

Meeting called by: Rodrick Daley **Type of meeting:** General Board Meeting

Facilitator: Rodrick Daley **Note Taker:** Tamara Thomas

Time Keeper: Tamara Thomas

Attendees:

Please read: March 2023 Agenda

Please bring:

Agenda Item: Chairperson’s Report

Rodrick Daley, Chairperson, CB 17:

- The Social Services Chair has stepped down because of other conflicts. He is looking for someone to step up into the role of Social Services Chair. The committee meets every 4th Monday of the month. Any committee member who would love to participate on the Executive body, and as the Chair, that would be their committee assignment and they would have to attend the Executive meeting, held on the 1st Monday of the month, unless it is a holiday, then it is the 2nd Monday.
- However, the Communications Chair, there are a number of people who don’t want as a Chair. He can appoint members to the Communications Committee, however, he does not want to do that because then there is a thing where if they get appointed to the committee, they might say they didn’t ask to be here. He is asking because they have a lot of things that they need to get done (INAUDIBLE) things that need to be uploaded, the messages, the website, update the communications. The last person that was a part of the communication piece, they tried to reach out to her numerous times in the last 8-9 months, with limited success, and nothing has been updated. They need a few Community Board members to step up and participate in the Communications Team.
- He had a meeting with the Borough President, and he surprised him by sitting in the front row. When they have the meeting on March 21, 2023, with all Community Board Chairs and he asked all Community

Board members or community members to reach out to him with any issues they want him to bring up that might be related to them Brooklyn wide, within the Community Board that they would like him to speak to the Borough President about.

- He thanked 1st Vice Chair, Mr. Asshur Cunningham for chairing the last meeting in his absence.
- On a personal level, all parents please note that all high school (INAUDIBLE) high school responses, may sure to look out for that. The middle school (INAUDIBLE) should have also gone out and make sure they are speaking to the Principal (INAUDIBLE) and their children and grand children and whoever is involved with your family.
- They have a number of (INAUDIBLE) issues happening within their community. Within the last 4 days, he has gotten several emails and today, he got a phone call from Stu and an email, 4 people shot, 1 died, on Snyder Avenue. On Linden Blvd., on Monday, 1 person was stabbed and killed. Today, he got a phone call that one of his former students, (INAUDIBLE) was shot. The reason he is bringing this up is they have to start loving themselves, their community and they have to be cognoscente of their surroundings and where they are. He loves East Flatbush, Rugby and the community which he represents. He has been in this community for over 40 years, and he is so tired of seeing these things happening, so he is asking them to speak to the young people around them. Speak to them because unfortunately, that behavior is sensationalized and portrayed in the media, and good behavior is not as much. They have to start taking care of the community that they love. He is looking forward to hearing and working with the community with the violence that is happening, and it is very negative. They are also losing after-school programs for the young people also in the schools. They lost one at the beginning of the month and maybe the Borough President can find (INAUDIBLE) to give him to get the after-school program back to one of their schools.
- The District Manager is not here today.

This ends his report.

- In honor of Women’s History Month, he wants to take this opportunity, with the Borough President, to recognize the women on his Executive board, who by choice, by force, with everybody else stepping back, decided to step forward and become leaders in Community Board 17. So, for Women’s History Month, the following were recognized:
Chair James, Secretary Thomas, Chair Antoine, Dr. Ferguson, Chair Reneau, Chair Welch, Chair Persaud, Chair Graham, Chair Grandison and Chair Fields.

Agenda Item: District Manager’s Report

Presenter: Sherif Fraser

- No report.

Agenda Item: Committee Reports

June Persaud, Chair, Commerce Committee:

- She would like to extend an invitation to everyone. The Commerce Committee will be hosting a Business Networking Breakfast at Woodzzy Bar & Restaurant, 1133-35 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, from 9:30am to 1pm. The guest speakers will be the NYPD, Buildings Dept., Health Dept. and Small Business Solutions.
- The Commerce Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm and it is a virtual meeting. If they would like to join the Commerce Committee, the applications are in the back.

Gail Grandison, Chair, Education & Youth Committees:

- Their meeting was last Wednesday, and the guest was Principal Graham of PS 235 and they had a really good conversation around the programs in the school, budgetary issues and how the school is going to be moving forward for Fiscal Year 2024.
- The committee has 3 upcoming events, the Spelling Bee, Cops & Kids and Youth Happen’n. For Youth Happen’n, if they have a summer program in the community, they are welcome, especially if it is relatively new, reach out to the Board for the information on how they can attend. If they don’t have a summer program, (INAUDIBLE)

Kwame Afreh, Chair, Land Use Committee:

- Today, they were supposed to have a meeting with (INAUDIBLE) and the DDC in regards to the Shirley Chisholm Center and getting the community workforce and community outreach information out there in regards to people who would be interested in working on said project and contractors that would be interested in getting a piece of the 30% minimum that would be coming forward. Unfortunately, that meeting was cancelled and is scheduled for next week, March 21st at 1pm. It is important and an excellent opportunity for any of the youth or residents to be involved in this project at every single aspect. He is being tasked by Mr. Daley to make sure they know the opportunity that is coming before them. This is probably a once in a lifetime, and they have seen it with the Barclay Center, and this is their opportunity in East Flatbush. This should be available to anybody who is interested in joining this workforce opportunity.

Mr. Daley:

- There is \$40 Million set aside for NWBE's within their community. A lot of them missed out on the Barclay Center. They are looking at hiring union workers, if they have a business or are non-union workers.

Berlotte Antoine, Chair, Parks & Beautification Committees:

- At the March 7th meeting, they had a presentation on plant poisoning. Plants are beautiful, however, they need to know some of them can have some issues. All the attendees will receive their certificates. She is waiting for the Dept. of Health to send them to her.
- Thanks also to those who submitted their input for all the issues in the parks in CB 17. She will ask the elected officials or anyone here who wants to contribute to help their parks be more beautiful than they are. Reach out to her if they want to assist because they can do better in CB 17. If they are here and if they have a project that they want CB 17 to work with them to have the parks better than they are now, please reach out.
- They had a (INAUDIBLE) from the NYC For Parks was to present on March 7th . They are working to have a project to start the beautification of

Tilden Park, for the Spring Beautification Of Tilden Park so they can do the (INAUDIBLE)

- The also have the little green space on Church and Ralph Avenues. They are also working to see how they can improve this little corner.
- The next meeting is on April 4th where they will be talking about a Family Day event that they want to have for Summer 2023. Come to the meeting and discuss what they want to see for their Family Day event.
- There is a save the date for October 21, 2023, where they are having a Breast Cancer Walk in the park. If they are a breast cancer survivor or a (INAUDIBLE) providing services to survivors of breast cancer, reach out them.

Julia James, Chair, By-Laws Committee:

- In the interest of time, they have incorporated a proposed amendment to the By-Laws. They set it up by email to give them 30 days notice to review it. It is a proposed amendment to change membership in committees to be in line and conforming to exactly the same language used by the Borough President's Office as to who qualifies to be a member of a committee in this district. Everyone should have received it and it will be discussed and voted on at the next General Board meeting.

Julia James, Chair, Rezoning Committee:

- As they know this has been a burning issue. They did receive a response from DCP to a letter which was sent out in July 2020. Very briefly to identify some points raised by them. The letter comes from the Brooklyn Director. It says, Thank you for your letter dated February 13, 2023, restating your request for contextual down zoning in Brooklyn District 17. The Dept. of City Planning has been working with members of the Community Board since 2007. He made a note in his letter of the day the project commenced.
- Because the question they need to ask is, if it dates back to 2007, why is it that other Community Boards, who subsequently applied for contextual rezoning, were granted contextual rezoning, and Community Board 17 was not. He identified the various contacts that have taken place over the years, and then he ends by saying, DCP has

carefully listened to their concerns, offered to work with them to respond to the issues raised. He states that while CB 17's Land Use Committee proposal from February 2022, including the details of zoning and the Land Use recommendations, it was principally focused on specific zoning solutions to limit new development.

- That is true of every other Community Board. They undertook steps to limit development. If they drive down Glenwood and Farragut Roads, they can see the (INAUDIBLE) between Community Board 17 and other districts where pristine, no development, one and two family homes untouched and they know what is happening to their community.
- He then goes on to say, they would like to take this opportunity to reiterate their interest in working with CB 17 to develop a community-based plan that in light of rising housing costs and population growth, preservation of one and two family homes with identification with the opportunities for the creation and preservation of income restricted housing.
- She has always made it clear to DCP, they recognize that there is a housing crisis and they are willing to work with them in areas where their community has been destroyed. It does not make sense trying to save it. They are welcome to the up-zoning there, but at the same time, they are committed to preserving the small businesses and also the one and two family homes, just the way other affluent and other neighborhoods, which are wiser than them, were able to protect and preserve their housing.

