

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Public Hearing and General Board Meeting
September 18th, 2024
SUNY DOWNSTATE AUDITORIUM
395 LENOX ROAD, BROOKLYN NY 11203

***Video began with Chairperson addressing the committee at 7:15. Chairperson Waterman swore in the new executive committee.**

Chairperson Report Summary

The community board has welcomed new officers and executive board members. The executive board list has been shared with all members.

Meeting Guidelines:

- First-time speakers are allowed 2 minutes to raise issues, with responses limited to 1 minute.
- Issues should be directed to the chair, not to other community members.
- Resolutions require signatures and names from a committee or group of board members, with votes (For, Nay, W/O) recorded. A minimum of 25% board participation is needed.
- Motions must be seconded from the floor and can only be raised by community board members, ideally by the committee chair.
- The community board runs on a fiscal calendar.

Updates:

- A recap of summer events was provided.
- Follow-up actions with the Parks & Recreation Department are necessary regarding upcoming park changes.
- Board members are assigned to specific committees.
- District Manager Shariff will be out for the month; Assistant District Manager Fara is stepping in temporarily.
- The board is hiring two individuals, with postings sent to Borough Hall.
 - [Link to Job Description](#)
- Two college aides will be hired until December.
- Ms. Lyons' return is pending.

Communication:

- The chairperson should be CC'ed on emails addressing issues. If a meeting is necessary, the required actions will follow.

Q&A: Fatima Mohamad inquired about reapplying for committee membership, and the chairperson directed her to Ms. Fara for confirmation of her enrollment.

District Manager Report Summary

Fara provided an update on the summer initiative to digitize office paperwork, reporting an 80% completion rate. Additionally, a TV system has been installed to facilitate hybrid meetings.

Library Update: The Clarendon Road library, originally scheduled to open last month, is still undergoing repairs and staff training.

Committee Manager Report Summary for Brooklyn Community Board 17

Commerce (Hassan Bakiriddin):

- No significant updates; the committee met recently.

Land Use (Mr. Kwame Afreh):

- Closure of the illegal smoke shop in operation
- Con Ed Gas leak testing is currently underway and is being promoted due to a recent gas leak incident that recently destroyed homes.
- The Sherly Community Center is fully designed and 55% through construction, with a projected completion date of fall 2025, located at Nostrand Playground.
- Questions arose regarding the center's location.
- The MWBE program has met its 30% goal, and contracts remain available.
- Concerns about empty storefronts for smoke shops were discussed; residents are advised to report illegal smoke shops to 311.
- Landlords are subject to fines for each day their illegal businesses operate.
- Flyers with details about available contracts are available in the back of the room.

Parks & Recreation(Chair Lewsant?):

- The committee is preparing for the Brooklyn Museum of Love event on September 24 and a tree signing event on December 20 with Waterman.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 4; members are encouraged to email the committee for volunteer opportunities.
- Beautification of Railroad parks

Bylaws:

- There is a request for a tour of two office spaces.

Transportation (Chair Lewis):

- No updates to report.

Sanitation (Chair Hill):

- A sanitation meeting took place on Monday. Chair Hill is collaborating with C. Lewis to address sanitation issues and staffing.
- Community members are encouraged to email with photos and cross streets of problem areas. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21.

Social Services (Oni):

- The committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month and will host a fair in October on Utica between Church and Linden. Volunteers are sought, and save-the-date flyers are available.
- An Autism awareness event is planned for the 21st at Lenox Road, hosted by Downstate.

Post Office (Chair Westcost):

- Concerns were raised about post office closures and the removal of mailboxes.
- A request was made for a cleanup of the post office centers.

Education/Youth (Ganderson):

- Thanks were given to those who participated in the summer event and the promotion of the Spelling Bee.
- Budget requests are still pending; community members are urged to submit their requests.

