



**Queens Community Board 13**

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Bryan J. Block**  
Chairman

**Vicky Morales-Casella**  
Director of  
Community Boards

**Mark McMillan**  
District Manager

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 27, 2017**

**BELLEROSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
240-15 HILLSIDE AVENUE  
BELLEROSE, NY**

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Angela Augugliaro; Isa Avery; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Samuel Elliott; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangela Moore; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Mathew Thomas; Wilson Thomas; Pritpal Singh Walia; Derrick Warmington; Jerry Wind

**Absent:**

Terence Banks; Jacqueline Campbell; Daisy Carew; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Robert Glover (S); Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Rhonda Kontner; Davon Lomax; Sanu Thomas; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

A "Moment of Silence" for former Board Member Helene Zaro who recently passed away. The Board Chair and Board Member Jim Delaney both spoke about fond memories of her.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Board Chair reported on the events he had attended since the previous month's General Board meeting. He reported on:

- The Board Members who were in attendance at the Queens Borough President's State of the Borough Speech held at York College.
- He sat on the panel at the Borough President's District Needs Hearings held at Borough Hall.
  - Queens is not getting its fair share from the City Budget.
- Attending the 105 Precinct Council Meeting – highest number of marijuana tickets given in the city

BM Satkalmi asked why is Queens not getting its fair share?

A motion was made to accept the Board Chair's Report, it was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **Presentations**

#### **Inspector Jeffrey Schiff, Commanding Officer, 105 Precinct:**

- Crime is down 22% for the month, double digits in every category except assaults (more than 1/2 of these are by acquaintances)
- Crime is down 9% YTD; 2 shootings could have been prevented
  - "After Dark" had an inside dispute which spilled outside; no one from the bar called 911; subsequently multiple shots were fired and 1 victim was hurt.
  - 4 days later at "The Pour House" a fight outside and an individual got shot.
  - Restaurant/Bar owners are in the business of making money but they have a responsibility to the community as well.
  - NYPD needed a search warrant to get camera tapes from the nearby Belmont Hotel and they still did not cooperate. NYPD had to break down the door and arrest the custodian.
  - The 105 Precinct is having a Nightlife Meeting to show a united community front...he will not put up with this nonsense anymore.
- [Map on the Board] The 105 Precinct has issued the most summonses in the city for marijuana in calendar year 2016...the precinct is the largest in the city; if you have double the size, there is double the work and it is spread across the whole breadth of the community; no one community singled out.

- o Other commands get NCO programs.
- o The 105 is being broken in half for a reason – if you cut the numbers in half the 105 Precinct is on average.
- o He is operating under the old model of aggressive policing.
- o Arrests are down citywide.
- o There are no summons quotas, only performance standards.

Q: Chair – How does a summons affect someone's record?

A: When you do not go to court for the summons, a warrant is issued for an arrest. The warrant arrest stays on your record.

- At the meeting, it was decided that whenever a teenager gets a summons, the precinct will contact the parents.

Q: BM Logan – Is not pleased with the article in the February 11, 2017 New York Post (on the 105 Precinct having the highest number of marijuana summonses) ...Feels this is an extension of "The War on Drugs" enforced more in communities of color...if they do not show up, felonies...one, two strikes...In his community he will be addressing the local elected officials about criminal justice reform.

A: Not showing up for a summons is a misdemeanor...it gives one a record the same as a bench warrant. As Commanding Officer in NYPD, he is apolitical and cannot speak about reform. However, he will use every tool available to enforce the law.

Q: BM Berrouet – For the past 2 ½ months the cops stop him where he lives on the corner at 232 Street and Merrick Boulevard. Is there training on implicit bias?

A: Yes. This happens at the Academy. As CO, he advocates for his officers being professional. He personally deals with complaints against officers or the community can contact CCRB. He has 300 officers under his command. CCRB complaints are down 25%.

Q: BM Delaney – Thought there were no more homeless in the hotels in Bellerose...what was the incident [he heard about]?

A: A couple from Georgia came to visit family in Hempstead. The father did not want to leave to go to JFK and assaulted his wife. This was not a homeless person.

BM DeBetham – As a Laurelton resident, many of us truly appreciate all you do. Our children must be taught not to smoke marijuana out in the street. If they do not show up at the court, we cannot blame the police department.



Q: BM Cruz – How many citations go to 16-19 year olds? 300 out of 900? Do you have one-time contact with the parents or multiple times? This approached helped her when she was growing up.

A: We write 3 times as many alcohol summonses as marijuana summonses. [He then introduces officers from the 105 Precinct who are present.]

***The Board Chair took the roll call.***

BM Derrick Warmington announces his resignation from the Board, effective March 1, 2017. He states it is not a divorce, rather a retirement.

***Review of October and November, 2016 Minutes:***

Corrections:

- November – Jim Delaney present, not absent.
- December – Isa Avery present, not absent.

Motion made and passed to accept the Minutes from October 2016 and November 2016 with the stated corrections.

