

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD #7

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Assemblyman Abbate reported on the upcoming budget talks in Albany. Assemblyman Abbate reported that there may be possible cuts to funding for CUNY. He stated that the Assembly would work on restoring those cuts. He also announced that \$700 million in funding has been allocated for healthcare in Brooklyn.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that many people cannot afford health insurance as described in the Affordable Health Care Act. She asked if that funding could be used to help those without health insurance. Assemblyman Abbate stated that the funding is geared towards hospitals and clinics, not for health insurance.

P.O. Spencer from the 72nd Precinct reported that the Neighborhood Community Officer Program would begin in late April. He stated that the precinct would be gaining an additional 20 officers. He also reported that this is in addition to the 22 police academy recruits that are currently training with officers from the 72nd Precinct.

P.O. Spencer reported the following statistics:

- **Robbery down 35% year to date**
- **Burglary down 38% year to date**
- **2 homicides year to date**

He reported that there has been a spike in Grand Larceny Auto. He asked that residents be extra vigilant and not leave their car keys in the ignition.

P.O. Fernandez announced that the 72nd Precinct continues to meet monthly at their Precinct Council meetings. These meetings are open to all CB7 residents. The Precinct Captain or Executive Officer of the 72nd Precinct are in attendance to discuss issues in the community as well as hear community concerns.

Elise Goldin from the Street Vendor Project introduced herself, Polipo Cartes and Elidora, who are local vendors in the community. Ms. Goldin stated she would translate for Mr. Cartes and Ms. Elidora. Ms. Goldin stated that they are residents of Sunset Park who work as vendors to support their families. Many vendors are not licensed and knowingly take the risk of vending in order to support their families. Those risks include receiving fines and having their merchandise confiscated.

Ms. Goldin stated that it can cost up to \$25,000.00 to obtain a vendor's license from the black market. She stated that as members of the Street Vendor Project, they are advocating for change in the laws regarding vending.

Mr. Zuniga asked if there was a proposal made by Councilman Menchaca to increase the number of permits issued by the city.

Ms. Goldin stated that they are currently working with Councilman Menchaca to draft legislation to present to the NYC Council. Mr. Zuniga suggested a meeting with CB7's Economic Development Committee and Councilman Menchaca's Office.

Ms. Ruiz asked if the Sunset Park 5th Avenue BID was aware of their campaign and in support of the vendors. Ms. Goldin stated that the 5th Avenue BID worked with the Street Vendor Project on a proposal some time ago and had submitted it to the previous Councilmember.

A quorum was reached. Mr. Bissell made a motion to accept the agenda and was seconded by Mr. Pena. Ms. Gonzalez made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Ms. Melman.

Public Comment

Pat Maliha, resident of Windsor Terrace, spoke about the upcoming improvements for Windsor Place. She requested that the work be put on hold until after completion of a traffic light study by DOT at the same location.

Elected Officials

Trip Yang from the Kings County District Attorney's Office announced that they are holding a hate crime seminar on February 25th at the Borough Park YM-YWHA Center. Mr. Yang gave an update regarding the raid at the 39th Street hotel last year. He reported that the case is still pending in Brooklyn criminal court.

Ana Chireno from the Comptroller's Office reported that their office conducted an audit of the Department of Homeless Services family shelters and found over 18,000 health and safety violations. She announced that the Comptroller's Office is having a Trailblazers event and award ceremony for African American History Month on February 25th at Medgar Evers College.

Mr. Pol reported that several banks in the community are not accepting the IDNYC card as identification.

Senator Montgomery reported that she recently visited Industry City for a tour and a discussion on revitalizing several buildings in Industry City. She spoke about finding a location for a maritime middle school along the waterfront between Sunset Park and Red Hook. She mentioned the Harver School as the inspiration. She stated it is the only Maritime high school in New York City on Governor's Island. Senator Montgomery announced that she would be attending a meeting at the Borough President's Office on February 18th to discuss economic development on the waterfront.

Mr. Chiu from Senator Hamilton's Office announced their Career Development Workshop on February 29th. Mr. Chiu thanked CB7 for the use of their space for the workshop.

Mr. Ardila from Councilman Lander's Office announced that voting for the Participatory Budgeting projects would be from March 26th to April 3rd and the kickoff party would be held on March 29th.

Mr. Estrada from Councilman Menchaca's Office announced that their office has provided funding for additional sanitation services on 5th Avenue and problematic side streets where the additional services are needed. Mr. Estrada reported that they met with Tacos El Bronco, 72nd Precinct and the residents of 37th Street regarding quality of life issues with the food truck located on 37th Street and 5th Avenue. He stated that they are continuing to work together to come up with a resolution to solve those issues.

He also stated that their office meets weekly to get updates regarding the 64th Street sinkhole. Mr. Estrada spoke about the community advisory board meeting with Samaritan Village. He reported that they are upgrading their video surveillance among other improvements at the site.

Mr. T. Murphy asked for an update on the reconstruction of the Sunset Park Library. Mr. Estrada stated that no work would take place without an alternate site designated for the library with full services for the duration of the project.

Ms. Granshaw from the Borough President's Office announced that their office would be holding several events during the month of February. She stated more information was available in their newsletter. Ms. Granshaw reminded board members to submit their reappointment applications, even though the deadline has passed, they are still accepting applications.

