

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting  
Held on Thursday, October 15, 2020  
At 7PM via Webinar

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Present: Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Iwen Chu, Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Laura Gottlieb, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Alex Pellitteri, Lenny Salama, Briar Sambolin, Antonio Troia, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Daniel Zurek

Excused: Bart Allegretti, Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Shirley Fineman, Nicholas J. Miraglia, Rabbi Gary Pollack,

Absent: Thomas Andros, Sofia Annunziata, Wai Cheung, Vincent Chirico, Steven Chung, Linda Dalton, Paul DiSpirito, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, Roy Jung, Albert Milone, Janet Perry, Inga Smolyar, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Guests: Assemblyman William Colton, Nancy Tong, Nicholas Cuccurullo, Sarah Anders – State Senator Gounardes, Captain Tao Chen – 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Sgt. Fiandola- 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Sergey Chuprik – NYC Comptroller, Stephanie Cassas, Nany Lulu – Brooklyn District Attorney, Michele Talafna, Michael Cheung, Mary Coretto, Khatuna Kipiani, Karolina Anpilogova – Marks JCH Bensonhurst, Joann Randazzo, Hannah Weinermann – Rep. Nadler, Gloria Daniels – Parks Department, Ed Cerna – Mayor's CAU, Anthony Perrotti, Ari Kagan – Councilman Treyger, Despina Costalas – Rep. Rose, Frank Fontana – Department of Buildings

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

Public Hearing

Draft of Community Board 11's Capital and Expense budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022.

William R. Guarinello, Chairman of Community Board 11, inquired if anyone sought recognition.

Hearing none, a motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to close the public hearing. Seconded by Sonia Valentin. Unanimously adopted.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence for Sama Ali, a 7-year old child, who was killed at the intersection of Bath Avenue and Bay 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, after being hit by an armored truck.

Public Portion

Mary Coretto, a long-time resident, spoke regarding the deplorable conditions on 86<sup>th</sup> Street. She stated that due to the garbage there is now a rat infestation in the area. Rats have been seen on the Walgreens' property on 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Stillwell Avenue; she has contacted multiple agencies and the situation is getting worse. In addition, the construction site on Kings Highway and West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, garbage is being dumped and the area is not maintained.

Anthony Perotti, a resident of West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Avenue O, advised that he previously emailed the district office regarding people congregating at the Avenue O train station, and "junkies" on West 8<sup>th</sup> Street. They are drinking and there is no police presence.

Sarah Anders, representing State Senator Andrew Gounardes, advised that the office is continuing to assist families and businesses navigate Covid-19 rules and regulations and provide assistance as needed.

Ari Kagan, representing Councilman Treyger, spoke regarding the rat infestation. Numerous requests have been made to Department of Health and they will be sending inspectors. He further advised that tomorrow Councilman Treyger, Chairman of the Education Committee, will be holding an oversight hearing on school re-opening. Anyone in need of personal protection equipment or hand sanitizer should contact him at [akagan@council.nyc.gov](mailto:akagan@council.nyc.gov)

Gloria Daniels, representing the Department of Parks, advised that she is available to discuss any issues or concerns.

Edward Cerna, Brooklyn Borough Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, advised that he has been contacted by Marnee Elias-Pavia, regarding the rat infestation in the area surrounding 86<sup>th</sup> Street. He has not yet received an update from the Department of Health.

Mr. Cerna advised that we are in the closing hours of the 2020 census. He urged everyone who has not participated to fill out the questionnaire. Additionally, the city has made available an online map where one can obtain information by address on whether one is located in a covid-19 cluster area and the respective restrictions.

Despina Costalas, representing Congressman Rose, spoke regarding constituent services and the availability of caseworkers to assist.

Karolina Anpilogova, representing the JCH of Bensonhurst, spoke regarding the Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Community program, which provides social services to residents over 60 years of age.

Frank Fontana, representing the Department of Buildings, spoke regarding updates to the Open Restaurants program. He advised that the program was extended, and restaurants will be permitted to use heaters and tents. He further advised that agency's website has been updated to include real-time tracking of permits.

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

### Minutes

A motion was made by Robert Whittaker to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Ross Brady. Unanimously adopted.

Mr Guarinello introduced and welcomed the new Commanding Officer of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, Captain Tao Chen.

Captain Chen introduced himself and advised that most of his career was spent in Brooklyn South, so he is aware of the issues and concerns of this neighborhood. He thanked everyone for the warm welcome and he looks forward to working with the community.

### Assemblyman Colton

The Assemblyman welcomed Captain Chen and stated that the community always had a great relationship with the precinct, and he looks forward to continuing that tradition.

