

**Brooklyn Community Board 17**  
**4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210**  
**Public Hearing and General Board Meeting**  
**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 Chairperson Daley at 7:07p.m.

**Chairperson's Report:**

- Asking any community board member of interest in helping with Friends of the community board 17 to reach out to myself or the second vice chair.
- On November 2 at 6:00pm there is special hearing at Borough Hall to review a proposal to submitted by the park alliance to reconstruct the boathouse.
- All committee members please note after next month, if your attendance is spotty to committee meetings or the board meetings a letter will be sent to you inform of the fact you might be removed from your position.
- All elected officials or representatives please come in person and not online.
- Participatory budget process is upon us.
- Next month all committee chairs will be presenting the action plan for the remainder of the year.
- All committee members will be scheduled events on the nights of their committee.
- Next month meeting will be Wednesday, November 15.
- Official Groundbreaking for Shirley Chisholm Center was on Monday and expected completion date is 2025.

**District Manager's Report:**

- Official Groundbreaking for Shirley Chisholm Center was on Monday and expected completion date is 2025 and it was well attended.
- Received call about construction work done by the Department of Design and construction. They are building some Bio swells on Albany Avenue, Linden Boulevard, Lenox Rd, Church Ave, Utica Ave, and Troy.
- I am looking to hold a cabinet meeting soon so please complete the forms so I can hear what you have to say.
- The Capital projects are items that last at least 5 years and costs at least 35,000.
- We are still accepting resumes for the assistant district managers and will begin interviews soon.

### **Public advocate: Jumaane Williams**

- The 1st meeting, which was here at CB17 talking about the churches and community center. We got the 1st seed money 500,000 dollars from Mayor Bloomberg.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget: Dan McCabe** – Unclear of what was said in the first two minutes is due to technical issues. If anyone on the board is interested in helping with the budget, either a standing member or new member, you can contact me, and I wanted to say hello and thank you for the opportunity.

**Commerce: June Persaud-** The commerce committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month and in our meeting was last night we had a representative from booking Chamber of commerce who was our guest speaker and discussed how business can be how businesses can become members of the Brooklyn Chamber of commerce. Our next event scheduled is a small Business Expo on November 18 at 1300 Royal Terrace located at 1298 Utica Avenue from 1 to 5PM. This event is made up of small vendors, selling their products. Our next meeting is November 21st. Cannabis application requests are coming to the board office. We had 3 applications, 2 for the same address, which was withdrawn and 1 for another address which was a no show. It is similar process to the liquor application. A licensed dispensary will not be approved in the location if it's within 500 feet from a school and 200 feet from a house of worship. The guidelines for a license dispensary to another is 1000-2000 feet depending on the population. The agency that handles the cannabis application is, OCM.

Second report: We are in communication with regarding the move to the new location, which is 1107 Rogers Avenue. This is a lengthy process, and the chairs signed the draft document which is the scope of work for landlord and tenant. If the scope of is approved the next step is to sign the lease, which can take about another year. Approval was granted by the landlord for us to take all 3 of our signs to the new location. They also advise us that there is another person interested in the space, though there might be a possibility that we can lose the space.

**Parks & Beautification: Berlotte Antoine-** Our last meeting was on October 7, where we had a presentation by the Department of Sanitation on leaf and yard waste mandatory separation as you all know the curbside composing is expanding. The event on October 14<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due the rain, it will be rescheduled. Our next meeting is on November 14, because the election day is on November 7th. During that meeting we'll have a presentation on the artwork for the conceptual design for the Shirley Chisholm Center.

**Housing & Block Associations: Pearlene Fields-** Since we've been combined, we've changed the dates that we meet. We no longer meet on Thursdays, and we now meet on the 1st, Wednesday of each month. We planned out almost a full year so that we can have some good meetings/ housing series. We're working with Mr. McDonald from NHS. Topics include estate planning, how to protect your property when construction or renovation is happening next to you, understanding your deed and ways to pass down ownership homeowners/renters'

insurance and tenants' rights. If you have something that you would like to add to the series, please feel free to email me.

**Public Safety and Transportation: Ozni Lewis-** Last month I went to the 67<sup>th</sup> precinct community council and learned about the efforts done over Labor Day weekend. One of the most important things that has been brought to my attention is the Interborough Express which would be from Corona to Sunset Park Brooklyn. This new Express has people looking over in terms of land layout, and what are the different obstacles. Meetings are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Social and Health Services: Monzurat Oni –** We meet on the 4th, Monday of every month on Webex and right now we are in the planning stages for our spring health fair. We are also looking for ideas to do some online health outreach before the spring. Our next meeting will be next week, Monday, October 23rd at 7:30 PM and we will have a representative from 1 Brooklyn health to talk about some of the changes that are happening within the hospital system.

