

## **Community Board #1 Virtual Full Board Meeting, November 9, 2021-6:00 PM**

**Nicholas Siclari, Chairman**

### **Members**

Vincent Accornero  
Joseph Ahlstrom  
Anjail Amen-Rice  
Larry Beslow, Excused  
Joseph Bird  
Telee Brown  
Loretta Cauldwell, Excused  
Anthony Cosentino  
Megan Delmar  
George Doyle  
Claudette Duff  
Linda Eskenas  
Timothy Forsyth, Absent  
John. Guzzo  
Celeste Bute-Holmes  
Robert Holst  
Sunny Jain, Excused  
Lisa Lattanzio  
Norman Light  
Ali Mir Masum  
John McBeth  
Friday Ogbewele  
Ole Olsen. Excused  
Ernest Paige  
Catherine Paradiso  
Amy Poirier  
Mohan Radharkrishn  
Fran Reali  
Chris Rooney  
Anthony Scutari, Excused  
George Sona  
George Turner  
Kevin Washington  
Daniel Williams  
Steven Williams  
Camille Zarrelli  
Nicholas Zvegintzov

### **Guests**

Assemblyman, Charles Fall & Ruben Sibri  
Hanane Dbajat, Assemblyman Michael Tannousis  
Donald DeRosa, NYC Comptroller's Office  
Loren Centineo, Councilman Steven Matteo  
Troy McGhie, Rep. Councilwoman Rose  
Clifford Brantley, ADA for Michael McMahon  
Jermaine Williams, Community Ambassador, PD  
Nicole Brooks, Parks  
Jahi Rose, CCRB  
Richard Day, DSNY  
Ed Cruz, Gotham Health Center  
Mary Bullock, Pres. Port Richmond Strong  
Cari Harewood  
Sarah Gowell  
Sara Hertog  
Bruce Lauria  
Lillian Lagazzo  
Andy Levison  
Delicia Marshall, Gotham Health  
Marci Bishop  
Miriam Arnold  
Michelle Shabat  
Marsha Russell  
Everett Wattley

### **Office Staff**

Joseph Carroll, District Manager  
Lisa Crosby, Community Coordinator  
Linda Maffeo, Community Associate

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Presentations**

Assemblyman, Charles Fall: Hello, it's been an interesting year. I'm glad things are getting back in person little by little. The Governor's announcement that cultural institutions and small businesses will get some relief. I know the government also gave help in the past. It's very important we have a strong recovery process. The Pandemic hit us in a way we did not see before. With the Governor's announcement and me advocating that Staten Island is included is big. This is good for our cultural institutions and small businesses.

A couple of weeks ago we made some announcements regarding the gun violence that is going on in our community. Shootings are up in certain areas. Safety is a big priority for me, and we need to address it. We are having a violence intervention program with Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) to expand the Cure Violence Program with new funding. It will make a difference. It's a step in the right direction. It will not solve all issues. Also want to thank the NYPD. We also have funding for the St. George Theater, the YMCA, and a funding announcement within our schools.

Just wanted to come on here with a few updates and say hello to all you folks. Are there any questions or concerns? Under the leadership of Nick and Joe, you are already in good hands. We are always communicating.

Question from George Doyle: I read the Governor signed a bill for Robocalls. That the providers have to limit or try to stop the Robocalls? Calls from the IRS, Social Security, etc. Will they be included in the bill?

Charles Fall said they voted on this session about Robocalls and telemarketing. We voted on it earlier this year in Albany, but I can check on it for you. My understanding is the bill will take those calls into account, but I want to go over it again. We voted back in February/March.

Joseph Carroll asked if the infrastructure bill going to have any provisions for the wind energy project at Howland Hook or it's not that far along?

Charles Fall said the Government did its job but it's not that far along yet. Now it's up to the state leadership to determine how that funding is going to be spent. I'm making a case for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). I lived on the North Shore all my life and I'm going to keep advocating for this.

I met with the new management of the Yankee Stadium. Making sure that the need of making that stadium more inclusive to the community. In the past it's been difficult to hold community events there. We will keep you up to date on this. Thank you for the opportunity to come on.

Nicholas Siclari said thank you for giving us some time. Always a pleasure to see you.

Lisa (in Loretta Cauldwell's absence) will do roll call.

### **Public Session**

Frank Fontana, Department of Buildings: The periodic gas inspection that I've mentioned in previous board meetings. An inspection is needed for one- and two-family homes. One council bill that was just passed is about inactive gas lines. Now we are accepting a letter from the utility company stating that the gas line is inactive so you wouldn't have to get a gas inspection. This extends the 180-day period if repairs are required. I know a lot of people are familiar with our BIS system (Building Information System). When you check you may not see a particular permit or application, but little by little that information is being shifted to BIS. Everything will slowly be shifted to DOB NOW. For now, just check both systems.

Marci Bishop: I'm here with ADA Clifford Brantley and we are representing District Attorney, Michael McMahon. This coming Saturday we will be having a Safe Document Shred Event. That will be on the South Shore. We have them twice a year. In the Spring we have it at the Blessed Sacrament parking lot. This one in the Fall will be at the South Shore CYO. All are invited. It is from 11AM to 3PM. Bring all your documents to be shredded. I heard about the Robocalls. The way to help is shredding your documents.

We are getting rid of all the signs that are littering our poles. These are quality of life issues that the DA is focusing on. We will send a flyer to look for volunteers to help. Thank you for having me.

Clifford Brantley, Assistant District Attorney: I've been here for about 6 months now and I am a native Staten Islander. I went to Port Richmond High School and Wagner College. In my third year, I transferred to Adelphi University and graduated with a Major in Political Science. I then went to Rutgers's Law in Newark and got my Juris Doctorate. I passed the Bar and applied to my dream job as Assistant District Attorney for this community. I focus now on misdemeanor cases. It's a pleasure to meet you all.

Troy McGhie of Councilmember Debi Rose's office: This past weekend we had a paper shred event for documents at Snug Harbor which was very successful. This past month we opened two new basketball courts. One in the New Brighton Houses and one in Mariner's Harbor Houses. Thank you for helping and partnering with Assemblyman Cusick and NYPD to get those done. Lastly, as our term winds down, the Councilmember wanted to thank CB1 for 12 years of partnership. At that time, we have achieved many accomplishments for the CB1 Community. We have five new schools one of which is the Hungerford School which will have a new site on the Petrides Campus which will open September 2022. The Waverly School on Targee Street will open and

other Pre-K schools that will open on the North Shore of Staten Island. We have had numerous parks refurbished on the North Shore and other community upgrades in the past 12 years. On a personal note, I just want to thank CB1 for welcoming me into your family for the past 8 years. It's been a pleasure to serve with you and partner with you. Thank you.

Joseph Carroll said, "Thank you Troy".

Mary Bullock - Port Richmond Strong: Just wanted to report on Port Richmond Strong. November 6th, we had a Veteran's Day celebration. Our keynote speaker was Bob Ellis, Michael Ollis' father. Max Rose phoned in from his deployment with the reserves. We had a very special event (I will put a link to the article in the chat). We had a replacement of a gravestone of one of Port Richmond's veterans from the War of 1812. Our military history on the North Shore of Staten Island goes back to the American Revolution and we should all be proud of it.

The day after, we had our Holiday Fair, our 341st Christmas in Port Richmond. Coming this Christmas, we are working on getting Holiday banners, lights, and a Christmas Tree for Port Richmond. We will be happy to have that back. Thank you.

Jermaine Williams: I am now NYPD's Community Ambassador for Staten Island. The Community Ambassador Program is a new initiative. I will be a liaison between the NYPD and the community citizens with NYPD complaints, hoping to keep neighborhood safety. I have been to a couple of meetings with Chief Vega, who mentioned the same thing that Assemblyman Charles Fall mentioned about gun violence. I'm hoping to bring forth what Clifford Brantley mentioned coming together with certain programs and new initiatives other than violence. NYPD is doing great with trying new programs and initiatives to keep people safe. At the same time, there is something that is being missed that we need to come together and bring forward. I will put my information in the chat and welcome to meet any community members/partners. I will be making visits soon to reach out to community partners. I will be at the next community council meeting on this Wednesday and going forward, hope to see you soon. Thank you.

