



**Queens Community Board 13**  
 219-41 Jamaica Avenue  
 Queens Village, NY 11428  
 718.464.9700  
 Fax: 718.254.2739  
 qcb13.org



**Melinda Katz**  
 Borough President

**Clive Williams**  
 Chairman

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

**Mark McMillan**  
 District Manager

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**September 25, 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; Jacqueline Campbell; Barbara Clements; Tanya Cruz; Delroy Dawkins; Bess DeBetham; James Delaney; Charles Farruggia; Seymour Finkelstein; Lorraine Gittens-Bridges; Robert Glover; Felice Hannah; Richard Hellenbrecht; Fay Hill; Mohamood Ishmael; Rhonda Kontner; Antony Kuncheria; Jonathan Logan; Kangela Moore; Curlene Nelson; Michael O'Keefe; Tameka Pierre-Louis; Anup Ramnauth; Peter Richards; Ashok Satkalmi; Steven Taylor; Mathew Thomas; Lourdes Villanueva-Hartrick; Pritpal Singh Walia; Clive Williams; Jackie Wilson; Jerry Wind

**Absent:**

Terence Banks; Kyle Bragg; Mizanur Choudhury; Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Samuel Elliott; Vernal Holder; Bonnie Huie; Franck Joseph; Marcia O'Brien; Celeste Powers; Nagassar Ramgarib; Sanu Thomas;

The Board Chairman Clive Williams called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BM Jonathan Logan and recited by all in attendance.

The Board Chairman introduces the two Sergeant-at-Arms, BM Jonathan Logan, and BM Alain Berrouet.

The Chairman speaks about calamities that have occurred from the multiple hurricanes and how so many people who have been affected. He calls for a moment of silence.

The Chairman expresses his gratitude for becoming the Chairman and shares his Agenda of 5 Principles:

- 1) I am and always will be at your service in advancing the expectations, aspirations and goals of our communities;
- 2) I will make myself accessible to you because of your dedication and the altruism and care you show to your community;
- 3) I value your advice and consultation when presented in a constructive and positive manner;
- 4) I expect to hear from you when you have a problem; I don't want to hear from anyone else; and I will do whatever I can to help you solve that problem; and
- 5) I am determined and dedicated to insure assure the harmony and collaboration of all our communities north south east west are maintained and respected so we work together as a team to accomplish our goals collectively.

### **Public Speaking**

#### **Melissa Hubbard:**

- See page 16 of the Queens Chronicle.
- Youth lineups – update on press conference re: B-Tech and Martin Van Buren on proposed legislation.
  - This impacts all of our young people.
  - The Councilman needs to involve the community before drafting legislation.

BM Jonathan Logan: There will be a Press Conference convened by Council Member Rory Lancman on this issue.

- This is the very issue spoken about at the June General Board Meeting [with police asking high school students in March to be in lineups without their parents' permission].
- The Presser will take place on September 26, 2017 at 11:00 am. The location is still undetermined.

The Board Chairman congratulates BM Jonathan Logan on his promotion to Lieutenant in the FDNY. [Applause.]

#### **Beverly Collier, Executive Director of Jamaica Services for Older Adults (JSPOA):**

- JSPOA provides transportation to people in Community Boards 8-14. (Received a contract from DFTA.)

- JSPOA transportation service is available for group trips.
  - JSPOA transportation service can transport to medical appointments.
- JSPOA program (with NYSDOH support) to caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. Free to the public.
- JSPOA has a Friendship Center for seniors who are physically or mentally frail. Free to the public.
  - JSPOA Friendship Center is located on 170 Street and 90 Avenue.

**Elvis Jackson, Cambria Heights resident:**

- Speaks out against the group home being placed in his community.
- This is a systematic problem – states newly elected Chairman stated “crack epidemic” created many of these handicapped persons – that [in his opinion] was an irresponsible statement.

BM Kangela Moore: “I’m blown away by your statement!”

