

**PUBLIC HEARING AND GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT**

Kwame Afreh  
Berlotte Antoine  
Hassan Bakiriddin  
Hermina Daniels  
LeShawn Freeman  
Ronald Greene  
Michael Hill  
Whiney Humphrey  
Julia James  
Kein Jason  
Nicole Julius  
Ozni Lewis  
Edith Mark  
Daniel McCabe  
Donna McLean-Grant  
Jibrill Morris  
Fatima Muhammad  
Khadijat Oluwo  
Monzurat Oni  
Kadidiattou Ouedraogo  
June Persaud  
Carol Reneau  
Kamara Swaby  
Symone Sylvester  
Melanie Wilkerson

**ABSENT**

Tiffany Anderson  
Celia Belyn  
Veronica Colon  
Asshur Cunningham  
Rodrick Daley  
Natasha Duncan  
Charles Galbreath  
Rose Graham  
Gail Grandison  
Doris Jones  
Trisha Louison  
Brandon Mathurin  
Deborah Pointer  
Aaron Roth  
Bernadette Shelley  
Antoinette Smart  
Tyron Stearns  
Tamara Thomas  
Heslat Tursun  
Marguerite Vigliante  
Kenrick Wescott  
Ivor Wood

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The meeting was called to order by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of Community Board 17, Ms. June Persaud who was filling in for Chairperson Rodrick Daley.

**Chairperson Report – Rodrick Daley Read into record**

There was a vote in favor of improving prospect park playground. Next meeting 6 January.

Assembly member Chandler-Waterman will host a toy giveaway at PS IS 109 at the corner of Albany and Farragut.

There was no quorum at the special/emergency meeting. The Straw vote was 85 % of the people that were in favor of removal. The Borough president office is also seeking removal of the board member.

There have been actions filed all against the same person.

## **District Manager's Report: Ms. Sherif Fraser**

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their continued work in the community
- Residents were asked to contact the Board's office and share their email to receive copies of the Board's newsletter
- Sincere thanks and holiday greetings and wish for a safe holiday were extended to the residents

## **Committee Report**

**Parks and Beautification** – Chair Berlotte Antoine announced a planned holiday event. Residents were invited to participate, toys were donated by Councilmember Louis, Sesame Flyers and residents of the community. Those that can assist with the decoration of the tree were encouraged to visit the Board's office to assist.

In January, the committee will be discussing composting

## **Sanitation Committee - Michael Hill**

Officials from sanitation joined the committee meeting, and specific concerns were relayed to the representative. As per the board members there hasn't been any changes or concerns addressed, they are also hoping to get the help from councilmember Farah Louis's office to help to coordinate that effort and get the issues addressed.

## **Agency Report:**

Brooklyn Public Library – Stephanie, branch manager at the Rugby Branch greeted everyone and gave the following update.

- Wrapped up a year plus collaboration with Brooklyn Level up in October and had a small, dedicated cohort of local entrepreneurs that met every month and got small business advice from trusted professionals. It was a, a great project
- Neighborhood tech help at the Rugby branch on Tuesdays now from one to five and it is a time where people can come and meet digital navigators and they'll be available for free, easier to access one tech help with personal devices or other online sort of questions. And this help is also available on Mondays at east Flatbush branch.
- In the new year there will be a five-week kiddy program in partnership with the inclusive services department, and it is for girls about nine to twelve years starting 14 January at the rugby branch. And system wide, most importantly for CB 17 branch is going to be reopening in January on Monday the 27th. That is the reopening date given. The branch manager for Clarendon will be attending next month to discuss more fully.

The library has a new app that can be downloaded from the app store of choice. There is also a new James Baldwin exhibit at the central library that opened on 12 December. It's a photography exhibit of his time.

## **67 Pct- Inspector Kozak**

Overview, the crime data, goes onto a public facing newyork.gov website click on the 67 precinct, and the data will be there, it gets published every Monday.

There was a 5 % increase in crime. Now that's based on the top seven index crimes, murder, rape, robbery, Burglary felony assault. That 5 % increase is driven by an increase in felony assaults.

While crime in the 67 is either even or down in every crime category, there's a 36 % increase in felony assaults. Felony assaults are anytime somebody is struck with an object that could cause serious physical injury, which could be stitches or something worse, also assault.