Joseph Carroll said Congratulations Jermaine, we will be glad to work with you.

Friday Ogbewele said that concludes our public session. Thank you all.

Nicholas Siclari announced we have two guest speakers.

### **Guest Speakers**

Richard Day, DSNY: The Department of Sanitation will be having our yearly Fall Leaf Collection. We are asking the community to set out your leaves for collection on December 18th after 4pm for collection on the following day. Each year we collect leaves from residents, and we compost them. Put them in paper leaf bags or unlined contain-

ers. We ask that you don't use plastic bags. We don't accept materials from professional landscapers either. For more information, please go to [NYC.Gov/leafcollection](https://www.nyc.gov/leafcollection). While I'm here I will also make a plug for Curbside Composting. If you haven't signed up already, please go to [NYC.Gov/Curbsidecomposting](https://www.nyc.gov/Curbsidecomposting). I will leave my information and links in the chat for questions. Please put out your leaves and set up for composting.

Delicia Marshall & Ed Cruz from NYC Health and Hospitals/Gotham Health Center: Thank you for inviting us to this meeting. My role as the community affairs team to connect the community with our services. We attend forums and health fairs to bring aware our services that Gotham Health offers. I will now turn to Cari Harewood, the Regional Administrator.

Cari Harewood, Regional Administrator for Queens, and Staten Island for Gotham Health: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present to you. I will share my screen and show a presentation.

Gotham Vanderbilt, 165 Vanderbilt Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10304.  
Who we are: NYC Health and Hospitals is the largest public healthcare system in the country? It is the ambulatory arm of NYC Health and Hospitals. A network of Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers created in 2015 to address the primary and preventative care needs of families and individuals in their own neighborhoods throughout the 5 boroughs. Consists of 6 large diagnostic and treatment centers with 20+ smaller neighborhood health centers located in high needed areas. They deliver high quality care, promote healthy lifestyles, and build healthy communities one family at a time. Gotham Vanderbilt opened in May of 2018. Provided services that were previously offered at the Gotham Stapleton site which is two blocks away from the current site. Conveniently located at the intersection of the Stapleton and Park Hill neighborhoods. Continues to adopt health strategies to facilitate positive patient outcomes. Our patient satisfaction scores are the highest in the organization.

Hours of Operation are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 8am to 5pm. Tuesday, 8am to 7pm. Saturdays, (2nd of the month only) 8am to 5pm. Services offered: Outpatient Services: Pediatrics, Women's Health, Optometry, General Medicine, Social Work, Imaging, Podiatry, Pharmacy Services & Family Planning. Special Programs: Buprenorphine Program, Diabetes Program with RUMC (September 2021), COVID-19 Testing, & COVID-19 Vaccination. Jitney service available from Vanderbilt to Coney Island Hospital twice daily to facilitate access to other specialty services.

Staffing Reflective of the Community: Many of the staff reside locally. Language spoken Spanish, Creole, Mandarin, Tagalog, Russian & Arabic. For other languages we have onsite video translation services for more than 100 languages/dialects.

We see everyone regardless of financial or immigration status. We accept most insurances and offer discounted fees for the uninsured and underinsured. We offer discounted prescription medications. Offer onsite financial counseling, Metro Plus Representatives onsite & NYC Care.

There is support beyond traditional Healthcare. We offer outreach events, health fairs and open houses, screenings, Reach Out and Read & social work services. The facility fosters community-based partnerships and strategic health solutions.

We have positive comments/feedback from patients on our services. For example: "I received excellent treatment from all the staff that attended to me. Very humane and kind." (10/19/21).

I think we are making our mark in Staten Island and continue to build and expand services at our location. Thank you for offering the time.

Ed Cruz, Community Affairs Outreach for Gotham Health in the 5 boroughs. I think we covered everything. Thank you everyone for your time.

Nicholas Siclari offered thanks for all their help.

