

**Community Board 9  
890 Nostrand Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON April 20th, 2016  
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Patricia Baker  
Rev. Douglas Bank  
Yaacov Behrman  
Simone Bennett  
Warren Berke  
Augustine Blackwell  
Ben Edwards  
Sheila Foster-Golding  
Dr. Zorina Frederick  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Kyra-Lee Harry  
Daniel Ingvolstad  
Demetrius Lawrence  
Francisca Leopold

**Board Members Present**

Avi Leshes  
Michael Liburd  
Mattijs Limberger  
Denise Mann  
Carmen Martinez  
Maria Molina  
Musa Moore  
Patricia Moses  
Beverly Newsome  
Hector Robertson  
Mary Rollerson-Blackett  
Chanina Sperlin  
Lorraine Thomas  
Timothy Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch  
Eve-lyn Williams

**Board Members Absent**

Stuart Barlberg  
Fred Baptiste  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Veta May Clarke  
Milton Ellis  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Aron Hershkop  
Louis Johnson  
Scott Novelli-Mathews  
Riel Peerbooms  
Pia Raymond  
Roosevelt Rose  
Kenya Sollas  
Rabbi Joseph Spielman  
Ada Terry

**Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present**

Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse Hamilton

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence (DL) called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He welcomed attendees and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

**Applications for NYSLA Licenses within Community Board 9:**

**Three Star Productions, Inc.; 482 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203**

Board Introduction: The owner, Mr. Gilgeours, is looking to renew his SLA license to serve liquor, wine, and beer. They have been in business for about three years. Mr. Gilgeours is also working to soundproof the space, as he would like to have live music and a cabaret, eventually. There were no complaints or concerns from the NYPD or FDNY.

Applicant Statement: My name is Robin Gilgeours. Three Star Productions is located at 482 Utica Avenue, between Maple and Midwood. I am here to ask for approval of our license renewal.

Audience Questions & Comments: None

**Yagil Kadosh, d/b/a/ TBD; 1137 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: The owner is requesting a new license so they can serve wine, cider, and beer. He has experience running a food business. They have a second location near Barclays Center that has a seating capacity of 15. The new space is expected to have seating for 25-30. There are no issues from the NYPD and FDNY

Applicant Statement: Thank you very much. My name is Yagil. The name of the place is Kulushkat. It is a family business. We serve falafel and things like that. The license is limited to wine and beer for consumption on premises. We have about five years at the Dean Street location and we've been opened for six months on Washington Avenue. We hired staff from the surrounding streets, so most of our staff is from the community.

Audience Questions & Comments: None

**1114 Nostrand Café LLC, d/b/a/ Peace Café; 1117 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: Mr. Terry and Mr. Sampson are requesting a new license to serve liquor, wine, cider and beer, and the possibility of a sidewalk café with few chairs. One of the main owners has been working in the food industry for a number of years; he used to own South Pole in Park Slope. They are residents of the community who are looking to create a family-themed environment where parents can come in for waffles with their kids and enjoy a mimosa at the same time. There are no issues from the NYPD or FDNY.

Applicant Statement: I am Steven Terry. We'll be serving organic food; totally health oriented. We don't want to be classified as a bar, although we want to have the capacity to serve drinks. It's a simple place. It won't be too different from what you would find in Park Slope. No loud music or anything like that. We don't want to be known as a bar.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: What are the cross streets?

Applicant: Midwood and Maple

Audience: You said that it's organic but you are serving liquor, wine, and beer. I'm very concerned that our neighborhood is burdened with liquor license. But first, as for organic, explain how that works.

Applicant: As far as the wine, liquor, and beer, there is no such thing as organic liquor. There are certain wines that are sustainable and environmentally friendly. We can also do full sustainable beer - although it's very limited. As far as liquor is concerned, I had a representative come today to bring over some gin that was as organic as you could possibly buy. I know that many people that are health conscious would ask how you could be organic and still ingest these certain things. But I think that as long as you focus on products that are high in quality, they are available, it's just a lot harder to be totally organic.

Audience: It's very misrepresenting to say that you are serving organic food and then serve wine and liquor

Applicant: I don't think that just because you have beer, wine, and liquor you can't be a place that it's still responsible. There are plenty of very responsible people who are parents, like myself, who can go out and have a glass of wine with their dinner but it's not like going out for drinks. If you want to go out drinking, you are not going to want to go to my place. You're going to want to go to "the bar" down the street.

