



## Queens Community Board 13

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District Manager

### BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2014

BELLEBOSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE, BELLEROSE NY

#### **Attendance:**

**Present:** Angela Augugliaro, Isa Avery, Corey Bearak, Alain Berrouet, Bryan Block, Verdell Boncoeur, Kyle Bragg, Jackie Campbell, Daisy Carew, Delroy Dawkins, James Delaney, Samuel Elliott, Charles Farruggia, Seymour Finkelstein, Anthony Green, Edward Harap, Richard Hellenbrecht, Lloyd Hicks, Fay Hill, Vernal Holdre, Bonnie Huie, Mohamood Ishmael, Nagassar Ramgarib, Anup Ramnauth, Peter Richards, Ashok Satkalmi, Sanu Thomas, Mathew Thomas, Pritpal Singh Walia, Derrick Warmington. Clive Williams, Jackie Wilson, Jerry Wind.

**Absent:** Terence Banks, Tanya Cruz, Bess DeBetham, Bruno DeFranceschi, Terryl Ebony DeMondonca, Jack Friedman, Robert Glover, Rhonda Kontner,

**Elected Officials/or Representatives:** Andy Laine representing Councilman Daneek Miller, Matt Pofindi representing Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, Shurn Anderson representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin.

**Excused from the November meeting:** Bonnie Huie

Mr. Block introduced Officer Neteis Gilbert, she is the XO ( Executive Officer ) under Inspector Coyle. Officer Gilbert spoke about her background before coming to the 105 Precinct. She stated that she was a Police Officer in the 79 Precinct, she was a Sergeant at the 103 Precinct, she went to School Safety Investigations and now she is in the 105 Precinct as the Executive Officer..She also has two Masters Degrees.

Officer Gilbert said that the 105 precinct is one of the "twitter" commands. Anything you are interested in seeing about your community on twitter, please let her know.

Officer Gilbert spoke of the **Green Dot Scam**. People make phone calls to you saying that you have won something, as they talk to you, you give them information that you don't realize you are giving. There was a community member that got a call that their grandson had been arrested in the Dominican Republic. They stated that he needed money for bail to get out. The scammers actually walk you through what you are to do ,that you must to the bank and that you can only get \$2000 on this Green Dot card that you will purchase.. They will tell you to go to Rite Aid and

get a certain amount of money and once you have done this they will ask you to give them the numbers on the card. As fast as technology is, Western Union cannot track these transactions. They have had seniors that have lost \$12-\$15,000 to these scammers. If you do not know who is on the other end of the line, please do not provide them with your personal information. If you are contacted by the phone company, Con Ed etc...tell them you will call them back. The XO told the Board to make sure they lock their cars and put bags in the trunk, always pay attention to your surroundings. Thieves are still taking catalytic converters from the more expensive cars, like the Sequoia. She stated that Vision Zero has been effective citywide The number of fatalities and injuries have been greatly reduced.

James Delaney asked about having a Slow Zone on 85-86-87 Avenues between Little Neck Parkway and Commonwealth Blvd. The XO said that an observation will be conducted at these locations.

Derrick Warmington asked about pedestrians, and jay-walking. The XO stated that they are subject to receiving a ticket.

Mohamood Ishmael stated that he agrees but sees it as a way for the city to make money

There were a few Board members who said they received telephone calls from callers saying they were from the IRS, Con Edison, Seymour Finkelstein said he was contacted by US Energy and told if he signed up with them, they could save him money, they said they were working with Con Edison. As it turned out, they have no affiliation with Con Edison at all.

Charles Farruggia stated that there is an 18 wheeler that parks on 260 Street off Hillside Avenue, on Wednesdays and Saturdays .A brief discussion followed

Mr. Block called the attendance, there was a quorum.

There was one correction to the October minutes, Fay Hill said that she was also in attendance at the vigil in Jamaica.

Motion was made to accept the minutes by Mohamood Ismael and seconded by Delroy Dawkins.

### **Chairman's Report:**

On November 25th, Mr. Block attended a Meeting of the Rosedale Civic Association. He attended the Queens Colony Civic and Holiday Party. And the Cambria Heights Civic Assn Meeting.

