

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

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 28, 2016
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Patricia Baker
Rev. Douglas Banks
Fred Baptiste
Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
Veta May Clarke
Jillian Drummond
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Maria Hernandez
Aron Hershkop
Louis Johnson
Demetrius Lawrence
Linda Lawson
Francisca Leopold

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Denise Mann
Carmen Martinez
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Hector Robertson
Menachem Roitblat
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Ada Terry
Lorraine Thomas
Debbie Timothy
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Stuart Balberg
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Shelia Foster-Golding
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Kyra-Lee Harry
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Maria Molina
Riel Peerbooms
Roosevelt Rose
Menacham Shagalov

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

Jamal Pollard – Hon. Eric L. Adams
Reuven Lipkind – Hon. Jesse E. Hamilton
Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy

Hon. Shirley Patterson
Karen Chambers – Hon. Kenneth Thompson
William H. Boone, III – Medgar Evers College

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence (DL) called the meeting to order at 7:11pm, welcomed attendees and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

DL welcomed newly appointed Board members: Julian Drummond, Maria Hernandez and Debby Timothy.

Applications for NYSLA Licenses within Community Board 9

Gino's Son Pizza Corporation; 548 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: Renewal application for liquor, wine, beer and cider license. The business has been in the neighborhood for 30 years. The business is comprised of two stores, which serve pizza and Italian food respectively.

Applicant Statement (Mevlude Sela): Applicant not present at meeting.

Streetsweepers, LLC; 594 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: New application for wine, beer and cider license. Restaurant capacity is 50 people. Plans to open July 1 and utilize backyard. No FDNY or NYPD violations. Gratitude Café and another café are located on block.

Applicant Statement (Michael Casas): The establishment will serve as a café and lounge, serving wine and pizza. Patrons will access backyard, but will not have music outside and should not be a disruption.

PLG Social, LLC d/b/a Midwood Flats; 11 Midwood Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: Renewal application for wine, beer and cider license. The business has been open for 2 ½ years. Owners are from neighborhood and makes efforts to hire from neighborhood. No incidents of police or fire violations.

Applicant Statement (Kalkin Narvillas): Applicant not present at meeting.

Balboa Restaurant, Inc.; 1655 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: Alteration application for liquor, wine, beer and cider license. License was approved by NYSBLA, but application expired before business could start serving as they are still making renovations.

Applicant Statement (Mr. Anthony): Owners have been in community for over 20 years and business has operated without any problems. Construction should be completed by the end of July.

Silver Rice; 575A Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: New application for liquor, wine, beer and cider license. The business operates from 5PM to 10PM on weekdays and then closes at 10:30 on weekends. Seating is limited for 12 people. No reports of incidents.

Applicant Statement (Hideki Kats): This location opened about 2 months ago, but a similar restaurant on Franklin Avenue has been operating for some time. Alcohol pairs very well with Japanese food and would add a lot to the experience.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

Ken Pollock: Science and Entrepreneurship Associate of Crown Heights. Mr. Pollack has been a member of the community for a long time. He is working with local organizations and precincts to create a recycling business that promotes youth business development. The organization focuses on the precincts near Eastern Parkway. Can only meet once a week, but need to improve staffing. The organization is accepting donations for cars and cash donations. Total payment from recycling companies is five cents per can, dividing between youth (2 cents) and the organization (3 cents) for overhead and a savings account aimed at supporting college costs. The office is located at 1657 Bedford Avenue. Those interested in donating or using the service can call (347) 534-6664.

Tim Thomas: Unfortunately Mr. Thomas will not be able to serve on the Board for another year due to his taking a seat that only had one year left on its appointment. There is a lack of institutional memory on the Board. The Board needs more experience and leadership as a reflection of institutional memory. Committee members should be chosen from neighbors who want to support the work of the committee and Board.

Tiffany Raspberry & John Valladares: Affiliated with PFC Partners, which is involved with the Bedford-Union Armory Redevelopment Project. They are available for questions about the upcoming renovations and

repurposing. They plan to coordinate with recreational programs and nonprofit organizations, including CAMBA, Brooklyn Community Pride Center. They can be reached at www.bedfordcourts.com and 347-439-9358.

Alicia Boyd: MTOPP event on gentrification at Brooklyn Public Library July 12th, 12-8pm. The fact that staff is not working at CB9 office and office is not at full capacity is disconcerting, as is the lack of search committee transparency. Legal action is possible. The Executive Board did not have a quorum present at previous meeting when it went into executive session.

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein: Rabbi Goldstein was on the Board from 1972 until recently. He was Chair from 1979 to 2014, during which comprehensive community projects took place. The Board needs greater vision.