**DJ Oyster, Inc. d/b/a Bluebird; 504 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: Mr. Mamary, the owner, is looking to renew his SLA license to serve liquor, wine, cider, and beer. There are no complaints or concerns from the NYPD or FDNY.

Applicant Statement: My name is Jim. I've been in the neighborhood for about 10 years. Now operating Bluebird. We've been there for about 2 years. There has been no complaint. We're very happy and I think that we've made the neighborhood happy and I would like to renew my license.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: Where are you located?

Applicant: 504 Flatbush Avenue.

Audience: Between?

Applicant: Between Lefferts Avenue and Empire.

Audience: How long have you been in business?

Applicant: Almost two years in September.

**Glady's Venture 2 d/b/a Glady's Caribbean, 453-455 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225**

Board Introduction: The business owner, Mr. Jacober, is requesting a new license to serve liquor, wine, cider, and beer. He created and built a successful business on Franklin Avenue and Lincoln Place called Glady's Venture, and hired all of his staff from the community. Mr. Jacober plans to fill the 40-50 positions for his new location from the community as well. He built his brand and the type of food that he cooks is prepared just as Jamaicans expect it to be. There were no complaints or concerns from the NYPD or FDNY.

Applicant Statement: We opened about three and a half years ago, as a different concept and it didn't really catch on in the neighborhood. So I decided to shuffle the restaurant, combine both the existing Caribbean community and the gentrifying community. I took a trip to Jamaica and learned a lot about cuisine there. When I came back to Brooklyn, we started to utilize our wood fire grill and imported sweet wood and pimento wood from the island to give it that real Caribbean BBQ, otherwise known as jerk. From the day that we opened, it was an absolute success. We just wanted to expand our business, move into another neighborhood, trying to create more jobs. We created 21 jobs in an 800 square foot space. Our new space is going to be about three times bigger so we're looking to create three times the amount of jobs that we had at our current space.

Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: What are the cross streets?

Applicant: Rogers Avenue and Lincoln Road.

Pat Baker: I would also like to note that when the Public Safety Committee meets, we have a map of District 9 where we look at all the businesses to establish whether there is distance and not too much density.

## **Presentation by Services for the UnderServed regarding Community Residence at 576 Eastern Parkway**

Board Introduction: Representatives from Services for the UnderServed came before the Housing Committee to seek the community board's support for a community residence that they are planning to have at 576 Eastern Parkway. And now they come before the full board to make a presentation before the full board so that the board can vote on whether or not the community board will support their initiatives. The Committee had no problems with their presentation and we do support what they are planning to do. We hope that the full board would also do so after listening to their presentation.

### Presenter 1: Judy Jackson, Chief of Staff

SUS has been in existence since 1978. We have a very big presence in the City of New York. We're in every borough. Of the 2,000 staff that we have, 600 staff comes from Brooklyn, 185 from this community board. We serve 25,000 people from across the city and provide housing and support for people with disabilities. This could be veterans or people with behavioral health challenges. In this instance, it's people with cognitive and intellectual developmental disabilities who, with support, can live in the community and will be contributing members of their community. We pride ourselves on making very good neighbors in our community. Not only do we provide the services that the people we serve need, but we also stand as a resource to the community because we have a wide range of services, from low-income housing, homelessness prevention services, behavioral health services, substance abuse services, we see ourselves as a resource in the community. From some of our larger facilities, we have job fairs, community days where we bring together resources from the community to make them available under one roof.

### Presenter 2: Carmen Lopez, Vice President of Residential Services

The proposed residence is going to be for four adults; two female, two males. They have physical disabilities that will require the use of walkers. The house will be 24-hour staffed. The staff will assist in the day-to-day activities, teaching them how to cook, taking their meds, doing their laundry. During the day, they will go to their program and then they will come back home and then they will remain doing what we usually do; watch TV, do recreation, go to the movies, whatever their interests. There will be a program director, assistant program director, shifts supervisors, the regional director. They will have support from behavioral services as far as behavioral intervention specialists, a registered nurse will come to the house. They are verbal, they can communicate, they do have families that come and visit, and they go on family home visit on their own.

### Audience Questions & Comments

Audience: The four residents, are they currently there?