Jessica Welch, Chair, Public Safety:

- This last month, they did not get a visit from the Community Affairs Officers again. They are expecting him this month, March 22nd, when they have their next meeting.
- They have not been able to get quorum because a lot of the members come sporadically. She would like for anyone who wants to be on the Public Safety Committee, please come join them on March 22nd, because they need to know who is on the committee, and who is interested in their community safety.

Pearlene Fields, Chair, Housing Committee:

- They had their Housing meeting on March 9th, and they had Monodock Development come to speak about the affordable housing that is going to be on Utica and Crescent. She advised them to keep track of what is going on there, and they are going to let the office know when it comes time to apply, because applying to this particular housing, they cannot go through Housing Connect. Ms. Fraser will be getting the information, and if they decide they are interested, there is going to be senior and affordable housing, keep track of that.
- Save the date because they are going to be doing a joint Housing Fair, with CB 9, at Paerdegat Park, on Sunday, June 18th. They were hoping CB 14 would join as well. Keep note of that particular date, and if they can come out, they are planning a nice day for them. she is looking forward to seeing them there from 12-5pm.

Tamara Thomas, Secretary, Communications Chair, Community Board 17:

- Her plea is to members of the community and members of the Board because she needs help, she is literally a committee of one. There are a lot of initiatives that are starved for attention, like social media, newsletters, constant communication with the larger community and these are all things she cannot do by herself, so she is pleading with people to please join her. She will help to bring them up to speed and make them proficient so they can be good helpers, but she does need extra hands. As Ms. Grandison said, many hands make light work. In order for the Communications to reach the broader community as it is needed to do, she needs help from anybody. Please reach out and contact the District Manager in the office, who will put them in contact with her.

Rose Graham, Chair, Personnel Committee:

- They recently had a meeting of the office staff in collaboration with the union and they still have some kinks to work out, but it is still a work in progress. As they know, their ADM is on board. They will keep them posted as information is available. It was a mid-year evaluation of the office staff.

Agenda Item: Agency Reports

Brooklyn Public Library

Donette Ryker:

- There is a Teen Writing Contest taking place right now. Submissions are being accepted throughout all of this month. NYC writers in grades 6-12 are invited to submit poetry and (INAUDIBLE) to the Teen Writing Contest and there are cash prizes and a total of \$3,000.00 will be awarded in prizes. Divided, it will be \$500.00 for the 1st place. Teens can grab a writing kit in their local libraries in different locations throughout the borough. The kit includes a notebook, pen and a (INAUDIBLE) that is full of writing fonts and this is as long as supplies last. There is also a virtual link that she will send for everyone to receive it.
- This year is the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop, so BPL is joining along with their fellow City library systems and over 30 cultural institutions to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop. More announcements will follow this Spring. They are planning a year-long program series across Brooklyn and NYC to celebrate the anniversary.
- There are senior debates that are happening with the Brooklyn Public Library. Older adults that are looking to flex their debating skills should join this team. It is a hybrid program with the first session occurring on Zoom and then with in-person options. All of this is going to lead up to a Senior Debate Tournament at the Brooklyn Public Library central location at Grand Army Plaza. The program will run for 3 months, on Tuesdays from 2-4pm and all the participants receive a copy of the book, *On the Other Hand*, written by the Founder of the Association for Senior Debates. She will share the information by email with the District Manager.

Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President:

- He is the President of the greatest borough in the City of New York, which is Brooklyn. He is very happy to be here with them all and he just had a recent conversation with the Chair. One about making sure he shows up and say hi.

- They are making the rounds to all the Community Boards now, just to give them the heads up about what they were dealing with initially when they came into Borough Hall is because the Mayor of New York used to be the Borough President and his staff got the wonderful news that most of them would be moving with him to Manhattan, and with that left them about 19 staff members out of 75. They have spent the last year staffing up with a small HR crew that is also responsible for staffing up Community Boards and handling Community Board issues. So they can only imagine what it looks like to hire 50 people in less than 5 months, on-boarding and teaching them, explaining to them how they work. They just got their Community Affairs Director, just appointed last month, which means they will start to see a lot more of them in the streets.
- He just wants to thank Chair Daley, with just a bit of patience with his office as they continue to develop, but in that time, they got a lot done with a small team, got a lot accomplished and with that, they got some rewriting of their rules for Community Boards.
- They really want to start changing how Community Boards are not only perceived in the community, but by the agencies, so they are having a good conversation the Chairs and District Managers, because there is a Charter mandated responsibility that exist by the City of New York for agencies to respond to Community Boards for any and all requests, and that is extremely important. It means that if they ask a question, relating to something with the public transportation, the Dept. of Transportation should respond to them in a timely manner, and that does not happen right now. So, they are going to be using the weight of the Borough President's Office to really implore these agencies to do what is charter mandated for them to do or they are going to be hearing from them. They are excited about the work they are doing.
- They are also giving a lot more autonomy to Community Boards, so, they are kind of taking a step back and really allowing for the Chairs and the Executive Board and the Community Board to kind of dictate the outcome as they see fit. They are here more for technical services, and they are going to move away from inserting themselves in the local politics and the local community back and forth, and so forth. This is

their Community Board, their community and he wants to hear from them and be able to support them from what they give him versus imposing their influence from the Borough President's Office onto the Community Board. It has been well received.

- There are some new members on the Community Board appointed by the Borough President. If they have not noticed, they are also looking at encouraging people that want to be here. If they are not showing up to more than 50% of the meetings, they will probably no longer be a Community Board member, unless they have a good excuse. They are really going to start kicking folks out and putting new people in. They are looking to get much younger, 16 & 17-year old. They talked about communications with social media and so forth. Maybe some kids can take that on and if they could see them on Tik Tok every day, that would be fun. The point there being, is they want people that want to be here. Many times folks that get positions in Community Boards wind up, because of the title they hold and the influence they hold by putting Community Board member or Chair or Executive member next to a resume or when they walk into a room, those are not the type of people they are looking for. He wants to make sure that people know, just because they got appointed in the past, does not mean they will stay here, especially if they are not showing up. They want more participation in the committees as well. They see a lack of participation in the committees or those that just show up at the General Board meeting, and nothing else, making it more difficult to do the business of the Community Board, is something that they are going to hold folks accountable to. Working alongside the Chairs and District Managers to iron all these things out, it is just because they really want to feel invigorated and reinvigorated in the Community Boards. They will continue to see new members come in. Folks that can't show up, will no longer be on the Board, and he is really excited about that process.
- Rezoning, he heard one of the Chairs say how the Committee for Rezoning was talking about the relationship they have with DCP, the Dept. of City Planning, and that they have been working on this for over 7 years now, the lack of progress that has been made by DCP. He wants to be very clear that the Dept. of City Planning, should have been called

the Dept. of City Zoning, because they do not do any planning, they just zone, and it is a big problem, because what ends up happening is when they just zone, they do not take into account the totality of a neighborhood or even the totality of a borough.

- Whatever happens in a rezoning, here in Community Board 17, it is going to affect the entire borough, and they have to be mindful of that.
- They are putting together a comprehensive plan in his office, and it should be coming out in a couple of months. It is going to outline recommendations that they make to all Community Boards related to development and how they think it should be moving forward. They will have input in that (INAUDIBLE) when it comes out. The plan is not going to outright say, hey, we should just rezone everything. It is going to be more of a guideline and principle document that they all have with them, and it is going to guide Borough Hall, so when projects come to them, if they fall within the principles that they set forth, they will be supporting those projects.
- He just wants them to know where they are coming from. They will not be rezoning and working alongside developers, independent of those principles. He ran for this office and did not take \$1.00 from real estate, and he has not interest in pushing their agenda. His interest is in making sure he looks out for the greater good of Brooklyn. These principles are going to be a policy. They will know what he would do with a project, long before it even gets to him, because the principles will be so clearly outlined.
- There is a housing crisis, and everyone has to do their part. He would fail in his position if he didn't tell them that they are looking at all these neighborhoods, including this one, to build some affordable housing. He understands that there are some parts of this district that are beloved that folks are looking to zone contextually.
- When DCP comes, when they come, just tell them where they don't want folks to touch, tell them what they do want folks to touch, but they cannot be exempt from development. That will not happen, there has to be a conversation for them to dictate those outcomes, but no one should come into the community and tell them where they should be

building, this community should dictate that, but they have to dictate it, they can't run away from it.

