

Attendance of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 7PM
Via Teleconference

Present: Bart Allegretti, Sofia Annunziata, Ross Brady, Rosa Casella, Vincent Chirico, Iwen Chu, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D'Alessio, Linda Dalton, Claudio DeMeo, Paul DiSpirito, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Roy Jung, Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Janet Perry, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Lenny Salama, Briar Sambolin, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Daniel Zurek

Absent: Albert Campanelli, Msgr. David Cassato, Wai Cheung, Dteven Chung, Charles Farrauto, John Garvey, Laura Gottlieb, Albert Milone, Alex Pellitteri, Inga Smolyar, Antonio Troia, Linda Zhang, Nicholas Zimmitti

Excused: Ruben Colon, Angelo Cucuzza, Shirley Fineman, Nicholas J. Miraglia

Guests: Nancy Tong – Assemblyman Colton, Assemblyman William Colton, David Nussbaum – Department of Buildings, Steph Lee, Frank Kopylov, Gloria Daniels – Department of Parks, Danielle Shapiro – Brooklyn Public Library, Det. Stephen Agosta – 62nd Precinct, Jane Duong – Senator Gounardes, Glen Cutrona, Shirley Grant – CB11, Captain Tao Chen – 62nd Precinct, Nancy Lulu – Brooklyn D.A., P.O. Carmelo Vendra – 62nd Precinct, Andrew Olsen – NYC Recovery, Hannah Weinerman – Congressman Nadler, Sergey CHuprik – Comptroller's Office, Cathy Santopietro – Congresswoman Malliotakis

Minutes of Community Board 11's General Meeting and Public Hearing
Held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 7PM
Via Teleconference

The meeting was opened with Dr. Tim Law having the honor of the pledge.

Public Hearing

BSA Application No. 1069-27-BZ
6702-6724 New Utrecht Avenue

The applicant seeks to extend the term of an existing variance, which expired on March 6, 2021, to operate the car wash, simonizing room, and offices for a term of 10 years.

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 Laurie Windsor. Unanimously adopted.

Public Portion

Nany Lulu, representing the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, wished the Muslim community a peaceful Ramadan. She addressed the surge of anti-Asian violence and discussed the importance, whether a victim or witness, to report a bias motivated attack to the District Attorney's hate crime bureau at 718-250-4949. For all other matters or concerns, please contact the Action Center at 718-250-2340.

Danielle Shapiro, representing Brooklyn Public Library, highlighted some of the ongoing programs including Grab and Go Kits, which includes everything needed for various craft projects. Those interested in learning about the virtual and Whispering Libraries programming should use these links:

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/search?search=virtual+programs&event=true>

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/podcasts/whispering-libraries>

Hannah Weirnerman, representing Congressman Nadler, advised that following the signing of the American Rescue Plan, stimulus checks are being disbursed. To check payment status, use the Get My Payment tool on the IRS website. The plan also included funds for small businesses with \$1.25 billion added to the shuttered venues operator grants. Applications went live today and are available on the Small Business Administration's website.

Gloria Daniels, representing the Parks Department, advised that 2 new trash corrals have been placed in Bensonhurst Park. Each corral has 5 trash receptacles and should help contain the trash generated in the warm weather.

David Nussbaum, representing the Department of Buildings, spoke regarding Local Law 152, which requires the inspection of gas piping for all buildings except one- and two-family homes. Inspection submissions for buildings within CB 11 are not due until the end of 2023.

Glenn Cutrona, the special permit applicant at 6702-6724 New Utrecht Avenue, advised that he grew-up in Bensonhurst, and his grandparents were small business owners for 60 years. He thanked the board members for their service and consideration.

The Chairman inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Bart Allegretti to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Jeffrey Harris. Unanimously adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Sal D'Alessio to adopt the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Rosa Casella. Unanimously adopted.

Assemblyman Colton

Assemblyman Colton reported that the state budget was adopted, which is one of the best budgets in terms of education. The budget includes \$1.4 billion for Foundation Education aid, which includes a multi-year payment of all monies owed to schools, and \$105 million for prekindergarten programs.

The Assemblyman provided additional highlights of the budget that included funding to libraries, higher education and the rent assistance bill. This budget is due to the federal stimulus package, and he thanked Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Nadler.

The Assemblyman addressed the recent Anti-Asian hate crimes and commended the 62nd Precinct for their responsive and the quick arrests. He urged residents to report any acts of hate.

In closing, he advised that his office received numerous complaints that construction began at the proposed shelter, 2147 Bath Avenue. The Department of Buildings inspected and determined that they were taking boring samples. No permits required.

