

## Report Brooklyn CB7 Sanitation and Environment Committee July 29, 2020

### Presentations:

Stephen Leone of Industrial Carting regarding the establishment of NYC commercial carting zones ; UPROSE's Shahela Begum on the subject of the organization's ongoing Climate and Community Health Vulnerability Assessment; Laura Waxman, also of UPROSE, promoting Sunset Park Solar.

Stephen Leone, President of Brooklyn based Industrial Carting, met with the committee to implore the community board to support local carting companies in the impending awarding of NYC commercial carting concessions. As a result of city wide legislation passed at the end of 2019 commercial carting activity will be confined to 20 zones with only 3 carters per zone. The new legislation will limit the number of commercial carters. By doing so the law seeks to reduce vehicle emissions and end the current unregulated climate which has contributed to unsafe streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and oppressive labor practices for those working in the industry. It is assumed that concessions will be given to those companies with the best environmental, safety, and labor practices. Stephen Leone sought to share his concern with the community board that locally owned companies not be excluded from the selection process and to implore the board to use its influence with city hall to champion the awarding of licenses to small locally owned operators with good records. Although the community board cannot use its influence to benefit a particular private interest, the committee agreed that in principle that locally, minority and women owned businesses with good records should be included in the awarding of concessions.

Shahela Begum of UPROSE met with the committee to present on the organizations Climate and Community Health Vulnerability Assessment. The CCHVA is a survey developed by UPROSE and members of the community to help gather information on the intersection between climate and health. As climate change intensifies and aggravates underlying chronic health conditions for many in the community, the survey is a tool to help assess current and developing public health concerns. It is hoped that the results will promote improved advocacy for the community as well as helping to direct resources to vulnerable populations. Additionally the survey attempts to understand the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the community especially in light of climate change impacts such as warmer summers. The survey can be accessed directly from the UPROSE website. It is confidential and available in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and English.

Laura Waxman, also of UPROSE, met with the committee to get word out that solar generated electricity is available in Sunset Park. Sunset Park Solar is a cooperatively owned community solar project that will be built on the Brooklyn Army Terminal rooftop. The 685 kilowatt project is offering 15% rate discounts to the first 200 community subscribers. The projects intends to be fully operational by the end of 2020.