- If there is a street or two where they can go from 3 to 6 stories, propose it and if there is a street that doesn't make sense to go from 3 stories to 6 stories, keep it down. The point being here is they have to be in the mix, they dictate what the future of this community will look like, but it cannot be staying the same.
- Someone mentioned the fact that White, more affluent communities get down zonings and so forth. In his principles report recommendation, he wants to open all of that back up. Many of these neighborhoods specifically did those down zonings to keep people from this community out. They did it specifically to preserve their character, but mostly, they wanted to keep poorer people or any people that were looking for opportunities in, so now their houses are worth more than \$5 to 6 Million. It is unattainable opportunities for people like him, and he images most of the people in this room.
- He wants to look at those re-zonings. Some do not have any architectural significance, it is all political affluence that allowed them to do that.
- He wants to be clear, if he is looking and speaking here publicly and letting them know that he wants to look at every single landmarking, and whether or not it was appropriate at the time that it was done. It is because specifically he wants to make sure that everyone contributes to the greater good of development in Brooklyn, not just poor, black and brown neighborhoods.
- Go through their process and they will be supported. He will be meeting with the Chair Daley very soon and they are going to have a conversation. Please go to him with things they think the Borough President's Office can be supportive of, because that is what they want to hear.
- They are going to have events this Summer and they would love to be partners and see who they could support. Community Affairs is not showing up to a committee meeting, let them know and they can call the Chiefs and make sure that happens. Whatever it is that they might

need, give it to the Chair. He calls and specifically tells him what he thinks and how he should be moving and what he wants. He has his ear and respect, so just know that when they talk, he brings him issues and he is not going to be taking them lightly, but will be taking them very seriously. Please, committees, whoever it is, report to him so they can communicate.

- As the Notorious B.I.G. said, “Don’t forget to spread love, it is the Brooklyn way.”

Q & A:

Julia James, Chair, Rezoning:

- CB 17 has been trying to go through the process of rezoning for the past 16 years and they were 2nd of all the Community Boards to start the process and they were the only ones who have denied the process. They are the largest black homeownership community district, a black immigrant community. All the other districts are not as predominately black and immigrant as they are.

June Persaud, Chair, Commerce:

- She asked the Borough President what does he consider as affordable housing, because that can have a lot of different explanations.

Mr. Reynoso:

- Affordable housing, what he would like to do is get the area median income of the neighborhood and see if they could do it according to that. If, in this neighborhood, the average area median income is \$50,000.00 per year, they should be looking to build housing for people making about \$50,000.00 per year on average. They have to be very mindful that the housing they should be building, and what happens with affordable housing projects is some of them are extremely affordable or extremely expensive and there is almost no middle ground. It has given them a very difficult way to establish economic morbidity for the middle class.
- They have kids that come from college, or folks that got good jobs, maybe they are Plumbers, doing Electrician work, Teachers, Cops, they cannot live in these affordable housing units because they make too

much money. He would like to have a diverse set of affordable housing, from deeply affordable, affordable, middle class and then the market rate that would be necessary for what the developer might deem necessary to make the project work, but it is a scale and it depends on the community.

Marguerite Vigilante, Board Member:

- It was said that none of the Community Boards are exempt from building, but considering this community has been so overbuilt and they have not had any of their needs addressed, are they going to give them a little slack?

Mr. Reynoso:

- No one is getting any slack. The thing is, just think about what their community has gone through for the last 16 years. Over the last 16 years, the development that is happening in the community has been dictated almost exclusively by the developers or property owners. That is what happens when they don't pursue a rezoning that speaks to the future.
- The Dept. of City Planning wants to do as much development as possible, it is their job. Their mission is to build as much as possible, to rise these buildings as high as possible. If a Community Board is submitting a letter for a request for rezoning that speaks to downzoning or contextual rezoning, they will ignore them, which is what they have done for the last 16 years, and in those 16 years, the people that are dictating the outcomes are developers, not community members.
- So, this conversation about exemption is a difficult one to have because it is not going to happen politically. The time of these down zonings that happened under Bloomberg, no longer happen, so, they will not be exempt, just being honest with them.
- What they need is transparency and honesty. The transparency is, they will never get DCP here, no matter what, unless they see there are opportunities for development. The idea here is to choose where they want to see that. Stop it from happening where they don't want it to happen, but think of the areas of opportunities for growth. That is his suggestion. If they don't do that, they are going to spend another 16

years allowing the developers to dictate the outcome of this community, and he thinks that is unacceptable.

Ms. Vigilante:

- They do have a plan that has been proposed.

Mr. Reynoso:

- The Chair will be presenting him with the proposals set forth by CB 17, he will be looking at it and will be making comments to the Community Board so they will hear what he thinks about the plan and how he thinks they can move forward. No community in this entire borough will be exempt.

Ozni Lewis, Board Member:

- In the development, personally, he does not see anybody that looks like him on those jobs. He thinks there is a disconnect between those who may be qualified in the community to man these jobs, when they are talking about contractors and so forth, because our people will hire our people. Outsiders, because they don't have a relationship with them, they don't see them. He thinks there has to be a little more force, not through request, but force because, again, their people will not benefit from anything that happens in their community for a very long time.
- They need that support system in which the developers must come through a specific neighborhood and they must meet with the key players and not in a joking way just to pacify them, but they must meet with them and make sure they have what they need in order to build up this community, because people come in and they take it and they go. They don't live here, don't look like them and they live in Long Island, Upstate, New Jersey and Staten Island, and they are the folks that are left with whatever is left behind. He thinks that is one of the key things, business owners as well as the people that will be (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Reynoso:

- He is talking about jobs and opportunities for contractors. They have Electricians, Plumbers and Masonries that could do half the work in these buildings with no problem, but they don't get hired. The City of

New York has a goal to hire a certain amount of WNBES always. To be clear, it has no teeth, it is a suggestion (INAUDIBLE)

- Be very careful when any developer comes into this building and talks to them and tells them that they are going to hire 20% of the people locally, they have no legal obligations to do that. Even a Community Benefits Agreement can be broken by the developer, so be very careful. There is almost no contract outside of a deed restriction that would mandate a developer to do what he commits to. That includes other things, not just that. Be very careful, CBA agreements, unless they are binding through the deed, are a very difficult thing to enforce. The only way to fix that is to have some way to get it binding.
- The City Council has worked tirelessly for the last 10 years to try and find a binding mechanism. By law, is the developer obligated to give 20% of the contract to a minority, WMBE or to a local business, and if they cannot say yes, which they shouldn't, then they should be very weary of those developers working through them.
- To be clear, a rezoning does not do any of that. In rezoning, a community does not get to negotiate any community benefit agreements with the developer. They will be negotiating community benefit agreements with the City, and that is about building schools and fixing roads, new libraries. That is what they will be talking about with the Mayor's Office and their Councilmembers. They are not going to be talking about jobs, because when the zoning happens, the developers do not need to come to them anymore. They committed that in this block, they can go 6 stories, and if they got the property, they could build without coming here. It will be as-of-right and as they are negotiating a community benefits agreement with the City, and those can be held to account and they do follow through with those. The City is easier to get binding agreements through and is who they would be negotiating with, not the developers, if they do a rezoning.

Mr. Daley:

- He eluded to the question about the funding before for schools that had lost their after-school programs.

- The other one has to do with their Community Board and members failure to attend, having difficulty making quorum. He knows about the By-Laws, but how can they look to make things easier to meet quorum, like maybe even having the Community Board itself having a say as to who can be on the Board, based on their participation in committee levels and those other things.

Mr. Reynoso:

- The after-school programs, they should have a discussion about that, because the one thing they want is sustainability, and if they get funding from his office for 1-year of after-school programming, it does not guarantee the next year or the year after that, it would have to be a yearly thing. That consistency is important and they might be able to commit to it, but when they bring it up in the meeting, he will be better prepared to tell him what they can do.
- If the members are not showing up, he will be getting rid of them and be replacing them with people that want to show up. He thinks the quorum issue here, at the end of the day is going to come to the folks that want to be here, but it has to be worth it. The problem is, if they come to the Community Board and they don't feel like they can affect change, don't feel like it gives opportunity, and they may feel like they are wasting their time and they are volunteering for this work, which is the hardest thing to do, so they have to make it worth their while. So, what he wants his office to do is show them the impact they have and reward them for the work they are doing.
- They are going to be working in partnership, they are going to be talking about the rezoning, after-school programming, (INAUDIBLE) conversations that are going to be more serious and show outcomes. He wants to be able to show people in 6 months, they sit down, and they have 5 vendors, and maybe not get them jobs or contracts with developers, but with the City. The City has Billions of dollars in contracts, but if he shows that and they report here in 6 months, and say, after going through this program that was put together temporarily by the Borough President, they have 3 businesses that are getting Million dollar contracts with the City of New York.

