



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 12, 2019**

**THE SCHOLARS' ACADEMY
320 BEACH 104 STREET
ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY 11693**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Khaleel Anderson, Louis Caucig, Stephen Cooper, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Noreen Ellis, D. Brian Heffernan, Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Desiree Maple, Rosalyn Mason, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Isaac Parsee, Eugene Pasternak, Edward Pasture Sr., Linda Plummer, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Michael Tubridy, Jose Velez, Edwin Williams, Tyrone Worsley

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

ABSENT

Shalom Becker, Glenn Collins, Mordechai Dicker, Temina Feldman, Patricia Gillespie, John Cambridge, Ellen O'Reilly, Harold Paez, Harvey Rudnick, Sender Schwartz, Dr. Eli Shapiro Thomas Tobin, Rachel Williams

GUESTS

City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Dan Brown -- Rep. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Ciara Donley - Rep. City Councilman Eric Ulrich, Lisa George - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Democratic District Leader Lew Simon, Sandee Doremus -- Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Emmanuel Silva- Rep. City Councilman Donovan Richards

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR – The Chair advised that correspondence, Report of the Chair and Report of the District Manager will not be given this evening so that more time is available for public speaking and the presentation on the proposed homeless shelter at 226 Beach 101 Street. The permit for this evening ends at 9:30pm therefore this meeting will have to end by 9:20pm.

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Far Rockaway, NY 11691
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PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair explained to those present that each person who signed up to speak will be given 3 minutes. It is their time to speak, their questions will not be answered during those 3 minutes. The Chair asked the representatives from Dept. of Homeless Services and the proposed operator: Black Veterans for Social Justice to make note of the questions and respond to those questions during their presentations. The Chair opened the floor for public speaking at 7:20pm. 42 people signed up to speak. Of the 42 speakers, 28 spoke out against the proposed

homeless shelter at 226 Beach 101 Street, 12 spoke about the increase in traffic on Beach 60 & Beach Streets from Beach Front Road to Rockaway Beach Blvd. They all were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

GUEST SPEAKER

CITY COUNCILMAN ERIC ULRICH - announced that he is opposed to the male homeless shelter opening in his district at 226 Beach 101 Street, Rockaway Beach and to stop this shelter from opening; all are invited to take the fight and protest to the front door of Steven Banks, NYC Commissioner of DHS, on Monday, March 18, 2019. Additionally, all are also invited to protest on the steps of City Hall to voice opposition against this shelter opening in this community on Sunday, March 24, 2019. For more information please call office at 718-318-6411.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Proposed Men's Homeless Shelter - located at 226 Beach 101 Street
Department of Homeless Services began their presentation by reviewing the City current policy of an open RFP for homeless shelter locations. The City's goal is to being able to place homeless individuals within the borough in which they lived when they became homeless.

The Regional Director of the Black Veterans for Social Justice stated that residents of the shelter are not required to leave during the day. Breakfast is served from 6:00am – 7:30am. Those individuals who are working leave for work. Others not working – there are in house activities during the day and workshops from 9am -12pm. Three meals a day are served. And of course there will be the establishment of a Community Advisory Board (CAB).

Individuals in the audience continued to interrupt the presentations being made, so the Chair decided it would be easier for the representatives to address the Board Member concerns.

The Chair did explain that there were three questions given in advance to DHS so that answers could be provided this evening.

The advance questions were:

- 1) Since this was a Factory - what is the results of the environmental study? Response: Still being prepared.
- 2) DOB pending permit shows cost of renovations is estimated at \$2.2 million, who pays that cost? Response: The Developer

3) Under the current HPD guidelines 50% of new affordable housing units are for residents of CB#14, will the residents of the homeless shelter who were NOT Rockaway residents before becoming homeless be allowed to apply for an apt with the shelter address or will they be required to use the address they provided at DHS intake? Response: DHS stated that they reached out to HPD but has not gotten an answer.

The Board Members discussed the facts brought forward by a resident during public speaking that in 2016 the Black Veterans for Social Justice had grants totaling \$7.4 million, with salaries and expenses of \$5.2 million and only \$289,000 for program expenses.

Black Veterans for Social Justice was asked how they decided to be the provider of this proposed location. Did they independently submit an application to be the provider of this proposed location or were they contacted by the owner of this property? Black Veterans for Social Justice was contacted by the owner of the property. Black Veterans for Social Justice operates six shelters in NYC. One of those shelters is at a Liberty One property.

John Cori made the motion for the board to send a letter to NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer requesting an audit of DHS and Black Veterans for Social Justice. The motion was seconded by Lou Caucig. Noreen Ellis motioned for a friendly amendment that the audit be a forensic audit. John Cori agreed and accepted the amendment. The motion passed with a hand vote in favor of the motion with three abstentions

D. Brian Heffernan made a motion for the Board to send a letter opposing the shelter proposed to be placed at 226 Beach 101 Street. Jose Velez requested a friendly amendment to the motion to include the board is against any more shelters coming to the Rockaway Peninsula. The motion carried by a hand vote in favor of the motion with four abstentions.

The Chair advised those present that the issue of Beach 60 & Beach 61 Streets traffic issues were on this evening agenda but because of the 9:30pm stop time as required by the permit, there was not time for that discussion and it will be the first item on the April agenda.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning