan

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
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The meeting was opened with Assemblyman William Colton having the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Fran Vella Marrone, President of the Dyker Heights Civic Association, spoke regarding the landmarking of Saint Rosalia Church. She advised that the Catholic Diocese has closed the church and plans to sell and demolish the property.

Saint Rosalia Church, was founded by Italian immigrants in 1902, as an Italian National Parish. In 1942, the congregation vowed to build a votive shrine, Regina Pacis, if the servicemen came home from war and peace was made. This church's history serves an important part of our immigrant and cultural community.

Ms. Vella Marrone requested that the board submit a letter to the Landmark Preservation Commission in support of the application to landmark Saint Rosalia Church.

A resident spoke in support of preserving the history of Saint Rosalia Church and urged residents to contact Bishop DiMarzio, and the Ambassador to the Vatican.

Robert Birkhead, representing Congressman Donovan, announced a rain barrel giveaway will take place on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Knights of Columbus, 1305 86 Street, from 10AM-12PM. Registration is required.

He further announced that Congressman Donovan will be accepting submissions for the 2018 Congressional Art Competition. High School students interested in participating in the competition must register online by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The winner will have their art work displayed in the US Capitol.

Danielle Shapiro, representing Brooklyn Public Library, urged residents to visit their website at [www.bklynlibrary.org](http://www.bklynlibrary.org), to learn about the strategic plan for 2018. She further announced upcoming events at the libraries within the community.

Chairman Guarinello inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by John Garvey to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

## Minutes

A motion was made by Bart Allegretti to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Caleb Pan. Unanimously adopted.

### Assemblyman Colton

The Assemblyman addressed the Metropolitan Transit Authority's and the Department of Transportation B82 Select Bus Service plan. He stated that the plan eliminates 100 curbside parking spots on Kings Highway from Ocean Avenue to Bay Parkway and this will be disastrous to merchants.

Assemblyman Colton felt that this plan was unnecessary in the Community Board 11 portion of the plan. There is no congestion on Kings Highway between McDonald Avenue and Bay Parkway, except for congestion created by double parked vehicles. This plan will not solve that problem as evidenced in Queens and he will continue fighting.

He thanked the board for their communication and position on the B82 Select Bus Service. It was through that letter that he was alerted to the plans that were proposed by NYC Transit and the Department of Transportation.

### Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman advised that a state budget was passed, which includes a \$914 million dollar increase in education bringing the total funding to \$26 billion. He stressed the importance of appropriate spending. Additional funding was also allocated to Brooklyn Public Library, the MTA, homelessness and affordable housing.

### 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct

Captain Nelson Chen, Executive Officer of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, advised that Neighborhood Policing has begun in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct. He advised that the precinct will be divided into 4 sectors, each sector will have 2 neighborhood coordinator officers and 2 response officers. This will improve communication and collaboration between residents and police officers.

Captain Chen introduced the NCO Sergeant and all the NCO and Response Officers personally introduced themselves. He invited the public to personally meet with their NCO Officers on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at IS 96, 99 Avenue P at 7 PM.

Mr. Guarinello, on behalf of the Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Gravesend communities, welcomed the Police Officers. He advised that we are supportive of the program, and the men and women of the precinct, and they can always call on us if needed.

## Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello addressed the issue of Saint Rosalia raised at the public portion of the meeting. He advised that the Catholic Diocese deconsecrated the church and the property is in the process of being sold. He stated that a strong letter should be sent to the Bishop regarding the lack of dialogue and plans to commemorate the history of Santa Rosalia.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to support the residents' and parishioners' efforts to landmark Saint Rosalia Church, and to send a strong letter to the Bishop regarding the lack of dialogue. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

The Chairman appointed the following members to the 2018/2019 Nominating Committee: Ross Brady -Chairman, Antonio Troia, Al Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato and Eileen LaRuffa.

Mr. Guarinello advised board members whose term of office expired on March 31, 2018, that they serve until re-appointments are made.