- Then people hear it and see it, they say, they want to be a part of that Community Board, they are affecting change. If people don't feel that is happening and they don't see the results of their work, it is hard to attract people that want to be here, but they got a lot of people eager to be a part of something, that they want to introduce to the work they are doing or hoping that it will activate folks.
- He asked the Chair to be patient with him. He is going to infuse this Board with some new folks that want to be here, some younger folks as well. The high schools have Junior Councils, and people that are eager to do civics, why not bring like 2 or 3 of them and let them be in here and see and start building the next leaders of tomorrow. That is the work they are going to be doing, so get ready.

Adele Bennett, Committee Member:

- In regards to, no Community Boards being exempt, she drives around Brooklyn, from one part to the other, and certain areas seem to be exempt because they got their contextual rezoning and they were denied it again and again. Yes, she was on that committee for the last 10 years, and they were still denied by DCP. What is DCP's real interest and maybe they need to be revamped.

Mr. Reynoso:

- He agrees. He has gone to war with DCP for the 8 years he was a Councilmember, and he still has huge issues with DCP and the way they work. The reason there is a lack of confidence and trust in the City of New York when they do developments and growth is because the City of New York has targeted what they call Opportunity Areas. Opportunity Areas, are what he believes to be of course, more black and brown people that they think don't have any political capital, so they are able to go in there and dictate the outcome of those neighborhoods. They targeted Williamsburg, Bushwick, East New York, Brownsville, which is starting to see some development, they are going to come here, maybe.
- The point is, when he says no one is exempt, that is not running through him. Developers will come in and try to build in Sheepshead Bay, and the Community Board decides no, to everything. He doesn't, he says

yes, encourages them to go higher. Encourages them to build in Sheepshead Bay, and that is the point. When they come to his office, he wants them building in those areas, Midwood, Sheepshead Bay and Bay Ridge. Bay Ridge has built 80 units of affordable housing over the last 60 years, and that is unacceptable. When they come to him, he does not care what the Community Boards or Councilmembers say, if there is housing to be built in Bay Ridge, developers are going to have a good time with him in those areas, because he is going to say yes and push it.

- When he says that no one is exempt, he really means that, but the thing is, he wants to build confidence that it is equitable and that everyone is being asked to do it, and right now, it is not. They just had a project in Kalman Yeger's district that was just shut down in the City Council, and that is an area that does not see any development, and the Councilmember has made life impossible for that developer to ever get that built.
- They are talking to the Mayor's Office, they are talking to Raphael (INAUDIBLE) who is the Chair of Land Use in the City Council, and they are talking about (INAUDIBLE) and not allowing for these mostly white affluent districts to be completely exempt of bearing the burden of getting them out of this housing hole. This is the new movement that is happening. He is saying that everyone is going to do their part, but that includes this district as well.
- The goal here is for them to dictate their outcome. Stop allowing for the zoning that existed by in 1964 and 1969 to be how the buildings are going up in their community right now. They can stop it tomorrow, but DCP is not going to come to the table unless they are offering something somewhere else, but they say where that is. They find a block that is 1-story of commercial that can possibly get 3-stories. They figure it out and give it to them and they will support them through that. He does not know enough just yet, he may be talking out of turn, but he will be meeting with the Chair and the Rezoning Committee.
- He and the Councilmember are constantly talking about this. She is the most (INAUDIBLE) representative in this process and she is at every single meeting, more than any other elected official, and she calls him

constantly about this issue. It is very important and a top priority for her. When they are done, they are going to see what the outcomes are, and the opportunities that exist.

- Unlike her, he has to represent the entire borough and the borough needs housing, so they might disagree on how they feel about this project and it does not take away from their relationship and how much he cares about her wellbeing, but he has a responsibility to this borough and she has a responsibility to this district. He is hoping that when they all come together, it is a beautiful plan that makes a lot of sense for everyone and they are going to go to DCP and force their hand, and do the best they can to make them do what they are asking.
- Don't be relegated to these zoning rules of the 1960s that don't do them any justice and they are seeing the fabric of the neighborhood being destroyed.
- This is just the beginning and they are just getting to know him, and they are going to find out very quickly that he really means business, and he is not talking about business like hurting them, he means everyone is going to do their part, these neighborhoods are going to be held accountable.
- It is like political suicide when it comes to looking at landmarking over again, like revisiting them, that is mostly white affluent people that vote 48,000, 60,000 in communities. He tells them they need to have a conversation, and that is not easy to do. No Borough President or Mayor has said something like that, and if they are serious about developing and getting the 70,000 people out of shelters, they need to talk to everybody, including these very rich affluent people, and they are having that serious conversation. Just know, he is putting his neck on the line for them. He may be a 1-term Borough President, but he is going to try and knock it out the park.

Ms. Bennett:

- Can the Borough President come with them to do a drive through of this community?

Mr. Daley:

- He will speak to him about that.

Ms. (INAUDIBLE) , Resident:

- Will they extend that because she has only seen limited marketing for it, and the last message that came out for the Community Board, as well as the other committees? Will they continue to market that?

Mr. Reynoso:

- This year's application process is shut down now, but they received 1,100 applications, and this is one of the highest since he has been there. This is the most requests to join Community Boards happened this year. They will be doing the marketing again next year the same way. They had them on link, kiosk, going to schools, and do the same thing to try and encourage people to join.

Ms. , Resident:

- She is happy to hear about that number, however, what accountability measures will be put in place for Community Boards and Chairs to make sure the individuals who are on Board, and if they have vision, insight and so forth, to be able to contribute to those Boards.
- What will be put in place to measure how individuals can remain, because retention seems to be an issue when she joins the meeting regularly, folks are falling off, and often times when folks have ideas, sometimes, it doesn't get through, and it could be because of capacity or whatever the case is, but, she is wondering what measures will be put in place so they can keep members excited and wanting to remain vested to the opportunity.

Mr. Reynoso:

- He wants to be clear, at the end of the day, the Executive Committee and the Chair run the show, this is their Community Board, but what he wants to do is support them with resources and opportunities. The Communications Team is trying their best, and that is discouraging when they don't have an email to go out to folks in a timely manner, when they are not showing the work that the Community Board is doing on Instagram or Facebook, those things matter. The functioning of it, he wants to help the Community Boards with. Also, the Community Boards have almost no resources. They have a charter mandate to have

Community Boards, and to have 2-3 staff members for the work of a Community Board, it is unbelievably under resourced. They are having conversations with the Mayor right now to see if they could (INAUDIBLE) more opportunities, so they could be more active and involved. Then, they are volunteers and they have to be very careful about accountability, what he is going to tell the Chair, who is working 20 hours a week in a volunteer position to do this work, and he is grateful for any work that he is doing. To everybody here that are volunteering, so he wants to be very careful (INAUDIBLE) is they are participating.

Agenda Item: Community Session

Terrance La Pierre, Resident:

- He is a business owner and the President of Avenue D in East Flatbush. It was brought to his attention and the small business people that Sanitation has created a unit that is going around at 2am to 2:30am giving tickets to business people and homeowners that are in their beds at home and they are getting summonses at home, where they have to clean in front of their businesses. All of the small business people are very upset, because they are the life of the community and they were having a hard time with COVID-19, and now the City is coming after them, he does not know if they need money, but they are suffering.

Teresa Cunningham, DSNY:

(INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Daley:

- She will follow up, and if there are any other complaints, just let him or the office know.
- Mr. La Pierre is not the first business owner who has brought to his attention that they are getting ticketed unfairly and it is very difficult. No matter what anybody tells them, go and fight the ticket, it is extremely difficult to be exonerated from a ticket given by the City. It is a very difficult situation to tell a person they have a recourse in fighting the ticket. They can come up with 50 Million pieces of evidence, and

they still find them guilty. He has seen this happen publicly and privately.

- The business owners are saying that people are dumping in front of their properties, they have it on camera, people moving the trash down, the wind is blowing and they are getting tickets, and they are not winning those charges.

Vanessa Quashie, Resident:

- Because East Flatbush is known for its abundance of avenues, which is a large span to cover than regular streets, and it also has a heavy population of commuter traffic that consists of cars, buses, motor bikes and a ton of foot traffic. She thinks the community deserves to understand the mechanics of how Garage 17 functions and serves District 45 as a whole and its challenges. In her personal observation, she does not believe the allocated resources coincide with the ever-growing human capacity Garage 17 has to support District 45.
- She would like for her to do a presentation at the April General Board meeting that explains in detail the operations of Garage 17 that supports District 45. In the presentation, she would like for the community to understand the following, the actual physical location of Garages 17 & 18, because she believes they share the same address, the reasons Garage 17 is considered Brooklyn North within the DSNY infrastructure, the actual number of mechanical sweepers that are budgeted for District 45, versus the number of sweepers that are allocated for the district, the actual distance the mechanical sweepers cover in District 45 and the number of passes they perform, a diagram that illustrates the routes for the district by street locations, the times they leave the garage in the morning and their time frame, by truck number, what is the expected time for them to complete their routes, a statistical breakdown for the last year, from January 2022 to 2023, that covers only District 45, equipment breakdowns, manpower shortage, missed street cleanings and 3-1-1 tickets. How many streets did the mechanical sweeper miss?

