

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 28, 2018
RiseBoro Youth Center
1474 Gates Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11237
6:00PM

The Brooklyn Community Board #4 Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent opened the monthly Community Board #4 meeting at 6:12PM.

- Agenda Items -

- 1) Street Co-naming Request – The family of Ms. Avellar Hansley was not present. Will reschedule.
- 2) Jon Paul Miners, Con Edison, Customer Operations – Presenting on smart meter installation in Brooklyn.

Smart meters started to be installed in Staten Island, then in Westchester. Starting next week Smart meters are starting to be installed in Brooklyn, New York.

What are Smart Meters? It is a digital meter that communicates between your residence or business and Con Edison through a secure wireless communication network.

What is the difference between the current meter and a smart meter?

They both do the same job by collecting information about how much energy a customer uses. However, instead of collecting information every month, a smart meter sends readings every day, using the same type of extremely low frequency radio signals that allow you to use your smartphone, listen to the radio, or watch TV. Smart meters will also let Con Edison know right away when problems arise, so that they can get to work on restoring power even faster.

How will a smart meter help customers?

Smart meters will let customers keep track of how they are using energy and help them to manage their bill. Once the smart meter is installed, they will have access to detailed information about their daily energy use. They will be able to use that information to make choices that can help save them energy and money.

- See energy usage in 15-minute increments
- Get high-bill alerts (and tips on how to avoid them)
- Get information about energy-saving products and services

Smart meters will allow Con Edison to read meter remotely. That means no more waiting for a meter reader, and no more estimated bills.

If you use solar energy, a smart meter will help Con Edison integrate these renewable resources more efficiently.

When will we get the new meters?

Installation began for Staten Island & Westchester in 2017, and will continue through 2022 in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx and Queens. Con Edison will notify customer via postcard or letter before installation starts in their area. If your meter is outside, those customers will not need to do anything. If you need to be at home for Con Edison to access your meter, they will let you know how to set up an appointment.

Approximately 5,000 meters will be installed every day.

Power will be interrupted while the meter is installed for a brief pause in service for about 15 minutes the most. You will have to reset your clocks and other appliances.

How are you protecting customer's privacy?

Con Edison takes cyber security seriously, so all information is captured through an encrypted network. No personal information is captured or transmitted by the smart meter. And all energy usage information is kept confidential by Con Edison and their vendors.

Customers that opt out of the program will be charged a fee.

Will you still need to call Con Edison to report an outage?

Yes. Smart meters will alert Con Edison about most outages in your neighborhood. But Con Edison suggest you continue to tell them about any problems you are having so that they can address them as quickly as possible.

Questions

Will meter readers lose their jobs?

It is good to know that meter readers will not be losing their jobs, they will have other positions within the company.

Can you remotely turn on and cut off service?

Yes, however they will follow the same procedure that is followed now when someone does not pay their bill. They will not turn the power off for non-payment without following the steps that they already in place. Con Edison will turn of power off if a tenant moves and the landlord refuses to pay the bill if the bill is not paid by the tenant.

I live in a multiple dwelling building and my meter is located in the basement, will the meter stay there?

Yes, wherever your meter is now located, it will stay in that same location.

Commercial customers cannot opt out of the program, however residential customers can.

How can you get more information?

Visit www.conEd.com/smartmeters or call them at 1-800-576-2005

What is you do not want a smart meter and you would like to opt out?

Call Con Edison at 1-800-576-2005

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Jon Paul Miners for his presentation.

Ms. Julie Dent warmly greeted and acknowledged Councilmember Espinal's presence at the meeting. She stated that the board respects him and they like the work that he is doing in the community. She welcomed him to address the board and those that are in attendance.

Councilmember Rafael Espinal: His office is now located at 1945 Broadway near the Broadway Junction area, which is not far away from the train station.

He stated that this is his second term and he has 4 years left. With a new speaker we are going in a different location.

There is a lot of going back and forth with the city and the state, with the governor and the mayor. His job as a councilmember is to make sure that your voices are heard.

He passed a bill that would prohibit City agencies from partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enforce federal immigration law, including through 287(g) agreements. Additionally, this bill would prohibit the use of City resources, property, and information obtained on behalf of the City in furtherance of federal immigration enforcement. The bill would also require any requests for assistance by federal immigration enforcement agencies to documented and later compiled into an anonymized report sent quarterly to the Council. The bill would not restrict the City from participating in cooperative agreements with federal officials, so long as such agreements are not primarily intended to further immigration enforcement.

He is working on passing a bill that will stop delivery guys from getting a \$500 fine, when they ride their E- bikes. The fine is basically what they might make the entire week and this fine is causing hardship on themselves and their families. We need to focus on how they can navigate the city streets rather than fine them.

The Cabaret Bill: This bill repeals the requirement in the Administrative Code for public dance halls, cabarets, and catering establishments to obtain a license, but retains various security measures in the law. Establishments previously required to obtain a cabaret license must continue to abide by requirements 1) to install and maintain security cameras and, 2) if they employ security guards, to ensure such security guards are licensed pursuant to state law and to maintain a roster of such security guards.