Elvis Jackson: He said at the committee meeting that we had some responsibility to take care of them.

Board Chairman: States he is flattered to be quoted, and will make a correction when he is misquoted.

- He said many years ago the model changed for mental health.
- Mental institutions are now closed.
- Our communities have been devastated.
- We have a responsibility to take care of our own.
- He takes umbrage to his [Mr. Jackson's] statement.

William McDonald: A resident of this community for 22 years. It is not his responsibility as a homeowner to cure the ailments of this city. How many of these group homes do we have in this district?

Elvis Jackson: 64 in this Community Board.

**William Kregler:**

- He congratulates the Chairman on his new position.
- He is retired from public service and is getting back into public service. He wants to empower and give respect back to Education Boards and Community Boards
  - This is shown through the preponderance of shelters and the construction of new hotels turning into shelters.
  - This mayor is creating an industry.

- Vision Zero...taking car lanes away for the benefit of a few...destroys quality of life...which in turn creates congestion...businesses losing thousands of parking spots.

BM Bess DeBetham: If you are campaigning for [Queens] Borough President, this is the wrong forum.

William Kregler: He came out not to campaign, but to speak about the issues.

**Elected Officials:**

**Assembly Member Clyde Vanel:**

- Puerto Rico is heavy on his heart...and this weather phenomenon.
  - A number of Assembly Members and Governor Cuomo went down the previous Friday.
  - The Federal government is slow in its response.
  - There is a drop-off for items to donate at the 168 Street Armory in Jamaica.
  - He will convene an informational session about questions on the November ballot regarding the proposed Constitutional Convention.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: My daughter lives in Puerto Rico. I spoke to her today for the first time. She says there is no water, no cars, and she had to go somewhere to make a phone call. San Juan is destroyed. It will take 6-8 months before they have electricity. You cannot even use cash.

BM Tanya Cruz: I have yet to hear from my brother and cousin.

Assembly Member Vanel: There are people in this audience who have not spoken to family members. Water is crucial.

BM Steven Taylor: The date and time for the [session] on explaining the Constitutional Convention question is October 3, 2017 7:00 pm, at the Family Life Center.

BM Felice Hannah: Turn over the ballot to see the Constitutional Convention question.

Patrice English-Young: If you do not vote "no" then they assume you vote "yes?"

Assembly Member Vanel: Every 20 years under the NYS Constitution the citizens vote yes or no for a convention. 2/3 of both houses are needed to create an amendment [to the Constitution]. The second way to create an amendment is through a Constitution Convention. The "Left" wants to protect, the "Right" wants to change.

BM Seymour Finkelstein: One of the main issues is around City government employees who have a pension.

BM Charlie Farruggia: If you do not vote, the default is?

Assembly Member Vanel: In New York State, the decision is based on the totality of votes.

BM Angela Augugliaro: Can we have the same forum for the northern part of the Board?

BM Kangela Moore: As a Union Liaison, I can say this affects everyone.

Assembly Member Vanel: There are many protections...

Mike Augugliaro: The only way to vote is "no." It is bad enough they are pulling down statues. It's a disgrace!

BM Jonathan Logan: Just for clarity...this is the New York State Constitution.

**Comptroller Scott Stringer:**

Represented by William Giron -

- He thanks the Chairman and the Assembly Member for saying something about Florida and Puerto Rico.
- Please use the Comptroller as a resource.

**Queen Borough President Melinda Katz:**

Represented by Shurn Anderson –

- Engine 289 in Corona and Engine 316 in East Elmhurst are accepting donations for hurricane relief.
- She has the 10 Year Anniversary Certificate for BM Tanya Cruz. (It is presented with applause from the audience.)