Mr. , DSNY:

- They got a copy of the information and they are going to do their best to see what they can legally share. As they understand, some of these things are management tools that he believes might not really be something they can talk about publicly because of the issue of safety as well for the employees. On a larger scale, to the question, give them some time to study it a little bit more and they are going to get back to them with the specifics. What they can share, they will and what they cannot share, they will tell them why they cannot share it, nothing to hide here.

Agnes Roberts, Resident:

- She lives on East 43rd Street between Clarkson Avenue and Lenox Road. The double line on Clarkson Avenue divides Board 9 from Board 17, and they were told that Kingsborough Projects, is going to be a huge project that will affect their neighborhood across the street. No one told them about this, and how do they expect them now accept this, as it will affect their neighborhood, and just a half a block/street away and nothing was told to them to prepare themselves for this. They were told that this project is going to start next year. What are they going to do about securing their property with the influx of other people coming to the neighborhood, that's already there? What kind of humanity does this community or these people have for the elderly people living in the community, who have been here for over 50 years, and no one tells them about this big project that is going up, and Kingsborough Psychiatric Center, this land was given by the man who owned the land for a certain quality of people, and now, they are going to build this (INAUDIBLE) build supermarket, build everything that is going to affect the neighborhood. What are they doing about this?

Mr. Daley:

- This has come up in numerous conversations. The Kingsborough Project, which is a State project, and will affect the residents of Community Board 17, however, the problem lies in 2 places, place number 1, the project is in Community Board 9, and therefore, in Community Board 9, it is whatever fight it is that they are going to do

that they are going to support. Community Board 17, unfortunately, even though it strongly affects them, they can be supportive of whatever it is they want them to be supportive of. However, they cannot (INAUDIBLE) they don't have jurisdiction in District 44, even though they are right next to each other. District 44 has to be the initiators and ask for support from the surrounding communities. At this present moment, Community board 9 has not asked for any support from Community Board 17, but it is not in their jurisdiction, that's the problem.

- Mr. Jay Sorid has brought this to their attention at the Board recently. However, again, it became an issue of Board 9. Whatever it is that they can do to offer support, that's what they can do. However, to initiate an action, is not within their jurisdiction.

George Hutchinson, Race for Excellence:

- He has a non-profit organization called Race for Excellence, Inc. They run a mentoring program for middle age school children, as well as an after-school program. They are given a grant by Senator Kevin Parker to offer his programs for free to 3 middle schools in his district. He is also going to need (INAUDIBLE) personnel to run the program. The website is race4excellence.org. He can also be reached by email at ghutch3@gmail.com or through the site.
- They are having a Race Day, where adults can do the same thing the children do in the program, where they are going to be painting the bodies and racing 10-scale remote controlled cars. If anyone is interested, please go to the website, all the information is there, as well as how to reach him.

Mr. Daley:

- Make sure to reach out to the Youth & Education Chair, and the Personnel Chair, as well.

Jay Sorid, Resident:

- He is a former member of the CB 17 Land Use Committee, volunteered for 1 ½ years, from 2015-16, was also on the Housing Committee. Is a

member of the East Flatbush (INAUDIBLE). This goes to the standard that was questioned as to why he is speaking.

- There are members of the Jewish community who are in Community Board 17, he has a strong interest in that, and that is his significance interest.
- On Kingsborough, if anybody wants to know about Kingsborough, they can contact him. There is an over saturation of homelessness, homeless developments all along Clarkson Avenue and it is going to result in the displacement of members of the Black and Caribbean community. They are taking away parking, which is very valuable, and there is a disproportioned amount of homeless, that are being put there, at around a 50% level and they are not telling people. They are keeping people in the community in the dark. There are members of this Community Board who are shutting him down because they want to keep their own community in the dark, and he has plenty of evidence.
- The most recent development that came to Community Board 17, is actually in Community Board 9, because they don't want to come to Community Board 9 to tell them. There are members in Community Board 17 that he advocates for.

Farah Louis, Councilmember, District 45:

- She heard the Borough President speak earlier and they have had a couple of conversations in the last 2 weeks. She knows he spoke to the Chair and had a conversation with Ms. James. They had a little bit of a fight, but they understand one another when it comes to zoning. She wants to share that while they are not on the same page about zoning and development, and she doesn't agree with most of the stuff that he has to say about it. He did agree to supporting Phase 1 of their rezoning process and the additional conversations is a fight that the Councilmembers in those districts would have to have that with the Borough President.
- She does support contextual zoning and the down zoning in the Phase 1 of what they are presenting to DCP, and stand with the Community Board on anything else that they decide to do and hope that they all can support the letter that the Chair and Ms. James have put together for

them to present to DCP. She was able to have a hearing with DCP last week where she questioned them about CB 17 and supporting their rezoning process. They are readily prepared to support them, but they have to get the ball rolling. As the Borough President shared earlier, and the Public Advocate shared at the last meeting, last month. She is hoping that the Board can vote to support to rezone CB 17, particularly Phase 1 of the process, which encompasses the areas they have all shared.

- She wants to address a mass shooting that happened over the weekend. They are having a Shooting Response on Friday. She is hoping the Public Safety Chair could share that information and they are in full support of the neighborhood. She did reach out to the Inspector to see if they can do wellness checks on the block and continue to support those neighbors and they will continue to be vigilant in that area, as they try to take down some of the establishments that were in operation in that building and surrounding buildings in that area.
- DSNY is here and she wants to thank Ms. Cunningham for all the support she provided to the community and Council District 45. They are going to keep working together to get this work done. She thanked the new Assistant Commissioner for being here and they will support efforts.
- Mr. Terry La Pierre was here earlier, so add that to the list of complaints.

Agenda Item: Agency Reports

Captain Antonio, NYPD 67th Pct:

- He is new to the 67th Pct. as a Captain. He has worked here in the past in other ranks and is very familiar with the neighborhood.
- There was a shooting on East 45th Street on Saturday afternoon. This is a residential building and they do operate illegally in the basement. They have had some run ins in the past with this particular basement with illegal alcohol sales and gambling. Anytime there is stuff being done underhanded, it always comes with problems and unfortunately, violence, especially among young people, and this is exactly what happened and unfortunately, 1 person lost their life and 3 others were wounded from gunfire. This is the most serious thing they can take at

the Police Dept. They are already looking to shut it down and they do have routine patrol over there. There is a patrol car there and the block is shut down.

- With the violence, it goes more to quality of life and one thing they are seeing a lot of is car break ins, but not so much as people leaving the keys in the ignition and it has gotten much worse, since it was mentioned at the last meeting.
- There are maybe 40 – 50 people in this room that live in the community, but there are about 40,000 people that live in the community. The Police Dept. depends on them to notify the other members of the community who don't come to the meetings, they probably don't follow the NYPD's Twitter page. They try to do their best to get their message out. With them being here, tell their neighbors and elderly parents who don't log in.
- Today, there was a shooting on the corner of Avenue A and Remsen Avenue, in the restaurant. It was about who was on line first and one person went to his car and got a gun and shot the other person and he is in the hospital.

Ms. Persaud:

- It is her observation since September that Community Board started, they have not seen the Inspector at an in present meeting, but have seen him on 2 virtual meetings, and they do hold their elected officials accountable, and they think they should hold the Inspector accountable, and they would like to see him present. She knows he usually sends a representative, but they would like to see him.
- Two invitations were sent to him to attend the April 4th breakfast and they have not received a response from him. She thinks it is kind of rude that they have not gotten a response.
- There was an incident on the 23rd of February at Lotus Lounge, the execution of a search warrant which lead to some really bad behavior to the owners/proprietors of (INAUDIBLE) Can they explain how to execute a search warrant, because a search warrant should not be going from one establishment to the next establishment.

Captain Antonio:

- The 67th Pct., just like any NYPD Precinct, is a very large Precinct as far as the population it covers and geographically too. That particular Precinct has 3 Executives, Inspector Celiba is the CO, he is number one, and then him and Captain (INAUDIBLE) as back up XOs. He will relay the message to him.
- As far as Lotus Lounge goes, the NYPD did receive a legal search warrant for a firearm. They pretty much had concrete evidence that there would be a firearm in that establishment. When you walk in, there is a social club, but then there is a huge entrance way that leads to a large garage, in there, they have other hallways, doors and entry ways, they thought were private rooms. The perpetrator could have been hiding multiple guns or drugs anywhere. When they executed that search warrant, they were allowed to search Lotus Lounge and any parts connected to them. There was an arrest made over there, and they actually had the Dept. of Buildings come a week later and did a vacate order, and they won't be operating the way they have been in the past.