Nightlife Bill: A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to establishing an office of nightlife and a nightlife advisory board.

This bill establishes a Nightlife Advisory Board and an Office of Nightlife. The Board will make recommendations regarding New York City laws, rules, regulations and policies to address common issues and trends in the nightlife industry. The Office of Nightlife will serve as a city liaison for nightlife establishments, conducting outreach and providing assistance with the city's enforcement, licensing, permits or approvals processes. It will also serve as an intermediary between the nightlife industry, residents and city agencies. In addition, it will review information on complaints or violations regarding nightlife establishments, and develop recommendations to address recurring problems or trends, in consultation with all stakeholders. The Office of Nightlife must also produce an annual report of its recommendations and activities.

Nightlife is part of the city, the "City that Never Sleeps" and it creates jobs.

The Right to Disconnect Bill: This bill has not been passed as of yet but he is working on it. This law will help employees, that after they leave the office they will not be required to be glued to their jobs. They will be able to go home and spend time with their families or do other things instead of answering to their bosses. Remind you they are not getting paid and they are being requires to still work beyond their working hours.

Before his generation Councilmember Espinal stated that people clock out of work and they were off duty, however his generation and younger are being told that they must answer the phone, etc. and still work beyond their schedule working hours. Something must be done about this.

Bushwick Plan: The coalition has his full support.

1601 DeKalb Avenue: He has concern about this project. They do not have his support as of yet. He told the people that are responsible that he cannot support anything that the community board does not support.

We do need affordable housing, but it must be done the right way, the Councilmember stated. He asked are the people involved listening, he does not talk much before he makes any rules, he like to listen, and so he is all ears.

Questions were entertained:

Will you be around for the DeKalb presentation?

CM Espinal: No, however I do have staff here and they will let me know what takes place. I have been reading the emails that have been sent to me, stated the Councilmember concerning 1601 DeKalb Avenue.

Barbara Smith: What commission do you serve on?

CM Espinal Jr.: I am the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee and Business Licensing. I sit on the Housing & Buildings Committee, I sit on the Sanitation Committee with Reynoso, and I sit on a few other committees that have not had a meeting yet.
I will make sure that the new director of nightlife comes before the board so that she can hear from the community what the issues are.

Robert Camacho: We see what is going on with high rents. My kids cannot afford to live here. My grandmother, 102 years old lived here all her life. Now it is too expensive to stay here.

Nightlife: We need jobs, nightlife does not bring jobs that our kids need.
We know that people are coming in, and we do not mind them coming, but don't push us away, because when times were bad I was here! Our people were here! And my family was here struggling and suffering. And now that it is good, we want to be part of the good of this community.

Ms. Virgie Jones: As respect school 377, there was a meeting in December which was held on the same night as our Community Board meeting.

Chairperson Ms. Julie asked the District Manager, Celestina Leon to call the first roll call.

First Roll Call: 8:08PM – 38 members present this does constitute a quorum.

The acceptance of the agenda was made by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Sharlene Moore.

The acceptance of last month's minutes was made by Mr. Joshua Brown and second by Ms. Elvena Davis.

Chairperson's Report: 8:13PM

Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all to the Community Board #4 Wednesday, February 21, 2018 monthly meeting.

Ms. Julie Dent asked that the Elected Officials and / or their representatives to introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Boris Santos Representing Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, 718-963-3141 & 212-788-7095: He represents the section West of Hart Street and South of Central Avenue up to Cornelia Street.
- 2) Fredrick Mitchell Representing Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 3215 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208, 718-573-1726
- 3) Paula Melendez, Representing Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 249 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-443-1205, Ms. Yvette Lopez will be the representative until Ms. Melendez's return.
- 4) Anayeli Gomez Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, 1 Centre Street, NY, NY 10007, 212-669-3568
- 5) Jonathan Pomboza Representing District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, 350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-250-2349
- 6) Julio Salazar, Representing Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, 266 Broadway, NY, NY 718-669-5149

Ms. Dent asked those from Federal, State or City Agencies to introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and phone numbers.

- 1) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library Irving Branch, 260 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 718-628-8378
- 2) Martha Bayona, CEC 32, CEC32@schools.nyc.gov, 347-731-6179

District Manager's Report: 8:32PM

Ms. Celestina Leon: Greetings from her staff and herself. "This month and this meeting marks one year since I was elected to serve as your district manager", stated, Ms. Leon.

The District manager encouraged everyone to get involved. As the neighborhood continues to grow she asked that it is important to know ones neighbors, and to know the history that surrounds us all.

Meetings Attended:

Friday, January 19, 2018: CB4 Community Planning Fellow – Last year the chairperson and Ms.