At a previous meeting it was mentioned that domestic violence kind of driving that increase. There's also a recent change in the law, starting this past October, where if you assault a retail worker in the course of their business, and they have an injury, that will be considered, and may have an effect on some of the felony assault numbers going into the new year, as well as changes in the way it's reported. There's an increase in rapes for the overall year, not for this past month, but there's also a change in how New York State classifies rape where it used to have criminal sex Act and sex abuse. Some of those crimes now are carried under that rape umbrella. Those crime classifications were not changed for prior years, but they will be changed going forward which can have an effect in the spike, therefore, moving into the new year there's an increase in crime, 4 % increase, 44. Verse 37. Burglary is a hundred and 85 verse a hundred and 80 a very small increase. The largest increase falls to felony assaults up overall for the year, about a hundred and 50 to a hundred and 70 felony assaults, so that is a 28 % increase. These are record numbers for the 67th precinct.

]There has been an incredible increase, a tremendous increase in domestic violence complaints, and that is really driving that increase. Noting, there is an increase in the domestic violence unit, responsible for outreach to victims, so anybody that calls in a complaint, even if they leave the scene before we have a response, there will be a follow up as long as it's mentioned that it's some sort of a family, there is a follow up, whether it's a phone call to see what the incident was, and if a report is made, you'll get an in person or an attempt by the officers to visit the home to determine what services are needed. Presently, up to two sergeants, and nine officers to deal with that influx of domestic violence crime within the precinct.

Overall a very large decrease in shooting Homicides were down 41 % for the year. Shooting incidents were down 17 %. So what that actually translates to, there has been six less shootings for the year, For shots fired incidents, down another 28% there were 60 for the year compared to 83 last year.

At the last meeting, it was mentioned that the department was interested in building up the neighborhood coordination officer program. The 67 is one of the large programs, that's supposed to translate to ten cops that are supposed to be at your service, through phone, email, whatever it is that you need.

### **Community Session:**

Josh Pierre - District Leader greeted the executive director wishes everyone a happy holidays and promised to provide more information regarding the various services in the community,

### **Roll Call – 25 Present**

#### **Voting Items: Cannabis**

- Retail dispensary Premises – Rockaway Moonshot LLC – AKA All Good Dispensary 3401 Avenue H -
- 11 Yes 11 No 4 Abs**

### **LEGISLATIVE**

- my name is sure my name is Tanika strong, the chief of staff of senator of Roxanne J. Just letting you know about our upcoming food distribution, which would be held on Monday from 11:00 A.M. to 01:00 p.m.. That's where everyone to come, our district office is located at 1222 east 96 Street. Thank you.

- Giovannie from the Office of Council member Rita Joseph Chief of Staff to Council member Rita Joseph in education liaison. We're here to wish you a happy holidays and I hope all as well and on behalf of the council member, we hope that everyone has a warm and wonderful course.

New Year, Hanika, Kwanza, and so forth. Council Member Joseph has recently introduced the luggage to foster Care Youth bill. For those of you who may not know council member Joseph is a foster mom. This historic piece of legislation that she has introduced. We'll call on New York City. We'll call on the ACS city agency and.

New York City to move away from providing black plastic bags when youth leave the foster care system and moving towards providing luggage, so when they move from home to home or if they transition out of the system instead of giving youth black plastic bags, they will now be receiving.

Built luggage's with resources as well. So that is the bill that has been recently introduced. Tomorrow, council member Joseph will also be passing a piece of legislation, particularly focused on city employees and when they move from city agency to city agency ensuring that their health insurance transfer, that is currently not their case right now. And usually that can put some employees in a limbo when they are transferring from city agencies, so that bill will be passing tomorrow at the city council legislative session, which will be the last city council stated meeting for the year. In regards to holiday events that we're having, we'll be partnering up with Caribbean equality project at St. Paul's Church on Saturday for a holiday food distribution and toy distributions for you.

And folks within the community. We also will be partnering up with Metro Plus on Friday from 04:58 P.M. between church and Flatbush to give out toys for the holiday season as well. Looking ahead, we are very focused on the immigration concerns our community has, particularly with the upcoming administration and the impact with children and youth, and particularly with school. When it comes to ice, so the council member is working with the Department of Education ensuring that teachers know their rights, parents know their rights, and also the school communities are following the laws and ensuring that students are protected.

