

**SUNY DOWNSTATE AUDITORIUM
395 LENOX ROAD, BROOKLYN NY 11203
Brooklyn Community Board 17
4112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn NY 11210
Public Hearing and General Board Meeting
November 20th, 2024**

Attendance

Present

Kwame Afreh
Tiffany Anderson
Berlotte Antoine
Hassan Bakiriddin
David Boatswain
Theresa Brereton
Asshur Cunningham
Rodrick Daley
LaShawn Freeman
Charles Galbreath
Rose Graham
Gail Grandison
Michel Hill
Whitney Humphrey
Julia James
Evin Jason
Dorid Jones
Ozni Lewis
Trisha Louison
Daniel McCabe
Donna McLean-Grant
Jibrill Morris
Khadijat Oluwo
Monzurat Oni
Kadidiattou Ouedraogo
June Persaud
Carol Reneau

Present

Marguerite Vigliante
Kenrick Wescott
Antoinette Smart
Kamara Swaby
Tamara Thomas

Absent

Celia Belyn
Venancia Colon
Herminia Daniels
Natsha Duncan
Ronald Greene
Nicole Julius
Bernadette Selby
Tyron Stearns
Symone Sylvester
Heslat Tursun
Melanie Wilkerson
Ivor Wood
Berlotte Antoine
Edith Mark
Brandon Mathurin
Fatima Mohammad
Deborah Pointer

Aron Roth

The meeting of November 20th, 2024, was called to order by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Rodrick Daley,

The meeting discussed various community updates and issues, including events, committee reports, business applications, and a decision regarding the substantiated charges against Julia James:

Chairperson's Report:

The chairperson greeted everyone and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reminded members of the importance of following Robert's Rules of order and time allotted for reports.

- The chairperson's report includes information about pancreatic cancer and the importance of early diagnosis.

He reminded everyone, November is designated Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month. It is expected that over 67000 people will be diagnosed. It is the 3rd leading causes of death of all cancers in the United States, and 85% of those individuals diagnosed with the disease will die within first six month and 97% within the first year. Mr. Daley said December is five years since he was diagnosed and he's thankful to still be here.

- He thanked 2nd vice chair Monzurat for her work on the 1st street fair, in addition to the DM, ADM and board members who assisted and attended the event.
- Thanksgiving was mentioned and the importance of reaching out to the lonely and elderly individuals
- Events at PS 235 and Meyer Levin were announced, along with a call for support.
- There was mention regarding the Buster Rhymes event and the Farmers market
- [The intern Nkeoma Onuorah was introduced to the members of the Board](#)
- Any Board member interested in sitting on Brookdale's Community Advisory Board can contact the Chair

District Manager's Report

Since the last meeting there have been a number of activities inside and outside of the office.

The office now has a permanent Staff, the Assistant District Manager. The hiring of the Staff was done by the members of Community Board 17 and not the District Manager.

- Continue to work on upgrading the office especially our technology. Staff continues to brainstorm on research and ways to reach more community resident. Within the the past two weeks over one hundred residents were added to our Listserv
- Over 500 Leaf bags were received in the office and distributed to community residents. More bags were requested and awaits a response.
- It was reported a few months ago to members of the Executive Committee there was a pause on conducting District Service Cabinet meeting due to the conditions of the office and the lack of staffing. With the permanent staff on board, meetings have resumed.
- Community partners are encouraged to share their information for the Board's News letter and residents are encouraged to visit the Board's website.
- The past few weeks have proven to be very difficult personally, regardless, professionalism will continue while performing the Board's work.

Committee Report

- The Capital and Expense Budget was submitted report was submitted on time and included community concerns and funding requests for the city budget.
- The Parks and Beautification committee has upcoming events, including a tree lighting ceremony, daffodils giveaway and a park cleaning project. Community was encouraged to join the Parks Committee and become actively involved in community projects.
- The Public Safety committee discussed the wildfires in Jersey, congestion pricing, and enforcement efforts for traffic and parking issues.

- There have been recent arrests related to illegal vending operations, specifically selling alcohol without a license.
- The subcommittee hosted a public hearing for the City of Yes Housing opportunity
- Complaints about unsanitary conditions and illegal food sales on Church Avenue will be looked into by the police department and Department of Health.

Agency Report

NYPD

- Violence is a priority – approximately 24 shootings, compared to 32 last year.
- One-hundred-and-sixty-gun arrest and thirty-three taken off the street
- Approximately 4600 arrest compared to 300 last year, about 1300 increase in arrest for the entire year
- Down in overall collisions
- Up in traffic enforcement by 4000 summonses
- Tow operation scheduled for next month
- There were complaints regarding merchants being arrested for trying to make a living by selling on the street.
- A question was asked what happens to guns when they are taken off the streets and the process was explained

Brooklyn Public Library

- The East Flatbush branch of the Brooklyn Public Library offers various programs for all ages. There's also an adult technology program.