**Board Chair acknowledges the representatives of elected officials present.**

**Presentations**

The Board Chair introduces **Christine Farrell, Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs, NYC Office of Emergency Management.**

- She distributes a folder entitled, "Community Emergency Planning in NYC, A Toolkit for Community Leaders."
- Various topics within this handout are highlighted.

Q: BM Berrouet – What emergency plan is there for southeast Queens?

A: There are many plans for the whole city. OEM coordinates a multi-agency response that takes into account the population density, types of buildings and whether to shelter in place or evacuate. But planning is in place for every community.

Q: BM Warmington – There is nothing in here on terrorism. Are you going to the schools?

A: Yes. There is a very active school program on preparedness. They meet in small groups and do assembly presentations. This is because kids bring these materials home.

Deputy Commissioner Farrell then encourages everyone to join NotifyNYC – the city's free emergency alert program. You get alerts by text, email, etc. for up to 5 different zip codes. Go to: [nyc.gov/notifynyc](http://nyc.gov/notifynyc)

The Board Chair introduces **Ndukwe Agwu, Senior Staff Attorney, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.**

- He delivers a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "What's Happening with Foreclosures in Queens?"
- Topics covered include HUD mortgages; private equity buying mortgages; Distressed Asset Stabilization Program; FHA mortgages; HAMP and other Loan modifications.

Q: BM Finkelstein – Why should people who cannot afford to buy homes buy homes?

A: Who bears the fault? The bank did not check out the person applying for the loan.

BM Walia – Banks were lending at 125% without checking documents from 1999 through 2008. Many of those applying were not qualified...definitely predatory lending.

Q: BM Logan – What funds are elected officials using [to buy foreclosed on homes]?

A: Tax dollars.

Q: BM Berrouet Is there any comparative analysis? Compare this [southeast Queens] to the north side of Queens...

A: Community outreach. There is an uptick with older individuals being targeted. Get the word out.

Q: BM Pierre-Louis – For the elderly, what about reverse mortgages?

A: DFTA is supposed to reach out but it is not happening. They are reaching out to the Mayor's Office. Many older individuals own the house outright.

### **Public Hearing**

**Calendar #: 2016-4472-BZ, 245-01-245-13 Jamaica Avenue, Bellerose**

The attorney for the applicant (Body by Fitness) explains why they need to renew this variance to legalize the operation of this "Physical Culture Establishment".

Q: BM Hannah - Is there off-street parking and parking for the disabled?

A: There are no issues with parking.

Q: BM Logan – How many employees come from the community? Did you meet with the local civic association?

A: All of the employees come from Bellerose except the owner. No, they did not meet with the local civic.

Q: BM Hannah – If you are receiving federal funds through Medicaid Advantage you are mandated to provide parking.

BM DeBetham – BM Augugliaro [President of the local civic], any concerns?

BM Augugliaro – No. It has been there for years. The littering with sports drinks bottles has stopped.

Q: BM O'Keeffe – If the property was sold, would there be a change in variance?

A: No. The variance runs with the property.

Audience – Zoning clarification...

BM Hellenbrecht – The type of store that can be there is for mobile...

BM Farruggia – I believe they are a good neighbor. Full disclosure: my niece goes to the gym and I have to abstain from voting.

BM Bragg – Motion to close and hold the vote.

BM Hellenbrecht – The Land Use Committee voted in favor of the variance. The only concern was the parking.

A roll call vote is held to approve the variance. The tally: 32 yes, 1 no.

### **Aviation Roundtable**

BM Hellenbrecht reports that the bylaws were passed at the February 15, 2017 meeting. 60 people attended representing both airports. Process started April 7, 2015. There are two committees which will get together; Queens Community Board 13 is in the area of the JFK Committee. Each committee will elect their own officers.



## **District Manager's Report**

The District Manager's Report is included in the Sentinel. He encourages members to come to committee meetings because of poor attendance. We are going start having speakers at the committee meetings.

DM calls Community Associate Corey Ince to announce he will instruct a Twitter 1.0 training being held at the Board office. This will be held on March 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Board Chair speaks about getting a speaker for the next General Board Meeting to speak on immigration issues.

BM Bragg commends the QCB13 staff for modernizing the Community Board.

BM Cruz comments on the lack of cooperation with the 105 Precinct mentioned earlier by Inspector Schiff.

Board Chair say that this is why it is important to come to committee meetings. Some people came forward to vouch for the owners. The Board Chair - as a citizen - is more interested in the quality of life instead of just opening up the business.