Ms. Lopez: No, but that will be their home.

Audience: What's the address?

Ms. Lopez: 576 Eastern Parkway.

Audience: What are the cross streets?

Ms. Lopez: Nostrand and New York.

## **Public Comment Period**

### Public Comments:

During the Public Comment Period, several community residents voiced their opinion on different items they deemed important for the benefit of the community.

Alicia Boyd: Ms. Boyd discussed the need for Mr. Lawrence to hold the Search Committee responsible for the search of a new District Manager. She read a report she wrote on the dissatisfaction she felt about the Chairman as well as the Board.

Rabbi Goldstein: Rabbi Goldstein expressed concerns about the lack of enhanced collection by Sanitation during Passover. He also complained about the Housing Forum to be held on a Saturday because it excludes the Jewish community. He added his personal stories before giving his closing remarks,

Maxine Barnes: Ms. Barnes is a community resident who shared with the Board the bodies of laws that govern community boards. She read from different articles of the Open Meeting Law, Parliamentary Procedures, and the Board's ByLaws. She informed the community residents that the Board should be operating based on the ByLaws.

Xandra Clark: Ms. Clark is a local community resident who is an up-and-coming artist. She invited the entire community to a performance that will be going up April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> at Weeksville Heritage Center called Anthology Crown Heights. There will be a photo collage, as part of the performance piece, of residents across the neighborhood so she asked anyone interested in having their photograph taken for it to see her in the back.

### Elected Official & Government Agency Comments

Reuven Lipkind, representative for Senator Jesse Hamilton, announced a Job Fair, April 25, 2016 at 6:30PM at St. Francis de Sale School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway. Brooklyn Senior Games Event, starting Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> St. John's Recreational Center, 1251 Prospect Place.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

### **Roll Call**

Roll was duly taken, with 30 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

### **March 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the March 22, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes was duly made by Michael Liburd seconded by Jacqueline Welch and [failed/approved/unanimously approved] by a vote of # in favor, # opposed and # abstained. Motion [passed/defeated].

### **Committee Reports**

Economic Development Committee – Warren Berke, Chairperson (See minutes from April 4, 2016 Committee meeting)

Joint Education/Youth Services Committees – Dr. Zorina Frederick & Ada Terry, Chairpersons (See minutes from April 5, 2016 Committee meeting)

Health and Social Services Committee – Francisca Leopold, Chairperson (See minutes from April 7, 2016 Committee meeting)

Landuse (ULURP) Committee – Michael Liburd, Chairperson (See minutes from April 12, 2016 Committee meeting)

Housing Committee – Carmen Martinez, Chairperson (See minutes from April 13, 2016 Committee meeting)

Public Safety Committee – Avi Leshes, Chairperson (See minutes from April 19, 2016 Committee meeting)

## **Voting on Agenda Items**

### Applications for NYSLA Licenses

*Motion that the Board support Three Star Productions' application to the New York State Liquor Authority was voted on and approved by a vote of 28 Yes, 0 No and 2 abstained. Motion passed.*

*Motion that the Board support DJ Oyster, Inc.'s application to the New York State Liquor Authority was voted on and approved by a vote of 28 Yes, 0 No and 2 abstained. Motion passed.*

*Motion that the Board support Gladys's Venture 2's application to the New York State Liquor Authority was voted on and approved by a vote of 24 Yes, 2 No and 4 abstained. Motion passed.*

**Before the following vote, a board member signed in, increasing attendance to 31 Board Members.**

*Motion that the Board support 1114 Nostrand Café, LLC's application to the New York State Liquor Authority was voted on and approved by a vote of 23 Yes, 4 No and 4 abstained. Motion passed.*

*Motion that the Board support Yagil Kadosh's application to the New York State Liquor Authority was voted on and approved by a vote of 23 Yes, 3 No, and 5 abstained. Motion passed.*

*Motion that the Board issues a letter of support to Services for the UnderServed, in favor of their planned Community Resident at 576 Eastern Parkway was unanimously approved by a voice vote. Motion passed.*

## **Selection of the Nominating Committee**

Chairman Lawrence selected a nomination committee during business session. Five board members volunteered to serve on the committee:

1. Avi Leshes
2. Augustine Blackwell
3. Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
4. Shelia Foster-Golding
5. Ben Edwards

The Nominating Committee was charged with canvassing the board members for candidates for Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and two members-at-large.