62nd Precinct

Captain Chen, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd Precinct, thanked District Attorney Gonzalez and the hate crime bureau for their work in yesterday's 86th Street bias arrest.

The Captain provided details of the bias incident. The initial report was that a 64-year old Asian woman was pushed to the ground. After investigating, they were able to find video of the perpetrator, who is linked to two additional crimes.

He further spoke regarding the recent legalization of marijuana and how it pertains to the NYPD. He stated that smoking of any kind is still illegal in parks and will be enforced.

Captain Chen advised of a graffiti clean-up initiative, which will be held on April 10th, at 11AM. They will begin on 84th Street and 18th Avenue.

Disposition of Public Hearing

The Planning and Zoning Committee recommends approval of the extension of term for an additional 10-years, of an existing special permit to continue operating a car wash at 6702-6724 New Utrecht Avenue.

A motion was made by Rabbi Pollack to recommend approval of the application as presented. Seconded by Man Wai Lau. Unanimously adopted.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that in March 2016, Community Board 11 formed a multi-cultural alliance of community leaders and community-based organizations that reflect the diversity of our community.

The goals of the Alliance are dedicated to strengthening the strong and vibrant Bensonhurst community through an environment fostering the values and traditions that respects and celebrates the diversity, cultures, and heritages of our community.

Last week, the Alliance held an initial meeting to discuss recent AAPI hate crimes and we will be holding additional meetings to discuss a plan of action.

We stand side by side with all our neighbors and friends and we will not tolerate or normalize hate in our community.

The Chairman advised that Councilman Treyger has spoken to the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, and he has agreed to the request to explore alternative locations and plans. He further committed to advise the board in advance of proceeding with an alternative site that is viable to provide shelter to those who would have resided at 2147 Bath Avenue.

At the May meeting, the Nominating Committee chaired by Mr. Troia will submit recommendations for the 2021/2022 slate of Officers.

The Chairman reminds board members whose term is expiring that they serve until they receive notification from the Borough President's office.

District Manager's Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia thanked Assemblyman Colton and the community for their quick action in alerting the agencies of the work at 2147 Bath Avenue. She additionally thanked the Department of Buildings for their quick inspection and response. She advised that there are no new filings for construction.

She further advised that the Mayor recently announced the restoration of baseline funding for dedicated litter basket service and Sunday litter basket service. She stated that this will improve overall conditions on our commercial corridors and thanked the administration for the restoration.

The Department of Sanitation also announced a new Precision Cleaning Initiative that consists of borough-based teams that will target cleaning of litter conditions, illegal dumping, and overflowing litter baskets. Teams will be dispatched based on 311 complaints, DSNY field observations, and referrals from other city agencies and community groups.

She urged residents to report and file complaints with 311, so that there is a record of the conditions.

The District Manager advised that she attended a walkthrough of 86th Street with Councilman Treyger and the Department of Sanitation Commissioner Grayson. Since that meeting there has been stepped-up enforcement and 74 Notices of Violation were issued for sidewalk obstructions.

She advised that Local Law 103/2019 requires owners of any 2 family and above Group R-2 building or occupancy within a hurricane evacuation zone to post a hurricane evacuation notice within the building or occupancy. This notice will inform occupants of the hurricane evacuation zone for that building and how to find the closest hurricane evacuation centers. Posters are required by April 30th.

Residents can find their zone via [NYC.gov/knowyourzone](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/resources/zoneposters.page) and print posters via <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/resources/zoneposters.page>

In closing, the District Manager announced that the office would be distributing an electronic informational newsletter. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy in their inbox they should send an email to bk11@cb.nyc.gov

New Business

Andrew Windsor thanked the District Manager for initiating the newsletters and the office staff for calling with meeting reminders.

Mr. Windsor recognized the 62nd Precinct Police Officers who were recently highlighted by Commissioner Shea, as well as the Daily News. Last month, Police Officers Marvin Cox and Christopher Mattar helped deliver a baby. He stated that it was a great Bensonhurst story of Police Officers stepping up and helping their community.

The Chairman advised that certificates of appreciation have been prepared to recognize their great work.

Sonia Valentin announced that the 62nd Precinct Community Council will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:30 PM.

Dr. Law announced that on April 10, 2021 at 2PM, the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs and volunteers will be distributing anti-hate crime fliers on 86th Street and Bay Parkway.

On May 29th, the 62nd Precinct Neighborhood Coordinating Officers will make a presentation on hate crimes at CASS, 124 Avenue O. Anyone interested should call 718-975-0955.

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