



Queens Community Board 13
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GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 26, 2017

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

Attendance

Present:

Angela Augugliaro; Corey Bearak; Alain Berrouet; Bryan Block; Verdell Boncoeur; Kyle Bragg; Jacqueline Campbell; Mizanur Choudhury; Barbara Clements; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Samuel Elliott; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Bonnie Huie; Mohamood Ishmael; Franck Joseph; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangelia Moore; Curlene Nelson; Marcia O'Brien; Michael O'Keeffe; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Steven Taylor; Mathew Thomas; Sanu Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

Absent:

Isa Avery; Terence Banks; Charles Farruggia; Vernal Holder; Rhonda Kontner; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Ashok Satkalmi

The Board Chair Bryan Block called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

The Board Chair makes remarks about the importance of men getting their medical checkups.

Public Speaking

Dr. Wendy Niles, Rosedale resident:

- Commercial vehicle parked next door to her home.
- The owner uses it to also park his generator.
 - District Manager has a sidebar with Inspector Schiff.

Ari Goldman on "Self-Storage:"

- He speaks about the advantages self-storage facilities have for businesses and residents.
- Hands out prepared remarks.

Q: BM Clive Williams: This special permit puts a burden on the business model.

A: It's discretionary. It takes 2 years. And then we still might not get it.

Q: Why did the City Planning Commission (CPC) go this route?

A: I do not know.

Q: BM Mohamood Ismael: What is the percentage of Storage facilities in Industrial Business Zone's (IBZ)?

A: 240 in New York City; 60 in IBZ.

BM Richard Hellenbrecht: 21 workers?

A: Yes, in the Bronx. We develop these and oversee contracts or storage.

Q: How many per facility?

A: 5.

Q: BM Kyle Bragg: Please explain the negative impact to business.

A: There will be no more storage facilities built because of the special permit requirement which will drive up prices. People will have to drive longer distances to find storage facilities.

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: This is a zoning question.

Karen (works with Ari):

- Small business users citywide survey indicated 30-40% usage.

- Special permits are completely discretionary; will not apply.
- Storage facilities are 90% occupied.
- Small businesses see storage facilities as helpful.
- Chambers of commerce in opposition to this measure – Queens, Brooklyn and Bronx.
- Consider the economic impact.

Louise Gallaway, B-Tech Parent:

- 105 Precinct officers came to B-Tech High School needing “fillers” for a criminal lineup. The assistant principal turned them down.
 - The officers then waited at the local McDonald's and asked four students who said, “yes.”
 - The parents are upset because these kids are minors.
 - At a May 11, 2017 PTA meeting, Inspector Schiff said, “the law allows 16 and 17 year olds to consent.”
 - The parents followed up and claim there is no such law.
 - The parents do not want their kids approached in the street.
 - Inspector Schiff states that parents can advise their children who are students to say, “no.”
 - Pictures are taken of the children when they go to the precinct.
 - Inspector Schiff promised to reach out to the civic associations to get “fillers.”
 - Inspector Schiff said, “it was their civic duty.”

BM Bonnie Huie: Appalled! Suppose they pick the wrong person? We need to be educated...

BM Bess de Betham: If Inspector Schiff said “it is a law” and you found out it was not a law did you contact the Inspector?

A: There was a meeting with elected officials and Inspector Schiff...There was a recording of the meeting by some people...

BM Felice Hannah: Suggests parents do not foster a volunteer program. Suggests a photo lineup of those already in the system.

Board Chair: We will continue this discussion when Inspector Schiff arrives.

BM Jonathan Logan: Expresses sympathy...he feels they have been violated. He takes it personally as a community. If someone lied, they should be held accountable. Especially someone who is a public servant.

BM Tanya Cruz: How many times a week does this happen?

Detective Jovoda Cooper: Maybe once or twice per year.

Joan Flowers: I'm outraged. As an attorney, I know there is no law. She will help in any capacity she can. She identifies herself as the Education Committee Chair of Community Board 12.

Board Chair: ...It is not just a Precinct Council issue...to community who state it is a community issue...

BM Seymour Finkelstein: There was a major crime scene in Floral Park last night. A robbery...a lot of police cars, trucks, etc. We need to see a police officer on the street more often.