On Saturday, there was the tree lighting ceremony in Brookville Park. Mr. Block stated that Kangela Moore and her team did a fabulous job. The tap dancers were terrific.

Mr. Blocks report was approved by Verdell Boncoeur and seconded by Clive Williams.

Mr. Block mentioned that those who travel along Rockaway Boulevard between 182 Street and Brookville Boulevard, it will be closed at midnight and reopens at 5 a.m. They will only be closing one lane at a time.

Mr. Block turned the floor over to Mr. Hellenbrecht.

### **BSA 68-03 BZ 145-55 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard.**

This is to extend the variance on a gas station. Michael Nacmias represented Eric Palatnik.

This is a BP gas station at the intersection of Guy R. Brewer Boulevard and Farmers Boulevard. There are no proposed changes to the gas station. They are requesting a special permit for 10 years that will expire in 2024.

Charles Farruggia asked if there were many accidents due to the location of the gas station. There has not been. Fay Hill stated that the station is very safe. Mohamood Ismael asked how come it took so long for them to come before the Board, if their current variance expired in 2014. Mr. Nacmias stated that it takes time to put these things together.

Fay Hill stated that the station is clean and well kept, but a little barren. In order .to have planters, BSA would have to approve it..

Discussion followed, closing with Ms. Hill stating that the area is well maintained, but she would like some beautification.

Jim Delaney asked that the hearing be closed and was seconded by Charles Farruggia.

Motion to approve made by Clive Williams, seconded by Delroy Dawkins.

Mr. Block called the roll, there were 34 in favor, 0- no votes and 0abstentions.

Mr. Hellenbrecht spoke on the JFK-I-BID ( Business Improvement District ). He stated that this is an industrial area on Rockaway Boulevard between the Belt Parkway and Springfield Park. He and Fay Hill have been attending meetings every other month, The BID would impose an additional 5-10 cents per foot additional tax on businesses. The I-BID would expand on services already provided by the city. So far 28 percent of the businesses are in favor of joining. If this goes forward, it will take 6-9 months before it comes before the Board. A discussion followed.

Erica Tanner – Consumer Affairs

Ms. Tanner spoke on the new “Paid Sick Leave Law” that went in to affect April 2014, additional information is available by calling 311 or by going on the DCA website, [nyc.gov/dca](http://nyc.gov/dca). Peter Richards asked about the Bulk Shredding Initiative, was this sponsored by the DCA? And will this program be continued. Mr Block said that they should send more than one truck in certain areas. There was a brief Question and answer period.

Mr.Block announced that Jerry LaMura had retired from the Borough President’s Office, and that Shurn Anderson was here from Borough Hall this evening.

Derrick Warmington suggested that something should be done by the Board to thank Jerry for his help all these years. Peter Richards asked if Jerry could be a Board member now, Mr. Block said that would be up to Jerry.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Block stated that Kangela Moore’s committee “Social Services, Handicapped & Aging “ is not an ad hoc committee, but a standing committee. Marcia O’Brien is the co-chair of that committee.

Ms. Moore planned to have an Advocacy Workshop on December 29, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Eagle Academy. Ms. Moore spoke on what the committee will discuss and who some of the members are. Ms. Moore said that a meeting will be held on Friday, January 9 ,2015. from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Mr. Block stated that this is a diverse Board, some of our Board members as well as community may have religious observances on Fridays.

Mr. Hellenbrecht asked if this committee will be doing group homes? Ms. Moore said “ Group homes with disabilities, yes.”

#### Public Safety Committee

Clive Williams wished everyone a happy holiday. The committee met with Bess DeBetham chairing the committee, as Mr. Williams could not make the meeting until late.

The committee reviewed renewals of liquor licenses.

Jassi’s at 271-11 Union Turnpike, New Hyde Park was approved by the committee.

Exclusive Lounge \at 223-22 Linden Boulevard, Cambria Heights was approved .

The Ice Lounge is being watched, the precinct is unhappy with the goings-on. The recommendation of the committee, based on the precinct report was not to renew.

Breezes Island Grill at 230-06 South Conduit Avenue has no prior history,, so the committee recommended their license.

Mr. Williams expected Mr. Boyd of ACS to come to the committee and speak, but he couldn’t make it. He thanked the members of his committee who came out.

