

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting
Held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at
The Bensonhurst Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare,
1740 84th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214

Present: Ross Brady, Albert Campanelli, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Wai Cheung, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Paul DiSpirito, William R. Guarinello, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Albert Milone, Janet Perry, Inga Smolyar, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung

Absent: Bart Allegretti, Thomas Andros, Vincent Chirico, Jin Wing Chiu, Steven Chung, Lawrence Ciulla, Priscilla Consolo, Linda Dalton, Giuseppe Floccari, John Garvey, Yonah Glatzer, Caleb Pan, Alex Pellitteri, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Claudio DeMeo, Charles Farrauto, Shirley Fineman, Laura Gottlieb, Nicholas Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Antonio Troia

Guests: Oscar Altethora, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library Highlawn Branch, Earl Tomas – Empire Beauty School, Jo Campanelli, Peggy Jung, Jeannine Cherichetti – Council Member Treyger, Olga Fiore – Senator Savino, Hannah Weinerman – Rep. Nadler, Kenneth Lazar – Department of Buildings, Tambe John – Brooklyn Public Library – New Utrecht Branch, Zunera Ahmed – Rep. Rose, Nancy Tong – Assembly Member Colton

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting
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The meeting was opened with Sal D'Alessio having the honor of the pledge.

Moment of Silence

William R. Guarinello requested a moment of silence in memory of Fanny Abbate, mother of Assemblyman Abbate; Mary Bova, mother of Joseph Bova; Detective Joseph Seals and the 3 civilians who were killed in Jersey City.

Public Portion

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, advised that Medicare general enrollment begins January 1 through March 31, 2020. She further advised that Social Security, Office of the Inspector General, has added a scam reporting feature on their website.

Zunera Ahmed, representing Congressman Rose, announced that his office has secured \$1.2 million that was owed by federal agencies to constituents. She advised residents to contact their office if they have any federal agency issues.

Danielle Shapiro, representing Brooklyn Public Library Highlawn branch, announced upcoming events that will be taking place at the library. Fliers are available for those interested.

Jeannine Cherichetti, representing Councilman Treyger, announced that the Councilman is hosting free family ice skating on December 26 and 27, at Abe Stark Rink. Fliers are available.

Earl Thomas, the Director of Empire Beauty School, introduced himself and the services offered to both the students and the community. Informational fliers are available.

Ken Lazar, representing the Department of Buildings, spoke regarding Customer Service Night, which takes place every Tuesday evening from 4PM-7PM, at 210 Joralemon Street. Staff members are available to assist residents with projects, violations and various information. Brochures are available.

Olga Fiore, representing Senator Savino, extended best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sara, representing Senator Gounardes, advised that the results of the Senator's transit survey has been released. The report is available online and hard copies will be available. She further spoke regarding various issues that the Senator is addressing, which include property tax reform.

Kayla Santuosso, representing Councilman Brannan, extended holiday greetings. She spoke regarding Dyker Lights and the legislation that was recently enacted that will help make the event more enjoyable and orderly.

Nancy Tong, representing Assemblyman Colton, extended holiday greetings.

Rose Adams, a reporter for the Brooklyn Paper, introduced herself and looked forward to discussing issues with residents.

Leo Ly, representing the Census Bureau, spoke regarding the importance of participating in the upcoming 2020 census. He advised that beginning in March questionnaires will be mailed to residents. He further announced that jobs are available.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to adopt the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello thanked Paul DiSpirito of Lioni's for the generous food donation for tonight's meeting; Bensonhurst Center for their partnership; everyone who brought gifts to donate to Reaching Out Toys for Kids Program.

He further stated that since many members were in attendance for a 6:30 meeting, a survey will be sent to members to determine if an earlier meeting time is preferred.

The Chairman reminded members that when you are speaking to the press you cannot represent yourself as speaking on behalf of the board unless authorized.

Assemblyman Abbate

The Assemblyman thanked everyone for their expressions of condolences. He further thanked the members of the board for their volunteerism and time given to this community.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the Department of Transportation approved a new traffic signal at the intersection of Kings Highway and West 12th Street. Work should be completed by May 31, 2020.

She further announced that the Parks Department is seeking qualified candidates to participate in their free lifeguard training program for the upcoming 2020 season. The qualifying test will take place this month and early January at select schools. If anyone is interested in more info you can visit their website at nyc.gov/parks/lifeguards.

The Planning and Zoning Committee heard a presentation made by Solar One regarding the new solar and green roof mandates. They will be scheduling a workshop for those interested in learning about the new mandates.

The District Manager reported that in response to the traffic back-ups on Shore Parkway, the Department of Transportation has made an adjustment to the signal timing at Shore Parkway and 26th Avenue to address the traffic flow. They will monitor conditions to see if additional adjustments need to be made.

Ms. Elias-Pavia acknowledged and thanked Councilman Brannan for addressing this matter.

In closing, she announced upcoming MTA track maintenance on the D line, which will take place on December 14 and 15, 2019.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the 62nd Precinct Community Council will not be meeting this month.

Chief Cassato

Before the meeting was closed, Chief Cassato spoke regarding the days getting darker earlier and that we should all be people of light.

He further spoke regarding the work of our police officer's and that we should be supportive of the work that they do to keep our communities safe.

A non-denominational prayer was offered before eating.

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