Mr. Guarinello advised that G-Cap Holding has requested another revised letter to New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. GCAP had previously presented to the board their intentions of opening an Article 28 Healthcare Clinic, at 1751 Bath Avenue, with minor substance abuse counselling services. Previous letters were submitted following the board's resolution, which included the proviso that there be no distribution of medications at the facility. We will not be submitting any other letters without that proviso.

## District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia spoke regarding the 86<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Stop under the EI safety initiative that the Department of Transportation previously proposed but never implemented. The proposal called for improvements to 10 bus stops without islands on 86<sup>th</sup> Street, which included full neck-downs.

There have been articles published regarding the Department of Transportation using prefabricated plastic platforms to create bus bulbs. They are inexpensive and easily installed.

A motion was made by Man Wai Lau to call upon the Department of Transportation to pilot the prefabricated plastic platforms on 86<sup>th</sup> Street. Seconded by Eileen LaRuffa. Unanimously adopted.

The District Manager reported that the Transportation Committee met to discuss illegal curb cuts and front yard parking and proposes the following recommendations:

- Prioritizes driveway complaints in community districts that are mapped within a flood zone. The buildings department prioritizes driveway complaints as a priority “D”, which can take up to a year to inspect.
- The Department of Buildings re-inspect properties that paid a violation but never restored or applied for a permit to legalize.
- The Department of Buildings should review all outstanding curb cut/parking pad violations within Community Board 11. Re-inspections should be made, and if warranted a failure to comply with Commissioner’s Order should be made.
- Require amended certificates of occupancy for new curb cut filings specifying the off-street parking.
- Require that curb cut filings that are currently classified as an alteration 3 – be changed to an alteration 2.
- Remove the ability to self-certify curb cut/parking pad filings.
- Community Boards should receive notification of curb cut/parking pad filings
- The Department of Buildings should coordinate with the Department of Transportation to inspect curb cut complaints.
- Curb cut complaints should also trigger additional violations, i.e zoning, curb defacement and contrary to certificate of occupancy. The C of O violation would block the sale of a property.
- Construction Code (2014) require applications to include submittal documents from NYC DEP describing method of storm water disposal except for the alteration of an existing one or two-family building. The combined area of any proposed horizontal enlargements and increases in impervious surfaces not exceeding 200 square feet are not required to submit documents. Reduce to the minimum required space for a parking pad.
- Incentivize the use of pervious materials on driveways. Capturing storm water with landscaping, permeable pavements, and green infrastructure solutions will help to minimize storm water flows entering the sewer system.
- Increase fines substantially,
- DEP should include lack of absorption from illegal curb cuts/parking pads in its Storm Water Management Plan.
- Penalties should be levied regardless of admission of guilt. If you admit guilt prior to the scheduled hearing, you do not have to attend the hearing and the OATH/ECB penalties may be reduced or eliminated. The violation will be shown on BISWEB as in violation.

#### Curing the Violation – Zero Penalty

If there is a date indicated in the “Cure Date” box on the violation, you are eligible to cure your violation. To cure, correct the condition and submit a valid Certificate of Correction on or before the “cure date”. If approved, you do not have to attend the hearing or pay a penalty.

- For the certificate of correction and cure – only permanent fixtures and/or plantings should be accepted.
- Make unpaid violations a lien on the property.

The Department of Buildings forward all cured violations to the Parks Department for inclusion in the street tree planting program.

Following discussion, the board by affirmation supported the recommendations of the Transportation Committee.

Ms. Elias-Pavia announced that the Department of Transportation approved a new traffic signal for the intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 74<sup>th</sup> Street. Installation is scheduled to be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Department of Transportation announced that they scheduled for the week beginning April 15, the milling and paving of Benson Avenue from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Bay 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 86<sup>th</sup> Street to Shore Parkway, West 10 Street from Kings Highway to Avenue U, 82 Street from 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 23 Avenue.

In closing, she advised that Community Board 11 received a 30-day notice of the intent of Cabana Lounge, LLC., 1832-36 McDonald Avenue, to file for a liquor license. She advised the board that this location was subject to a previous variance with conditions. Those conditions will be sent to the New York State Liquor Authority.

A motion was made by Ross Brady to adjourn. Seconded by Bart Allegretti. Unanimously adopted.