**Personnel: Rose Graham -** We continue the task of replacing the assistant district manager and as soon as this training gets underway, we will proceed with the interview process.

**Land Use: Kwame Afreh-** On Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> we held our meeting and there were some discussions further speaking about the 3002 property and the consensus at the meeting is that we're opposed to it unfortunately, but they will be at the meeting next month to give a presentation. There was also a further conversation on the vital Brooklyn project, and I have the chair of Community Board 9, Mr. Baptiste, he's going to address the letter that he drafted and just give clarity to the community on what their position is.

\*Mr. Baptiste: Last month, we voted to send a letter to the governor saying that we were opposed to this project, because we feel that there was more conversation that needs to be had with the community directly in terms of addressing some of these issues. If there's a project scope change that has happened, making sure that everyone is up to date with that and ensuring that if there are services or resources being brought into the communities that they are sufficient to make sure that all the needs are addressed and that resident needs are addressed. We aren't necessarily saying that no, we are opposed to the project, but we want to make sure that the community needs are being heard and respected and responded to as well.

**Postal Services: Kendrick Westcott-** The post office on Lenox and Utica Avenue has a leak in the ceiling. We called the senator/ councilmember, and they will get back to Ms. Fraser and hopefully they will get back to us soon.

**Communications: Tamara Thomas-** Our YouTube channel is set up and all meetings are on there. Our handle is @BK Community Board 17, or you can visit our website and find all the community meetings there. I just wanted to make a quick correction about something the chair said earlier each committee does have a page where the information on the page is static information. It's not dynamic. It's not changing every month. Social media access is still an

ongoing issue. It was brought to my attention a couple of months ago that the accounts are being used outside of CB17 purview. So, we're going to be working to reclaim those accounts.

**Rezoning: Julia James-** Yields Time.

**Bylaws: Julia James-** Several issues that we brought to the table in terms of amending the bylaws, the secretaries' duties need to be amended because we have a different process right now and the way the minutes are taken as well. Voting needs to be clarified, excused absences also need to be clarified. there was discussion about amended article 2, which deals with the rotation of board members when we changed the tenure of the officers, we did not correct the act, that the officers can only serve for 4 years. So that needs to be addressed as well. The issue of qualification of officers also came up that if someone is going to be an officer of the board that they need to live in the district, that way, they have a vested interest. The way that the appointment of chairpersons of the board, or the Committee's take place is also being reviewed. Currently the chairperson does that, so other consideration is whether it should be collectively done by the officers.

**Brookdale CAB: Janice Reid-** Just an update regarding announcement that I made last month The cap fundraiser that was scheduled for tomorrow Thursday, October 19 has been canceled. The plan is to offer it again in 2024.

**Sanitation & Environmental Services: Michael Hill-** If there's anyone out there that sees any issue regarding sanitation, it's been encouraged through Ms. Cunningham that a report be made through 311 and to establish a complaint number so she can speed the issue. However, since Monday's meeting, I have attempted to reach out to Ms. Cunningham, but her voicemail is not active. I speculate that perhaps Miss Cunningham may not be the most effective person. I've heard that she's been aware of several issues before I became chair this committee. I'm going to reach out to Miss Cunningham again and hopefully we'll be able to contact her and deal with these issues. If not, there may be something more that's going to need to be done.

## **Agency Report:**

### **NHS Brooklyn: Tyrone McDonald-**

- On November 1<sup>st</sup> will be Housing Discrimination Webinar
- 10/24, Homebuying Webinar, go to [www.nhsbrooklyn.org](http://www.nhsbrooklyn.org) or call 718-469-4679.

### **Brooklyn Public Library: John Huth-**

- Our Storytime programs from 11 to 1145 on Fridays.
- Saturdays are embroidery class from 4-5
- Arts and crafts from 4 to 5 on Wednesdays and Resume help from 2 to 4
- You can book a room with us at [library.org/rooms](http://library.org/rooms).

### **Brooklyn Public Library Rugby Branch: Yolanda Edwards**

- The branch was closed for 3 weeks, but we are now reopened.
- Advocacy Institute on Thursday October 19th to November, the 9th 2023 from 7 to 9pm.
- In honor of Hispanic heritage month, we will be hosting events across the boroughs and highlights include puppet making, bilingual concerts.
- From 12 until 4 P.M. DSNY for a brown bin giveaway so bring your photo ID.