Additionally, sanitation remains a concern in our community as well. So, if you do see a corridor that is experiencing trash overflow or if you may not have a trash can at a particular corridor where you think it may be needed and so forth, feel free to reach out to our office and our director of constituent services in our team will assist in regards to that as well.

Housing is obviously a concern. The city council recently passed the zoning reform housing for a.

Economic opportunity, zoning reform package of legislation that will address the housing crisis but also provide additional investments when it comes to infrastructure, preservation and whatnot. So in the upcoming new year, we will be doing in person community debrief sessions in particular corridors of the district to educate homeowners and tenants on the city of yes.

- Catherine from the Brooklyn Borough President's office. Wished everyone a happy holiday and hope everyone has joy throughout that holiday.

BP Renoso announced that the community board, applications for 2025 are live. Any NYC resident 16 years or older who live, works or have significant interest in the community can serve on the board. The applications will be live until 14 February 2025 until 11:00 p.m.

On 22 November for Thanksgiving VP Renoso and his team had a Thanksgiving food distribution outside of Borough hall where over 60000 pounds of fresh produce, nonperishables and other food items were distributed to more than a hundred and twenty Brooklyn houses of worship community kitchens and other community-based organizations. Addressing food insecurity and homelessness. Thanks to the sponsors and their donations and volunteers.

The constituent services team is available from Monday through Friday from nine until 05:00 p.m.. Or by phone and email. On Wednesdays from nine until 03:00 p.m Brooklynite can visit Borough hall if additional services is needed.

- Charlene Harold from constituent services – Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn the New York State assembly member. On behalf of the assembly member, happy holidays,

This is the final week, the office is collecting toys for the toy drive. Wrapped toys can be dropped off at the district office on Flatbush and Foster Avenues.

The 10th annual state of the district address will be on January the 16th, at Brooklyn College, flyers in the back, use the Google link to sign up. If not, call the office to register -718-940-0428.

- Ayana Williams, chief of staff for council member Darlene Mealy - free immigration attorney on Tuesdays, and a housing specialist to assist with issues landlord, on every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, and a representative that comes to assist people with housing connect. They help set up an account and show how to navigate that system. Additionally, monthly community advisory board meetings are held on Saturdays.
- Daniel Herida – representing councilmember Farah Louis office The office has been receiving an increasing amounts of reports especially on Schenectady Avenue regarding abandoned vehicles report in the community, and anyone else who has issues with abandoned vehicles or other concerns on their block in their neighborhood the office is happy to facilitate any individual conversations with deputy inspector Kozak who has been immensely helpful in addressing particular concerns in East Flatbush.

To highlight some of the legislative progress council member Louis has made in the past month. At the last meeting in November the passage of resolution designating 30 November as Shirley Chism Day in the city of New York was celebrated, also celebrated an amazing celebration in partnership with the parks department at Nostrand Playground joined by Leaders stakeholders, elected officials and attendance of especially the district manager, Fraser who had joined in the celebrations.

The city council hearing with cultural affairs and libraries that council member Lewis attended a few months ago. The longtime and overdue closure of the Clarendon branch. This is the Brooklyn public library branch that is located between Farragut Road and Glenwood Road on Nostrand Avenue and mainly there was a delay, depriving the community especially in east Flatbush from a long time educational resource. After much communication and negotiations and haggling between the Department of Design and construction and Brooklyn public library, the community board and other stakeholders, the opening date of that library is 27 January.

To celebrate some major success with the community, the office will be partnering with Cb17 Parks and Beautification committee on their holiday party and tree lighting event. For more information about all the other initiatives that call at 718-629-2900.

- Josh Pierre - District leader

In the 2025 election cycle, encouraged more folks to work the polls. whether it's early voting or general election or primaries or if there's a special election, reach out to the board of elections. It's a way of performing one's civic duty.

There's some trepidation about the changes in government nationally et cetera. Everyone plays a very special role despite the fact that there are so few attending meetings relative to how many people live in the community. When residents attend they represent hundreds of tenants hundreds of homeowners and hundreds of business people and by doing so you safeguard the interests of seniors as well as youths.

District Leader is committed to his community work and look forward to working with all in the coming year to make sure whatever is necessary gets done to ensure the community prosper and find new ways to get into businesses, create jobs, and support local businesses.

Wishing everyone a happy new year and happy holidays.