## **Elected Officials**

### **Congressman Tom Suozzi**

Justin Conner:

- The Congressman will be holding 15 town hall events over the next few months.
- He listed the committees in Congress that he has been assigned.
- He is a member of the Aviation Roundtable; he has 2 votes (1 for each airport).
- His website, [suozzi@mailhouse.gov](mailto:suozzi@mailhouse.gov), shows the Congressman's voting position on issues.
- Huntington, Main Office phone number: 631.923.4100

### **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**

Al Canove:

- The shooting on Merrick Boulevard at "After Dark"; he is the person the Board Chair was referring to...He brought the person to the Community Board and explained the business was legal and the church was not too close to the business. They installed a noise resistant and there was no other complaint against this business. The incident happened when they asked the individual to get out of the premises and someone got shot. We have a responsibility to help our young men.

- Housing – took funding from their own budgets with the help of the Speaker, Mayor and Governor to buy houses for those in the community.
- Announces upcoming events and programs.

Q: BM Bragg – What does he know about the “Freedom Ride” Initiative?

Discrepancy with the Board Chair and AI regarding his being able to “speak”.

### **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz**

Shurn Anderson:

- Thanks everyone who attended the State of the Borough
- Announces a Unity in Diversity Rally at Borough Hall...

### **Assemblyman David Weprin**

Casey Lajszky:

- Announces a Town Hall being held at the Hillcrest Jewish Center on March 23, 2017.

### **Mayor Bill de Blasio**

Jessica Douglas:

- Announces that internship applications are open (with interviews).

### **Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman**

Charisse Parson:

- Immigration and ICE Officers are stopping people. The southeast Queens elected officials are getting together for Town Halls. Call 718.723.5412 if you feel threatened, and you will be directed to the right person for help.
- The Assembly Member will be hosting a “legal van” on March 3, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This is co-sponsored with Southeast Queens elected officials on immigration and ACA.

### **State Senator Leroy Comrie**

Taylor Jackson:

- The Senator is hosting a Town Hall Against Hate on March 10, 2017. Call 718.765.6359 for more information.



- There is free legal assistance against foreclosure every Tuesday at his office. Flyers are on the table on the back.

### **Assembly Member Clyde Vanel**

Michal Bauduy:

- He introduces himself as the Assembly Member's representative to the community.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Seniors, Social Services & Special Needs**

Co-Chairs Kangela Moore and Jerry Wind Report:

- They are looking for 100 year olds (centurions) who live in the community to honor.
- Co-Chair Wind reported on attending the party to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of George Feldman who lives in North Shore Towers.
- QCB13 is a co-sponsor of "Reel Abilities", a film festival about people with special needs.
- Parker Institute is giving volunteers who give caregivers relief a stipend.
- Mental Health First Aide...
- Co-Chair Wind attended the rally about the issue of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

#### **Parks & Environment Committee**

Co-Chair Fay Hill Reports:

- Reviewed the bullet points in the Sentinal referencing the Parks Committee.
- Appealed to the Board membership to participate more on committees.

#### **Health Committee**

Co-Chair Dr. Ashok Satkalmi Reports:

There will be a presentation at the next Health Committee meeting on "Anxiety and Technology" by Aaron Tropper, PhD. of Zucker Hillside Hospital.

## **Public Speaking**

### **Phil Konisberg, Tobacco Coalition:**

- Looking to create smoke-free environments.
- North Shore Towers implemented a smoke-free policy effective January 1, 2017. This is the largest complex in the country to do so. QCB13 was in attendance at the Press Conference for this major announcement.

### **Abou Okeke-Diagne, Renewable Energy:**

- Wind, bio-mass; hydro; solar – trying to get more homeowners and businesses to get solar panels.

### **Esha Mahadeo, NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB):**

- They investigate and mitigate issues between citizens and the NYPD.
- 4 types of cases.
- Website breaks down the data: [nyc.gov/ccrb](http://nyc.gov/ccrb)
- In 2016, the 105 Precinct had 72 complaints. SO far in 2017, there are 0 complaints.
- The highest number of complaints in Queens was the 103 with 86.
- The largest in the city was the 75 Precinct in Brooklyn.

Q: BM Berrouet: Men of color do not feel comfortable with CCRB. Have you made any changes?

A: There is a new administration. Police officers are now required to be present for interviews. There will be a CCRB Board Meeting at the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center in Saint Albans on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

### **Pat Lowenhaupt, Queens World Film Festival:**

- The festival is from March 14-19, 2017 featuring 26 films made and acted in by Queens residents. There are 126 films in total.
- [Queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://Queensworldfilmfestival.com)

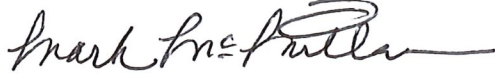
BM Elliott announces that Congressman Gregory Meeks will be hosting an immigration forum at both the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center and at the American Legion Hall in Rosedale.

BM Logan: The majority of those locked up are black and brown people. It means they are committing all of the crime. That is a false narrative. The sick part is the second class citizenship – they cannot vote or sit on juries.

BM DeBetham to BM Logan: We are talking about two different things: Criminal justice reform vs law enforcement by the 105 Precinct, doing what the community wants. Let's not mix up or confuse the two issues.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McMillan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark McMillan  
District Manager  
Queens Community Board 13