Ms. Persaud:

- They were open for business this said Saturday.

Mr. Daley:

- On behalf of the Public Safety Chair, just to remind them, every 4th Wednesday of the month, they expect to see Community Affairs at the Public Safety meeting. He is tired of his Chair complaining that there is no one there, so send an Officer over so she is happy.

Agenda Item: Minutes

- Not Available

Agenda Item: Roll Call

Tamara Thomas, Secretary

- Kwame Afreh, Berlotte Antoine, Rodrick Daley, Pearlene Fields, Gail Grandison, Rose Graham, Julia James, Ozni Lewis, Monzurat Oni, June Persaud, Tamara Thomas, Marguerite Vigliante, Jessica Welch

Total: 13

Agenda Item: Community Session**June Persaud, Chair, Commerce:**

- Are there any applicants or representatives for liquor license applications, please step forward.
- There is an issue with the 30-day notice. There was no type of license circled, and unfortunately, they cannot vote on something that was not stated. The Community Board cannot write on a 30-day notice. They did not have a Commerce meeting this month due to the fact that the Commerce Committee will meet next week, the way it fell this month, before the General Board meeting. She apologizes, but unfortunately, they cannot vote on the application tonight. She is requesting they come to next month's Commerce meeting, and they have to submit another 30-day notice, and make sure everything, it will be the 4th one.

Ms. Shanice Williams, Representing Blazze Seafood & Chicken:

- As far as the Community Board, she is requesting for them to be a little bit more open with the process because she keeps submitting this thing and no one has communicated clearly what the issue is and not every business has the opportunity to use a Lawyer (INAUDIBLE) they are representing themselves. Again, it was multiple times they submitted it and they are starting the process all over again.

Ms. Persaud:

- She has all 3 of her 30-day notice applications, and that is the first step in applying for a liquor license. The 1st one, Mr. Kelly came to the Commerce meeting, but did not attend the General Board meeting, which is the procedure, and they were unable to vote for that. He asked to reschedule, and they did reschedule the 2nd month, and that was in September of last year. They did reschedule for October, and he did not show up in that meeting, however, instead of him calling the Community Board to come to the next meeting or schedule his application. He submitted a 2nd 30-day notice, and on that 30-day notice, there was no name as the entity. They cannot approve something without a name. She told him what the issues were, and he

resubmitted the 3rd 30-day notice, there is no liquor type that is circled. They cannot vote on something that is incomplete.

Ms. James:

- She is not sure if there is anything that would prohibit her from stating right now what license she is applying for and ask them to take a vote on it, because there was no committee near enough and this has been brought to the table for right now.

Ms. Persaud:

- It was stated at the Executive meeting and the directive of the Chair of the Board, he stated that they will not vote on this application because there is no liquor type. They cannot write on these applications, and if it is sent to the State Liquor Authority, they will deny or disapprove this application because there is no liquor type that is attached. How can they vote on something that they don't know what they need?

Ms. James:

- It is within their purview right now. She was not suggesting that the Board do it, but she can state today what license she is applying for, and she does not see why they can't proceed with this.

Ms. Williams:

- Especially the fact that they submitted it before, and the 1st time, there wasn't an issue. Mr. Kelly is one of the Chefs at the restaurant, so he wasn't available, and then she did not know she was able to represent, being that her name was not on the initial application, and that is what caused the delay, but it has just been a constant delay in the process to her with the Community Board with the lack of communication. Honestly, they could have told her this prior to her coming here. They emailed her, and she could have fixed this before she got here.

Ms. Persaud:

- She did go through it line by line of the 30-day notice with Mr. Kelly letting him know what needed to be corrected, and there are members here that can attest to that. The committee decided that he needs to resubmit another 30-day notice. It was not just her decision.

Mr. Daley:

- He decided that they as a Board, cannot vote on an incomplete application. The application has to be completed when it is submitted to the Board. It is unfortunate, this is their 4th time, however, he cannot subject the Board members to vote on something that is incomplete, so he made a decision if they need assistance with filling it out, the Commerce Chair or the District Manager and they can assist them with filling it out and then it will be addressed at the next meeting.
- He asked if there were any other liquor license applicants? They will call the names for the record.

Ms. Persaud:

- Brooklyn Jazz & Sports Club, Inc.,

Monzurat Oni, Chair, Social Services:

- What is the negative of her circling the appropriate thing and then voting on it right now? What is the detriment to the Community Board for them voting if she just finishes the application, since she is here?

Ms. Persaud:

- At the Executive Board meeting, she observed that the type of license was not indicated. It was brought to the Executive member, and the Chair, who overrules her decision. She is just the Commerce Chair, and he is the Chair of the Board, and other Executive members stated that they cannot vote on something that they do not know, so really it is an incomplete 30-day notice. The 30-day notice is the first step in applying for a liquor license and that is the process to come before the Community Board.

Ms. Oni:

- She is saying that, if the application is incomplete at 7pm, but is complete at 8pm, and they are all here now, and she completes it. As a Community Board member, it is actually kind of painful to see this woman trying to start a business, and they are not helping her, but actually harming her, to put another 30-day delay on her trying to start her business and get funds into her pocket. It is actually painful to her, and she heard the Executive Chair made a decision, and she is asking why that decision was made. What harm does it cost the Community

Board to let this woman use her pen, finish the application and then to take a vote because they are sitting here.

Ms. Persaud:

- Technically, these 30-day notices have to be submitted by overnight mail. They cannot take a hand delivered 30-day notice, that is as per request. Unfortunately, they cannot write on these 30-day notices. She will not prolong this conversation, the decision was made. She will call the other applicants to make sure they are not present.

Mr. Daley:

- He, as Chair of the Board, made the decision that the application is incomplete. That was the decision that was made and he understands the issue that is in front of them, but the fact is, the law is the law, in terms of how the applications need to be presented, and it wasn't done properly. He understands and does feel her pain, but he also has to look at the legal component of what was done.

Ms. James:

- The discussion on the table right now is, if she were to

Mr. Daley:

- The answer is no.

Ms. James:

- That is his decision, not necessarily the Board's decision.

Mr. Daley:

- It is 9:15, and he has already made a decision. They have the right to overrule his ruling. They have the right if they want to make a motion to overrule his ruling, they can go ahead and do so. A motion must be made, seconded and voted on. However, please note, that legally, it is a legal issue, so all those other motions might say, let's go against what is legal. Before they make the motion, know now that it is a legal matter.

Ms. Oni:

- (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Daley:

- The motion was duly made and seconded. The motion is open for debate. Does anyone want to debate in favor of the motion?

Mr. Afreh:

- As far as the process of the application, can Ms. Persaud give them the exact process of the application.

Mr. Daley:

- The exact process of the application is the applicant needs to submit a completed 30-day notice, sent to the Board by certified mail, and is then given to the Chair of the Commerce Committee, who then presents it to the Commerce Committee. In the event the Board meeting happens before the Commerce Committee meeting, which happened last month and this month, then it comes directly to the Board for voting, and that is the process. In this case, on the legal component, it was not certified mail and was incomplete. It is incomplete, so in order for it to be done, what Member Oni is doing, is to circumvent certified mail and stuff.

Jessica Welch, Chair, Public Safety:

- (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Daley:

- He does not know how to explain it in plain English, but what was done, the legal versus the illegal. Legal is, she needs to have a completed application, certified mail to the Board office. Illegally, circumvent the process.

Ms. Persaud:

- At the 2nd Commerce Committee meeting, she went through line by line of the application, stating what needed to be corrected, that still was not done. What else more would she like her to do? They do not indicate the process.

Mr. Daley:

- The process comes from the State. It is a State regulation, so he does not know what it is actually. It is not like anybody up there doesn't feel the issue. It is not haphazard, to do whatever you want, when you want, how you want, it is a State mandate.
- Again, there is a debate on the floor. The debate is, if they are in favor, please stand and make their statements in favor of. If they oppose, they stand, make their statement in opposition of.

Ms. James:

- (INAUDIBLE)

Joan Bakiriddin, Member:

- (INAUDIBLE)

Ms. Oni:

- She wants to be clear, she did not make a motion in order to do something illegal. The initial understanding that they had was, and her question was, what is the negative to the Board if they vote today, if she finishes the application, and the answer was, the Board Chair made a decision. If the issue standing between the license being voted on is a decision, then she moves to overrule it, because, they can all as a body make that choice. If the issue is that the application is illegal, and is not valid, then they can't overrule it and that is fine, but that was not clear. Initially, what they kept hearing was that the Chair made the choice not to accept it. If he makes the choice, then other people can overrule it.