Mr. Block asked Shurn Anderson to bring back to the Borough Presidents Office that the Board has reached out to Mr. Boyd.. Mr Boyd was to speak on the Close to Home Program. Mr Boyde said he would come to the January Board meeting.

Mr. Williams said that the Board approved a 30 day waiver for 2123 Jamaica Avenue, as well.

Mr. Walia-Singh made a motion to accept Mr. Williams report, and it was seconded by Vernal Holder.

#### Health Committee

Bonnie Huie, Co-Chair of the committee spoke on the flu season stating that the flu season begins in October and peaks in January. Ms. Huie suggested that everyone should get a flu shot. The flu is spread by droplets, when someone coughs, sneezes or talks. It is less often spread by touching surfaces. The patient is most contagious before and during the illness, 1 day before it is diagnosed till 5-7 days after.

A motion was made by Richard Hellenbrecht to accept Ms. Huie’s report, seconded by Kyle Bragg.

The Parks Committee had no report, as things are slow in the winter.

Transportation Committee: Both co-chairs were out sick.

A discussion followed. Fay Hill stated that Springfield Boulevard was to be renovated between South Conduit and 147 Avenue. She has requested speed bumps because the roadway will be “too nice” and will encourage drag racing. The Commissioner will look into this.

## Public Speaking:

Joan Flowers spoke on Springfield Boulevard and the South Conduit. She said that this project started November 2013. Her and her husband have a business on the corner of South Conduit and Springfield Boulevard, across the street from the school. The egress was immediately closed off on Springfield Boulevard, their patients and clients have to go in and out using the South Conduit. Besides inconvenience and loss of business for this past year she stated there is also a huge safety problem. If there should be a fire in the building, there would be no way the fire truck could make the turn. Ms. Flowers said that they will be widening the street past Springfield Park. They are taking away a lane now at the intersection ( South Conduit and Springfield Boulevard ). What they've done is widened the sidewalk, made a huge bike lane and taken away one lane of traffic on each side of the street. Ms. Flowers read an email from Councilman Richards, he was told that the contractor left this job to start another job, no work has been done on this site for three months. They only came out after they found out that she had complained to the Councilman's office.

Mr. Block said there was a presentation at the last Transportation Committee meeting and there were two representatives from DOT present at that meeting. Mr. Block said if he had known about this he would have brought it up.

Ms. Hicks: Springfield-Jamaica Association, covers the JFK IBID area which is 157-158-159 Streets, from 14 Avenue to Rockaway, this is their first time attending and just wanted to introduce themselves.

### Philip Konigsberg: Smoke Free Housing

Mr. Konigsberg stated that he is a member of Community Board 7 in Queens, he serves on the Health Committee. He has become aware the Staten Island Board 3 has passed a "smoke free multiple housing" resolution.

Community Board 7 in Queens also passed the resolution. Community Board 11 has also passed a very strong smoke free housing resolution, including calling for legislation for a smoking policy disclosure similar to the proposal Mayor Bloomberg had proposed.

Mr. Konigsberg presented a copy of the letter from Community Board 11 along with the resolution they passed, he gave a copy to the Health Committee and to the Board.

Mr. Block introduced Senator-elect Leroy Comrie. The Senator announced that his swearing in ceremony will be on January 11, 2015 at 4 pm at York College..

Peter Richards said that every year he has talked about having a Holiday Party. He asked if this would be possible for January, this was seconded by Jackie Campbell.

Possibly we could look into using the basement of the Bellerose Assembly of God Church.

Mr. Block agreed and said "no home cooked food", possibly pastries. Mr. Williams said he thought what Peter had in mind was more like a party, we would contact the church and see if we could use the basement.

Kyle Bragg mentioned that the office area was very dark, possibly we could get better lighting.

Maxine Brannon said that the office has estimates for cameras to be put outside the building.

This has to be discussed with Mr. McClean, Mr. Block said.

Mr. Williams asked if we could go back to Mr. Richards suggestion about having a Holiday Party.

Mr. Williams said that we meet every month and talk business, we never really get a chance to socialize...He said that maybe we could use one of the local establishments. Mr. Block said that Mr. Richards, Mr. Williams, and Ms Campbell will chair this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Stephanie Rainkie  
Community Coordinator

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