

Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Commerce Committee Meeting
ONLINE
October 11th, 2023

Call to Order: This meeting of the Commerce Committee Meeting was called to order by June Persaud at 7:36 p.m.

Chairperson's Report:

- Welcome to everyone and new members.
- Last month's meeting we discussed events for the year such as business expo and business networking breakfast. We can make these events happen.
- It would be one event per quarter, so the expo is scheduled for November 18th.
- Tonight, we have the speaker from the Brooklyn Chamber of the commerce committee.
- We have three liquor licenses and two cannabis applications to process.

Presentations:

Mark Caserta - Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce:

- The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is 105 years old, and we've been around since 1919. There are three organizations, and this is a membership organization where you can pay monthly dues to become a member and meet other business owners and events to get promoted. you can be involved in advocacy in City Hall. We're doing advocacy in Washington D.C. tomorrow and the delegation members are going to meet with representatives. The Brooklyn Alliance is a nonprofit and works a lot with community organizations. We have something called the Brooklyn Alliance Capital, which is known as community development, a financial institution in which we can lend money out at low interest for small businesses. We do have promotion support, advocacy, and convening. We promote through social media, the Brooklyn Buzz which is a newsletter. We can reach about 22,000 businesses, sponsorships, opportunities, memberships, and directories,
- We also have something called the Brooklyn Commerce Network. We have a website where you can share what's going on with your business, speak with business wonders and keep yourself up to date. This is our event, and we do this every other month. We have cocktails and food, and you can meet other business owners. It's a good opportunity for small businesses.
- The Chamber of Commerce currently runs the business solution center in Brooklyn. You can get legal assistance for free unless you must go to court and pay a lawyer. We can get you advice for free and lots of business courses, because the business solution center is through the department of small business services. We also have free recruitment services for businesses so if you're looking for help in finding employees for your business, we do neighborhood career fairs, and we do this once a quarter.

- We also do manufacturing assistance. We go to trade shows and bring trade missions. We had a trade mission from Pakistan today and one from South Korea so they're all looking for opportunities to make money in Brooklyn and create their products here and sell them to folks there. We have a van, and they can go out to neighborhoods and talk to business owners and offer them services that we have at the solution center. And this program is absolutely 100% free. It was started in October 2020 as a response to the pandemic.
- For consulting small business owners, we would get assigned almost like a caseworker. You tell them what you need, and we find you what you need and it's free. We built about 3000 businesses citywide, and five chambers have helped almost 13,000 businesses since the program started, we have a team of people speaking multiple languages. We are literally going door to door and commercial strips, talking to these business owners, and offering assistance.
- We can provide financing and education to minorities immigrants and low-income business owners. We have the accelerated loan program which was \$1.5 million that came from the owners of the Brooklyn Nets. It is meant for businesses that have suffered during the pandemic. It is also a character-based loan, so you don't need a credit check. It's about getting a letter of support from somebody in the community, you can get up to \$15,000 at 0% interest so you just pay the principal back. We have also given out \$232,000 in grants through a couple of banks that have given us grant money which is usually about \$10,000 a month.
- If you're a member of ours and you have a brand-new business, I'll bring the ribbon and the giant scissors and the press of elected officials together to celebrate your business.
- We've worked with multiple counties, and we have multiple committees that our members can get involved with in healthcare, biotech, government affairs, workforce development, and we have ambassadors to spread the word and are involved with the community.
- We have a Black History Month of events and energy summit real estate events. We also do events during the lunchtime, such as learning opportunities for small business owners. We are looking at our office located in industry city, which puts us into those buildings in Central Park and the waterfront with a lot of small businesses and makers.
- If you become a member of the Brooklyn chamber of commerce for \$470 a year you should use the services if you really care and you really want to do this.

Cheryl Saunders:

- I just would like to share that I am a consultant at the positive community magazine, and we have been members of the Brooklyn chamber with the president for the last 2 1/2 years. It's been very successful because the chamber offers networking opportunities. We've been in contact with Con Edison, and National Grid, I am very grateful for your presentation because there's a lot of aspects of organizations, I didn't even know that existed.

Detective Pierre 67th Precinct:

- In regard to the precinct yet to date we have a 7% drop in crime. We do have a decrease in robberies by 5% from last Thursday. We also have a decrease in grand larceny of vehicles and a 1% increase in assault.
- Unfortunately, we've seen a 25% increase in rapes, which happens a lot of the time. An incident that happened three years ago or five years ago and the person comes forward.
- We've seen a rise in commercial burglaries, and the majority of the situations are from commercial like building sites. Please utilize ring cameras and security systems. We do have a crime prevention officer, and a precinct who will go to your business and do a survey and offer free service.

New Business:**Liquor Licenses:**

1. Sip & Chat Cocktail Lounge Inc. – 2910 Avenue D, Brooklyn NY

No Show.

2. Breana Nadia Hamilton – Cannot process this application due to error in the name process.

3. Ciao Bella Coffee LLC – 284 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn NY

Beer and Wine License (Renewal)

Bar and Tavern, Recorded Music

It is a café, poetry nights and a space for the community to gather. Coffee and small pastries served.

No police reports/incidents at this location.

Committee Votes: YES: 12

NO:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIES

Cannabis Licenses

4. 4081 Companies LLC – 1035 Rutland Road, Brooklyn NY

Withdrew Application.

5. NPPS Solutions Corp - 1035 Rutland Road, Brooklyn NY

Withdrew Application.

6. NYCL Church LLC – 3322 Church Avenue , Brooklyn NY

No Show.

Unfinished Business:

- Business Expo on November 18th on 1298 Utica Avenue, have about 15 vendors at this point and entertainment.

Adjournment:

Jorge A Tait: Motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Adele Bennett: seconded the meeting for adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

June Persaud
Jorge A. Tait
Adele Bennett
Brie DaCosta
Marguerite Vigliante
Sonia Clarke
Allison French Kenton
Cheryl Saunders
Ivor Wood
Celia Belyn
Daniel McCabe
Hazel Martinez
Tawa Backery

Absent:

Ozni Lewis
John Dixon
Ruby Harrisingh
Allison Martinez
Shawn Hopkinson
Symone Sylvester