Committee Reports, 8:42PM

Youth and Education Committee (YEC), Committee Chairperson, Ms. Virgie Jones

Meeting Held: Monday, January 29, 2018, 6:00PM, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Present: Virgie Jones, Sharlene Moore, Joshua Brown and Acire Polight

Others Present: District Manager, Celestina Leon, Ciera Dudley, Coordinator from Y-Plan; Diana Delgado, Director of Community Center Programming at Beacon Center for Arts & Leadership, Hope Gardens and Cooper Park Community Center; Danice Crump, Beacon Community Center at IS 291, and Martha Bayona, CEC 32 President

Public Safety Committee (PSC) 8:48PM, Committee Chairperson Ms. Barbara Smith

Meeting Held: Thursday, January 25, 2018, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422, 6:00PM

Members Present: Jamie Wiseman, Annette Spellen, Victoria Fernandez and Elvena Davis

Others Present: District Manager, Celestina Leon, Abdo Najem, Jesse and Rona Davis, Matthew Maichel, Eric Goldsprey and Daury Grullon.

Not in Attendance: 126 Wyckoff Avenue, 419 Eldert Street, 1485 Myrtle Avenue, 1429 Myrtle Avenue and 40 Wyckoff Avenue.

Parks and Recreation Committee (PRC) 8:51PM, Committee Co-Chairpersons Mr. Robert Camacho and Ms. Annette Spellen

Meeting Held: Thursday, February 8, 2018, 6:00PM, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Present: Robert Camacho, Annette Spellen, Jamie Wiseman and Carlos Feliciano

Others Present: Celestina Leon, CB 4 District Manager; Willie Morales, CB 4 Community Associate; Nilda Rosario, Fraqui Carraz, Edwin Vargas, Jose Jimenez, Veronica Willis, Eva Bowerman, Mario Delgado, Carlos Pilatosig, Richard Williams, PO Christian Romero, Sgt. Anna Serrano, PO Oscar Lopez, PO Ezuequias Gomez, Adrian Witzke, Hector Velazquez, Tommy Torres, William Jusino and Marisol Garcia

Item Discussed:

- 1) Eva Bowerman, Director of Programs and Veronica Willis, the Evergreens Cemetery
 - Presented on Public Programs at the Evergreens Cemetery

- The Evergreens Cemetery is a historic cemetery in the rural style design by noted landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing.

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLU) 8:54PM, Martha Brown, Committee Co-Chairperson, and Joshua Brown, Co-Chairperson

Meeting Held: Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 6:00PM, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Present: Martha Brown, Joshua Brown, Jamie Wiseman, Victoria Fernandez, Robert Camacho, Desmonde Monroe and Jo-Ena Bennett

Others Present: CB 4 District Manager, Celestina Leon; Florent Morellet, Evan Stern, Henry Hewes, and Noelle Francois

Items Discussed:

Health/Hospital/Human Service/Senior Citizen/Veterans Committee (HHHSV) 8:56PM, Co-Chairpersons Ms. Mary McClellan & Ms. Luisa Jose

Meeting Held: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3PM, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Present: Ms. Mary McClellan, Ms. Luisa Jose, Ms. Barbara Smith and Ms. Barbara Jackson

Others Present: District Manager, Ms. Celestina Leon; Oni Tongo, Asenhat Gomez, Tejumade Ajaiyeoba, Rae Gomes, Isella Ramirez, and Luciano Contreras

Environmental Protection / Transportation / Sanitation Committee (EPTS) 8:59PM, Co-Chairpersons Eliseo Ruiz and Raul Rubio

Meeting Held: February 1, 2018, 1420 Bushwick Avenue, Suite 370, Brooklyn, NY 11207-1422

Members Present: Mr. Raul Rubio and Ms. Barbara Jackson

Others Present: District Manager, Celestina Leon and Ms. Sarah Back

Recommendation, 9:05PM:

- 1) Street Co-naming request to Co-name Woodbine Street and Irving in honor of Specialist Rasheed Sahib. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Mary McClellan. All member present were in favor. Motion moved.
- 2) Parks and Recreation Committee (PRC) request
Motion to accept the recommendation of the PRC with the stipulation that the parks can be used by the community when the school is closed. The motion was made by Mr. James Wiseman and second by Mr. Freddy Fowler. All members present were in favor. Motion moved.
- 3) Public Safety Committee (PSC) Recommendation to send a letter of support to SLA for all the applicants they met with the committee except 321 Starr Street and 895 Broadway with the stipulation that they do not agree with the Community Board's recommendation to stop selling liquor after midnight on Sundays. Motion was made by Ms. Barbara Smith and second by Mr. Robert Camacho. All members present were in favor with two abstentions. Motion moved.
- 4) Board Member removal: Motion made to proceed with the removal of board members, Ms. Roberta Sutton and Ms. Evadne George. Motion made by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Barbara Jackson. All member were in favor with one abstention. Motion moved.

Old Business:

NCO – Sector Charlie will hold a meeting Friday, February 23rd at 61 Montrose Avenue.

Announcements, 9:13PM

2nd Roll Call: Community Board #4 Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Meeting adjourned at 9:42PM.