Inspector Jeff Schiff, Commanding Officer of the 105 Precinct:

- Reports on monthly crime statistics:
 - Most categories down.
 - Problem with assaults – much of it is domestic violence.
 - 45 auto crimes.
 - Cites specific crime types.
 - Burglaries are down 14%; there is a pattern in Floral Park.
 - He has increased patrols with an addition of 4 O/T slots.
 - Brookville/Rosedale has a Grand Larceny Auto – rims and tires - additional 2 O/T slots directed to this community.
 - A shooting on 6.11.17 responding to a noise issue.
 - NYPD needs a secondary reason to go on a property with respect to a noise issue.
- Business Technology Early College High School (B-Tech) and Martin Van Buren High School
 - He met with the principals and PTAs of both high schools.
 - What happened was in March, arrested an individual for burglary.
 - Case law and Criminal Procedure statutes require a lineup – which needs to be fair. The other individuals must resemble the perp.
 - With young suspects, we need young looking individuals.
 - We go to the public to get help.
 - Due process requires an expeditious lineup.
 - We went to B-Tech, spoke to the assistant vice principal who said he was not comfortable with a solicitation in the school...
 - We waited until [school] dismissal and solicited for students who are paid \$10.00 with pizza, and turn it into a civics lesson
 - Called parents.
 - This scenario occurs citywide through all 77 precincts. Also, throughout NYS and all across America.
 - At every lineup an assistant district attorney is present.

- At the lineup, the kids are separated from the perps until the lineup.
- Pictures are taken as fillers which is for case evidence to prove fair and impartial lineup.
- When the case is done, the picture is not held in any database.
- If the "filler" is picked nothing happens to the child. It is simply evidence for the defense.
- Fillers are all volunteers. No one is coerced into this process.

Board Chair: Exposing young black men to a criminal setting is not a positive thing.

Inspector Schiff: After speaking with the principals of the high schools, they decided to have a 30-45 presentation between police officers and students.

- They are presently in talks for a [student] volunteer list.
- As the Commanding Officer, he has instituted a prohibition has been instituted for going to any school within the 105 Precinct.

Louise Gallaway: 2 concerns: 1) You said there was a law about "consent." 2) You said McDonald's was fair game.

Inspector Schiff: No law requires 16 and 17 year olds to have their parent's permission. Additionally, case law speaks to how to conduct a lineup fairly.

Louise Gallaway: The issue is parental consent.

BM Kyle Bragg: Opposed to this process. It uses kids already in the system. Also, photo lineups in the system instead of using innocent kids.

Inspector Schiff: "Photo arrays" sometimes lead to a lineup. Used when the perp is not in custody. Children in the system (those that are incarcerated) take a long involved process because dealing with another agency.

BM Mizanur Choudhury: What is the procedure for rounding up kids?

Inspector Schiff: Initial interaction based on someone who fits the description, then we talk about the lineup process.

BM Choudhury: You talk to them before talking to their parents? I do not want that.

Inspector Schiff: This is how the process works.

Joan Flowers: I want the CPLR Section that allows the police to do this.

Inspector Schiff: We are not above the law.

BM Clive Williams: This is a teachable moment for all of us. We are not going to resolve this with back and forth. The onus is on his command to educate us and address it in a way that will alleviate our concerns. NYPD needs to talk to the community to understand and find a way to get volunteers.

Inspector Schiff: There is a transparency I want to bring to the community. He is willing to bring the DA's Office in to clarify...

BM Tanya Cruz: We understand there is a need. You cannot approach a minor without a parent's consent.

Inspector Schiff: Our hands are tied at this point. This is a policy issue. The pertinent agency here is the DA's Office.

Audience [parent]: Talk to all school administrators and children and tell them not to do this!

District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report is included in the Sentinel. Tells the Board about staff member Corey Ince breaking his leg while on vacation. He explains what the Community Board Office tries to do with the Sentinel each month in terms of useful information, upcoming events, etc.

Elected Officials

Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman:

- Mayoral control [of NYC schools] did not pass the State Senate.
- They have raised the age of [adult] criminality to 18 years' old
- JFK Airport is rebuilding.
- She lists the specifics for the new Excelsior Scholarship Program.
 - Credit goes to Governor Cuomo on this initiative.
- They passed 6 [legislative] bills.

BM Tanya Cruz: What is your position on the closing of Rikers Island?

A: She has not read the plan yet...She thinks it could be good but it would need to be a gradual process. Mental health is a priority. She wants to see the partners at the table. Also, what next happens to Rikers Island? Affordable housing?

BM Jonathan Logan: A young lady fighting in school got a felony charge...this issue should be brought to the commissioner...whenever there is involvement with a school safety officer, there is a felony.