Eve-lyn Williams: Having been involved with CB9 since the 1970s, the disruptions at Community Board 9 meetings is upsetting. DL should not be treated with such negativity. Members of the community should work with the Board.

Brook Shafner: The Crown Heights Running Club is looking for new members and further community engagement. More information can be found at www.Crownheightsrunningclub.nyc or, for community engagement matters, by emailing ershaffner@hotmail.com. The organization is interested in supporting fitness endeavors and walks in the community oriented with fitness. The organization was established three years ago and is part of New York Roadrunners. There are 100 active members who participate in runs and other events in the area. Hopes are to expand and include a senior-oriented program.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments

DL recognized elected officials and representatives present.

Shanice Steadman-Oliver, on behalf of New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer Office

- The Comptroller's Office would like to be notified about agencies or affiliated contractors that have not been performing assigned work in the community. Members of the community can notify such issues to the Comptroller's Office. For example, a recent Access-A-Ride audit reflected improper spending. See pamphlet for more information on how to help.
 - o Audience Question: Have there been any penalties for the Access-A-Ride violations?
 - o Response: The audit report was sent to agencies, including MTA, but Comptroller's Office not in charge of the enforcement aspect of the matter.

Arna Lipkind, on behalf of City Council Member Darlene Mealy,

- Spots are available for a summer youth placement Seed-Program that coordinates with ConEd. Contact summerenergyacademy@gmail.com.
- An Advisory Board meeting on July 11.

Jamal Pollard, on behalf of Borough President Eric Adams

- Caribbean Heritage event on June 29
- Lexicon Jazz concerts and other concerts for the public throughout the borough and neighborhood this summer.

Karen Chambers, on behalf of Kings County District Attorney Ken Thompson

- Begin Again and Immigration community events took place and were very successful. As a result of the Begin Again event, 100 people were able to address matters concerning outstanding warrants.

Reuven Lipkind, on behalf of New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton, 20th District

- Thursday, June 30 at 10am: –There will be a meeting with community groups concerning energy conservation in the neighborhood. The meeting will take place at 1044 Eastern Parkway.
- Family Day Picnic – June 29th at 11am.

Inspector Norman Grandstaff, Inspector for 71st Precinct

- This month, the Precinct began implementing a neighborhood policing model. Officers were introduced to the community this week. Highlights of the program include 4 sectors that were created and point people (2 people per sector) for each sector to improve community engagement and develop relationships. The purpose is to develop a working relationship between police and people who have persistent needs – police can then address issues with more knowledge about the situation. The officers are present today and would like to introduce themselves to the community. They are available for any questions the community might have.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 40 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

May 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion *to approve the May 24, 2016 Community Board 9 meeting minutes* was duly made by Francisca Leopold, seconded by Eve-lyn Williams and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Health and Social Services Committee – Francisca Leopold, Chairperson (See minutes from June 2, 2016 Committee meeting)

Joint Education & Youth Services Committee – Dr. Zorina Frederick & Ada Terry, Chairpeople (See minutes from June 7, 2016 Committee meeting)

Outreach & Communications Committee – Beverly Newsome, Chairperson (See minutes from June 14, 2016 Committee meeting)

Nominating Committee – Augustine Blackwell, Chairperson (See minutes from May 5, 2016 Committee meeting)

Public Safety Committee – Patricia Baker, First Vice Chair (Also see minutes from June 16, 2016 Committee meeting)

Voting on Agenda Items

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

Motion *that the Board support Gino's Son Pizza Corporation's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 34 in favor, 5 opposed and 0 abstained. (1 Board Member was not present for vote.) Motion passed.

Motion *that the Board support Streetsweepers LLC application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 36 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion *that the Board support PLG Social's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 32 in favor, 6 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion *that the Board support Balboa Restaurant's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 39 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstained. Motion passed.

Motion *that the Board support Silver Rice's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 34 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

Report of District Manager Search Committee

Dr. Zorina Fredrick (ZF), District Manager Search Committee Chairperson

- Reason for executive session for committee meetings, dealing with personal information regarding employment. The final candidates are: Christopher Durosinmi, Beryl Nyack and Carmen Martinez.
- The only person who had discussions with the Committee from Brooklyn Borough President Adams' Office concerning the District Manager candidates search was the attorney, Andrew Gounardes, which concerned a very specific issue not connected with the substance of the Board vote.

DL: Read applicable section of the Open Meetings Law, which specifies that public access to records might be restricted when concerning issues of, among other matters, "employment history leading to the employment...of a particular person".

