

**Brooklyn Community Board 17**  
**4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210**

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**Public Hearing and General Board Meeting**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>. 2023**  
**SUNY DOWNSTATE AUDITORIUM**  
**395 LENOX ROAD, BROOKLYN NY 11203**

**Call to Order** – The meeting of the Public Hearing and General Board was called to order by Chairperson, Rodrick Daley.

**Chairperson's Report:**

- Acknowledgement of new board members, new committee chairs and the East 25<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association for winning the Beautiful Block in Brooklyn competition.
- The Chairs of the various committees will report on their summer activities.
- Visited a few schools during with the Chair of the Education Committee.
- The ADM did not make it through her probationary period. Job posting in the back, to fill the position of an Assistant District Manager
- Community Assistant Carol Barton has retired.
- Committee Chairs are asked to place their notices on the Board's website and place copies on the back table.
- Committee overlapping events will not be approved. Need to allow community residents to participate and support each committee activity.
- Questions coming from the floor, people must be acknowledged before asking questions. All are asked to limit their comments.
- How to make a motion on the floor was explained.
  - Effective October, Elected officials attending the meeting will be allowed to speak if they have another meeting to attend. Elected and their representatives will not be allowed to speak.
  - Board members' attendance is not valid online, must be physically present at the General Board meeting.
  - Meeting recordings will be posted on the Board website (You Tube Page).

**District Manager's Report**

During the months of July and August, worked with the various committees on their planned summer activities. Events were all successful, as the committees endeavored to regroup after the COVID pandemic.

- Met with the Chairperson of the Board on numerous occasions, and the personnel committee to discuss strategies on moving the Board forward and the role the office will play in the process.
- Met with members of the Personnel and Communication to discuss personnel related issues and other office related duties.
- Members and residents are encouraged to visit the Board's website for Board and community information - [nyc.gov/brooklyncb17](https://nyc.gov/brooklyncb17) or <https://cbbrooklyn.cityofnewyork.us/cb17/>
- Ms. Carol Barton, retired Community Assistant, will be invited to a future meeting to be recognized for her work in the community.

- Job posting for an Assistant District Manager position with Community Board 17, Candidates are encouraged to submit their resume to the Board via email. Hand delivered Resumes will not be accepted. (copies on the back table)
- Visit the Board's website for recordings of the meetings.
- Will be voting on the Capital and Expense Budget project recommendation forms on the back table.
- The conversation continues with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) regarding the relocation of the Board's office.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget – Asshur Cunningham** Chair of Budget and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – Capital and Expense Budget process began earlier this year. Complete the project forms and indicate the type of project the community needs.

**Commerce – June Persaud** - meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Four applications will be voted on during the meeting.

**Education/Youth - Gail Grandison** - Visit the Board's website for minutes of previous meetings.

Youth Happen'n was a success, thanks to everyone who donated/assisted to make the event a success.

Welcome back to school at PS 135, was a great success. Low enrollment was informed most of the students k-4<sup>th</sup> grade may have moved out of the neighborhood.

All are invited to attend the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to strategize ways to assist schools with low enrollment, funding and sustainability.

**Land Use – Kwame Afreh** - A variance is being pursued in connection with a proposal to expand an existing facility at 3002 Farragut Road. The consensus of the land use committee was in opposition of the variance key. Takeaways include the recognition that parking in our community is a contentious issue. Multiple fronts and removing the required provision would place a significant burden on the neighborhoods residents and businesses is worth noting that we couldn't formally vote. The item will be on the October agenda.

Workforce opportunities and other activities discussed.

**Parks & Beautification – Berlotte Antoine** - Thanks to everyone who participated in the summer activities. More events will be planned for the new year, "it's my Park" , October 7<sup>th</sup>. Notification for future events will be circulated.

Residents are encouraged to register on the Board's website to be part of the Parks Committee.