Acknowledgement by the Board Chair of all the representatives of elected officials present.

The Board Executive Secretary, Jerry Wind, took the roll call.

Committees:

Seniors and Special Needs Committee

Co-Chairs of the Seniors and Special Needs Committee, Kangela Moore and Jerry Wind, present a QCB13 Citation to Ashley Cargill.

Land Use Committee

Self-Storage Text Amendment voting item.

Committee Chair, Rich Hellenbrecht, explains the City Planning Commission position.

- The IBZ in QCB13 is in the extreme southwest corner of the Board along Rockaway Boulevard.
- It is also the area that has presently formed an IBID with the District Manager sitting on its Board.

BM Mohamood Ishmael: Is the restriction in a business district?

BM Angela Augugliaro: This is limiting...it will push them into the communities.

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: A developer could find a place.

BM Clive Williams: What is the consensus of the committee?

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: Support for the text amendment.

BM Clive Williams: They occupy 2% of available space. In free enterprise, business people already have to conform. There should be competition for land for business people. I see no reason to stand in their way. As a small businessman, he uses storage. He doesn't feel there is any certainty that the manufacturing will eventually come. Also, a lot families use this as additional storage. It doesn't make sense.

BM Steven Taylor: What is the planning policy to justify this?

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: The CPC looked at specific locales as IBZ and thought they could encourage other types of manufacturing businesses that generate more jobs. He has no idea where the 2% number comes from.

BM Kyle Bragg: He is disappointed CPC did not come to present their position. Unless the City can speak to having business return, he hesitates to give government this type of power.

BM Nagassar Ramgarib: At the presentation, he learned this [getting a Special Permit] takes time and does not prevent them from building a storage facility. In Queens Village, there are 7-8 of these and they bring in truck traffic.

BM Bess DeBetham: On the corner of Rockaway Boulevard, there are beautiful houses which could be bordered by "big boxes."

Karen (works with Ari): We want the Community Board to pause; his industry is negotiating with CPC and a compromise could be imminent. There will be no more building of storage; it being speculative that manufacturing will return. In an IBZ, let Self-Storage to build as-of-right up to 50,000 square feet; if larger, they will allocate 10% to manufacturing.

CPC had this idea without talking to anyone in the industry.

BM Clive Williams: Offer a compromise; her [Karen's] offer is promising...can we wait?

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: Motion to approve the Self-Storage Text Amendment.

Vote: 36 no; 5 yes.

BM Corey Bearak: Nothing precludes the Board from Changing its position before this goes to the City Council.

Board Election for Executive Committee:

The Board Chair chooses Board Members Delroy Dawkins, Marcia O'Brien, Franck Joseph to help with the voting process.

Nomination Committee Chair Michael O'Keeffe thanks his fellow committee members for their work, and announces **the Slate: Chair – Clive Williams; First Vice Chair - Angela Augugliaro; Second Vice Chair – Verdell Boncoeur; Executive Treasurer – Jerry Wind; Treasurer - Anup Ramnauth.**

Board Chair:

BM Jackie Wilson nominates BM Kangela Moore. She accepts.

Both candidates have 3 minutes to present their case. BM Williams allows BM Moore to go first.

The Board Chair stated that he followed Rich Hellenbrecht. He attended every civic association meeting every month. The next chair should do the same thing he did.

The vote tally: BM Williams 28; BM Moore 13; abstentions 2. BM Clive Williams is elected the new Board Chair.

First Vice Chair:

BM Kangela Moore is nominated. She declines. There are no further nominations from the floor.

The vote tally: BM Augugliaro 31, abstentions 3; 1 write-in for Chair Bryan Block.

Angela Augugliaro remains as First Vice Chair.

Second Vice Chair:

No nominations from the floor.

The vote tally: BM Verdell Boncoeur 40, abstentions 2.

Verdell Boncoeur remains as Second Vice Chair.

Executive Secretary:

No nominations from the floor.

The vote tally: BM Jerry Wind 40, abstentions 1.

Jerry Wind remains as Executive Secretary.

Treasurer:

No nominations from the floor.

The vote tally: BM Anup Ramnauth 40, abstentions 1.

Announcements:

BM Fay Hill reports on the concerts held at Springfield Park.

Shurn Anderson from the Queens Borough President's Office speaks about ...

Joan Flowers announces an August 26, 2017 Parent Forum at the Eagle Academy that is designed to help parents navigate the education system.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan

District Manager

Queens Community Board 13