**Community Board 17**

**Sanitation Committee Meeting**

**Monday, December 19, 2022**

**Present:** Excused:

Dr. Carol Reneau Karlene Gordon

Jorge Tait

Lilieth Robinson

Monica McKain-Brown

Theo Maughan

Javeeda Smith

Kenrick Wescott

Eduardo Cameron

Lulu Friesdat

Milovan Blair

Vanessa Quashie

Evrick Brown

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The **Sanitation Committee Virtual** meeting was held on **Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Dr. Carol Reneau** called the meeting to order 7:33pm.

She is currently the Chair of the Sanitation Committee and she is assuming this role to assist Community Board 17 and she welcomes their input and feedback.

She asked if they received the agenda and minutes of the November meeting? She asked for a motion to approve the minutes?

**Mr. Milovan Blair** made a motion to approve the minutes.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** seconded the motion.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Dr. Reneau** said since she is new to this role, she requested an active committee list of the members to see who is on the committee. She has set up a skeleton for 2 databases for the subcommittees requesting a list of hot spot areas from the District Manager, where they usually receive complaints for garbage or illegal parking of vehicles and they will use this information for the bi-weekly and major Spring clean ups throughout Flatbush.

She has spoken to 2 different organizations, Black Trans Nation, Mr. Donny Gibbins and also Mr. Wescott and Mr. Blair, from Kings County South Civic Association regarding the Spring and bi-weekly clean ups. They will ask representatives from both organizations to speak on their mission and why they want to work with Community Board 17. Both organizations will play an intricate role with this committee moving forward.

Whenever they make a complaint to the office or by email, please have a physical address, because when it is logged into Sanitation or the Dept. of Traffic, an actual address is needed. The Dept. of Sanitation’s updated contact information will be coming from the District Manager, and also an updated list for the Dept. of Traffic.

**Mr. Kenrick Wescott** said he has been running the organization since 2004. The purpose of the organization is a concern pertaining to the community in regards to the elderly, and they have held meetings regarding dementia and what the signs are. They had the Police and Fire Depts. and other various agencies come in.

The main concern is the cleanliness of the district. He is glad Dr. Reneau is chairing the committee and is happy to participate in this program because he wants to see an improvement in the area. People are not concerned about their surroundings and the only way to get their attention is by having Sanitation issue tickets, because when it comes to money, people get serious. The business owners do not live in the area and they do not care about the cleanliness. He wants to speak to the Sanitation Dept. about issuing tickets and if not, they will never be able to control what is going on in the neighborhood.

**Ms. Lulu Friesdat** said litter has always been an issue in this community and she is willing to help in any way needed with campaign posters, slogans and bi-weekly clean ups. Also get help from the public officials with a public campaign, and also start BIDs with the merchants in the business areas of the community, and letting them know they can be ticketed if they do not keep up their legal responsibilities of cleaning up the litter on the sidewalk and gutter in front of their stores. This will be a multiprong approach she hopes they take it and she is happy to do her part.

**Dr. Reneau** said if they receive any complaints, they are called into 3-1-1, logged in and followed up with the different agencies and with the person who called in the complaint with a resolution.

**Ms. Jadeeva Smith** said at 1462 Nostrand Avenue between Church Avenue and Erasmus Street, the Chase Bank, it is filthy and disgusting there.

**Dr. Reneau** said while driving through the different neighborhoods, they can see which ones are not getting the services they deserve. She was in Bay Ridge, and parts of the streets were not cleaned for months and Sanitation was there doing a special cleaning removing the garbage from under the cars and putting it in bags. They know this can be done, they just have to press and make sure they reach out to the right people and holding them accountable.

**Mr. Wescott** said in the past, the DA’s office had minors that committed crimes and their punishment to was to clean up the neighborhoods. Before they do the first clean up, he suggests they should check to see if they still have that program and they can help them with the first clean up. He will follow up with the DA’s office to see if they still have that program.

**Ms. Lillieth Robinson** asked if Mayor Adams started the clean-up program for the neighborhoods he had spoken about on the news? He said they were going to have Sanitation clean up all of New York because it is a disgrace and filthy. Can they get some assistance from Sanitation with the clean-ups through the Mayor’s office?

**Dr. Reneau** said the last time they did a clean-up on her block, Sanitation provided the bags and necessary tools needed and when they finished they put the bags on the corner and Sanitation picked them up. Sanitation does support clean-ups and they are on the list of groups they will be using for clean-ups.