Motion *that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss District Manager candidates' employment histories* was duly made by Reverend Douglas Banks, seconded by Jacqueline Welch and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Executive Session

DL: Regarding the employment of Community Assistant Terri Witherspoon, she was initially going to return on June 24, 2016. Ms. Witherspoon discussed employment with DL, during which DL reinforced that Ms. Witherspoon is still employed and that she was only gone due to matters involving illness. Ms. Witherspoon had to contact the NYC Department of Investigations concerning whether she was working elsewhere while officially on medical leave. The investigation is not yet resolved. Ms. Witherspoon is awaiting medical clearance and release to return to work. If she does not return and her permitted leave time ends, options are to terminate (DL does not want) or resign. If she wishes, Ms. Witherspoon will submit a letter or resignation. DL spoke to HR at Borough Hall to understand process, but spoke to no one about other matters concerning Ms. Witherspoon's employment.

DL: Currently, Community Board 6 is funded for one District Manager and two office assistants. Thank you to volunteers who have helped in the office recently. Once District Manager hiring is established, Board will initiate process for filling office assistant positions.

DL: Candidates will each speak, and then members will vote. Annual salary range is between \$53,000 and \$142,000

Board Member: What the budget allocation is for all Community Board 9 employees?

DL: Allocation is near \$250,000, but will figure out specific amounts.

DL: Once Board vote is finalized, a formal offer letter will be sent. DL will disclose personal staff allocation information to board members tomorrow; people will vote on salary at a later meeting.

DL: Pearl Miles made \$134,000 due to her long time in the position. One other staff assistant worked in the office during that time. For new District Manager, the same salary and hiring number does not need to be followed.

ZF: As we don't know the chosen candidate's qualifications, salary discussion should not occur until after vote.

ZF read position description and qualification requirements as posted to the public. She then introduced Committee members and thanked them for their work on this matter.

ZF: Board members can review candidates' references, resumes and draft letter to Borough President as example of work. Each candidate will have 3 minutes to speak and then the Board can ask each candidate 3 total questions. Do not take pictures or record candidate information.

Board Member Question: Why were Board Members not allowed to sit in on search committee?

ZF: In previous meetings, before Board Members had access to information for their own review, information was leaked without minutes and other matters properly processed. Given the personal nature of the matters, it was best to disclose as little as possible.

ZF read Committee observations regarding candidates, as specified in the Committee Minutes of May 31st.

Board and Search Committee Member Yacov Berman: Minutes provided to Board are not approved and do not reflect the opinions of all Committee Members. There are other minutes that were approved. Candidate rankings by Committee Members should not have been provided in Committee minutes. Members of the District Manager Search Committee disagreed, but the matter was dropped.

ZF: There is no other meeting minutes and these are the minutes that were approved.

Candidate Presentations

Christopher Durosinmi: I have 11 years of experience, including time with the New York City Council, New York State Senate I have knowledge of city and state government. I want to meet with each committee within 100 days of being hired. I want to implement online and in-print surveys to identify community priorities I would also like to meet with business owners and other members concerning housing, zoning, and agency logistics.

- Question: What is the biggest issue facing the district?
 - o Answer: Inclusionary rezoning is a primary issue. Education on ULURP matters is important when trying to engage with community so that everyone can understand surrounding issues.
- Question: why do you want position?
 - o Answer: Driven by a desire to serve. Experience working in Brownsville, working on plaza project and installing cameras in housing showed a lot about how to engage with community.
- Question: What are methods to improve efficiency and communication in the office?
 - o Answer: The Board should engage with community through social media and use robocalls to let people know about meetings. The Board should focus on low cost and highly efficient means of communication.

Beryl Nyack: Community Boards are important because they give people opportunity, a voice. I have extensive experience in community boards, including with Community Board 9 over 9 years ago. I also worked in Community Board 3 in Bed- Stuy and have continued on as assistant district manager, which required functioning as acting District Manager when District Manager not present. I have overseen cabinet meetings

and handled complaints. I also have good relationships with city agencies. I have experience budgeting, attending borough service cabinet meetings, annual borough consultations. Spending 13 years within Community Boards has given me experience to do job as District Manager. I believe in preserving community and am passionate about serving them.

- Question: When previously at Community Board 9, what was your experience like?
 - o Answer: The experience was interesting because I came from a federal agency and first working with city. I worked with Pearl Miles. It was a stepping stone that set in motion my work at Community Boards.
- Question: What are your most relevant achievements in public service?
 - o Answer: I spend a lot of time resolving complaints and issues between residents. I focus on resolutions and positive outcomes. I work with community based organizations and facilitate events with others, including housing and business outreach.
- Question: What experience do you have that prepares you to deal with different personalities found in Community Board 9?
 - o Answer: Working with different committees, I have had to deal with different people and issues. As assistant District Manager, I provided whatever was required to be effective.