**State Senator Leroy Comrie:**

Represented by Taylor Jackson –

- She gives the Senator's Mobile Office hours.
- Her email address: [tjackson@nysenate.gov](mailto:tjackson@nysenate.gov)

**Congressman Thomas Suozzi:**

Represented by Justin Conner –

- The Congressman will be holding a Press Conference on DACA at the Huntington Office.
  - The Congressman supports the new DACA amendment.
- At both office locations he has collected 7 truckloads...
- The Congressman is on Facebook
- His contact info: [Justin.conner@mail.house.gov](mailto:Justin.conner@mail.house.gov); 631.923.4107
- The Congressman's office is organizing a "Town Hall" on "Airplane and Helicopter Noise."
- The Queens Office: 250-02 Northern Boulevard, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 718.631.0400.

Mike Augugliaro: When are the veterans getting an increase?

A: Call Ed Allman [at his office] for more information on this.

**Assembly Member Edward Braunstein:**

Represented by Amber Yoon –

- She states the communities he serves.
- Her info: [yoomb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:yoomb@nyassembly.gov)

Stanley Labusier: How many group homes are there in Bayside?

A: She will check with her office.

**Assembly Member David Weprin:**

Represented by Casey Lajszky –

- Office phone: 718.454.3027
- September is Senior Appreciation Month and the Assembly Member is sponsoring a Comedy/Improv Show at Young Israel of Holliswood on Thursday night (flyers in the back).

**Council Member Barry Grodenchik:**

Represented by Stacey Yearwood –

- Office phone: 718.468.0137
- Flyers in the back for information to help on hurricane relief efforts.

BM Jonathan Logan: Is the Council Member in conversation with Council Member Lancman on the high school kids in lineups issue?

A: She will check with her office.

**Council Member Donovan Richards:**

Represented by Jordan Bishop –

- Office phone: 718.527.4356
- Three (3) Events:
  - Participatory Budgeting at the Laurelton Library.
  - On October 7, 2017, the Annual Fall Festival at Brookville Park from 12:00-4:00 pm.
  - The CM is co-sponsoring with the Federated Blocks of Laurelton a session with DOT, DOB and NYPD at PS 270 on October 11, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

**Council Member I. Daneek Miller:**

Represented by Akshar Patel –

- His info: [apatel@council.nyc.gov](mailto:apatel@council.nyc.gov); 718.776.3700
- The CM is coordinating hurricane relief efforts with FDNY with his office as a drop-off location for donations.
- As the Chair of the City Council Civil Service and Labor Committee, he asks that you vote "no" on the Constitutional Convention question on the November ballot.
- Participatory Budgeting at Roy Wilkens Park this Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Eldridge Jackson: What is the Council Member's position on group homes?

A: Whatever the community supports.

Carmela Gaines: When is the Participatory Budget meeting?

A: Wednesday.

William McDonald: Is \$2M part of the Participatory Budget?

A: Yes.

Melissa Hubbard: Idea Map online for suggestions?

A: Flyers in the back.

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:**

Represented by Nicole Johnson –

- Speaks about the Mental Health Initiative.
  - Thrive Program which give free courses/training on detecting mental health issues.
  - This is an 8-hour course.
  - Fliers in the back.
- Contact info: 646.581.1492.

**NYPD – Captain Chen, Executive Officer:**

- Monthly Precinct Council meeting on Wednesday. It is on Facebook Live.
- Crime was up 11% in the last month with robberies and grand larcenies leading the way.
- YTD crime is down 3%.
- There were 2 shootings in the last 28 days.
- Patterns for grand larcenies:
  - Package deliveries stolen (Rosedale)
  - Auto (Queens Village)
  - Leaving valuables in plain view in your vehicle (Bellerose and Floral Park)
- 158 YTD tires and rims stolen.
  - Focus on Honda Accords and Nissan Maximas

BM Angela Augugliaro: Any information on the burglary at the T-Mobile store in Bellerose?

A: This was not a burglary; it was a grand larceny – the perp cut an I-Pad off the station [in the store].

Mike Augugliaro: Was a weapon involved?

A: No.