Chairman Lawrence brought up the motion made by Warren Berke at last month's meeting. The motion made by Warren was that the Board accepts the three candidates recommended by the Search Committee. That motion was tabled to be addressed at this meeting, after the committee's attendance sheets and minutes were distributed for review.

Warren Berke indicated that the purpose of his motion was to do a little research. In terms of presenting the candidates to the board, the bylaws said that members present at a committee shall act. The issue of quorum does not come into effect as far as the committee is concerned. The board should have a special meeting and at that meeting have a chance to address this matter. The other option is to vote on it based upon the bylaws.

Yaacov Behrman asked what happens if we vote this motion down?

Chairman Lawrence explained that if the motion is voted up, then we go forward with those three candidates selected by the search committee. They will come before the board and the board will make a decision.

Yaacov indicated that he did a little research too and, based on his opinion of the bylaws and various district managers, although it's not very clear, but the chairman does have the standing to put together a new search committee. He suggested that the committee could perhaps submit the seven final candidates' names. The board can access the seven, take it down to three and then do interview and come up with one candidate. The downside is that it would take a little longer for the full board to interview the candidates.

Ms. Eve-lyn Williams requested to speak: She indicated that she was not on the committee but what she is hearing is a lot of crap. Twenty something years ago the district manager was given the job right here without any search committee. She was just given the job. There was no six months, the people who applied for the job were called into the office, and the chairman interviewed them. Someone in here wants to have this board dismantled. You're embarrassing yourself and you're embarrassing your community. People just want to play politics. Community board members, be respectful of yourself; be respectful of your community. Jake Goldstein mentioned that events are being scheduled to exclude the Jewish community. There are certain things that we have to do during certain times and we have to do it. No one is trying to disrespect anyone.

Chair Lawrence, called for an executive session. Denise Mann made motion, seconded by Evelyn Williams and it was voted unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board members went upstairs to the library for an executive session to discuss office operations matters and other issues that were taking place within the board. During this time, many board members voiced their concerns and opinion on the issues at hand. They were:

1. Pat Baker
2. Dr. Zorina Frederick
3. Avi Leshes
4. Patricia Moses
5. Francisca Leopald
6. Denise Mann
7. Augustine Blackwell
8. Mattijs Limberger
9. Beverly Newsome
10. Yaacov Behrman
11. Rev. Douglas Banks
12. Michael Liburd
13. Tessa Hackett-Vieira
14. Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
15. Tim Thomas
16. Kyra-Lee Harry
17. Sheila Foster-Golding

Mr. Lawrence answered questions and addressed concerns raised by the various board members.

Warren Berke again brought up the urgency that his motion be moved.

A YES vote means that the three candidates' resumes recommended by the Search Committee be distributed to the board for evaluation and vote. A NO vote means that due to the inconsistency of the search committee the Chairman would appoint a new search committee that would follow strict rules.

The vote was taken with 32 board members present. The votes were: 16 No, 11 Yes, and 4 abstentions. (Carmen Martinez did not vote). The motion failed.

Rev. Banks put forth a two-part motion to: (1) allow the Chairman to appoint a new search committee, and (2) the new search committee will meet in executive session. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Liburd. The new committee would focus on creating policies that they would all follow. They would meet on certain dates and would have to attend all meetings. A yes vote, for this motion, suggests that the Board is instructing the chair to establish a new Search Committee and they would gather in executive session. There votes were: 24 Yes, 4 Abstentions, and 3 No. The motion passed.

There was further discussion.

Avi Leshes asked that the three candidates, found by the new search committee, be looked over thoroughly, by the June 2016 meeting.

Maria Molina asked that the resumes be distributed as well.

Ernestine Blackwell asked that the new search committee be formed according to the ByLaws.

Demetrius Lawrence gave the reading of Community Board 9 ByLaws to the Search committee.

There was a voice vote to form the new search committee as soon as possible, the new committee will look at all 70 resumes currently in the pool, select viable candidates, conduct interviews and select at least three by the June meeting. There was a unanimous voice in favor vote.

Motion to adjourn Executive session was answered unanimously.

Board members came out of executive session and returned to the auditorium. The general meeting was adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kyra-Lee Harry  
April 25, 2016