- Dalton Robinson: representing assembly member Monique Chandler-Waterman

Every Thursday in our office there is a housing Thursdays where anyone experiencing problems with landlord tenants and need to know exactly what to do, can receive assistance and still continue to support the community. There is a training sessions going on and anyone who's interested can still call the office. 718-385-3336.

#### **Discussion regarding the transcribing of the meeting minutes:**

**Julia James** –“The board is governed by New York City Charter and by the Open New York public officers open law, which requires minutes. It's not optional. The law very clearly states that within two weeks. Of a public meeting, we must make those minutes available. We are in December now and we have not had minutes for September, October, November. And that's totally unacceptable. The bylaws were amended in April of this year, to make it very clear that it's the responsibility of the board's employees to prepare the minutes. And I think we need to make sure that as a board we're in compliance by ensuring the minutes are prepared and made publicly available.”

Ms. Fraser: stated the bylaws were amended, but the bylaws are very clear and if there's a need for the bylaws to be interpreted it should go to the law department. She said the bylaws states the secretary record/take the minutes and turn over such meeting minutes to the staff.

#### **Special Order of Business:**

Ms. Trisha Louis, stated there was a quorum and she wanted to revisit the motion from the November meeting to complete the vote on record since a quorum is present

Ms. Persaud: *“Mr. Daley stated at the executive meeting that we will not be doing that Borough Hall will be handling that I will not be doing any vote because as he told me he did not ask me to do that and I was told at the executive meeting, he said that borough Hall and the executive members.*

*Point of Order: Mr. Ozni Lewis: . Point of order miss vice chair. This is a motion that is outstanding on the floor, so it's not a new motion. This is simply a roll call for vote. So I believe Ms. Louison has the ability to call for that vote.*

**Ms. Persaud:** *Again, I will state that I was not informed to be doing this. This has to be done in executive session and if you notice, we're not gonna go back and forth. Because We did not have a quorum,*

**Mr. Lewis:** *we had quorum, people left, we did not have quorum, because members left, I come again to bring up a motion again. We have quorum now. We need to do the vote. If you are saying you're not doing it, say that alright. For the record.*

**Ms. Persaud:** *I would say it outright because Mr. Daily said at the executive meeting that borrough Hall will be handling that situation. I am not going to be doing any voting that's not on the agenda for executive session. Fair enough? That's my take on it, correct? “*

Special Report – Board Members

### **Miss James read into the minutes Article II – E (1)**

Secretary's Duties      1. *The Secretary shall be the supervising recording officer of the Board, taking minutes of the Executive*

*Committee and the Board's monthly meetings or special or emergency meetings. The compilation of such minutes shall be primarily performed by staff designated by the District Manager...*

**Secretary of the Board- Mr. Jibrill Morris stated:** *“As secretary for CB 17, I'd like to take responsibility for the minutes being missing. It is completely on me. I am just a person in this community. I hope you guys could bear with me as I try to complete this task and it's a little daunting for me. And that's it.”*

### **Unfinished business?**

Ms. Melanie Wilkerson – Sargant at Arms stated she wanted to ensure clarity was brought to the motion regarding the Board member that was on the floor and what Mr. Lewis said. She said it was her Mr. Lewis was in his rights to call for that vote to occur at this time.

Ms. Persaud said she was going with what Mr. Daily said at the meeting, he said the matter was being handled by Borough Hall and she already stated she was going by what Mr. Daily said, has nothing to do with a motion to the floor.

There was a lengthy discussion as it pertains to the motion on the floor to which Ms. Persaud said she will not entertain the motion.

### **Old Business - None**

**New Business** – Mr. Michael: Is it within the capacity to be able to call for a vote to override the chair?

Ms. Persaud: No, NO. Override what chair? Me? I'm just acting, I'm not the chair. Well the acting chair. Is that note? You cannot, there's NO such thing on the agenda here. Override what? What is there? What are you overriding?

Mr. Jibrill. I'm calling for a motion for us to formulate some type of actual documentation for onboarding, for new community members and some sort of sensitivity training so that we're all aware of how to treat everybody equally in the workplace.

Ms. Monzurat Oni second the motion

Mr. Jibrill Morris: Could we please bring this motion to a call, to a roll call?

Ms. June Persaud: For the next meeting when we do have quorum, but that motion is still on the table and please bring it up during old business during the January meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Hassan Bakiriddin made a motion to adjourn and second by Monzurat Oni.