BM Mohamood Ishmael: Have there been any arrests with the Honda Accord robberies?

A: Unfortunately, no.

BM Fay Hill: What about the trucks parking along Springfield Boulevard by the park?

A: They are ticketed at night. They do some booting. This is done through Borough Operations that uses boots. He will take this issue back to the CO.

Patrice English-Young: What is the procedure for a car parked with no license plate, no VIN Number and it sits in the same place for months?



A: NYPD will mark the tires on the vehicle and after 1 week it will be towed away. If there are no plates, DSNY will tow.

### **Chairman's Report**

➤ Listed the many events he has attended since being elected Chairman in June.

Elvis Jackson: Why are your reports always layered with inappropriate comments?

### **District Manager's Report**

The District Manager's Report is included in the Sentinal. He explains what the Community Board Office tries to do with the Sentinal each month in terms of useful information, upcoming events, etc. He requests feedback on the Sentinal.

- Tells the Board about the upcoming Borough Consultations.
- All October committee meetings will address the District Needs Statement necessary to establish priorities.
- Introduces Community Associate Corey Ince who has been out with a broken leg, who speaks to the membership.

The Chairman introduces District Leader Roslin Spigner.

### **District Leader Roslin Spigner:**

- Talks about the hiring of election workers.
- One of her responsibilities is to run a political club.
- Call this number if interested: 718.290.4725

Chairman: Are you related to Archie {Spigner}?

A: Yes, we are cousins.

BM Jonathan Logan: What does a District Leader do?

A: ...explains a District Leader's responsibilities...and her background.

Carmela Gaines: What is the name of the club?

A: Douglas King Regular Democratic Club, Incorporated. Meet at the American Legion on 204 Street and Linden Boulevard, every third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm.

William McDonald: Do poll workers have to live in the district?

A: No. However, those who get a reference from a District Leader have preference over those applying online.

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

The Chairman asked for a vote to table the Meeting Minutes approval in the interest of time. So approved.

### **Land Use Committee:**

Committee Chair Richard Hellenbrecht -

- 243-13 Jamaica Avenue: The Final Report was sent; the item cleared.
- Minor Amendment for 245-13 Jamaica Avenue (new Seven/11 location).
  - No members of the immediate vicinity attended the meeting.
  - Still awaiting the results of traffic impact study.
- Voting Item:
  - BSA 138-87-BZ
  - Enterprise Rent-A-Car, 218-36 Hillside Avenue
    - Motion made to approve support for continuation of the variance.
    - BM Jim Delaney: He has a problem with the number of applicants who disregard the variance date. Is there any reason the Board should support this?
    - Land Use Chair Rich Hellenbrecht details a series of events...
  - Roll call vote: 28 yes, 0 no.
- There is a re-zoning issue for parts of Queens Village.
  - Need Council Members Grodenchik and Miller to be supportive.

### **Seniors and Special Needs Committee:**

Committee Chair Kangela Moore and Vice Chair Jerry Wind –

- Proposed Community Residence at 228-19 114 Drive:
  - Renee Washington of Community Options, the service provider, gives a PowerPoint Presentation.
  - Individualized Residential Alternative, Office of People With Disabilities (OPWDD)

BM Tanya Cruz: Describe where the bedrooms are...

A: Upstairs and on the main floor.

BM Tanya Cruz: She wants a site visit. Her concern is stuffing people into a house.

A: OPWDD approved the site.

BM Tanya Cruz: I don't care what they say. We have to live with these people who are living in a cage.

A; We will provide a tour.

BM Mohamood Ishmael: Are violations your company has public information?

A: Yes. They are on the company website.

Board Chairman: The committee will give more information when it is their time to speak.

BM Pritpal Singh Walia: How many people will be living in a one-family house?

A: 4.

BM Pritpal Singh Walia: Where will the staff live?

A: They are there to supervise. 24-hour supervision.

BM Pritpal Singh Walia: Where in the house is the staff?