### **Officers' Reports**

**First Vice-Chairman, Anthony Cosentino** - No report.

**Second Vice-Chairman, Timothy Forsyth** – No report.

**Third Vice-Chairman, Friday Ogbewele** - No report.

**Secretary, Loretta Cauldwell** – No report.

Nicholas Siclari said Treasurer, Larry Beslow is celebrating a birthday. Want to wish him a Happy Birthday which was this past Sunday.

**Treasurer, Larry Beslow** - Lisa Crosby said report is included in the packet.

**Chairman, Nicholas Siclari** - I just want to remind everyone next month will be our last virtual meeting if everything goes to schedule. The world is getting back to normal, and the community boards will be following. We have to work out the logistics.

**District Manager, Joseph Carroll** - We met with the Comptroller's office today regarding our Audit. Lisa and Linda are preparing responses to errors they made. There were a couple of issues they were correct on. The website needs improvement, but we can't do that, Doltt must do it. They have to provide the accessibility for handicapped people with vision problems that is beyond our control. The Comptroller is going to make that

known to Doltt. There is a city council law that I was not aware of, requiring that community boards have Public Hearings every month. Generally, we do that through our Budget & Finance or Land Use. If we don't have an Agenda for Budget & Finance or Land Use, we will have to find topics to have Public Hearings on separate from the Board Meeting. We tried to get them to count the Board Meeting, but they would not do that. We may have another meeting or two during the year to look forward to. We will send our responses to the Comptroller. The Mayor's Office was there as well. We will send our responses by Friday.

Chris Rooney asked if we could do a Steering meeting and Joseph Carroll said we can do that. There are a number of ways to do it. We do host meetings for DOT and DDC with construction projects. Generally, we do them as Area Committee Meetings, but we could make them Public Hearings. We have some flexibility there. We also have to post physical signs. We are going to use the Library, Larry Beslow's place and John Guzzo's place. We will tack signs on the wall. We can ask Gotham Health if we can put a notice in their place too.

Nicholas Siclari said here's a man who can have a meeting anytime he wants, Vincent Accornero. You have so many topics. You can have the Vincent Accornero meeting show.

### **Functional Committee Reports**

**Land Use, Vincent Accornero** - Should I just wing it? The council has so many requirements from the Community Board but ignores what we have to say. There was no Public Hearing for Land Use as there was no agenda items. I would propose that our Rules and Legislative Affairs investigate the concept, Board of Estimate deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and yet I find it almost comical that we have a system that we are universally and unilaterally governed by the City of New York. The greater entity and have so little local control. Our Federal Government has a system of balances where the House of Representatives based each person on the Census count and yet the United States Senate has the same amount of representation per state regardless if it's Rhode Island, California, or Texas. There are still two U.S. Senators from each state. The balance that the founder put in place and I find it amazing that we have so little control over local service delivery, local issues, and specifically local Land Use issues. We just saw in the case of the North River Application, this board was adamantly opposed to the North River Application and we sent a very strong, nearly unanimous motion to the city council. The City Council held numerous meetings which we attended, and we testified at and there's been a negotiation. It appears there will be a complete obliteration of zoning at the North River site. There will be removal of the Special Hillside Preservation on the site. It's a complete rewrite of zoning that works for these developers. I find it quite amusing and quite discouraging. In the news it does appear there will be a negotiated development at that site along Richmond Terrace & Hamilton Avenue despite our strong opposition to the removal of the Special District there and the other zoning issues that were proposed.

I would like to wish all the ladies and gentlemen who served our country, Mr. Joseph Carroll, Mr. Anthony Cosentino, Mr. Christopher Rooney, Mr. John Guzzo and if I missed anyone else, Thank you for your service as always.

Joseph Carroll said Vincent did a great job in presenting our testimony at the City Planning Commission. The whole community was against it and the Elected Officials were against it. It's frustrating when you see everybody against something all for the same reason and all very good reasons, just to see it ignored. It's very frustrating.

Joseph Ahlstrom asked: Did they reduce the height of those buildings?

Joseph Carroll said: They reduced the height somewhat, but the issue was the destruction of the Hillside District using the Special St. George District to increase the number of units. They got a lot of the density and height they required but they also destroyed the Hillside District.