Agency Reports

Report for Police Captain Ludy, Precinct 67

Overview: As of Q3, crime in our precinct has increased by 3.9%. The following incidents and trends have been noted:

Key Incidents:

- **Labor Day Incident:** A 25-year-old male was fatally shot. The suspect is described as a Black man wearing a brown bandana.
- **Commercial Burglary:** There have been reports of break-ins targeting ATMs at dry cleaners and laundromats.
- **ATM Scams:** Elderly females are being targeted at Citibank ATMs, where suspects are switching debit cards during transactions.
- **Vehicle Thefts:** Kia and Hyundai cars continue to be a significant issue in our area.

School Safety: With the start of the school session, we encourage students to head straight home after school to ensure their safety.

Questions and Updates:

- It has been confirmed that the intended target during the Labor Day shooting was not struck.
- Regarding the shooting incident on E 49th between Church and Snyder in August, the investigation into the apprehension of the suspect is still ongoing.
- The Lotus Lounge is currently under service and has remained closed since the incident.
- A total of 25 firearms were seized during the Labor Day weekend.

Patrol and Community Concerns:

- Chair Hill inquired about the presence of patrol officers in the area. Currently, Precinct 67 has 165 officers assigned, with the Field Training Unit (FTU) consisting of officers with under 18 months of experience. These officers are focused on three specific zones identified as summer violence hotspots.
- There are concerns regarding potential violence involving Haitian refugees, particularly following a small protest on Newkirk Avenue and Nostrand. However, we have not received any complaints or noted an increase in bias-related crimes.

Conclusion: Continued vigilance and community engagement are essential as we navigate these issues. We will maintain close communication with community members and address any emerging concerns promptly.

Report from Graham Eunin and Maurise Durant : Consultants for Shirley Chisholm Recreational Center:

Construction Progress:

- The Shirley Chisholm Center is on track for completion by Fall 2025.
- DDC is currently managing the construction project.
- Once complete, the Parks Department will take over staffing and operation.

Contracting:

- DDC has \$5 million remaining for additional contracts related to the center.
- In a commitment to diversity, 7 out of 9 recently awarded contracts were directed to minority-owned businesses.

Workforce Development:

- An informational event regarding union and pre-apprenticeship opportunities for the Shirley Chisholm Center project will be held on October 1st, 5 PM - 8 PM, at Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall Extension room 148.

Project Participation:

- There's an opportunity to participate in the Shirley Chisholm Art Project. Register at the following link: [link] (CB17 will follow up).

Additional Notes:

- DDC is seeking bids for a window blinds contract for the center.
- The specific details of the remaining \$5 million allocation for contracts are not provided.

Roll Call

Taken by the secretary 32 board members were recorded present and 2 excused absences (McCabe and Tamara)

Approval of June 2024 Minute

Amendments to minutes: Add Mr. Greene and Melony Wilkinson as present
Oni Motions to accept minutes as Amended Margarine 2nd the motion
Unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

SLA Application(s) presented by Hassan Bakiriddin (Commerce Chair)

- **De Carnival Events and Catering LLC** – 5405 Church Ave – New Application, No results from police incident report for the past 5 years. The business is an event space seeking a Permit – Wine, Beer & Cider
- Committee voted in favor yes:5 No:2
- Board vote 26 yes / 32 present members

Legislative Session

Catherine, Community Affairs Organizer for Borough President's Office

Council Member Farrah Louis

Britney Dixon, Community Liaison for Assembly Member Brian Cunningham

Special report

The governor's office has established an advisory review board, incorporating three community members. A walkthrough of SUNY Downstate is scheduled for tomorrow at 9 AM.

The City of Yes - The city council members abstained from voting on the issue earlier this year because they were expecting to receive their own separate boats in the future. Once the City Planning Commission receives input from the individual Community Boards, borough presidents, and other relevant boards, they will take a vote. The city council will then review the matter and make a final decision.

The Majority of Community boards voted No. We are in the phase where elected officials reach out to the community board to discuss what we can salvage from the original proposal.

Motion to Adjourn 9:42 1st: Oni & 2nd: Rose