A: They are in the building but not sleeping in the house.

BM Pritpal Singh Walia: How many residences do you supervise?

A: 14. (She describes the chain of command.)

BM Steven Taylor: Explain "saturation."

A: A like facility cannot be within 1 mile of another facility. A "Like Facility" is something run by OPWDD or another agency...

BM Steven Taylor: Reads the law verbatim in regards to "citing a facility." There are 4 categories that can be used to determine saturation. He then states the Cambria Heights Civic Association is against "saturation."

BM Bryan Block: There are 2 in Queens Village already. That is saturation.

Cecil Lawrence: This is commercial property in a residential community. The employees stay overnight. 5 people who are not related.

A: There are 2 brothers in the home. There are 3 shifts [for the employees].

Elvis Jackson: They are buying a \$570K home without a DOB permit. They don't want you to see the work done in the home without permits pulled by DOB.

A: Every home is registered and certified by the State.

Bob Friedreich: What is the nature of the disability? Their ages? Are they a danger to themselves?

A: Intellectually developmental disability. Ages 21-23 years. They are not dangerous and none have a criminal record. They can leave their home like anyone else. They are

always accompanied by staff when out in the community. The staff is trained to administer meds. Their days start at 8:00 am.

BM Jonathan Logan: Who owns the building?

A: New York State.

Melissa Hubbard: Is this only for developmentally disabled or are there other handicaps?

A: They only service people with intellectually developmental disabilities.

Melissa Hubbard: Saturation...I did not hear anything about other communities...

Dorothy Fastima: One resident has a wheelchair; one has a walker. Asks about the layout of bedrooms and how residents with physical disabilities will be situated...

A: Both brothers use wheelchairs and will sleep on the main floor.

Board Chairman: The agency has to come to terms with the permitting process with DOB.

Committee Chair and Vice Chair:

- Recap the September 7 committee meeting.
- They looked at the property for quality of life for the proposed residents.
- The committee did not make a recommendation because of the contentiousness and wanted the full Board to vote.
- Vice Chair Wind: Look at the people, not the saturation.
  - He has more disabled persons than any other community because of [living near] Creedmoor.
- Recommendation: defer to the vote. This is one of our own.

BM Mike O'Keeffe: Motion made to approve. BM Angela Augugliaro seconds.

BM Bryan Block: Why were police at the [Community Board] Office for the meeting on this? Some residents felt intimidated.

Board Chairman: Public safety...It was preventative.

Q: Are there any issues with management within this organization?

A: No. But the Committee Chair suggested Community Advisory Committee.

Board Chairman: Has Cambria Heights Civic taken a position on getting involved?

A: Yes. BM Hellenbrecht: Amendment to the motion – Community Advisory Board be included in the Community Board approval process. (Agency agrees to this.)

BM Steven Taylor: Body agrees to it.

Fred Buggs: They have nothing against the residents who will be living there. Will they have the ability to look at other houses? Will they also have the ability to look at other houses?

Chairman: Once you get into a relationship, it is a manner of goodwill.

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: Second Amendment – any changes in the structure be fully permitted by NYC DOB.

Bobby Shear: Concerned about Advisory Boards superseding civic associations that have been around for many years. This goes to a strange place...

Board Chairman: I share your view. In life, there are black and white areas, and sometimes a gray area. We are torn between compassion, tolerance and love; and the need to protect the residents from threats they perceive...if even they are not real. This Board has no intention of undermining the civic association. However, we are in this gray area [now].

BM Rich Hellenbrecht: Almost every Group Home has an Advisory Board as part of the approval.

Board Chairman: I respect the decision of the Cambria Heights Civic Association.

Motion: approval of the application as submitted, with the necessary DOB permits, and the creation of a Community Advisory Board.

The vote: 19 yes, 11 no.

A motion was made to suspend committee reports. Seconded.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark McMillan

District Manager

Queens Community Board 13