Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held Virtually on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7PM

Present: Reuvain Borchardt, Angelo Cucuzza, Victoria Curto, Salvatore D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Alan Esses, Leon Freue, Michael Garthaffner, William R. Guarinello, Jeffrey Harris, Rev. Edward Lai, Eileen LaRuffa, Man Wai Lau, Dr. Tim Law, Lorraine Mazzola, Rabbi Gary Pollack, Lenny Salama, Karen Sardell, Kaise Sun, Sonia Valentin, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Laurie Windsor, Sai Chuen Yeung, Daniel Zurek

Absent: Ross Brady, Jay Brown, Rosa Casella, Msgr. David Cassato, Lilibeth Chang, Roy Jung, Albert Milone, Ahmed Nasser, Janet Perry, Briar Sambolin, Antonio Troia, Linda Zhang

Guests: Councilmember Alexa Aviles, Nancy Lulu – Brooklyn District Attorney, Sergey Chuprik – NYC Comptroller, Tambe John – New Utrecht Public Library, Anastasia Yaskova – Mayor’s Community Affairs, Detective Stephen Agosta – 62nd Precinct, Deputy Inspector Roberto Melendez – PBBS/62nd Precinct, Captain Alexander Cedillo – 62nd Precinct, Anthony Colorafi, Tom Cheng, Maroua Righi – Civilian Complaint Review Board, Ethan Nash – Brooklyn Borough President, Susan Zhuang – Assemblymember Colton, Edward Cerna – Councilmember Aviles, Shirley Grant – CB 11, Gloria Daniels – NYC Parks, Paul Laguerre – Brooklyn District Attorney, Hannah Weinerman – Rep. Nadler, Paul, Alexander Kemp – TWU Local 100

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held Virtually on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7PM

The meeting was opened with Robert Whittaker having the honor of the pledge.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Guarinello requested a moment of silence for Police Officer Stephen Chen, of the 62nd Precinct, who suddenly passed away on November 21st.

Public Portion

Nancy Lulu, representing Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced a holiday toy drive. Toy donations could be dropped off or mailed to 305 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. The office is also accepting new or gently worn coats for asylum seekers in need. Anyone interested in donating should call 718-250-3888 to arrange drop off.

She further advised that the Brooklyn District Attorney’s office and the New York City Police Department will be holding a gun buy-back event on Saturday, December 17th, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 574 Madison Street.

Hannah Weinerman, representing Congressman Nadler, advised that due to redistricting he would no longer be representing Brooklyn. She thanked the board for being so welcoming.

Tambe John, Branch Manager of New Utrecht Library, announced volunteer opportunities at the library, which include helping children improve their reading skills. Training is provided for all volunteers, and they're asked to commit to two

hours per week for a period of at least three months. For more information call, 718-230-2406.

She further advised that the library adult learning in partnership with SUNY Brooklyn education, Opportunity Center, is now offering a virtual free, 15-week, intensive medical billing, and e-records class for the spring of 2023. Participants will be prepared to take the national certification exam to become a certified billing and coding technician.

Maroua Righi, representing the Civilian Complaint Review Board, advised that their youth advisory council is accepting applications. Young people between the ages of 10 to 18 that are passionate about police, community relations, criminal justice, and social

justice should apply.

Susan Zhuang, representing Assemblymember Colton, announced a holiday appreciation party on Sunday, December 18th at 3 PM, 29 Bay 25 Street.

Gloria Daniels, representing the Parks Department, provided a brief update on the “No Gambling” signs for Milestone and Seth Low parks, and the daily garbage removal from Bensonhurst Park, which will help manage the rat population.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Eileen LaRuffa to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting. Seconded by Michael Garthaffner. Unanimously adopted.

Councilmember Alexa Aviles

Councilmember Aviles thanked the board for their volunteerism and work on behalf of their community. She reminded board members that reappointment applications are due in February and encouraged residents to apply.