### **67<sup>th</sup> Precinct: Lieutenant Martell-**

- When it comes to crime at this time, we're 7% down year to date when it comes to crime, 38% down in homicides, down 25% in robberies, down 7% in burglaries went down 4% in grand larceny, and we're down 13% in stolen vehicles within the confines of the 67th precinct.
- Unfortunately, 25% were up in rates and 1% were up in felony assaults.
- Please be aware of a perpetrator who has been known to throw rock through glass door and steal packages. So please be aware of that also commercial back burglary patterns and construction sites.
- There has been 148 gun arrests and recovered 117 guns.
- The next schedule tow operation will be this week on 10/19- 10/20

## **Community Session:**

### **Carlene Yard-**

- Would like to Invite you to our 1st annual gala on October 29, 2023, 4:30 to 10:30 PM. This is an honor of our people who have survived lots of issues from breast cancer all the way down to cancer. It is a formal event and will be at the Glen Terrace 5313 Avenue N Brooklyn NY.

### **Heart to Heart Social Services-**

- We offer a lot of resources for seniors, older adults such as adult day care, home care, if they don't know how to navigate, we help connect them.
- We are located at 209 Empire Blvd.

### **Brooklyn Level Up: Alison Martinez-**

- Saturday, October 21st at 905 Winthrop St, we will discussing the Interborough Express Project at 1pm.

- Saturday, October 21st From 12 to 5, you can go to Weeksfills 2023 harvest festival to celebrate black land food justice.
- Level up is partnering with the Brooklyn public library, Brooklyn incubator to create East Flatbush Ink a community business hub. We're going to have a focus group discussion about what businesses need in our community on 10/24 from 630 to 730 at Rugby library.
- From October 20th, through the 28th from 6 to 9 PM starting at the Flatbush African Burial Ground, there will be a different hosted event every night. On the 6<sup>th</sup> night Brooklyn Level Up will be hosting an event.
- October 28 from 2 to 4pm, there will be an event called Heard at Home.
- We are managing the people's money project. What won last time was a project we created called wealth which was voted on by our neighbors to basically have a year-round series of wellness events, workshops, and activities.
- We also want you to fill out and sign out these commitment cards for voting.

**Rising Ground: DeShawn-**

- I'm proud to announce that we have 2 programs that we're going to be opening the East Flatbush community this upcoming winter.
- One of these programs is a trauma recovery center which will be providing free trauma therapy to individuals that experience any kind of traumatic events at Church Ave at 54<sup>th</sup> Street.
- I'd like to announce our family enrichment center, which is led by the community itself and they say services they want.

**Karlene Murray-Gordon-**

- Community concern network along with Byways and Hedges youth for Christ and Amenities medical center, are hosting a health symposium next Wednesday, October 25 to promote health awareness. 1300 Utica Ave at 6pm at the Royal Terrace.

## **MOTIONS:**

**PRESENTATION: Julia James:** The rezoning committee is presenting the framework for a proposal for zoning for housing, preservation, and equity. For over 17 years, Community District 17 has been calling for housing equity and fairness since we were not permitted to rezone. The mayor's City of yes for housing opportunity acknowledges the fact that there has been less equity. Because what has been happening here is a systematic disenfranchisement of community board 17 that is increasing the racial gap, racial wealth gap, displacing tenants and threatening existing affordable housing.

**ISSUE:** The issue is that there are areas massive areas in our community where developers as a matter of right are able to construct without coming to the community board and as a result of that, a lot of our homes are being destroyed. The current zoning and district 17 does not call for any affordable housing.

**RESOLUTION:** To accept the zoning proposal that has been presented to rezone district 17 and to provide for more housing while as the same time, preserving the homes in the district.

**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 CB17 submit a rezoning proposal to the Department of city planning DCP to amend CB17 zoning text and zoning map to facilitate the creation of an additional 3,645 housing units which exceeds the threshold advocated by New York NYC and New York State for community boards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Community Board 17 accept the Framework for Zoning and Housing Preservation Proposal – October 18,2023 and as the next step engage in community outreach to inform community residents of the Proposal and to obtain their feedback.

-The vote tonight will be to accept the zoning proposal which was presented to the board members back in September as well as submitted by email currently.

\* It does not need to be 2nd, because this is a resolution coming out of committee.

Marguerite Vigilante rises to oppose the resolution based on the zoning on the map (within presentation). There is too much up zoning on the map and the current proposal resolution gives away too much.

Tamera Thomas speaks in favor of the resolution.

Rodrick Daley speaks in favor of the resolution.

## **VOTES**

**YES:                   NO:**

**MOTION PASSES**

**MOTION:** Dan McCabe makes the motion for all committee chairs to submit their narratives of community needs and priorities of their respective committees no later than the end of business Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and then for the community budget to be Submitted without formal community board approval to the city of New York in order to have it submitted on time.  
**Motion seconded by community board member.**

**WHEREAS,** the upcoming deadlines set by the city of New York, for the submission of community board, seventeen's, community needs, and the board's annual budget is due on 10/31/2023.

**WHEREAS,** due to recent appointment of a new budget chair and I require some time needed to onboard and get access to various documents and portals to submit this.