Carmen Martinez: I have been a member of Community Board 9 for the past 2 years. I have over 28 years of experience in government. I have been a tenant organizer. I ran the Comptroller's Community Action Center where constituent services were performed. Given this experience, I am more than prepared to be District Manager. I have been a volunteer at the Board office for past three months, where I have gained extensive experience. I attended a the recent training by the Office of Management and Budget to ensure proper budget request processing. I have been working with the committees chairs to help them understand community's needs assessment process.

- Question: what would happen if you were not hired after volunteering at the Board office for so long?
 - o Answer: My commitment is to community. I will work with whoever becomes District Manager.
- Question: Your employment history ends in April 2014. What have you been doing between April 2014 and when you began volunteering in the Community Board 6 Office?
 - o Answer: I have been working on various political campaigns.

ZF: All Board members need to print name and sign ballots.

DL: Previous elections have required names of those who voted to ensure that one member made one vote.

Roll Call taken, with 39 board members present. (Carmen Martinez not present due to her being a candidate.)

Board Members were given time to review background materials and vote. There was no Board-wide discussion regarding the candidates.

Members of the District Manager Search Committee counted the votes in front of the Board, reading the votes aloud as they were counted.

ZF: The results are: 29 votes for Carmen Martinez; 8 votes for Christopher Durosinmi; 0 votes for Beryl Nyack; 2 ballots were considered abstained or invalid.

There is a question as to whether the Board should announce results immediately. After discussion, it is decided that the Board should state the results to the public, but not provide an offer letter until salary is finalized at a later meeting.

DL: Once questions regarding the budget are clarified, the Board can vote on salary matters.

Motion *that the Executive Session end* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

The Board returned to the auditorium to continue the open Business Session.

DL: With 39 members present and voting, the results for District Manager were: 29 votes for Carmen Martinez; 8 votes for Christopher Durosinmi; and 0 votes for Beryl Nyack. The Board will meet again at a later date to discuss the terms of salary in the offer to Carmen Martinez.

Report on Nominating Committee / Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chairperson Augustine Blackwell (AB) retook roll call. 40 Board Members are present, comprising a quorum.

Statements from Board Chair candidates:

- Hector Robertson: Board can go in different direction with this vote. Issues related to community are best addressed by transparency and truthfulness. Tonight, we are able to change the direction for where the board needs to change.
- Demetrius Lawrence: Everyone works together on improving the board. This year has mainly consisted of recovering from issues with previous board, including matters surrounding the previous District Manager and hiring a new District Manager. Not having an in-office staff has been challenging, but now that there is greater clarity with hiring a new District Manager, it will be easier for the Board to properly operate.

Statements from First Vice Chair candidates:

- Fred Baptiste: I desire a role that supports leadership. I have leadership experience in the military and as Vice President of PS161. I have lived in the community for 18 years. I value putting in policies first, emphasizing respect and ensuring that all voices are heard.
- Dr. Zorina Frederick: I operate a driving school and was a business school administrator for some time. I am a minister and hold a doctorate in theology. I want to be in supporting role. I chaired the Education Committee and the Search Committee, where I gained a lot of experience. I value emphasizing dialogue to present united front when decisions are made.

For the Second Vice Chair election, where there was only one candidate, one vote was cast by Acting Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli for Patricia Moses.

There were no nominations for the Executive Secretary position. This position remains unfilled.

For the Treasurer election, Warren Berke removed himself from consideration. Francisca Leopold was then duly nominated. One vote was cast by Acting Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli for Francisca Leopold.

For the 2 Executive Committee Member At-Large positions the candidates were Eve-lyn Williams and Francisca Leopold. Francisca Leopold withdrew her name from consideration Jacqueline Welch was then duly nominated. One written vote was cast by Acting Secretary Scott Mathews-Novelli for each of Jacqueline Welch and Eve-lyn Williams.

For Board Chair, the results of the written-ballot vote were 34 for Demetrius Lawrence and 6 for Hector Robertson.

For First Vice Chair, the results of the written-ballot vote were 25 for Dr. Zorina Frederick and 15 for Fred Baptiste.

The 2016-2017 Executive Positions are as follows:

- Board Chair: Demetrius Lawrence;
- First Vice Chair: Dr. Zorina Frederick;
- Second Vice Chair: Patricia Moses;
- Treasurer: Francisca Leopold;
- Executive Secretary: Vacant; and
- Members At-Large: Jacqueline Welch and Eve-lyn Williams.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion *to adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 11:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Acting Secretary
July 12, 2016