

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Public Hearing and General Board Meeting
December 20st, 2023
SUNY DOWNSTATE AUDITORIUM
395 LENOX ROAD, BROOKLYN NY 11203

Call to Order: This meeting of the Public Hearing and General Board was called to order by Asshur Cunningham- First Vice Chair.

Chairperson's Report:

No Report Today from Chairperson Daley. First Vice Chair Asshur Cunningham reported on behalf of Chairperson Daley.

Mr. Daley would like the Community Board to know two things:

- First, we want to thank to Berlotte Antoine and Parks & Beautification for the event they put on last Friday. We want to thank the elected officials who were in attendance council member Farrah Lewis & Assemblyman Channel Waterman, and we want to thank the God Squad and Elite Learners and all the partners who partnered with us for that event.
- Second, we have been in the process for interviewing candidate for our ADM position so you should look out early in the new year for a special meeting to select a candidate for this position.

District Manager's Report:

- Looking forward to getting some assistance in the office and having an assistant district manager.
- We have no new information regarding our new location. We do have a location thanks to the new administration and now we are looking to move into 1107 Rogers Ave. We have signed the contract and we are waiting on the landlord to sign off. Then we will start the build out which would probably take us another couple of months.

Committee Reports:

*As stated in the last meeting, Committees will not be presenting reports we are expecting those to be presented in writing which will be presented to the board.

Parks & Beautification: Berlotte Antoine-

Thanks to those who came to our party and thank you to board members for assisting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday January 2nd, there will be no break. Please give us a list of any parks that need to be cleaned up.

Personnel: Rose Graham – As it pertains to the interview process, we have interviewed five candidates. Three of the five will be invited to the next round where they will be given a task and they will perform this task and be rated on the task and based on the posting that was put out for the candidate. We will keep you posted, and District Manager Fraser will be sending out the level two of the process.

Agency Report:

Rugby & East Flatbush Library Branches – Stefanie Sinn & John Huth

- Recently Libraries received a 5% budget cut and we cut Sunday service and cut our collections spending. We are also facing another 5% cut, but we will not know until January.
- The best way you guys can help the library is by coming in and we are still having many programs for children.

67th Precinct:

- We are down 6% year to date, over 130 crimes, were down 5 and 7 majors and down 7 shootings. We have made over 175-gun arrests, so that is 135 guns taken off the street.

Community Session:

Cassandra Jean-Baptiste: The current issue is the smoke shops that have clogged up our community and there are three of them on a three-block radius. There is also a 24 hour one on Church Ave. There are a lot of children who are coming in and smoking in the buildings. We don't feel safe, people are coming in our buildings and smoking, they will leave when we ask but they keep coming in.

June Persaud answers: Smoke shops are operating in the fact that they are selling legal items that doesn't require a cannabis license, so they are operating on a thin line. We have reported them many times. We can only do enforcement if they are selling weed without a license. The illegal establishment cannot be within the legal establishment. We have not passed any legal cannabis application in CB17 area.

*Anyone interested in joining CB17 the application is Online.

Hazel Martinez: What is the board and the police doing about all these mobile homes?

Ms. Fraser has already submitted the complaint and will follow up with the precinct to get the update with what they are doing about it.

Ms. Cook: The time is too short for a community to voice their concerns for a community board meeting.

Asshur Cunningham: At next month's meeting Ms. Cook will be first to voice her concerns during the community session and Miss Douglas will also be prioritized to voice her concern at the next meeting.

MOTIONS:

Liquor Licenses:

Abby Corner LLC 670-674 Rogers Ave Brooklyn New York

This is a renewal, there are no incidents.

Commerce Committee Voted: Applicant Approved

Board Votes: YES:23 NO:1 ABSTAINED:0

MOTION CARRIES

Cannabis Application:

Mr. Kendrick Kelly; Above Maker LLC - 109 Veronica Place Brooklyn NY 11206

*It is a micro business which is where they will be growing the actual plant and he will have a possible retail dispensary in any other area not necessarily CB17.

Commerce Committee voted to approve the application.