He further expressed his outrage regarding the garbage issue within New York City. He stated that there was garbage throughout the commercial corridors in our neighborhood; it is a disgrace and mismanagement of policy, which is causing an unhealthy environment, as well as the reason that we have a rat infestation.

He announced that the district office is open, and they are distributing facemasks and hand sanitizers to community-based organizations and religious institutions.

In closing, the Assemblyman condemned the recent vandalism of the Shore Parkway Jewish Center and commended the swift action of the 60<sup>th</sup> Precinct in making an arrest.

### Disposition of Public Hearing

The Chairman inquired if anyone from the board sought recognition.

Laurie Windsor requested that capital recommendation 12 be moved to the top 7 priorities.

A motion was made by Sonia Valentin to accept the draft of capital and expense budget recommendations for fiscal year 2022 as amended. Seconded by Ruben Colon. Unanimously adopted.

### Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello spoke regarding the newly identified areas of the district that have been identified by the State as COVID-19 cluster areas. He stated schools and institutions like Magen David Yeshiva complied with all the health mandates, as well as the catholic academies and they were ordered to close because they are geographically located in or near a cluster zone. Everyone must follow the guidelines, and there must be enforcement for those who do not comply. While we have great local leaders there is a need for citywide leadership.

The Chairman reminded everyone that early voting begins on October 24<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, at St. Dominic's 2001 Bay Ridge Parkway. Election Day voters go to your regular polling site.

### District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia addressed the rat infestation concerns brought forward at the public portion of the meeting. She stated that the district office is receiving rat and garbage complaints emanating from the commercial corridors. She advised that due to budget cuts there has been a 63% reduction in service frequency, no Sunday or holiday basket service.

She further reported that she has contacted the Mayor's Office, Health Department and the Department of Sanitation to address the current conditions. A mailing was sent to property owners in the affected areas; however, if we do not get control of the garbage, we will never be able to control the rat infestation.

The District Manager added that as part of New York City's Recovery agenda, the Mayor announced the expansion of the Open Restaurant program, which we have many restaurants participating. We should be supporting these restaurants and make the environment conducive to patrons. There needs to be a coordinated response to address the current conditions on the commercial corridors.

A motion was made by Laurie Windsor to call upon the Mayor and both city and state health departments to implement an immediate coordinated multi-agency response to address the public health and rodent conditions on the 86<sup>th</sup> Street commercial corridor. Seconded by Sal D'Alessio. Unanimously adopted.

She further addressed the issues on Avenue O that were brought forward at the public portion of the meeting. She advised that she has discussed the matter with the 62<sup>nd</sup> Precinct and they will monitor the area. She further suggested that neighbors contact their neighborhood coordinating officers.

The District Manager discussed the confusion that she has encountered with street activity permits and the current Covid-19 mandates.

She stated that the office has received applications for block parties, which are in the yellow zone. The yellow zone guidelines state that non-essential gatherings must be limited to 25 people maximum for both indoor and outdoor settings. Any individual who encourages, promotes or organizes mass gatherings may be fined up to \$15,000/day.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Harris to call upon the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office to comply with the current health mandates for non-essential gatherings. Seconded by Man Wai Lau.

Andrew Windsor inquired if there were any pending applications.

Following brief discussion regarding the recommendation process, the vote was 24 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Elias-Pavia further advised that the Department of Transportation has notified the board that a traffic signal has been approved and is being installed on Bay 26 Street and Benson Avenue.

National Grid will be working on 80th Street between 19th and 20th Avenue and 21 Avenue between 84 and 85 Streets. The work will last about 30 days.

The Parks Committee will be hosting a socially distant, mask wearing park clean-up, at Garibaldi Playground/Milestone Park this Saturday, October 17th at 11AM

### Transportation Committee

Laurie Windsor, Chairperson, reported that the committee met to discuss the issue that John Garvey raised at last month's meeting regarding the traffic back-ups caused by the removal of the green arrows on Bay Parkway at the entrance to the westbound entrance ramp to the Belt Parkway.

The committee recommends that the green arrow be restored and to initiate a study on Bay Parkway from Benson Avenue to Shore Parkway to determine appropriate safety improvements for all users of the roadway.

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to accept the recommendations of the committee. Seconded by Robert Whittaker. Unanimously adopted.

### New Business

Robert Whittaker requested that DOT revisit the integration of the bike lane at Stillwell Avenue and 86<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sonia Valentin requested volunteers for the park clean-up taking place on Saturday. There will be masks and sanitizer available.

Eileen LaRuffa advised that there is a new adult shop store on 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Bay 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

The District Manager advised that this was already reported to the Department of Buildings and an expedited inspection was requested.

## Old Business

Robert Whittaker inquired if there were any updates on F shuttle service during the weekend shutdowns.

Mr. Guarinello advised that this community rarely receives shuttle service during station shutdowns.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.