Mr. Daley:

- He was very clear in terms of why the decision was made. She is the maker of the motion, is she rescinding the motion or is she continuing with the motion?

Ms. Oni:

- If it is illegal for them to vote on this application today if she (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Daley:

- It did not follow the rules of how a 30-day notice is supposed to be submitted with a completed application.

Ms. Oni:

- Rules and law are not the same thing. Is it illegal for them to vote on this license, yes or no?

Mr. Daley:

- The law, the rule, the guidelines or any other noun that they want to use, clearly states that it needs to be certified mail, with a completed application.

Mr. Lewis:

- One of the biggest issues that they have is that again, decorum and all these different things. He is against the motion, for the reason being, according to him, the legal aspect.

Mr. Daley:

- With that being said, the motion has been called. All in favor of closing the debate, please raise your hand, Board members only. All opposed to closing the debate. The debate has been called and closed. All in favor of overruling the Chair, that is the motion on the floor, please do so by raising your hand. All opposed to overruling the Chair, please raise your hand. The motion fails, next public hearing.

Ms. James:

- She commends the City Council persons who are trying to assist the Board in dealing with this rezoning issue, which is critical. They have been asked to co-sign a letter of support for DCP, to rezone CB 17. She would like to enter to the table, a resolution that the Board agrees to support the letter, which was emailed to every Board member.

Mr. Daley:

- Please note, it is a resolution and it does not need to be seconded. Is there any debate?

Ms. Vigilante:

- She just wants to be clearer on the letter, because they want to discuss rezoning, they don't want to necessarily, definitely rezone, they are still at that point.

Ms. James:

- Initially, the letter had called for DCP to undertake a rezoning study and the point was made by her and the Chair that DCP has done sufficient work. The letter now states, they accept what is there, plus allow them to update the information and move forward with a rezoning.

Ms. Vigilante:

- The rezoning plan they presented could be amended.

Ms. James:

- This will involve some discussion, and she is not going to be unrealistic. As the Borough President said tonight, it would be very difficult, she supported it as best as she could, but the existing proposed Zoning Text Amendment, how successful it will be is going to be very challenging.
- She wants to recognize Allison French-Kenton for all the tremendous work that she has done. She thinks this Board owes her a debt of gratitude for the amount of work she has put in. They would not be here tonight at this point and stage, had it not been for Allison and her team, including Rachel Goodfriend, who did sufficient work.
- They want to engage DCP, they have been disengaged, and the letter of support is that the City Councilpersons are going to join the Board in bringing DCP to the table. That is what it really means.

Mr. Daley:

- It is a joint conversation between them and the City Council to get DCP to have a conversation with them. That was a point of clarity. Is there any debate? Seeing none, he feels the need to call the question. All in favor of calling the question, please say I. All opposed. Simply, by a show of hands, all in favor of advancing with the letter to DCP, please do so by a show of hands. All opposed, the motion carries.

Agenda Item: Election of Treasurer

Mr. Daley:

- They still have not had a Treasurer, they do have quorum today. He had appointed back in December, Diephie Cyrillien as Treasurer of the Board. Are there any nominations from the floor? Mr. Ozni Lewis has been nominated as Treasurer. He asked for a second to the nomination. Ms. Gail Grandison seconded the nomination. Mr. Lewis has been duly nominated and seconded to be Treasurer. He asked Mr. Lewis if he accepts the nomination as Treasurer. He asked if there were any other nominations for Treasurer? It has been called thrice, there are no nominations. The have one nominee, Mr. Ozni Lewis, and he, Rodrick Daley, Chair of the Board, cast one vote for him to be Treasurer, welcome aboard.

Agenda Item: Rezoning Text Amendment Resolution**Ms. James:**

- CB 17 commenced the process of rezoning the 1961 current rezoning, back in 2007. The resolution simply calls for (INAUDIBLE) vote to move forward with rezoning. The resolution was emailed to them. They are asking for the Board's support for them to be able to move forward and engage DCP. The prior vote was for them to submit a letter of support with the City Councilpersons. The Board now says, DCP, we want you to address rezoning our community.

Mr. Daley:

- This is a resolution and does not need to be seconded. He believes the resolution was passed by the Executive Board. Is there anyone that will rise in support of the resolution? Is there anyone that will rise in opposition to the resolution? Seeing none, he sets the motion to call the question, all in favor of calling questions, please say I, all opposed, please say nay. By show of hands, all in favor for the Rezoning Text Amendment Resolution, by show of hands, and only Board members can vote. All opposed to Rezoning Text Amendment Resolution, please do so by raising your hand. Any abstentions? The resolution carries unanimously.

Agenda Item: ULURP Applications**Mr. Kwame Afreh, Chair, Land Use**

- Tonight, they are going to review the ULURP application, 22DCP073K, which is for the Special Permit on 5381 Kings Highway. The team representing them from Clarendon Holdings is Mr. Eli Gewirtz.

Mr. Eli Gewirtz, from Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron LLP

- They are representing the applicant, Clarendon Holding Co., Inc., who is pursuing a special permit to facilitate the construction of self-storage facility at 5381 Kings Highway, in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, at the intersection of Foster Avenue, in Community Board 17, in Councilmember Farah Louis district. This is a ULURP action for a special

permit, pursuant to Zoning Section 74-932. The reason why a special permit is necessary here, because this site was found in an area, and the zoning resolution, referred to as sub-area 2, where self-storage facilities are required to get a special permit in order to be built. This is in the manufacturing district, an M-1-1 zoning district, and this is the district which is also referred to as an industrial business zone. This an area where the City wants to keep these areas for manufacturing uses. The bulk of the building that they are proposing is a 5-story building, containing 73,715 sq. ft. of floor area. That bulk would be permitted as-of-right in the M-1-1 zoning district, but they are asking for from the Board is to permit these self-storage facility use.

- Just to orient themselves, they are in the (INAUDIBLE) Flatlands Industrial Business Zone. The site is bordered by Whitty Lane, to the North, and the Long Island Railroad Bay Ridge Division Right-of-way, to the immediate South. They are located in the sub area 2, which is why they are required to pursue the special permit.
- The zoning lot is an irregularly shaped lot with only 30' of frontage along Kings Highway, and approximately 19' of frontage along East 56th Street. Because of this irregular shape, the site has never been developed with a manufacturing building. It has been a tennis court, school bus depot, a parking lot and has also been used for automobile sales.
- Looking at the tax lot, they have the homes on Whitty Lane to their immediate North. The zoning map shows they are in a M-1-1 district. The Land Use map shows the land uses around their site and highlighted in purple are the other manufacturing uses, and in the yellow are the residential uses to the North.
- Again, the building will be 5-stories, with a cellar, containing approximately 73,715 sq. ft., and would comprise of 800 to 850 storage units. There will be a new rolling gate installed along Kings Highway, with 2 lanes, one for the entrance and one to exit. There will be a 30' wide lane to enter. There is a 34' wide driveway between their proposed building and the adjacent lot line to the immediate North. All of those homes are providing 30' rear yard, and they have approximately 64' of distance between their proposed development and the homes to the North. They will also be providing 12 parking

spaces around the perimeter of the site and 6 loading berths for small trucks and moving vehicles to service the self-storage facility. The building height is completely compliant in the M-1-1 district. They are only here because they need a special permit to permit the self-storage use.

Ms. Jessica Welch, Chair Public Safety

- (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Gewirtz:

- They are not planning to use any street parking for this site. The only access to the site would be from Kings Highway and they are providing 12 parking spaces within their lot, and they are not expecting anybody to use street parking to access the site.

Mr. Afreh:

- (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Gewirtz:

- Yes, 100%, and they actually have Alyssa Quill, the President of Storage (INAUDIBLE) Management and they would be the operator of the storage facility.
- The question was asking about the demand for self-storage in this area, whether they conducted any studies that there was a demand for self-storage here.

Ms. Alyssa Quill, President, Storage (INAUDIBLE) Management:

- As a 3rd party self-storage operator, they manage about 550 self-storage properties. They did a demand study for the 1-mile ring around this property as well as a 3-mile ring around this property, and found that there is a under supply within 1-mile, about 230,000 sq. ft. of rental storage space, and it expanded 3-miles, to over 2 Million sq. ft. of under supplied and is driving the rent rates up in the market.

Ms. Hazel Martinez, Resident:

- They had extensive meetings with this group, and she does not hear any of that being told to the Board members here. There is the issue of the water table, they claim it is 12' down, they plan to drill 10' down, so

when the building settles, and they break that water table, what is going to happen to the homes is they will be flooded out. The area is already very congested with DHL and Mitsubishi Motors. It is just a mess there, right where they will be. There are trucks there blocking the side road of Kings Highway every day, and then they have to come in from the main road to get into the service lane. It is a very small area, but the area is not very congested, it just look terrible, she thinks that is the last thing they need is a storage unit, because the people in the neighborhood are not craving a storage unit, they don't need storage.