Christopher Rooney said forget about the infrastructure that we need such as schools, etc.

Joseph Carroll said that stuff never accounts, we know that. It's not how the city plans.

Nicholas Zvegintzov said he understands there is going to be a vote on this tomorrow. I have been in on several meetings with Debi Rose. There is an opportunity to picket or stand outside of City Hall between 10am and 1pm tomorrow to hand out a release that explains the objections to this. We are going to go down to make a case for this. it's not over until it's over. It could be turned back. I think we should not give up.

Joseph Carroll said the rush is they want to get this done before the administration changes because the administration's policy is affordable housing and, in this case, they are getting a few units of senior affordable housing, but the trade is the destruction of the Hillside District is not an equitable trade at all amongst other things.

**Health and Human Services, Amy Poirier** - No report. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Waterfront, Ole Olsen** – No report.

**Public Services, Sunny Jain** – No report.

**Youth Services, Ernest Paige** – No report.

**Rules and Legislative Affairs, Christopher Rooney** - No report.

**Budget & Finance, Anthony Cosentino** – No report.



**Transportation, Nicholas Zvegintzov** - Report in the packet with a glorious illustration. We are trying to figure out why the ferry doesn't want to charge the cycles on the ferry. The ferry is still on reduced service on the weekends. Some of us attended a meeting with the DOT announcing what I call "old tiny blocks" on Alaska Avenue and Van Buren Street are going to be completely roadbeds and sidewalks which they haven't been in years. The city has to acquire the land because nobody owns the land on the roadway. In the presentation we found at least one cobble sidewalk in front of somebody's house. I think we should ask DOT to preserve that. We don't want everything to be concreted over.

Vincent Accornero asked if Van Buren in the Special St. George District. Nicholas Zvegintzov said no it's a little over. The St. George District would finish on Hamilton Avenue but for River North added a bit more on that side.

### **ADHOC Committee Reports**

**Labor, Robert Holst** - No report. Happy Thanksgiving and be healthy.

**Parks, Norman Light** – No report.

### **Area Committee Reports**

**West Brighton/St. George, Loretta Cauldwell** - There was a joint meeting with Silver Lake/Sunnyside the report is under Transportation.

Vincent Accornero asked if we can speak to Parks and propose something for Alaska Street. I just saw a tremendous community garden in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Somebody has got to come up with plan. You can't just have sites fenced off and doing nothing.

Joseph Carroll said It cannot be forfeited it would take an act from the state legislature.

Nicholas Siclari said Lisa will express your concerns to Commissioner Lynda Ricciardone

**Silver Lake/Sunnyside/Westerleigh, Timothy Forsyth & Camille Zarrelli** – No report.

**Rosebank/Fort Wadsworth, John Guzzo** - No report.

**Marine's Harbor/Port Richmond, John McBeth** - We had a meeting last week. The report is in the package. We will have a meeting on Tuesday, November 16th. Please come to our area committee meeting if you are from this area. Nicholas Siclari said thank you for your service John McBeth.

**Clifton/Concord/Stapleton, Larry Beslow** – No report.

**Old Business** - Christopher Rooney said he would like to thank Port Richmond Strong for the Veteran's Program. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend. A significant percentage of the members of our Vietnam Veteran's Association and a significant percentage

of those who passed away in Vietnam attended Port Richmond High School and we appreciate that. Nicholas Siclari thanked Christopher Rooney.

**New Business** - John McBeth said with regard to meeting in person, can we consider having the availability of remote. They at least will be able to see even if they can't participate. Nicholas Siclari said yes, there will be a remote option. The Area Committee meetings will still be remote since the Parks will not let us have them there. Nicholas Siclari asked Joseph Carroll and he said yes that's true. We need guidance regarding how to assemble people. We still have nobody who said exactly how we are supposed to do it. We've asked and get a different answer. Maybe they're just waiting for the new administration. Nicholas Siclari said we will figure it out. We have a month.

Nicholas Siclari said he wanted to wish everyone a Happy Veteran's Day and Happy Thanksgiving.

Motion to Adjourn