**WHEREAS,** that the next general meeting is scheduled after the deadline for the aforementioned documents to submitted.

**VOTES:**

**YES:            NO:                            ABSTAINED:**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Liquor Licenses:**

1. Bel Air Café LLC 284 Carson Avenue, Brooklyn NY

Wine Beer and Cider License (RENEWAL)

No police reports/incidents at this location.

Commerce Committee voted to approve the application.

**Board Votes: YES:                    NO:                    ABSTAINED:**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Legislative Sessions:**

**Council Member Farah Louis:**

- Would want to give a quick update about the city of yes. Mayor Adams proposed a city of yes. Initiative that targets housing, opportunities, tax amendment, carbon, neutral neutrality and economic opportunity and it's an opportunity for New York City to modernize, update our city zoning regulations to support small businesses to create affordable housing and to promote sustainability, so you'll be hearing more about this upcoming meetings and civic association meetings.
- We are proposing a Utica Avenue bid. We already started the conversations with SBS and just want to inform you all that. We want to support the small businesses that are along Utica Avenue. It's an opportunity for us to get funding from the city to support our small businesses.
- I wanted to quickly share if the community was not aware about Bethany senior terrace it's our 2nd, affordable senior housing that I was able to support.
- There was supposed to be a call naming for Busta Rhymes a vote for tonight, but is no longer happening, we decided to pull out. The speaker does not want to support a CO naming for someone who is not deceased, but we will try to get him a key to the city of New York.



**Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman:**

- Congratulations on the ribbon cutting for the Shirley Chisholm committee center.
- The New York state Black legislative Taskforce and assembly. We have a black legislative taskforce focusing on reparations. Will be At Medgar Evers College on this Friday, October 20th at 6 PM.
- Have our Monthly vital voice meeting, discussing the express project, we also will be discussing the breast cancer awareness.
- We have a public safety task force and was able to come up with what is the needs of the district, and one was workforce development.

**Senator Murray's Office: Porsha Edwards:**

- November 18th, we'll be having our harvest fest
- Will be having an older adult resource fare on December 7<sup>th</sup>
- We also have CUFF in our office every Wednesday 11-5

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

- We have CUFF IN our office on Thursdays.
- We also have Snap enrollment at metric plus on Church Ave and Flatbush.
- Passed a bill on focused foster youth
- Passed a bill on keeping updated public bathrooms
- Reach out to our office for any assistance

**Assembly Member Brain Cunningham's Office: Raul Rothblatt:**

- We have a Halloween and then coming up with our partner Austin, Brooklyn.
- EBT Fraud, we been helping out with some people who have had this problem feel free to come into our office.
- Kingsborough project, we've had 3 town hall discussions so far.

**Council Member Darlene Mealy's Office Helen Heinz:**

- Office is located on 400 Rockaway Avenue.
- Tuesday, October the 24th of domestic violence awareness event at 1058, Buffalo Avenue 6 to 8:30.
- October 28, our community advisory board meeting at 400 Rockaway Avenue 11-12:30
- Event tomorrow Go purple 8-9.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Ozni Lewis:** The Shirley Chisolm Center; employment, job opportunities, and contractor opportunities. A proposal was sent to them for about 12,000 In terms of training for the SST. October 24 at the church, right across from the project it is important for people to be there to talk about it.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion made to adjourn by June Persaud.**

**Seconded by Gail Grandison.**

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Rodrick Daley  
Tiffany Anderson  
Kwame Afreh  
Hassan Bakiriddin  
Celia Berlin  
Hermia Daniels  
Lena Fenderson  
Tamara Thomas  
Michael Hill  
Berlotte Antoine  
Asshur Cunningham  
June Persaud  
Audrey Lewis  
Daniel McCabe  
Rose Grahman  
June Persaud  
Theresa Brereton  
Ivor Wood  
Jorge Tate  
Rodney Pepe-Souvenir  
Brandon Mathurin  
Marguerite Vigliante  
Gail Grandison  
Pearlene Fields  
Charles Galbreath  
Trisha Louison  
Ozni Lewis  
Julia James  
Edith Mark  
Aaron Roth  
Antoinette Smart  
Natasha Duncan  
Camera Savey  
Janice Reid  
Monzurat Oni  
Theresa Brereton  
Jessica Welch  
Heslat Tursun

**Absent:**

Menachem Sannowitz (excused)  
Natalie Ferguson  
Alison French Kenton  
Kendrick Westcott  
Brandon Alfanso  
Mary Bell Downes  
Louis Brown  
Kayla Draghine  
Rhonda Joseph  
Simone Sylvester  
Joan Alexander Bakiriddin  
Dovid Holon  
Najla Austin  
Khadijat Oluwo  
Emerson Lazellari  
Barrington Barrett