Mr. Gewirtz:

- That issue about the water table, they took very seriously and they provided the Board with the certification from a Hydrologist and they also had the Geotech Report that certifies that the construction of this building, with its basement above the water table, will not threaten any diversion of the water table to the homes, (INAUDIBLE) which they know was a concern.

Ms. Margaret Hammons, Resident:

- With all due respect, it is quite clear that this will create an issue they cannot foresee, and it is going to be out of control (INAUDIBLE) They are little homeowners there. There is a storage facility on Foster Avenue, just a block away. Many have spoken in here about other outsiders coming in and taking away and robbing the integrity of a black neighborhood. In many cases, they can't do anything because they paralyzed. (INAUDIBLE) and they have to show them that they have integrity and values.

Mr. Gewirtz:

- Just so the Board knows, they said this at a Land Use meeting, they take the concerns of the Whitty Lane and Kings Highway homeowners seriously. Although the Board is voting tonight, they have scheduled a community meeting for the Whitty Lane homeowners, and they distributed invitations to their homes by personal delivery today, for the 21st of March, and they intend for it to be a continuing dialog so they can hear the concerns, and as this project would move forward, they

will work with them relay their fears and do whatever they can to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

Ms. Vigilante:

- Most of the M-1-1 buildings, and majority of them are 1-2 story. Why does it need to be 5 stories and why do they need a basement?

Mr. Gewirtz:

- The way the M-1-1 districts work is that they are governed by what is called a Sky Exposure Plane. He is explaining that in their situation, because of the irregularity of the site, they were able to push the building back and they were not hitting that Sky Exposure Plane, so because of that, with this not being the typical M-1-1 site, and they were able to build the building a little bit taller. They needed the 5 stories in order for Storage Asset Management, as they felt this is what they needed in order to operate the facility.

Ms. Vigilante:

- Most of the storage facilities that she knows of, do not have basements, per say.

Ms. Quill:

- The footprint that they can build on is small because the shape of the land is a triangle, so to make it an economically feasible property to build and operate, they needed a certain number of storage square feet.

Ms. Vigilante:

- The basement is what is going to cause the problem with the water table, and that is an issue.

Mr. Gewirtz:

- If this application is turned down, so there won't be a storage facility, and what they will get is a manufacturing building that will be the exact same size as the building that is proposed, or even could be a little larger. The building itself is as-of-right physically, it is the use that needs the special permit. The reality is, this property isn't within a manufacturing district (INAUDIBLE) like M-1-1 manufacturing districts encased into residential districts. That is what they see all across the

City. They will do everything and anything they can to work with adjoining residential neighbors.

- They are installing a soundproofed fencing across the perimeter of the site to mitigate noise impact. Usually they don't see soundproof fencing along the perimeter, they just see fencing that would block the visual intrusion. They are doing anything and everything, but the reality is, this is a manufacturing site. This building could be built, and if it is not a self-storage use, they can get more obnoxious residential uses. The other thing that could happen here is remember, this site had a school bus depot, with hundreds of buses running off and on daily, that is another option. There is a lot that can be done. They have tried to make this development the least impactful and they will continue to work with the community during construction to try to assure against construction impact, but there will be a building built here that will be no different than the self-storage building.

Ms. Vigilante:

- There would be no debate about the height, right.

Ryan Kaygold, Business Outreach Center Network:

- They represent manufacturing and industrial business across East and Central Brooklyn. They are members of the Industrial Jobs Coalition and a Coalition of 11 different organizations focused on industrial jobs and representing industrial business zones across the City. Many of their partnering organizations encourage the Community Board strongly to vote no on this application for a special permit. This land is protected land for industrial manufacturing. Industrial manufacturing jobs are accessible to people without college degrees and they are increasingly in demand, increasingly highly skilled and specialized jobs.
- Industrial buildings are almost exclusively (INAUDIBLE) 1-story buildings, with no cellar, not even close to what this 85' clock tower shadowing the (INAUDIBLE) Voting yes for this application sends a message that they don't value jobs in this community, instead he uses the profits of these developers.

Mr. Afreh:

- The recommendations of the Land Use Committee was to vote against this particular application and associated construction. The vote at the committee level was, 0-yes, 12-no and 3 abstentions.

Mr. Daley:

- Seeing that the vote has been placed, and the Chair has voted concurrent with the committee. It is now on the floor for the ULURP application for self-storage at 5381 Kings Highway. At this point, they will move forward with calling the question on this issue, seeing there is no more debate. All in favor of calling the issue, please say I. All opposed, please say nay. All in favor of following the recommendation of the Land Use Committee, which is non concurrence, the Land Use said no. If they are in favor of the Land Use Committee, please say I. All opposed to the recommendation of the Land Use Committee, please raise their hands if they are in concurrence with the Land Use Committee. All opposed to the recommendation of the Land Use Committee, which is non concurrence, please raise their hands. All abstain. The motion, the recommendation to not give a letter of support for the storage, the motion carries.

Teresa Cunningham, Executive Officer, DSNY:

- There are handouts in the back, but a lot of people already got them. She just wants to make sure everyone was aware that beginning April 1st, there are going to be changes to the set-out rules for refuse and recycling, residential properties as well as commercial properties. The changes will be, if they have containerized garbage, meaning that it is in a garbage bin, 55 gallons or smaller, with a lid, can be put out after 6pm. The current time is 4pm, which is the earliest in any major City, and that will be transitioning to 6pm. If they keep it in a black bag, or the recyclables in a clear bag, they have to be put out after 8pm, for homeowners and residential properties. For business owners, it is 1 hour before closing, if it is in a container, and if it is in bags, in must be out by 8pm as well.

Mr. Daley:

- He just realized that this is a ULURP application and it has to be done by roll call, he has no choice.

Roll Call:

- Kwame, Antoine, Bakiriddin, Rodrick, Pearlene, Dr. Charles, Rose, Gail, Julia, Hilary, Rhonda, Ozni, Oni, June, Dion, Tamara, Marguerite, Jessica

Agenda Item: Legislative Session

Daniel Heredia, from Councilmember Farah Louis Office:

- Councilmember Louis supports the Board's decision to reject the application for the self-storage project at 5381 Kings Highway, and if this continues, they have a meeting with the Borough President on this matter and it seems like they are aligned. If this continues to the Council, the Councilmember will vote down at City Hall.

Porsha Edwards, District Director, from State Senator Zellnor Myrie's Office:

- They have affordable housing services available in the office from Kuff, every Wednesday from 12-6pm.
- They have free at home Rapid tests.
- NYS Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Award Program is on their website. It honors outstanding students who will become their future leaders. The application is on the NYS Senate website. The deadline is March 24, 2023. They are trying to get many of their students within their community, in the 20th Senate District and within all of the Community Boards involved, and if they have any questions about that or they know of any Youth Leaders, please reach out to their office, because they would like to acknowledge those students.

Dalton Robinson, from Assemblymember Monique Chandler-Waterman's Office:

- The Assembly Member will be having a press conference on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 11am, at the corner of Church Avenue and East 45th Street, to respond and bring some attention to the mass shooting that happened in East Flatbush last Saturday.
- On Saturday, March 18, 2023, (INAUDIBLE) Community Engagement with the (INAUDIBLE) that she has and this will take place at the Sesame Beacon

Program at the Winthrop School Campus, from 2-4pm. They can just come out and engage the Member on some of the issues they would like to address in the community.

Lisa Derrick, from Assembly member Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn's Office:

- They will have an upcoming Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at Brooklyn College, the (INAUDIBLE) Theater.
- If they missed by chance the State of the District address, on February 28, 2023, it is on the Assembly member's YouTube, feel free to visit and take a look.

Malcolm McDaniel, Director of Constituent Services, at the Mayor's Office, Community Affairs Unit:

- If anybody has any issues of lack of services from any City agency, or they need resources, please feel free to reach out to him, and he will definitely look into it. His direct telephone number is 212-626-3033, or his office cell at 347-669-6683. His email is mmcdaniel@cityhall.nyc.gov
- They can follow the Mayor on his YouTube page, which is @nycmayorsoffice, Twitter is nycmayor.

Agenda Item: New Business

Ms. James:

- In the 2023 NYS Alcoholic (INAUDIBLE) has changed to permit the 30-day notice to be sent by email. She would like to encourage the Board to take steps next month to vote on it to promote the 30-day notice be sent by email, and not just by certified mail.

Mr. Daley:

- The time is now 10:15pm. Asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Ms. Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Asshur Cunningham seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.