**Ms. Friesdat** asked if a decision has been made on when they might do a clean-up and how often? Her concern is when they do a clean-up, will it be once or twice a year. They cleaned up the area of Nostrand Avenue between Church Avenue and Erasmus Street and New York Avenue because the area was filthy and within hours, the litter started to come back and a few days later, you couldn’t even notice. She believes that once every 6 months or once a year clean ups are almost a waste of time and seems pointless to her. They need something that is on-going, even if they do 1 or 2 hours every Saturday or once a month, then it shows people that they care that it is happening and they feel more like pitching in and they understand the neighborhood is undergoing transformation.

**Dr. Reneau** said no decisions have been made, they are just discussing. The group has been broken out into 2 different subcommittees and they are asking for people who can commit and help them, whether it is for the long haul and the subcommittees will be on-going.

They are planning on having a main Spring clean-up and all ideas are welcome, they just have to complete it. This is about education because people are used to throwing garbage out of their cars and they think someone will clean it up for them.

When she had her clean-up in Nov. 2020, then Borough President Eric Adams attended the event and he knew what they were attempting to do. Whoever joins will be given credit and to know this is an on-going collaboration.

In Bay ridge and other neighborhoods, it is not just a one off and the clean ups are done over there every Wednesday. Whether they do it weekly or bi-weekly, it has to be on-going because it will not work if they are not reiterating and keep repeating what they are saying.

This has to be a partnership between all of the organizations, and they have some of the contacts and are waiting on others from the District Manager. Holding them accountable and making an attempt to do something, she knows they can get it done.

**Mr. Wescott** said they can hand out flyers asking people to keep the neighborhood clean. When they did the clean-up on Avenue D, they painted over the graffiti and painted the fire hydrants. All the supplies were provided to them by DEP.

**Mr. Blair** said since they have a large area to cover, if they are doing it monthly or weekly, would they be targeting certain areas.

**Dr. Reneau** said every 2 weeks, they will target a hotspot area with the information provided by the District Manager. There are areas that receive more complaints than others and those are the areas they want to target first.

**Ms. Monica McKain-Brown** said with education, they clean up a particular area for 2 weeks and then the homeowners and businesses can continue to clean up, so it is substantiable.

**Dr. Reneau** said it has been echoed before that they need Sanitation, the Police Dept., and for people to be held accountable. People need to be ticketed when the area is filthy and that will be the only way to get them to clean up and they need to be consistent.

**Ms. Jadeeva Smith** said a lot of people have been requesting trash bins and most of the filthy streets are in the commercial areas, and if the trash cans were picked up more often, that would help to alleviate a lot of the garbage.

**Dr. Reneau** said to recap, Mr. Wescott will follow up with the DA’s office, Ms. Robinson will follow up with the Mayor’s office and the committee will be following up with the Chase Bank regarding the filthy conditions.

For the 2 subcommittees, they have Sanitation Complaints and Tree Guards & Clean-up Campaign. She will be contacting the members that signed up for the subcommittees. If anyone wants to join the subcommittees, let her know or they can email their information to [cb17sanitation@gmail.com](mailto:cb17sanitation@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

**Mr. Wescott** said in regards to the Sanitation Committee, and since the Block Associations are a committee, he suggests they invite the Presidents of the Block Associations to attend a meeting so they will get an idea of what they are all about.

**Dr. Reneau** said she will check to see if there is an updated list of contacts for the block associations at the office.

**Mr. Wescott** asked can they invite someone from Sanitation Dept. to attend a committee meeting to get an idea of what they are about?

**Dr. Reneau** said they can invite someone, but they need to know what it is they need from them and they need action items, so they can deliver and commit to cleaning up the community. They need to have an accountability factor before they invite them in, and that they are inviting them for a purpose. They can give them the dates for the clean-ups so they can work and collaborate together.

She asked the members of the subcommittees, what do they think would be the best thing for them to do moving forward.

**Mr. Wescott** said they need to set the dates and times for the clean-ups and then they can start planning what they are going to do moving forward.

**Dr. Reneau** said she will contact the subcommittee members when the subcommittee meeting is scheduled. The Sanitation Committee meetings for January and February are cancelled due to the holidays. She will check to see if there is another date that they can hold the meeting on.

She asked if there were any other issues to discuss? Having heard none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting?