

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 2, 2016
CROWN GARDENS COMMUNITY ROOM
1185 CARROLL STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Patricia Baker
Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
Augustine Blackwell
Jillian Drummond
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Shelia Foster-Golding
Dr. Zorina Frederick
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Maria Hernandez
Aron Hershkop
Demetrius Lawrence
Linda Lawson
Francisca Leopold

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Denise Mann
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Musa Moore
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Ada Terry
Debbie Timothy
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Stuart Balberg
Rev. Douglas Banks
Fred Baptiste
Rev. Phyllis Brown
Veta May Clarke
Kyra-Lee Harry
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Louis Johnson
Carmen Martinez
Maria Molina
Riel Peerbooms
Hector Robertson
Menachem Roitblat
Roosevelt Rose
Menacham Shagalov
Chanina Sperlin
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Lorraine Thomas

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

None

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:06PM, welcomed attendees and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

Alicia Boyd, community resident, notified the board that she had requested that a temporary restraining order be issued against members of the board. The hearing will take place August 4, 2016.

Karen Fleming, community resident, brought into question the operational methodology within Community Board 9.

BUSINESS SESSION

Motion *that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss District Manager candidate Carmen Martinez's employment history in connection with a salary offer* was duly made by Rabbi Nochum Gross, seconded by Linda Lawson and unanimously approved.

At this time, all Board Members traveled to the Community Board 9 offices to commence the Executive Session.

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 31 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

Discussion & Vote for District Manager's Salary

Chairman Lawrence notified the Board that the Executive Committee had further discussions after there were concerns raised by some Board Members regarding the initial recommended District Manager salary of \$120,000 for Carmen Martinez. The Executive Committee reduced its recommended amount to \$100,000.

Chairman Lawrence explained that Ms. Martinez's time volunteering at the Community Board Office over the recent months has proven her commitment to the Board and her strong work ethic. Without her help, much less would have been accomplished. Based on her previous work experience and work in the community, a salary of \$100,000 per year, \$10,000 above the borough average for the position, was warranted. The salary range for the position is between \$60,000 and \$139,000.

Board Member Warren Burked asked that, with an overall staff budget of \$199,000, what is plan for other hired members.

Chairman Lawrence responded that once a District Manager is hired, the District Manager would have the duty to manage the staff hiring process.

Chairman Lawrence noted that Community Board 9 employee Terri Witherspoon extended her Family Medical Leave Act-designated time away from the office to October 3rd, 2016, which would be without pay. Due to Ms. Witherspoon's position being left open for her if she chooses to returns, only one new employee can be hired until there is a final resolution regarding Ms. Witherspoon's employment.

Board Member Augustine Blackwell asked that with the starting salary being so high, what happens when there are raises. She voiced concern that the salary is high.

Chairman Lawrence answered that the Community Board will have to collectively consider any raises.

A Board Member stated that Ms. Martinez's level of expertise warrants this salary. The benefits that her expertise brings will exceed salary costs.

Board Member Yaacov Behrman asked what the additional staffers will earn and if raises should also be considered.

Chairman Lawrence responded that Community Board is allocated \$199,000 for salary. Ms. Witherspoon's current salary is \$49,000. For the future office associate, we anticipate paying that \$29,000 - \$32,000. The Board can safely hire a full time assistant, office associate or office assistant. If we don't utilize allocated amount for staffing, we will lose that funding.

Regarding back-pay before the salary matter is resolved, Chairman Lawrence clarified that once hired, Ms. Martinez will be paid retroactively from the date of after the Board voted in favor of hiring her.

Board Member Yaacov Behrman and other Board Members asked that there should be in-writing clarification by Borough Hall concerning how to retroactively compensate Ms. Martinez in accordance with the law.

Board Member Sheila Foster-Golding arrived to the meeting, increasing attendance to 32 Board Members.

Motion *that Community Board 9 offer Carmen Martinez a salary \$100,000 for the position of District Manager* was duly made by Patricia Moses, seconded by Eve-lyn Williams and approved by a vote of 30 in favor and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Chairman Lawrence stated that he will send a formal offer letter to Ms. Martinez this week and will follow up with Borough Hall regarding retroactive payment procedure.

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

At this time, all Board Members returned to the Crown Gardens Community Room to continue Business Session.

Chairman Lawrence announced to attendees that the Board had approved a salary for Ms. Martinez by a vote of 30 in favor and 2 abstentions. The exact salary will be disclosed upon publishing of the Special Meeting minutes.

Chairman Lawrence reminded Board Members that Board-related training will occur tomorrow, August 3rd and on August 10th at 6:30. Training will take place at the Crown Gardens Community Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion *to adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:42PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Acting Secretary
August 5, 2016