**Public Safety and Transportation – Ozni Lewis** – Newly appointed Chair. Met with community affairs officers during the summer months,

A meeting was held with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and several heads of the agency to discuss bike lanes and car share issues in the community.

**Social and Health Services – Ozni Monzurat** – The committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. This month, the committee will discuss the annual health fare as well, as other initiatives to get social services information about social services into the community and not just the 1 big health fair, but to have some other touch points with the community during the year. Anyone interested in joining the committee can check the website or reach out to the district manager.

**Personnel – Rose Graham** – The office continues to experience challenges as it relates to the everyday operation. Presently down to two staff personnel. The DM continues to do the best she can in providing the community with the well needed services. The board will begin the process of hiring another assistant district manager as well as a part-time office assistant and the personnel committee will keep the board posted as to how this is unfolding.

**Sanitation/Environmental – Michael Hill** – Everyone encouraged to join and to be a part of the meetings. There was a broader discussion at the last meeting.

Having a more direct approach when it comes to dealing with sanitation issues, not just having meeting and having conversations, but options to taking a more direct approach.

Residents were encouraged to be a part of the meetings, more ideas, more innovation to affect change.

Complaints were shared and discussed, such as more cooling centers in the community, parked cars not ticketed during street cleaning etc.

**By-laws – Julia James** – Members will receive a copy of the revised by-laws for their review and comments.

**Rezoning : - Julia James - Resolution** – 30-day notice prior to voting at the November 2023 meeting: members were asked to review in advance of the vote:

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ZONING FOR HOUSING & PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ZONING TEXT and MAP AMENDMENT RESOLUTION PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF COMMUNITY BOARD 17 SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, to be an action item on OCTOBER 2023**

**Whereas**, New York City is facing a housing crisis and the current extensive development within Community Board 17 ("CB17") fails to meet the housing needs of average New York City residents, and worsens the housing crisis given between 2020 to 2022 the third highest most expensive housing developments in the entire New York City were constructed in CB 17 although CB 17's median household income is significantly lower than the City's median household income.

**Whereas**, the current R6 zoning of "As-of-Right" is having a dire impact on CB 17 and the quality of life of its residents, including issues such as the construction of buildings that are destroying the character of neighborhoods, the displacement of residents and businesses, developers' harassment of residents to sell, and a strain on the infrastructure;

**Whereas**, the current R6 zoning dating back to 1961 fails to provide for the mandatory creation of a percentage of affordable units in new developments.

**Whereas**, to specifically end developers' As-of-Right to construct buildings without the input of the community and which are out-of-context with the neighborhood, New York City instituted the Quality Housing Program with mandatory requirements for contextual development.

**Whereas**, CB 17 from 2005 has engaged in dialogue to institute a Zoning Text and Map Amendment of CD 17 to change CD 17's current zoning regulations of Developers' As-of-Right to the Quality Housing Program ("Contextual Zoning").

**Whereas**, there is racial and income inequity and disparity because the more affluent Brooklyn Community Boards were permitted to rezone to protect and preserve their neighborhoods through contextual rezoning and that CB 17 is the only Brooklyn community board that has not undergone rezoning.

**Whereas**, small businesses are a fundamental part of American life and whereas small businesses are being destroyed and displaced by the development of unaffordable commercial rentals in CB 17 that as a crucial aspect of the Rezoning Proposal provision be made to protect and preserve opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that to address the City's housing crisis and the inherent problems stemming from developers as-of-right under the current R6 zoning that CB 17 submit a Rezoning Proposal to the Department of City Planning to amend CB 17's zoning text and zoning maps to facilitate the creation of an additional 3,645 housing units, which exceeds the threshold advocated by New York City and New York State for community boards.

**Brookdale CAB – Janice Reid** – It was reported the Brookdale campus received approval from the State to begin reconstruction of the ER, which will provide a brand-new ER as well as a new site for pediatrics and adult behavioral health. There will also be a new Trauma center and new computers on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and the ambulatory sites will be upgraded within the next year.