She further discussed the city’s projected economic forecast for the nest fiscal year and the impacts that budget reductions will have on service delivery and the existing citywide agency vacancies.

Councilmember Aviles spoke regarding identity theft and the impacts to those that are targeted. She advised that the New York Legal Assistance Group will bring their van to the district office to provide free civil legal services, on December 15th.

In closing, she spoke regarding the need for infrastructure investments and the equitable citing of green infrastructure.

 Chairman’s Report

Mr. Guarinello advised that Citizens Committee for New York City with Senator Gounardes, will be holding a Grant Information session on Neighborhood Business Grants and All In Neighborhood Grants for small businesses and community groups, on Thursday, December 15th at 5PM. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the district office, or the Senator’s office for the registration link.

He further advised that Chief Kemper, the former Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South has been promoted to Chief of Transit. The Chairman welcomed Chief Charles McEvoy as the new Borough Commander of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South.  The Chairman looks forward to meeting with the Chief following the holidays.

The Chairman announced that the Community Board Membership application process is now open. Anyone interested in applying to serve on a community board should visit the borough president’s website at [www.brooklyn-usa.org](http://www.brooklyn-usa.org)

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia advised that the board received notification from the Department of Transportation that pursuant to Local Law 168, they are installing loading zones on the corner of West 10th Street and Avenue P, on 86th Street between Bay Parkway and 23rd Avenue, and 64th Street between Bay Parkway and 23rd Avenue.

Local Law 168 requires that DOT create a public methodology for determining where loading zones are necessary to enhance safety and traffic congestion.

She discussed the need for commercial loading zones on the commercial corridors especially on 86th Street at 18th and 20th Avenues. There is a tremendous number of deliveries and no curb space for the trucks to pull in.

The Department of Transportation is seeking comments and she will submit comments requesting that the commercial corridors are prioritized and not the residential blocks.

She further advised that the MTA recently released the Draft Plan for the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign. Beginning in January, the MTA will host public events and workshops to gather input from customers and Brooklyn residents.

The workshop for community district 11 will be held virtually on Monday, February 13th from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. The meeting link is posted on the MTAs website, and we will share with the community, as well as the Transportation Committee.

The District Manager advised that the Department of Sanitation has implemented an intensive cleaning plan along the 86th Street corridor to address poor quality of life conditions and the increased need of resources and services on the corridor.

Beginning on December 5th, the following additional resources were allocated: an additional mechanical broom on the midnight to 8Am shift addressing all open curb lines and streets, specifically after the private carters service the commercial establishments, an additional mechanical broom on the day line to assist the regularly scheduled mechanical broom and address all conditions in and around the pillars in the street and parking lanes, one (1) crew of two (2) sanitation workers on the 4pm to midnight shift to give the corner litter baskets additional service, service all drop offs, and to utilize back pack blowers to service litter conditions along the stretch after commercial establishments close, an additional mechanical broom on the 4pm to midnight shift to work with the crew by sweeping up all litter blown out with back pack blowers along 86th Street.

She thanked Chief Miglino and Simonelli and District Superintendent DiSalvo for formulating the plan to address the conditions.

In closing, she followed-up on the questions posed at last month’s meeting regarding the Mayor’s Get Stuff Done Initiative. She advised that this initiative targets Leventhal areas, public areas that were identified by the Deputy Mayor for Operations Nathan Leventhal during the Koch Administration. He produced a memo which distributed agency responsibility for the cleaning of public areas. In our district, 34 areas have already been cleaned.

New Business

Dr. Tim Law announced that Chines American Social Services, is looking for volunteers to teach English as a second language, The classes are held at 124 Avenue O and IS 96. Anyone interested should call 718-975-0955.

Sonia Valentin advised that she shared upcoming events for the 62nd Precinct and the New Utrecht Public Library in the chat.

The Chairman inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Robert Whittaker to adjourn. Seconded by Sal D’Alessio. Unanimously adopted.