Mr. Wiley from Congresswoman Velazquez' Office announced that the U.S. House Committee on Small Business would hold a hearing on February 22 to discuss NYC manufacturing and the challenges conducting business in NYC. He also reported that Brooklyn Chinese Association received over \$1 million in funding for their Head Start program.

Mr. T. Murphy asked if a press conference was held regarding the Brooklyn Blue Way/Greenway. Mr. Wiley stated that those plans are still being worked on and have not been finalized.

Committee Reports

Transportation

Mr. Jasie reported that the committee met to discuss the following issue: speed hump request for 41st Street between 5th & 6th Avenues and traffic improvements for Terrace Place.

Mr. Jasie reported that the committee was in favor for the speed hump. There was a brief discussion on the request. Mr. D. Murphy called for a voice vote. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Carrol asked for a friendly amendment to separate the components of the Terrace Place traffic safety improvements. It was seconded by Mr. Acevedo. A vote was called: **29-Yes, 1-No, 0-Abstentions.**

Mr. Jasie reported that Terrace Place and 11th Avenue intersects with the Prospect Expressway. As part of the safety recommendations from DOT, 11th Avenue would be reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes with parking on each side. This will give an additional 13 parking spaces to the community. He also reported that a parking lane would be added from McDonald Avenue to 19th Street and 3 new crosswalks would be added where Terrace Place intersects with the Prospect Expressway. He also stated that a right turn signal would also be added at that intersection. Mr. Carrol stated that the committee was in agreement with these improvements. Mr. D. Murphy called for a voice vote. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Jasie reported that Windsor Place, Terrace Place and Prospect Park West all intersect with traffic coming from Windsor Place and Terrace Place onto Prospect Park West. He stated that there is no traffic from PPSW going onto Windsor Place and Terrace Place. He reported that DOT wants to build out the sidewalk to create a curb extension. He stated that currently there are temporary barricades in place but DOT wants to place a permanent measure. He stated that the committee was not all in agreement. There was a discussion among the board members on this recommendation.

Mr. Carrol asked the Board to vote down this recommendation in order to await the results of the ongoing traffic light study at that location. Mr. Laufer made a point of order. He informed Mr. Carrol that if the Board votes down the recommendation, the Board will be on record as being against this recommendation. Mr. Laufer suggested that the wording should be "abstain". Mr. Carroll agreed.

Mr. McCreary called a question. It was seconded by Mr. Jasie.

A roll call vote was called: **23-Yes, 0-No, 6-Abstentions**. The motion was passed.

District Manager's Report

Mr. Laufer reported he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Brooklyn Nets training facility in Industry City. Mr. Laufer and Mr. D. Murphy along with other Brooklyn community boards met with Chief Powers from Patrol Borough Brooklyn South. He reported that they discussed allocating more school crossing guards in the district. He also reported that he and Mr. D. Murphy attended a meeting at the District Attorney's Office to discuss the issues within the community district. They discussed the subject of unscrupulous landlords. Mr. T. Murphy reported that the Samaritan Village shelter on 49th Street is almost completely staffed and that they signed an MOU with NYU/Lutheran to provide health services at one of their local health clinics. Ms. Ruiz asked for a clarification regarding available jobs at the Nets training facility. Mr. Laufer stated that 40 jobs were transferred from their previous facility in New Jersey to Sunset Park. Mr. Laufer also stated that they would be providing basketball clinics for the children in the community and connects with job fairs at the Barclays Center.

Chairperson's Report

Mr. D. Murphy reported on the joint Public Safety and Immigration Committee meeting held recently. He stated that there was a presentation by The Healing Center on domestic violence in the immigrant community. Officers from the domestic violence unit from the 72nd Precinct were present and answered questions at the committee meeting. Mr. D. Murphy stated that women in the immigrant community may be afraid of seeking help or may not know that there are resources available to them. There was a discussion among board members.

Mr. D. Murphy proposed a resolution for the City to create an advocacy office in Sunset Park with resources for domestic violence advocacy, legal and health services. It was seconded by Mr. Swinton. It passed by unanimous consent.

New Business

Mr. Gsovski stated that he is concerned on the impact to the waterfront with the creation of the BQX light rail proposed by the Mayor's Office. He stated that there was no community input and the lack of information on this project.

Mr. D. Murphy stated that he would facilitate a meeting with the Transportation and Economic Development Committees to discuss this project once more information became available.

Old Business

Mr. T. Murphy asked if the truck study has been completed for the Brooklyn Greenway initiative. Mr. Laufer responded that he contacted DOT and asked them to revise the plan to not require the loss of 46 parking spaces along 2nd Avenue.

Mr. Zuniga requested a Parks Committee meeting to discuss the issues with the children's sprinkler at Sunset Park.

Public Comment

Ms. Gonzalez asked for an update on 4302 4th Avenue. Mr. Laufer stated that there hasn't been further development.

Joe Hartigan from Rockaway, Queens spoke about advocacy for increased ferry service during the morning rush hour for ferries traveling to Manhattan. He was also advocating for

more ferry boats. He stated that traveling by ferries is much faster and safer than riding on the subway.

Ms. Roca from Friends of Sunset Park reported that the Department of Education would be presenting their capital budget at P.S. 1 on February 23rd at 5 p.m. Mr. Laufer stated that it would be taking place at 7 p.m.

Mr. D. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Acevedo.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ruiz
Secretary