**Community Session:**

**Captain Islam** -67<sup>th</sup> Precinct Executive Officer –

**Donnette Ryker** - Brooklyn Public Library – East Flatbush Branch

**ROLL CALL**

**Present**

Kwame Afreh  
Berlotte Antoine  
Hassan Bakiriddin  
Theresa Brereton  
Asshur Cunningham  
Roderick Daley  
Hermina Daniels  
Lenna Fendison  
Charles Galbreath  
Rose Graham  
Gail Grandison  
Michael Hill  
Julia James  
Ozni Leis  
Trisha Louison  
Daniel McCabe  
Khadijat Oluwo  
Monzurati Oni  
June Persaud  
Janice Reid  
Dr. Carol Reneau  
Menachem Shanowitz  
Antoinette Smart  
Kamara Swaby  
Symone Sylvester  
Jorge Tait  
Hesilati Tuerxun  
Marguerite Vigliante  
Jessica Welch  
Ivor Wood

**Absent**

Brandon Alfano  
Tiffany Anderson  
Barrington Barrett  
Celia Belyn  
Louis Brown  
Kayla Draghine  
Natalie Ferguson  
Pearlene Fields  
Allison French-Kenton  
Dovid Halon  
Rhonda F. Joseph  
Emerson Lazellari  
Brandon Mathurin  
Edith Mark  
Austin Najla  
Rodney Pepe-Souvenir  
Aron Roth  
Tamara Thomas  
Kenrick Wescott  
Natasha Duncan

**Adoption of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, meeting minutes** – Approved by common consent.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Voting Items:**

(1) Co-naming of Utica Avenue from the East side of “East New York Avenue “to the Northern side of “Farragut Road” be co-named “Guyana Avenue.”

The Transportation Committee made a recommendation to the Board in December Of 2022, and the Board voted in the affirmative at the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, meeting. The item is being placed before the Board for a re-vote for the purpose of specification as it relates to the locations.

Presentation: Recap- Mr. James Richmond and Mr. Derrick Arjune, Esq., Guyana Co-naming Committee was given a moment to make a presentation. They were reminded the items were already voted on by the Board.

The Chairperson of the Board stated this matter was voted on and approved by the Board and this process is just an upper re-voting since the Board had already approved the areas.

The Chair of the Transportation Committee, Mr. Ozni Lewis said the Board Committee voted and approved the location, however this vote is to be specific about the located East side of “East New York Avenue” to the Northern side of “Farragut Road” – Guyana Avenue. The Board voted 20 – Yes 8 – Abstentions

(2) Election of CB17 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Monzurat Oni nominated Ms. June Persaud was and Mr. Ozni Lewis second the nomination. Ms. Persaud accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations from the floor, the vote was unanimous, Ms. Persaud was the duly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of Community Board 17.

(3) Liquor License Applications -

- Bamboo Walk LLC – 1349 Utica Avenue – 27 - Yes - No’s
- Waterfall Lounge Bar and Grill LLC – 4703 Church Avenue – 27 -Yes – 0 No’s
- Hyde Brooklyn Hospitality Inc. – 1308 Utica Avenue – 27 yes – 0 No’s
- K&L Manor Corp – 9 Yes – 5 No’s – 8 Abstentions

**Legislative Session/Agencies Present**

Hon. Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn -

Hon Farah Louis - --- Council District

Bianca Stephenson – Brooklyn Borough Hall

Daniel Heredia - Council Member Farah Louis

Sarana Purcell – 43<sup>rd</sup> District Leader

Hillary Bosch – DSNY

Det. Pierre – NYPD 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct

Capt. Islam – NYPD 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct

Dalton Robinson – Assemblywoman Monique Waterman

Jeffrey Severe – Office of the Public Advocate

S Henous – Office of NYS Assembly

Donnette Ryker - Brooklyn Public Library – East Flatbush Branch

Meeting adjourned at 10:22pm