Board Votes: YES: 18 NO:1 ABSTAINED: 5

MOTION CARRIES

Presentations:

NYC Department of City Planning:

- City of Yes for Economic Opportunity: Second of three City of Yes Initiatives.
- This proposal is the to get zoning out of the way of establishing and expanding businesses.
- Our proposal includes removing the 2-year time clock for reoccupation, simplifying district types, enable more small scale production, remove unnecessary loading docks, allow commercial uses on upper floors, modernize use terms, add urban agriculture, allow regulated licensed labs, address rules pertaining to nightlife and add amusements, allow home occupations promote better ground floor design, reduce conflict with auto repair, enable micro-distribution facilities and create campus commercial spaces, create corner stores, adapting spaces for industries, add new loft style zoning districts.
- Existing conditions in Community District 17: 23,200 jobs, 108% pre covid jobs have been recovered, 2750 storefronts, 280 vacant (10%).
- Timeline: Accepting CB recommendations and want comments by February and give us the feedback within the timeline.

Legislative Sessions:

Council member Rita Joseph: Deputy Chief of Staff Juvanie Piquant:

- We are aware that there was recent rain and flooding, if you experienced flooding and need assistance please reach out to our office and email us at district40@council.nyc.gov and if you filed a complaint with 311 we can expedite and follow up on that as well.
- We will have several toys giveaways tomorrow and throughout the holiday season.

Council Member Farah Louis: Daniel Heredia:

- Today at City Hall was the last stated meeting and all the last bills that were happening got voted out today.
- The council members bill to increase transparency on police activities and overtime passed today.
- Next year what is coming up is Participatory Budgeting, so we heard a lot of feedback from all the principals of the schools for the needs that they have for their capital improvements, ranging from air conditioning, upgrades to furniture, upgrades to the auditoriums. We will release all the ideas we compiled and in April you all will have an opportunity to vote in which ones get funded.

- Toy giveaway tomorrow for the Flatbush Gardens Community at 1404 Brooklyn Ave from 5 – 7.

Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman’s Office: Dalton Robinson:

- Bill 5791 recently got signed by the governor which says that if a community has been victimized, it will trigger support for the community.
- If there's anyone here who was an idea for a law that's supposed to pass at the state level, you can communicate your information to us and we will bring that up in Albany.

Assembly Member Brain Cunningham’s Office: Sydney Renwick:

- We will be accepting Capital Expense Discretionary application, so, if you would like to submit 1 as a nonprofit, please feel free to visit our website and find the application.

Unfinished Business:

NONE

Special Reports:

Julia James:

- As per the bylaws board members who have not attended three or more meetings need to be removed.
- Secondly, I went to two post offices in our community on Utica and there were no express mail slips and one person said that there have not been any for the past months. We need to fix this.

Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn by Rose Grahman

Seconded by a spoken Yes (unsure who said it)

Asshur Cunningham: All in favor of say AYE. AYE. No Opposed.

Meeting Adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Tiffany Anderson
 Julia James
 Michael Hill
 Celia Berlin
 Joan Alexander Bakiriddin
 Khadijat Oluwo
 Sherif Fraser
 Barrington Barrett
 June Persaud
 Mary Bell Downes
 Kendrick Westcott
 Berlotte Antoine
 Natasha Duncan

Absent:

Rodrick Daley (excused)
 Kwame Afreh (excused)
 Brandon Alfanso (online)
 Hassan Bakiriddin (excused)
 Rodney Pepe-Souvenir
 Kayla Draghine
 Theresa Brereton
 Natalie Ferguson
 Najla Austin
 Antoinette Smart
 Monzurat Oni
 Jessica Welch
 Ivor Wood

Pearlene Fields
Alison French Kenton
Charles Galbreath
Dovid Halon
Rhonda Joseph
Emerson Lazellari
Trisha Louison
Brandon Mathurin
Edith Mark
Daniel McCabe
Rose Grahman
Jorge Tate
Tamara Thomas
Lewis Brown
Aaron Roth
Simone Sylvester
Gail Grandison
Asshur Cunningham
Cathy Lovell
Dr. Carol Reneau

Janice Reid (excused)