One Brooklyn Health

- One Brooklyn Health, Brookdale Hospital has opened a new radiology area with a new MRI machine and is currently constructing a new emergency room and with that comes a new waiting area, new reception area, new CPAP area, new child pediatric area as well as main sections for patients and staff.

Community Session

- Resident attended to introduce Legislation number 702 calls for the establishment of an emergency student food plan in New York City to address food insecurity.
- Upcoming paint and planting events announced by representative of Little Haiti Brooklyn in addition to their on-going program, Greener Little Haiti

event scheduled for Saturday, residents were encouraged to contact their office for the clean-up and shop Little Haiti initiative.

- The Haitian Centers Council also announced the various English classes, immigration assistance and wellness and mental healthy clinic. All were invited to utilize the services.
- IDCC a mental health clinic announced their community programs including substance abuse recovery in partnership with the Brooklyn DA's office. In addition to a young recovery People's recovery program.
- Organizations also announced Turkey give-away in conjunction with Sesame Flyers, Thanksgiving Day event in conjunction with Flatbush Reform church

Legislative

Brooklyn Borough President liaison announced veterans 'day and thanked the veterans for their service. Also announced the Borough President in partnership with MTA will be hosting an open house on the 2025-2029 Capital Plan. MTA leadership will be present to discuss how the plan will impact Brooklyn and residents will have an opportunity to speak to MTA experts about the plan and fare discount and career and business opportunities.

Senator Zelma Myree Office – Clean State Clean Slate act took effect across New York, will expand more economic opportunities by giving more New Yorkers access to jobs and it will improve public safety by stabilizing communities for these reasons and more clean slate was backed by the strongest and largest coalition in New York State and Legislative history.

Residents were reminded of the drought and the many events planned around the Thanksgiving season.

Senator Kevin Parker's office – preparing for the holiday season and offering support if needed to those that are under resourced. Those in need of support were encouraged to contact the office.

Councilmember Mealy – Free immigration services and housing counseling, walk-ins accepted if time permits, registration required. Contact the office for more information.

Councilmember Farah Louis – Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting held on the City of Yes, it was an opportunity for the member to hear from residents and for residents to hear how the proposal will impact them. Council will be voting on the City of Yes and on the Shirley Chisholm day. A celebration is also planned in her honor.

Monique Chandler-Waterman- The members continue to host virtual meetings, a platform used to reach out and interact more with constituents. Agency representatives continue to attend and address all community related issues. Residents were encouraged to call the office for more information.

Roll Call – Quorum

SLA Application on the Agenda – All Nations Restaurant & Lounge Inc, Prime time Events LLC, Pitant Sports Team Inc. Waterfall Longe Bar & Grill LLC, The Hills Restaurant and Bar Inc., Spices and Slices LLC, Footprints Café Inc.

After a question-and-answer period the Board voted on the applications as follows,

Votes: All Nation 31 Yes, Pitant Sports Team Inc. 31 Yes, Waterfall Lounge Bar & Grill LLC 30 Yes, Spices and Slices, 31 Yes and Footprints 31 yes.

Motion to move into Executive Session

Dr Reneau made a motion to go into executive session and close all other matters in front of the Board,

Motion to go into executive session with 27 board members in favor. The motion was second by Tamara Thomas. The Chair excused the District Manager from the meeting along with those on the chat.

- The Chair read into record the EEO Findings (1) Hostile Environment and (2) Harassment of the District Manager. The findings were substantiated against Ms. Julia James. The Board must decide and also be reminded charges can be filed against the board.
- The board must decide regarding the substantiated charges against Chair James.

Several emails were sent to some members of the Board and there was an incident that occurred on September 5th. Ms. Fraser was off due to the incident. The Board now have to make a decision.

Open Floor.

June Persaud said she should be included in the complaint since she was there with Ms. James to request copies of the members' attendance record. She indicated the EEO should have filed against her since she was speaking, and she mentioned same to the officer when she was called.

- Motion on the Floor by Tamara Thomas to not remove Ms. James from the Board, second by June Persaud: one to seek removal and one not to seek removal.
- The EEO findings determined that Julia James created a hostile work environment and engaged in harassment.
- The board needs to decide based on the EEO findings, regardless of personal opinions or other information.
- There were discussions and questions regarding context and content of the emails.
- EEO conducted their investigation, and based on what they know, the details they have, the people they spoke to, they have decided their findings substantiated the findings.
- Comments by Ms. James regarding the Chair wanting her to be removed from the Board due to her comments on prior meetings with a developer, she also questioned the District Manager's Salary.
- There were comments regarding legal actions
- The board needs to reconvene in an executive session to decide
- The meeting was adjourned due to the loss of quorum.

Motion to adjourn and second - inaudible